



WASHINGTON SCHOLARS

The 11th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations
UN Headquarters, New York City
August 1-3, 2012

Made Possible By



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Executive Summary

In August of 2012, five Washington Scholars were chosen to attend the 11th Youth Assembly at the United Nations (UNYA) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, something which has become a summer tradition for the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program (WSFP). In NYC, the summer Scholars put to practice all of the professional skills they learned throughout their workshop series in Washington, DC, in addition to the lessons learned from their internships.

Once again, the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation (AJJCF) sponsored the Scholars, in order to have a first-hand experience at the UN Headquarters, and enhance their ability to build an international network of future leaders. This year the UNYA had a staggering 800-plus committed young leaders from all over the globe.

Hosted by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, the purpose of the UNYA is to increase youth participation in UN programs, with a particular view to strengthening the commitment to the achievement of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This year, the main message was to inspire the Delegation that the youth of the world can make a difference *if they chose to act*.

The conference was filled with empowering speakers, where they decidedly delivered a message of: social inclusion and enterprise, mixed with technology and innovation, as mechanisms to a prosperous and peaceful future. Inasmuch, the focus was that: the combination of developing the right concept, hard work, and having the right team, is the recipe for success.

The Delegation consisted of a truly global mix:

- Shaoping (Jennifer) Li – China
- Raissa Mendes – Brazil
- Erik Steiner – United States
- Gaonan (Greg) Wang – China
- Chu (David) Wu – China

Furthermore, the Delegation was fortunate to have Colonel Robert J. Bateman (NYARG) as its Senior Mentor and George Platsis as the Head of Delegation.

Overall, the Delegation had an inspirational two-day conference in NYC, with the added bonus of being a first-time trip to NYC for some of the Scholars. The UNYA not only gave the Scholars a new perspective about the Millennium Development Goals, but it allowed for them to connect with global leaders associated with the United Nations.

The biggest lesson of the conference was:
“the time is now” to network, and, to be a leader.

Please enjoy our Scholars’ detailed report of the once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Acknowledgments

The AJJCF and WSFP continues to empower young generation of global leaders and this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity would not have been possible without their unconditional support. The Scholars would like to thank Rear Admiral James J. Carey, USN (Ret.) for all his efforts. This tremendous educational and learning opportunity would not be possible without the Admiral's funding and sponsorship, ultimately allowing us to be classified as "United Nations Delegates" at a very early age in our international public policy career path.

– Thank you Admiral Carey!!!

The 2012 Washington Scholars United Nations Youth Assembly Delegation

Jennifer Li
Raissa Mendes
Erik Steiner
Greg Wang
David Wu

Again this year, the Admiral Carey Foundation provided the total funding of our entire Delegation for the 2012 UNYA meetings at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. UNYA is an incredible educational experience for our Delegation of Future Leaders that I have supported whole-heartedly, with a view to allowing our fine young leaders to experience and understand public policy issues on the international stage.

It is these early-on networking and learning opportunities that will allow our Scholars, and future leaders, to "get the job done" in the decades to come. My foundation funds and supports this effort to ensure our future leaders have the tools and resources to succeed in international public policy, thus helping create a prosperous and peaceful future for all of us.

– Well done Scholars!!!

Rear Admiral James J. Carey, USN (Ret.)
Chairman
The Admiral James J. Carey Foundation

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A special thanks to Colonel Robert J. Bateman for his mentorship and guidance to the group. Without his support and efforts, and expertise as a NYC local, the experience surely would have not been what it was!



What the Scholars Expected

“One of my main interests includes facilitating marketing communications endeavors and business development initiatives between Chinese and American companies. I hope to meet young professionals with the same interests from different countries at the UNYA.”

– Jennifer Li

“I would like to continue to work with international development in the Western Hemisphere and in the future, I would like to become a Foreign Service Officer, which is why I am very excited to participate in this year’s UNYA. I look forward to meeting people from all over the world, and to learn from them as well. This is an amazing opportunity I am able to share with the other Summer Fellows.”

