

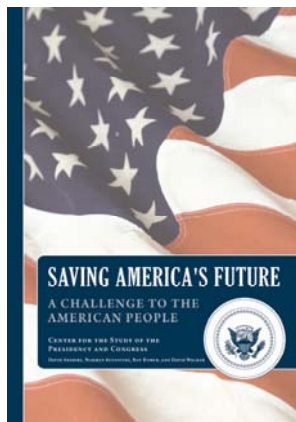


SAVING AMERICA’S FUTURE

Center Releases Comprehensive Report of Nation’s Challenges, Offers Recommendations

The nation faces a series of unsustainable challenges that, if not confronted and resolved soon, threaten our standing and freedom of action domestically and internationally. To help find solutions to these problems, the Center initiated the Strengthening America’s Future Initiative (SAFI) last fall.

On March 27, 2009, Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) and Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) sponsored the Capitol Hill rollout of SAFI’s first report, *Saving America’s Future: A Challenge to the American People*.



Congressman Jim Cooper (D-TN) also spoke at the event.

Congressman Wolf laid out the problems facing the nation: “Many people believe America is ready to go into decline.... We see record deficits as far as the eye can see. We see overwhelming debt with no plan to deal with it. We see our factories in decay....”

Other challenges the report examines include providing efficient energy, ensuring quality public education, competing globally for jobs, and extending health care while reducing its cost.

The report provides four recommendations to remedy four critical national issues:

- Develop a ten-year national strategy that outlines where the country stands, where it needs to go, and how to get there;
• Create a bipartisan Fiscal Future Commission that develops statutory budget controls and comprehensive tax and Social Security reform legislation, and also reorients government spending programs and tax preferences for the future;
• Reengineer the American health system by assembling a federal task force that reviews and implements mechanisms that decrease costs, improve value, and reduce waste in federal

health insurance programs; and

- Confront the educational crisis by having the President host a national education summit of all governors and state education leaders.

“I want to commend the Center for their efforts on this blueprint,” Senator Warner stated. “The challenge is going to be how we get from agreeing on the ideas to action.”



Senator Mark Warner. For more pictures from the rollout, see page 5.

SAFI is co-chaired by Norman Augustine, Roy Romer, and David Walker. A bipartisan Steering Committee oversees 13 specific issue teams with more than 150 members, who have extensive experience in government, military and the private sector.

Throughout the summer and fall, the Center will produce reports and memos to the Administration, Congress and American people containing recommendations from the Steering Committee and issue teams.

The Center recently started a SAFI blog that provides regular updates on the project, examines current policies, and offers issue-specific recommendations. The blog and the Saving America’s Future report are available on the Center’s website at www.thePresidency.org.

For more information, contact Dana Martin, Project Director, at DMartin@thePresidency.org or 202-872-9800.

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## MOVING FORWARD IN LEADERSHIP

By David M. Abshire, President and CEO

Dear Friends:

Our Center has been especially busy this spring. We released several new reports, most notably *Saving America's Future: A Challenge to the American People*. This first report of our Strengthening America's Future Initiative received a warm welcome on Capitol Hill during its rollout in March.

In March the Center also led a delegation of health, science and higher education experts to Damascus, where they met with President Bashar al-Assad and their Syrian counterparts. We brought together rising European diplomats in Washington in advance of NATO's 60th anniversary summit. Our outstanding Presidential Fellows Program returned for another successful session, and we recognized Senator Dianne Feinstein and David Walker at our Annual Awards Dinner. During the next few months, the Center will continue to build on these successes.

I am particularly enthusiastic about the opportunities presented by our National Consortium for Character-Based Leadership. To date, the primary focus of this project has been to develop ethics-based curricular resources for high school and college educators and to provide a network for them to talk about the issue. Now, we are expanding our effort to focus on ethics at the federal appointee level.

The crises our nation faces demands the best leaders. Public officials must be ready to face the burdens ahead in a spirit of ethical leadership. After all, "trust is the coin of the realm."

