First Term of the Fellowship

On September 16, the 2007-2008 International Fellows came together for the first time. Arriving from seven different countries to spend a week in advanced leadership training workshops, they are the largest and most diverse class of fellows to date.

The first term of the fellowship focused on conflicts in values and enhancing individual leadership ability through cross-cultural dialogue.

The nine fellows will return on April 26, 2008 for the second week for intensive discussions on “The Rise of Asia.” Learn more about the fellows below, or click here for their bios.

Feature Article

Shaping Up

by Sarah Lawrence

The feature article is written by a CSIS young professional describing a unique personal experience that altered their self-perception.

Last summer, I completed my first half-marathon – in Alaska. Not only was this a major step for me athletically, but achieving this personal goal taught me how better to link the physical and mental aspects of leadership that we talk about in AILA, and that are so prevalent in leadership training.

The motivation to run began last January when my friend suggested we do something fun – take on a project, “like Team in Training.” I hadn't heard of it before, so I attended an information session. I learned that Team in Training (TNT) is the world's largest endurance sports training program, run by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). The TNT staff and volunteer coaches commit to preparing people to complete endurance events if they commit to raising money towards cures for blood cancers like leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. The program seemed so well organized, the past participants were so passionate, and the staff was so sure everyone in the (cont p.2)

"Thank you for a sincerely wonderful and enlightening opportunity and for taking time to encourage open and intercultural dialogue between not only different cultures, but peoples.”

-Ali Itani, 2007-2008 fellow, Lebanon
information session could be trained that I was overcome by the exciting, empowering sense of why not?

Physical activity was not completely new to me and it is something I’ve always enjoyed - once I get through the hard part. You know the part I mean – those first minutes. My mind and body resist the change in routine. Thoughts dart and zoom through my mind. I’m making lists, I’m planning – in short, I’m thinking instead of being. Therefore, as I began to train with TNT last winter, I realized that the mental aspects of endurance training would be every bit as challenging, and essential, as the physical aspects. It quickly became clear that in order to push myself through those first minutes and enjoy what came next, the two most important parts of my training would be 1) continuing to put one foot in front of the other, and 2) developing a habit – training my body every single day.

On June 23, I completed a half-marathon in Anchorage, Alaska, with my coaches and parents cheering me on. I ran 13.1 miles and raised over $5,000; the experience truly changed my life. But it wasn’t just the final achievement that was important. It was the training itself – the consistency of getting out there and working was what was truly transforming. It taught me that I can change my habits, train my mind and body, and enjoy the benefits. People do things like this all the time, but this was a big deal for me. I led myself to achieve a personal goal that at first seemed overwhelming, but turned out to be possible after learning a few valuable lessons.

The experience also stressed the importance of a lesson my parents have been teaching me my whole life – balance.  

(cont. p.3)
In addition, Michelle Bostic and Jack Vine, two Midshipmen, First Class, USNA contributed as AILA interns. Bostic, an English major, assisted in editing the spring 2007 issue of Leaderscript. Vine, who had just returned from Marine training in Quantico, VA, assisted during AILA’s largest events of the year, as well as provided early preparation for the fellowship program.

**Debate Debate Debate**

This summer, AILA hosted its first debate clinic. The 8-part workshop, directed by Bill Taylor, senior advisor, CSIS, and Eric Malis, intern, AILA aimed to make the 32 intern participants more persuasive and confident when arguing policy. The debate format that AILA has designed focuses on impromptu speaking and the quick preparation of concise arguments. The clinic culminated with interns debating in front of an audience of sixty peers and scholars.

"The debate workshop was worthwhile because we had to debate issues we hadn’t thought about in a systematic way before."

- Hilary Drew, intern, Russia and Eurasia Program

**Intern Spotlight**

As AILA’s momentum continues to grow through its fifth year, we take this opportunity to highlight the talent and contribution of our interns.

**Kyoto Prize 2007**

On November 10, AILA staff attended the 23rd annual Kyoto Prize in Japan. The international prize was founded by the Inamori Foundation to award accomplishments in advanced technology, basic sciences, and arts and philosophy. Click [here](#) for pictures.

In addition, Michelle Bostic and Jack Vine, two Midshipmen, First Class, USNA contributed as AILA interns. Bostic, an English major, assisted in editing the [spring 2007 issue of Leaderscript](#). Vine, who had just returned from Marine training in Quantico, VA, assisted during AILA’s largest events of the year, as well as provided early preparation for the fellowship program.
Quotes from the Curriculum

"In leadership, you must show confidence. Explain your mission – the why, the how, and in the end, get them to do it with a smile on their face."

- Bill Taylor, senior adviser, CSIS on the role of persuasiveness in leadership

"Don’t spend too much time thinking about what the best possible option may be. It’s wasted energy because you don’t know how anything will turn out."

- Jon Alterman, director, Middle East Program on making a career in policy

Curriculum Highlights

David Heyman, director, Homeland Security discusses his career

Johanna Mendelson Forman, senior associate, comments on a film about Haitian athletes

Jon Wolfsthal, International Security Program, explains nuclear technology

Kathleen Hicks, International Security Program, discusses her career in government

Bates Gill, former Freeman Chair in China Studies, briefs participants on the current issues facing China

Johanna Mendelson Forman, senior associate, comments on a film about Haitian athletes

Sumithra Rajendra, intern, AILA

Written by: Daniel Gregory  Editor: Linda Jamison  © 2007 AILA

Discussing Decision 2008

–Written by Sumithra Rajendra, AILA intern

On September 28, Republican presidential candidate Michael Huckabee addressed CSIS on "Paths and Priorities in the War on Terror". The former Governor of Arkansas was invited to speak at CSIS as part of the Decision 2008 Presidential Candidate's Forum. Immediately following the speech, as part of AILA's parallel series, five interns were selected to lead a discussion about the governor's platforms and provide their insights on his ideas. At the luck of a random drawing, I was chosen as one of the discussion leaders.

Prior to interning at CSIS, I had never heard of Mike Huckabee. I had thought this was a result of my limited exposure to the presidential race as I only recently moved to the United States, but I soon learned that most of my fellow panelists were not too familiar with him either; this was well before Huckabee’s rise in the polls. My research found the governor to be a mixed bag. Not only is he a politician who took both typical and very atypical stances, but he is a pastor, a health enthusiast, and a bassist in a band.

I found him to be fairly eloquent, but our panel expressed both praise and critique of his platform. The governor made bold statements about patriotism and suicide bombers, but offered more nuanced recommendations on education, health care, and defense. During the discussion, my fellow panelists and I dissected the governor’s ideas, debating their depth and feasibility. Other interns and staff in attendance offered their opinions and several of CSIS’s military fellows were on hand to help evaluate the proposed military changes. I am not sure how many votes Huckabee won with his address, but it was a remarkable experience to watch democracy unfold – it is not something that occurs often enough.