– Raissa Mendes

“I aspire to become a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State, which is why the UNYA interests me so much. I hope to build a more cultured and in-depth knowledge of the UN’s development initiatives, and come up with my own set of methodologies to best aid in the implementation of these initiatives.”

– Erik Steiner

“My future interests include IT and innovative product design. At the UNYA, I look forward to learning from the outstanding youth Delegation, where I also seek to meet new friends, and learn more about the operations of the UN. Of course, I would welcome any opportunities that may present themselves out of the UNYA.”

– Greg Wang

“At the UNYA, I would like to meet a cross-spectrum of delegates, from a variety of different countries, so I can share my own experiences about working in non-profit organizations for fundraising. I would also like to advocate for the needs of developing countries in public health and disaster control.”

– David Wu

WSFP at the UNYA

The 11th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations (UNYA) began in the most magnificent way possible: *right inside the General Assembly Hall!* For the Delegation, it was a jaw-dropping experience to actually sit in the same seats where some of the world's most important decisions were made. Indeed, if there was any doubt from the Delegation if we were “really going to be in the UN” this opening day experience surely put to rest any doubts.

The Youth Assembly opened with a message of peace and tolerance, where the Delegation was treated to a quick musical opening by Jourdan Urbach, who showed that anybody, even from a young age, can use their talents, such as music, to create foundations and make a difference. Immediately after the performance, there was a wonderful panel presentation, which welcome the “youth of the world” to the United Nations. The panel included:

- Dr. AK Abdul Momen, H.E. Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN
- Simona Miculescu, H. E. Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN
- Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, H. E. Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Kenya to the UN

Indeed, this opening panel was able to give the entire Delegation a firsthand view of what the UN actually *does*, yet also present the differing perspectives of the various nations. While the UN certainly has similar goals and interests, every country still has its *own* interests and goes about their intents in their *own* various ways.

The morning session continued with panel discussions that elaborated on the achievements of the Rio+20 Conference. What the Delegation was able to take away from this presentation was that the youth of the world does in fact have the power and the capability to become powerful players in the international public policy arena. This was demonstrated quite clearly by UNYA alumnus, Sam Vaghar, who showed that in just a few short years, not only was his group making an international impact, but was even getting recognition from world leaders, like the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

He also delivered one of the most powerful messages of the conference: “*It begins with you!*” Mr. Vaghar showed to the Delegation that his non-profit organization, which empowers students to end poverty, not only can make a difference, but it can *also* inspire future generations to make those same impacts that he was making. The morning session in the General Assembly, which was filled with seasoned politicians, public policy experts, philanthropists, and young leaders, surely acted as an inspiration to our Delegation.

Following the morning session, the WSFP Delegation went on a guided tour of the UN Main Building, where not only did they learn more about the General Assembly Hall and what goes on in there, but also the Security Council, where some of the most critical world issues were being decided. The afternoon session continued with a very unique experience, where the WSFP Delegation had the opportunity to visit a couple of the Permanent Missions to the UN.

After a short walk through the East Side of Midtown Manhattan, Jennifer Li, Raissa Mendes, and Greg Wang, along with other UNYA Delegates, visited the Permanent Mission of India, where the First Secretary of the Mission presented a report on India's rapid economic development. Likewise, Erik Steiner and David Wu, along with George Platsis, went to the Permanent Mission of Austria, where they had the pleasure of meeting the Deputy Permanent Representative of the

Mission, Andreas Riecken. The Deputy explained Austria's history and involvement in the United Nations, including how its role has expanded over the years. It was a spectacular experience for both groups, as within a few hours, not only did they get a taste for the United Nations Headquarters, but they also got a feel of the functions various Permanent Missions perform.