We have already received some funding to establish a chair in ethics and leadership. Last month I traveled to the West Coast, where I met with David Griswold, whose donation provided the momentum to start this new initiative, and Bill Gates, Sr. Mr. Gates has offered a challenge grant to help fund the position. Enthusiasm is strong for this initiative, and with the help of many good thinkers and donors, we will continue to meet this critical need.

With warm regards,

## CENTER TRUSTEE PROFILES

*The members of the Center's Board of Trustees provide valuable guidance and insight regarding the organization's programs, fundraising and overall strategic vision. In this newsletter, we are profiling four of these important individuals.*

**Joseph W. Prueher** served as U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. In May 1999, he completed 35 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Navy, culminating in the position of Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command (CINCPAC), where he was the senior military commander of all the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force troops in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and their littoral areas.

**Thomas J. Ridge** was the first Assistant to the President for Homeland Security after September 11, 2001. He later became the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he led the effort to develop and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to strengthen protections against terrorist attacks. Prior to that, he was Governor of Pennsylvania and served six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is now the President and CEO of Ridge Global LLC, which provides strategic consulting services to governments and businesses worldwide.

**Charles S. Robb** is Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy at George Mason University. Previously he served as Virginia's 64th Governor and U.S. Senator from that state. While in the Senate, he became the first member ever to serve simultaneously on all three national security committees (Intelligence, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations). He is the son-in-law of former President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

**Togo D. West, Jr.** is Chairman of TLI Leadership Group. He has held positions in three Presidential Administrations, including Secretary of the Army and Secretary of Veterans Affairs during the Clinton Administration. He has served on a number of governmental commissions and advisory committees, including the Defense Policy Board and the Panama Canal Commission. Secretary West has been partner and of counsel to two of the nation's most distinguished law firms and has worked in the corporate and academic communities.

## CENTER PROGRAMS CAPITALIZE ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN DIPLOMACY



### Science, Health and Higher Education Experts Visit Syria

Concurrent with new U.S.-Syrian diplomatic relations, the Center, along with the British Syrian Society and Damascus University, convened a group of distinguished American and Syrian leaders in diplomacy, science, health care, and higher education in Damascus.

The goals of the exchange were: to increase and enhance exchanges among scientists and medical and higher education professionals; to create a sustainable dialogue among these professionals; to expand knowledge and mutual understanding on both sides; and to identify areas for potential collaboration.

CSPC Trustee Pamela Scholl led the American delegation, which included Nobel Laureate David Baltimore and former Ambassador to Syria Theodore Kattouf under the sponsorship of Mr. Wafic Rida Saïd, a Syrian-born businessman and philanthropist. During three days of frank and substantive discussion, the delegation looked at the challenges facing Syria, ways of improving U.S.-Syrian relations, and areas for greater cooperation. The delegation was well-received by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, with whom the delegation met for an hour. He welcomed the exchange and indicated his support for the delegation's recommendations for future cooperation.

The Center will release a report this summer that will lay out the findings of the expert working groups on health, science and higher education that met in Syria. It will provide a snapshot of the major challenges that the groups identified in these areas and, most importantly, offer concrete recommendations for the way forward.

For more information, contact Matthew Purushotham, Project Director, at MPurushotham@thePresidency.org or 202-872-9800.

### European Exchange Program Explores First 100 Days of the New Administration

The European Exchange Program spring conference took place March 30 to April 1, just prior to the NATO summit in Strasbourg. Participants, mid-career leaders from European governments or the policy research community, included many who attended the first conference in November and new members from European Embassies in Washington. Participants cited the discussions as “very useful” in their understanding of American politics.

The group met with experts involved in this and past Presidential transitions to analyze the first 100 days of the new Administration, energy and economic policy, and relations with China and the Middle East. Other sessions examined the Administration's developing relationships with Capitol Hill and the United Nations.

