

On October 28th, seven outstanding international scholars for Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Spain traveled to Washington, DC to study the US Presidency and Congress while participating in the third class of CSPC International Fellows.

During the weeks leading up to the Fall Leadership Conference, the federal government was shut down, threatening to hamper the activities planned for the International Fellows. Thankfully, the situation was resolved enough to ensure a successful week of meetings, lectures, and tours of our nation's capital for our seven foreign scholars, most of whom were visiting the United States for the first time.



The International Fellows posing with a statue of President Roosevelt at his memorial.

We began our International Conference on Monday with a special meeting at the Mexican Embassy. There, we met with Mr. Enrique Excorza, who heads the Congressional Affairs Department. Mr. Excorza talked with the Fellows extensively about Mexican-American relations and the many issues that the two nations are dealing with, namely immigration. He also explained the importance of maintaining a strong relationship due to the high percentage of trade between the two countries.

Following the meeting, the Fellows traveled to the World Bank where they enjoyed lunch from the International Food court while having a discussion with Ms. Eliza Winters, a Senior Operations Officer at the East Asia and Pacific Region. She discussed some of the important functions that the World Bank provides, and explained how it is going through a re-organization to increase efficiency.



The International Fellows with the White House and Washington Monument in the background.

Following some free time, the Fellows traveled to the Japanese Embassy to meet with the Japanese Ambassador, Kenichiro Sasae. Ambassador Sasae discussed the importance of diplomatic relations and gave a nice history of the Japanese-American relationship. He also talked at length with each Fellow about their research topics, giving his invaluable insights and challenging their positions. The Fellows ended their first day of the Conference with a bus tour of some of the national monuments that included visits to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial, and the National Mall.

On Tuesday, the Fellows met with staff members of the Spanish Embassy for an informative presentation. The presentation included a brief history of Spanish-American relations, given by Counselor Maria Luisa Huidobro, a discussion

about the Spanish military attaché in the United States from Col. Fernando Valencia and Lt. Col. Hiscio Belluga, and Spain's attempts at sharing Spanish culture globally from Cultural Counselor Guillermo Corral. The Fellows loved the multi-faceted approach and engaged them at length with a thoughtful question and answer session.

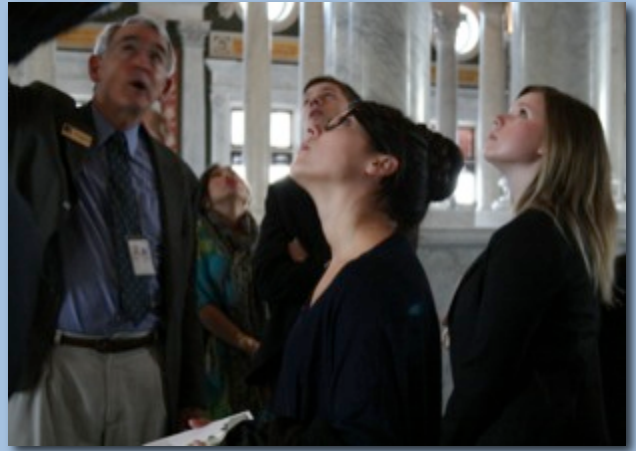


**The International Fellows with
the Spanish Embassy Staff.**

Following the Spanish Embassy meeting, the Fellows traveled to Capitol Hill to see some of the important governmental sites in the area. While the Capitol Building was closed to tours that day, the Fellows took a tour of the Library of Congress, taking in the beautiful artwork and architecture that is included. Some of the Fellows even applied for library cards, a nice souvenir for them to take back with them. They also walked through the Supreme Court Building, where they were able to see some of the informative exhibits on display and take a peek inside the court room.

Wednesday brought a more casual attitude to the Conference. Since the full Fall Leadership Conference began the next day, the Fellows enjoyed a light-hearted day of tourist attractions to bring the International Conference to a close. The day had them visit the National Archives, where they were able to see hundreds of original documents important in our nation's history, ranging from the Declaration of Independence to letters to our Presidents.

They also visited the Newseum and the International Spy Museum—two of the city's most popular museums thanks to their fun yet educational interactive exhibits.



**Judith Trasancos (middle) and Charlotte Smith (right)
looking at the detailed mural on
the ceiling of the Library of Congress.**

The first three days of the International Fellows' stay in Washington, DC was a resounding success. CSPC would like to thank Toyota International for its support of the two Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda Fellows and the Dr. Scholl Foundation for its support of our five Fellows from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and Spain.



**The International Fellows posing at
the International Spy Museum.**

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On October 31st, the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress welcomed the 2013-2014 Presidential class to Washington, DC, for the Fall Leadership Conference at the Washington Marriott. Traveling in spite of the recent government shutdown, sixty-six students from colleges and universities around the country and seven International Fellows from universities in Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Spain began the conference with a welcome lunch introducing the program.

