

LEADERSCRIPT

AILA International Fellows Return to CSIS with \$10 Million Ideas

Eight fellows from six countries returned to CSIS for the second term of the 2008–2009 [AILA International Fellowship](#). The fellows applied the leadership framework of the first term to the urgent policy challenges of today: the economic crisis, resource deficiencies, and failed states. They also presented “Immodest Proposals,” actionable plans for using \$10 million to change the lives of people around the world. These projects, loosely based on Google’s Project 10¹⁰⁰, harnessed the creativity of the fellows and honed their public speaking skills. Brief synopses of each fellow’s presentation can be found on page 3.



Sean Miwa (left) of Japan and Rekha Krishnan (right) of India explain their proposals.



[Manuel Gonzalez](#), former Costa Rican minister of foreign trade, said of the program, “I enjoyed every minute at AILA and CSIS. The quality, knowledge and candor of its people, the substance of the discussions held and the outstanding group of fellows, were unmatched. Those looking to have the latest information on the most important issues affecting our world and its future should definitely seek the honor of getting close to CSIS and AILA.”



Above: The fellows meet with Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA) to discuss U.S. foreign policy and the international economic crisis.

Feature Article

From Ideas to Action: CSIS Consults in the Community

By
[Monica Kohli](#)

Many of my CSIS colleagues are here because they want to improve the world through innovative ideas and policy research. To give them a chance to do just that, I came up with the *AILA Social Entrepreneurship Competition (SE)* in February 2009. This project is based on an assignment I did at Duke University as a part of the Hart Fellowship Program at the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy when I was an undergrad in 2004. Through this class project, I realized how leadership can be a tangible practice developed through transferable skills such as building trust, working with a team, and establishing a clear vision. Like the goal of my class at Duke, one of my key objectives with the SE project was to take leadership training into the real world.

Continued on p. 2

continued from p. 1

The SE Competition was built around organizations in the D.C. area whose missions are to serve local populations. Eleven of my CSIS peers volunteered to take part in the pilot project and were assigned to teams to work with one of three human service nonprofits: [Asian American LEAD](#), an organization that offers mentoring and after-school programs to underprivileged children; Arleeta's Pantry, a start-up food pantry; and [KABOOM!](#), a well-established group whose mission is to ensure that every child in America has an outdoor play area within walking distance. The SE team members were asked to 1) make inroads into their organization and build confidence; and 2) address an organizational need in order to help the people it serves.

Throughout the two-month competition, the teams faced a range of challenges. They were coached along the way and met regularly with myself, [Ian Gottesman](#), CSIS web manager, and [Steven Schrage](#), CSIS Scholl Chair in International Business. In part because of the nature of the competition, each team struggled to quickly integrate into their organization. Over time, however, trust and confidence was established between the teams and their organizations.

Ultimately, the organizations all agreed that each team made a valuable contribution in a short amount of time. At the end of the competition, the teams presented the summary of their accomplishments in a Lessons Learned session led by the coaches and [Dr. John Hamre](#). CSIS participants not only learned valuable lessons in teamwork but also began to understand the operational complexities of policy implementation and of nonprofits. ★



Team AALEAD was tasked with helping the organization develop a fundraising strategy. This assignment allowed me to pull from my personal experience working in the development office at CSIS. For me and my team, it was gratifying to use skills honed at CSIS to help the larger Washington, D.C., community.

—Brett Baptist, development coordinator, CSIS, and member, Team AALEAD

Interviewing History: The Challenges of Nuclear Testing

Featuring Dr. James R. Schlesinger



Above, from left: Kristin Wedding, Dr. Schlesinger, Mark Irvine, Jennifer Bovair, and Brian Harding



Above: Kristin asks Dr. Schlesinger about the Cannikin nuclear test

On March 30, 2009, [Mark Irvine](#), research assistant, Post-Conflict Reconstruction Project, [Jennifer Bovair](#), program manager and research associate, Energy and National Security Program, [Brian Harding](#), research associate, International Security Program, and [Kristin Wedding](#), corporate relations manager, Office of Strategic Planning, interviewed former secretary of defense [Dr. James Schlesinger](#) about his pivotal role in the 1971 Cannikin nuclear test on Amchitka Island, Alaska. During his tenure as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Schlesinger presided over the detonation of the Cannikin test, the largest underground nuclear test in U.S. history. Over the course of the evening, Dr. Schlesinger discussed decisionmaking in the face of significant opposition. He elaborated on the importance of putting national security first when serving in the defense sector. Dr. Schlesinger also commented on the major challenges that the next generation of leaders faces in managing nuclear weapons.