Speakers included Congressman Artur Davis (D-AL), former Senator William Brock, former Director of National Intelligence and Ambassador to the UN John Negroponte, former Colorado Governor Roy Romer, and Congressional scholars Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein. Participants also met with issue experts from the Office of Personnel Management, Partnership for Public Service, Cambridge Energy Research Associates and German Marshall Fund. Speakers from the November session returned to follow-up on policy projections and evaluate changing American political dynamics.

The Luso-American Foundation, Stuart Family Foundation, and Tulsa Community Foundation, as well as several private donors, provided funding for the project. The German Marshall Fund and the Atlantic Council donated space for the conference.

For more information, contact Emily Shaftel, Coordinator, Communications and Special Projects, at EShaftel@thePresidency.org or 202-872-9800.



From top: Congressman Artur Davis; Ambassador John Negroponte



**CENTER RECOGNIZES SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN, DAVID WALKER  
AND PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS AT ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**

The ballroom of the Willard InterContinental Hotel was close to capacity as guests gathered for the Center's 42nd Annual Awards Dinner. Senator Dianne Feinstein, the Honorable David Walker, and Master of Ceremonies George Stephanopoulos added a special touch to the evening, as they shared their own personal experiences while serving in the public sector. Representatives of the Washington diplomatic community and Center Trustees and Advisors were in attendance, as well as members of the 2008-2009 Presidential Fellows Program, who were attending the Spring Leadership Conference.

"The great number of Ambassadors and representatives from Embassies in attendance at the Awards Dinner is a real reflection of the excellent reputation that David Abshire and the Center have in the international community," said Leo A. Daly, Chairman of the Center's Board and Chairman and CEO of LEO A DALY, an international architecture firm. "There is no question that the Awards Dinner was a huge success."

*Publius Award* recipient Senator Feinstein of California, selected for her impeccable credentials as a bridge builder on the Hill, challenged the audience to help diffuse the current climate of divisiveness in Washington. She also encouraged the Presidential Fellows in attendance to follow their best instincts when making career choices. Many laughed appreciatively when Senator Feinstein said Fellows should do what they love after graduation, even if it is not what their parents want.

Mr. Walker expressed his gratitude for being the first recipient of the *Hamilton Award*, named for the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Mr. Walker, currently President and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation and former U.S. Comptroller General, emphasized his grave concern over the continuing increase in the national debt, which could have a devastating effect on future generations. Mr. Walker also drew from history when he spoke on Hamilton's role when the new U.S. government assumed states' debts.

As a past Presidential Fellow, George Stephanopoulos engaged everyone with his reflections on his own career path, beginning with a

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Hill internship in 1982 and culminating with his work in the Clinton White House before moving to ABC News and his current position as Chief Washington Correspondent.

The Presidential Fellows also were recognized for their work in the program, which brings them to Washington twice a year to study the Presidency, meet with policymakers and work on original research papers. Jeffrey Deitel from the United States Coast Guard Academy received the James R. Moffett Award for the Most Original Paper on the Modern Presidency for his paper "The Bush Administration and the Classification of al Qaeda: America's Strategy for Counterterrorism in the Twenty-First Century." William Lundin from Dartmouth College received the Donald B. Marron Award for the Best Historical Analysis of the Presidency for his paper on "The Perils of Exclusionary Decision-Making: Infighting, Incoherence, and Myth in Sino-U.S. Normalization."

For more information, contact Mary O'Connor, Director of Outreach, at MConnor@thePresidency.org or 202-872-9800.