The evening provided a rare dinner treat for the WSFP Delegation, where Senior Mentor, Colonel Robert J. Bateman, brought the group into the prestigious Harvard Club on 44th Street. The Delegation was able to experience what it was like to be in one of the most distinguished and exclusive private clubs of the country, a place filled with an immaculate history. During an intimate dinner, the Delegation was able to share stories of their families, childhood, and how "we all ended up here" – indeed, there was the common theme and passion of international public policy amongst all. After dinner, the five bright young men and women, along with the Head of Delegation, were able to explore parts of Manhattan in a more relaxed and social setting, before making our way back to Pace University in Downtown, where the Delegation was staying.

The second day of the UNYA, again at the UN Headquarters, took place at the North Building. While it does not have the grandeur of the General Assembly Hall, the North Building has also housed some of the world's most important conferences, where countless global decisions have been made over the years. The theme of the morning was: the nexus of technology and opportunity. The panel discussions showed to the Delegation that, with technology as the enabler, social inclusion and empowerment, in all parts of the world, truly is possible.

One of the most impressive presentations was by Laurence Kemball-Cook, the founder and CEO of Pavegen Systems. The renewable energy technology that Pavegen employs – which by no means is rocket science – converts the kinetic energy of walking on panels to electricity, which can be subsequently stored and used for a variety of applications. Indeed, this innovative young entrepreneur demonstrated what "the power of an idea" can do. Not only has the technology gained recognition from firms such as: Nike, General Electric, and Nissan, *but was also utilized at the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games!* Again, what this demonstrated to the Delegation is that the youth of the world *can* make a difference.

At the conclusion of the afternoon session, the Scholars were able to unwind for a short time before each made their separate plans for the final evening in New York City. Some decided to go on the conference's private dinner cruise, which gave the participants a tour of the Hudson and East Rivers. Others took the opportunity to dine in Chinatown with the members of Tzu Chi, a humanitarian Taiwanese foundation, as it was an opportunity to deepen our networking connections and enhance cross-cultural understanding. And others took the opportunity to explore New York City, especially as it was a first for them.

The two days provided an unbelievable learning experience, but also a networking one, where the Delegates were challenged to accumulate at least five international contacts – something that the Delegates not only did, *but exceeded*. These are the types of opportunities that will help these young leaders for years to come. Unfortunately, the WSFP Delegation was unable to enjoy the final day of the UNYA because they had to make their way back to DC for the Washington Scholars Summer Graduation at the Capitol Hill Club. The graduation, hands down one of the WSFP's best, was enjoyed by over 100 guests, who were able to see, not only the UNYA Delegation, but the entire WSFP Summer 2012 Class gain the recognition they deserved for a summer's worth of splendid work during their Fellowship.

What the Scholars Got

“What amazed me most is that how Laurence and his team have been communicating this ‘renewable energy from footsteps’ concept to a worldwide audience through a variety of high profile events and how fast the process of commercialization of this technology develops. Pavegen just started working with a number of organizations to facilitate the deployment of trial units available in late 2010 at key showcase locations throughout Europe. One year later, on 23 January 2012, Pavegen had successfully installed slabs at the World Economic Forum powering lighting at the event whilst also engaging global leaders and decision makers.”

– Jennifer Li

“The speakers shared their struggles and achievements while discussing their start-ups endeavors, yet inspired participants to take their powerful recommendations and turn them into action within their respective communities. Overall, the Delegation had an inspirational two-day conference in NYC. The UNYA gave the Scholars a new perspective about the Millennium Development Goals while connecting with global leaders associated with the United Nations.”

– Raissa Mendes

“My personal experience was much more exciting than I predicted. Networking was a vital part of the assembly, so long as you knew who to network with. I met a number of incredible individuals at the assembly, including the Austrian Deputy Permanent Representative of Mission to the UN. I exchanged so many business cards on the second day that I ran out (and my business card holder was full at the beginning of the day). The most notable group of people that I met while networking was the Tzu Chi foundation. The organization in itself is a near polar opposite of the WSFP; the Tzu Chi foundation is a Taiwanese apolitical humanitarian organization. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and would recommend it to future scholars. Putting it on my resume will certainly help me for future job interviews, and the networking was well worth the time.”