After lunch, the conference kicked off with the Fellows breaking up into six peer discussion groups to discuss their research papers. As part of their Fellowship, each Fellow is researching and writing a paper about some aspect of the US Presidency and Congress. Each Fellow has access to a multitude of resources to help them along with their research. These resources include, but are not limited to, the faculty support at their respective universities, the professional mentors provided by CSPC, and their fellow peers at the Fall and Spring Conferences. These papers will be eligible for one of three prizes, awarded at CSPC's Annual Awards Dinner in the spring, and publication consideration in our annual anthology, *The Fellows Review*.



Claire Bieber, Brandon Bub and Leonel Caraciki
(Left to Right)
discuss their research topics.

The discussion groups were broken up by five research topics: Domestic Policy; Foreign Policy; Presidential and Congressional Relations; Economics and Finance; and Communications, Campaigns, and Elections. Each discussion group was moderated by CSPC staff members, Fellowship alumni, and current mentors, who helped facilitate peer review and offered constructive critiques of their own.

Following a brief coffee break, the Fellows welcomed the first speaker, Mr. Frank Cilluffo, cyber security and defense expert and current CSPC Senior Fellow. Mr. Cilluffo spoke about his experiences working in cyber security and the importance of cyber defense in the emergence of ever-increasing cyber-attacks. He also recounted his involvement in the reshaping of the intelligence and defense departments following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The students engaged him during the question and answer session, and seemed to come away with a better understanding of the new challenges facing the nation.



Fellows alumnus Dan Mahaffee speaks with Fellows
about their research outlines.



Mr. Frank Cilluffo talks about the growing concern of cyber-attacks.

The first day ended with a special dinner, where the Fellows were able to get to know each other and the CSPC staff. They had the evening off to explore the nation's capital, free to sight-see and enjoy the many attractions, shops, and restaurants the district has to offer.

On Friday morning, the Fellows welcomed Mr. Chris Lu, former Cabinet Secretary for the Obama Administration. Mr. Lu addressed the Fellows on several topics, including his experiences working with then-Senator Obama, first heading up his Presidential Transition and later becoming the Cabinet Secretary during his first term. He spoke of the challenges he faced while working through each job, and gave the Fellows a behind-the-scenes glimpse into what goes on in Presidential Administrations. Mr. Lu also discussed his career advancements and how he was able to achieve success in the political world, and gave the students valuable advice when they pursue careers in politics of their own.

The Fellows then had an opportunity to meet face-to-face with their mentors for our Mentor Lunch. The mentors are professionals in the political world that are paired with Fellows to advise them on their paper and on potential career paths. In most cases, this was the first time the Fellows and Mentors were able to meet in person.

After lunch, the Fellows were treated to an interview of Congressman James Moran (D-VA) by former

Ambassador Stuart Holliday. Ambassador Holliday talked with Rep. Moran extensively about his personal journey into politics and public service. He discussed his thoughts on the current Congress and the struggles to find cooperation in an increasingly partisan climate.

Friday ended with a discussion from Mr. David Walker, former US Comptroller and CSPC trustee. He talked at length about many problems currently facing the US, especially the ongoing economic issues. He engaged the students about possible solutions to these problems, and encouraged them to continue their paths into public service.



Ambassador Stuart Holliday (right) interviews Congressman James Moran (left) about his experiences working in Congress.

The conference came to a close on Saturday morning with presentation on integrity and ethics from Mr. Egil "Bud" Krogh. Mr. Krogh, a former staffer in the Nixon White House, spoke with the Fellows about his experiences working with President Nixon and the role personal integrity should play in your career. He was able to entertain his listeners with his personal experience in helping to facilitate President Nixon's historical meeting with Elvis Presley. The Fellows enjoyed Mr. Krogh's presentation so much that many of them spent up to forty minutes after the conference ended engaging him further on the topic.

The Fellows bid farewell to each other and headed back to their respective universities and colleges. The conference came to a close as a resounding success, and CSPC looks forward to welcoming everyone back to Washington, DC in March for the Spring Leadership Conference. During the Spring Conference, the three paper prizes will be awarded: The Robert A. Kilmarx Award for the Best Military, Intelligence, or National Security Strategic Analysis; The Donald B. Marron Award for the Most Original Historical Analysis; and The Donald B. Marron Award for the Most Original Historical Analysis.



Mr. David Walker speaks to the Fellows about the fiscal problems currently facing the United States.

CSPC is grateful for the generous support of the donors that make the Presidential Fellows Program possible.

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