## 42nd Annual Awards Dinner

Photos:

1. David Walker
2. Fay Pappas (Fellow), David Abshire, Senator Dianne Feinstein
3. Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, Carolyn Abshire
4. Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg
5. George Stephanopoulos, Leo Daly, David Abshire, Senator Feinstein
6. Senator Feinstein, G. Wayne Clough
7. Jeffrey Deitel, David Abshire, William Lundin



## Strengthening America's Future Initiative Capitol Hill Rollout



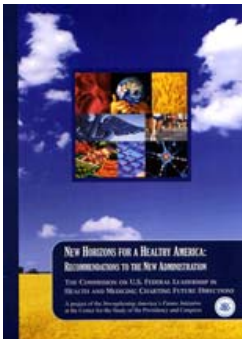
Photos:

8. Rodney Engler, Norman Augustine, Congressman Frank Wolf, Thomas Kirlin
9. Audience
10. Congressman Jim Cooper
11. Roy Romer
12. Norman Augustine, Roy Romer, David Walker
13. Senator Mark Warner, David Abshire



### CENTER OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFRONT THE GROWING HEALTH CARE CHALLENGE

America’s health crisis has neither a single cause nor a “single bullet” solution. Now, more than ever, American families, schools, businesses, and government must make use of all the tools in our national toolkit to advance health throughout the



United States and the world, states *New Horizons for a Healthy America: Recommendations to the New Administration*, a new report issued by the Center.

As part of its Strengthening America’s Future Initiative, the Center convened a high-level team of national health care experts under the leadership of Susan Blumenthal, M.D., Director of CSPC’s Health and Medicine Program and former Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, and Denis Cortese, M.D., President and CEO of Mayo Clinic. Adopting a more comprehensive perspective toward health care reform, this Center commission developed seven strategies to mobilize all sectors of American society to help put “health” back into our nation’s health care system.

For more information, contact Dr. Susan Blumenthal, Health and Medicine Program Director, at [SBlumenthal@thePresidency.org](mailto:SBlumenthal@thePresidency.org) or at 202-872-9800.

### SUPPORT THE CENTER

Tax-deductible contributions can be designated for specific Center programs (such as the Presidential Fellows Program) or for general support.

By supporting the Center, you help the only organization that systematically examines past successes and failures of the Presidency and relates its findings to present challenges and opportunities.

To learn more about the nonprofit Center and funding opportunities, visit our website at [www.thePresidency.org](http://www.thePresidency.org) or contact Thomas Kirlin, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, at [TKirlin@thePresidency.org](mailto:TKirlin@thePresidency.org) or 202-872-9800.

### DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

#### Presidential Fellows Gather in DC

From March 26th to 28th, the Presidential Fellows returned to Washington for the Spring Leadership Conference. They discussed the Presidential transition and the first 100 days of the Obama Administration, and worked on their original research papers on the American Presidency.

The highlight of the conference was the Center’s Annual Awards Dinner, which recognized the Presidential Fellows and honored strategic national leadership. Fellows enjoyed the opportunity to interact with awardees Senator Dianne Feinstein and David Walker as well as Master of Ceremonies and former Presidential Fellow George Stephanopoulos.



*Fellows at the White House*

During their speeches, Senator Feinstein and Mr. Stephanopoulos spoke directly to the Fellows about their future career paths. (For more information on the dinner, including Fellows award winners, see story on page 4.)

During the conference, Fellows explored foreign policy with former Ambassadors Joseph Duffey and Stuart Holliday and Mr. Thomas Miller of Business for Diplomatic Action, while Dr. Phillip H. Phan of Johns Hopkins University provided a provocative discussion on “Entrepreneurship and Regional Development: Is There a Role for Government Policy?” They also traveled to the White House for a tour of the East Wing and a conversation with members of the White House Fellows program.

During the conference’s final day, Center President David Abshire, Mr. Walker, and former Senator William Brock spoke to the Fellows about the Strengthening America’s Future Initiative. Fellows expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity to discuss policy with such prominent leaders.

For more information, contact Matthew Purushotham, Project Director, at [MPurushotham@thePresidency.org](mailto:MPurushotham@thePresidency.org), or Jessica Zapf, Project Coordinator, at [JZapf@thePresidency.org](mailto:JZapf@thePresidency.org). Both can also be reached at 202-872-9800.