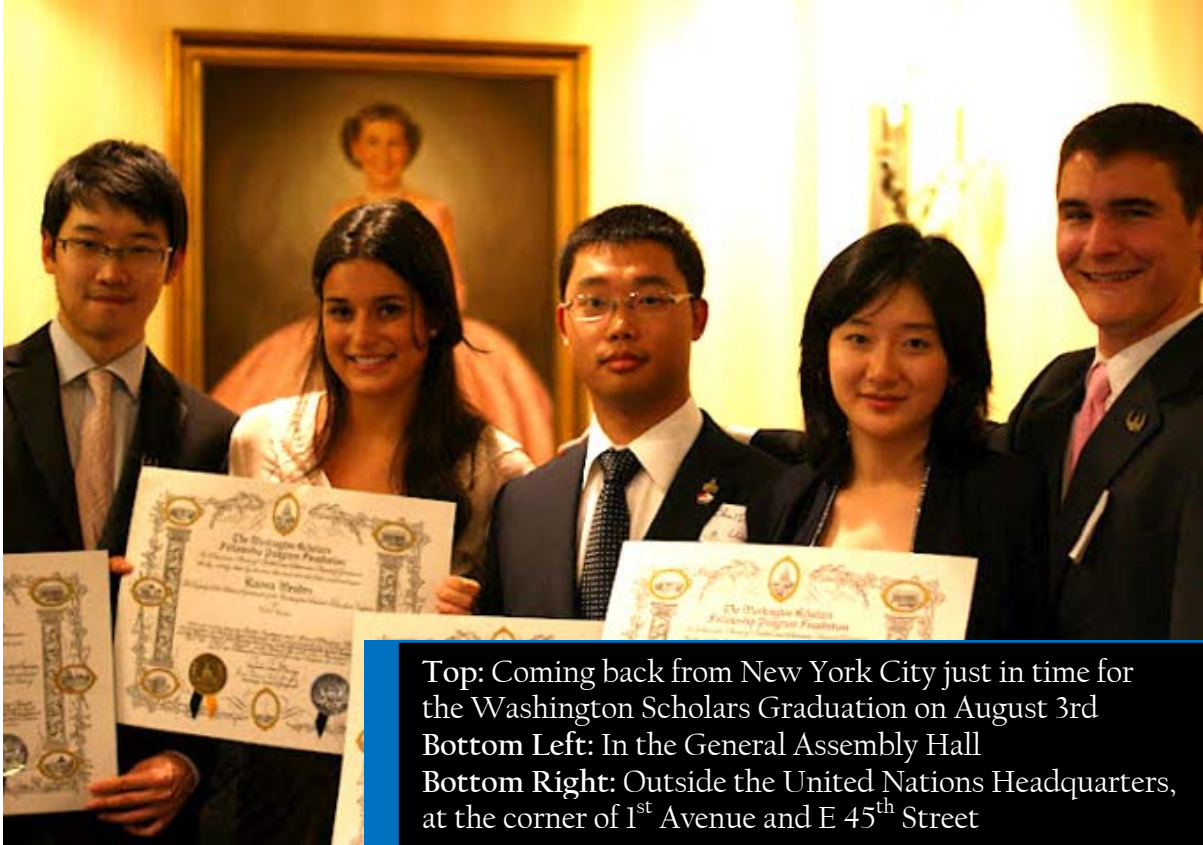
– Erik Steiner

“It was great to see how truly global this conference actually was. I was able to meet, and get to know better, young leaders from Finland, Indonesia, the Philippines, and New Zealand, just to name a few. I was impressed at the diversity of these people as well, ranging from economics, to energy, to veterinary services. It was a great experience!”