“I’ve had many privileges during my time at CSIS, but perhaps none greater than the opportunity to participate in the Interviewing History dinner with Dr. Schlesinger. Through this experience, I learned a great deal about many subjects outside of my usual purview, formed lasting friendships with my teammates, and had the opportunity to interact with one of the United States’ most accomplished public servants.”

—Brian Harding, member, Team Schlesinger

Immodest Proposals from the AILA International Fellows

Succor from the Sun: Solar Energy Alternatives for the Development of Rural Communities

—Umma Aliyu Musa, Nigeria

Using solar energy technology to increase efficiency and availability of electricity in Nigeria while at the same time empowering people.

Bridging the Strait: Creating Youth Connections and Inspiring Creativity in China-Taiwan Relations

—Shiuan-Ju Chen, Taiwan

Creating personal connections within an international institutional framework to decrease tensions between Taiwan and China.

Contracting Possibilities between Aging and Young Societies

—Nobu Hibara, Japan

Looking beyond national borders to explore potential synergies between societies that are facing contrasting population challenges.

Clothes of Life: Of Refugees, by Refugees, and for Refugees

—Shinichi Mizuta, Japan

Building state-of-the-art textile factories that employ former refugees in the design and manufacturing of clothes and fabric for distribution worldwide.

Envelope for Rehabilitation into Society

—Shigeki Miwa, Japan

Employing disabled citizens to recycle the precious metals in unused cell phones that often get wasted; providing an underserved population with a means of supporting themselves.

Empowering Grassroots Educators

—Rekha Krishnan, India

Training and certifying NGO educators to address the challenges faced when teaching extremely impoverished students.

Do you Know How Sweet You Are?

—Manuel Gonzalez-Sanz, Costa Rica

Using portable ultraviolet light technology to provide diabetics and others with a pain-free, easy, and discreet way of testing glucose levels.

Building the Spirit of Enterprize: Service, Leadership, and Tradition

—Tim Sommella, United States

Building a floating classroom for use by the U.S. Public Service Academy; training the next generation of public service leaders in ports of call around the world to impart a unique global perspective.

On the Road with Linda Jamison



Above: Linda speaks on creativity

[Linda Jamison](#), dean of AILA, traveled to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, with [Erik Peterson](#), director, Global Strategy Institute, to speak at Southeast Missouri State University. Her presentation in front of nearly 200 students, faculty, alumni, and community leaders, illustrated how creative leadership is used to confront global problems.

Training to Brief Senior Policymakers

This spring, CSIS interns participated in AILA's Policy Presentation Training, where they each prepared and presented a policy idea as if they were briefing senior officials in the Obama administration. Feedback was given by both peers and senior staff.



Left: Jeff Bond, AILA intern, discusses prospects for international sports diplomacy.

Right: John Casebolt, GSI intern, suggests that a revolutionary cooling technology can save the government millions of dollars.



Health Diplomacy: Leading through Healthcare

Commander Dave Tarantino, *family medical physician and flight surgeon in the U.S. Navy*, spoke to CSIS interns and staff about a form of diplomacy that is not often discussed—health diplomacy.



Above: CDR Tarantino takes a question from the audience.

CDR Tarantino emphasized the strong health diplomacy capabilities of the United States as seen in the tsunami relief efforts in Southeast Asia during 2005 and in the rebuilding of the Iraqi health infrastructure over the past six years. This action-based diplomacy sends a powerful message to the people whose lives are improved by it. With its capacity to win hearts and minds, health diplomacy presents unique opportunities for international leadership by the United States.

Debate Clinic Sharpens Rhetorical Skills

The ability to articulate and defend one's opinions is crucial to success in policy leadership. For this reason, AILA held its spring 2009 Debate Clinic led by U.S. Army Colonel Bill Taylor (Ret.), *senior adviser*, and Chris Jones, *research assistant, International Security Program*. Sixteen interns were intensively trained in the art of argumentation. Debaters teamed up to argue both sides of multiple resolutions. Topics included the normalization of relations with Cuba and the necessity of a national missile defense shield.



Above: Dr. Taylor and debate clinic participants.

Crosstown Rivals Unite for "Speed Debate"

On April 14, CSIS hosted 24 young professionals from around Washington, D.C., for team debates on pressing policy issues. Participants from CSIS, the Center for American Progress, and the Heritage Foundation competed in three rounds of debate on two different topics: establishing a system of mandatory public service in the United States; and outlawing handguns. AILA's unique eight-minute "speed debate" format forced competitors to think on their feet as they debated each topic.



Above: CSIS interns T.J. Krumel and Jeff Bond prepare their rebuttal.