## CENTER NEWS

**Sherman Elliott Katz**, an expert in trade law, is a new CSPC Senior Advisor. He is conducting an analysis of the World Trade Organization that the Center will publish later this year.

This spring, the Center welcomed **Stacy Paul**, a new intern from Union College, who is working on the Center's policy and education programs.

The Center is pleased to announce new funding for three of its programs. **Southern Company**, a leading U.S. energy company, pledged \$20,000 to the Center's Energy and the Environment Program. The **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation** has given the Center \$50,000 for the Strengthening America's Future Initiative (SAFI). Finally, **David Griswold** of FOCUS, which will help disseminate the results of SAFI, has given the Center \$100,000 to help establish a Senior Fellowship in Leadership and Ethics.

As part of SAFI, the Center published *Summary of Major Organizations' Reports and Recommendations on National Science, Technology and Innovation Policies and Investments, 2006-2008*. This analysis by Deborah Stine, Ph.D., reviews studies and policy documents on national science, technology and innovation policy and budget issues presented by major organizations. It is available on the Center's website.

The Center's **Health and Medicine Program** published *Peace Through Health: A Mapping of Cooperative Health Programs in Palestine and Israel*. Part of the Center's USAID project on Advancing Trust and Reconciliation in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, this publication analyzes health systems and cooperative health activities in Israel and the Palestinian territories and offers recommendations for improving health in the region. It is available on the



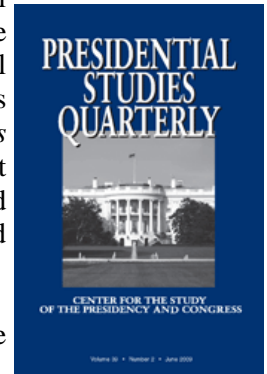
Center's website.

The **Presidential Fellows Program** will publish *A Dialogue on Presidential Challenges and Leadership* in June. This book will include the best papers produced by participants in the 2008-2009 program and will be available on the Center's website.

## ANALYZING THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

### *Presidential Studies Quarterly* Offers Articles on the Transition and Decision-Making

As President Barack Obama nears the end of his first 100 days in office, staying in touch with the issues and challenges of the Oval Office has never been more important, regardless of political perspectives. As such, this quarter's issue of *Presidential Studies Quarterly (PSQ)* remains your best source of timely analysis and historical insight on the United States Presidency.



Several articles from the June 2009 issue apply to current U.S. political debate and policies. Three articles in a special "Transition Studies" section analyze aspects of Presidential decision-making during transfers of powers, specifically the historic role of the National Security Advisor and staff; the influence of Presidential travel on domestic and international policies; and the accumulation of Presidential power in national security affairs. Another article by Dr. James Pfiffner examines the pitfalls of Presidential decision-making by looking at the decision-making processes of George W. Bush's policies and how President Obama can learn from others' mistakes. Finally, Dr. Fred Greenstein re-examines the political professionalism of the forgotten Presidency of James Monroe by detailing ways he dealt with the tension between Executive and Legislative powers.

Look for these and other timely articles in the next issue of *PSQ*, which will help illuminate the ins-and-outs of the American Presidency. Subscribers receive four print editions of the journal a year and online access to all issues from 1999 to the current issue. An annual subscription also includes membership to the Center, which includes invitations to Center events and free shipping, up to \$20.00, on orders of select CSPC publications.

To subscribe to *PSQ*, contact Katie Fourmy, Office Coordinator, at [KFourmy@thePresidency.org](mailto:KFourmy@thePresidency.org) or 202-872-9800.

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President Barack Obama

The Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to further the understanding and functioning of the American Presidency and its related institutions and, thereby, to educate, illuminate, and inspire leaders of tomorrow.

*“Your research, educational programs, and publications ... strengthen our democracy and encourage high standards of public service.”*  
President George W. Bush

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