– Greg Wang

“I am really grateful to Admiral Carey, Colonel Bateman and Mr. George Platsis for their sponsorship and mentorship for the whole Washington Scholars Delegation to the 11th Youth Assembly at United Nations. I will never forget the sunset on the Statue of Liberty cruising on the Hudson River, New York. I believe the UNYA experience will add a meaningful highlight to my resume. I like to use ‘One World, One Dream’, the theme of 2008 Beijing Olympic, as the best description of my UNYA experience. I will bring the idea I learned at UNYA to everyone around me. Thank you.”

– David Wu



Top: Coming back from New York City just in time for the Washington Scholars Graduation on August 3rd
Bottom Left: In the General Assembly Hall
Bottom Right: Outside the United Nations Headquarters, at the corner of 1st Avenue and E 45th Street





Top: Day 1, meeting new friends and making our way into the United Nations Headquarters with Senior Mentor, Colonel Robert J. Bateman
Bottom: Dinner with Rear Admiral James J. Carey prior to the memorable trip to New York City





Top: Inside the General Assembly Hall
Bottom: Beside the East River on UN grounds





Top: Inside the North Building
Bottom: Outside the Main Entrance on 1st Avenue





Top: Distinguished Scholars of China inside the General Assembly
Bottom: At the Permanent Missions of Austria to the United Nations with Deputy Permanent Representative, Andreas Riecken





Top: Making new friends outside the UN
Bottom: More new friends on Day 2 of presentations in the North Building



Delegation



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Colonel Bateman is a graduate of Villanova University, holding a BS in Business Administration, along with attending the USDA Graduate School for Government Executive and took part in the 1999 U.S. Army War College National Security Symposium. He has 15 years Federal Service with the United States Department of the Treasury and has also served as a Front Line Law Enforcement Officer for the Hampton, New Hampshire Police Department for 9 years. Additionally, he has been the Past Deputy Commander, 88th Brigade, New York Guard (Headquarters, New York City) and is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G/2).

He is the Founder and President of Alliance Defense Marketing Associates, LLC and sits on numerous boards, including the National Defense Committee (Washington, DC). His past positions include: Past Chairman of the Board, Military Association of New York (The Officers Association of the Combined Military Forces of New York State); Past Commander-in-Chief, The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States; Past National Historian, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America; Board of Trustees, The Admiral James J. Carey Foundation; Board of Trustees, The Good Samaritans of The Knights Templar Foundation.

His vast memberships include: Reserve Officers Association, National Guard Association of the United States, Military Association of New York, Association of The United States Army, New York Guard Association, Rockingham County and Hampton, N.H. Police Associations, New Hampshire Police Emerald Society, New York Police Chiefs' Benevolent Association, Army, and Navy Club, Washington, D.C., Harvard Club New York City. In addition to all these involvements, he is the Past Prior, Priory of Saint King Charles the Martyr, SMOTJ, Washington, D.C. and current Deputy Grand Prior, SMOTJ, GPUSA, Region 1.



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George Platsis is the Director of the Research Center at the National Defense Foundation (Washington, DC) and Chief Administrative Officer of SRI Professionals. He also serves as the Program Director for the Centre of Excellence in Security, Resilience, and Intelligence Management at the Schulich Executive Education Centre, located at York University's Schulich School of Business (Toronto, Ontario), where he is responsible for program development and design for senior management and executive leadership in both the private and public sectors.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Master of Business Administration, both from the Schulich School of Business (York University) and a Master of Arts in Disaster and Emergency Management (York University). Currently he is pursuing a Master of Laws degree in Constitutional Law from the Osgoode Hall Law School (York University) and a Master of Science degree in Cybersecurity Policy (University of Maryland University College). He is also a Fellow of the National Security Management Course from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and a registered Mentor with the Canadian Institute of Health Research (Government of Canada).

He sits on the Board of Advisors for the Science in Service to Humanity Foundation (Washington, DC), the National Defense Foundation (Washington, DC), and the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation (Washington, DC) and has been recognized by the Government of Canada for his Outstanding Service and Contribution as a Volunteer. He holds memberships with: the U.S. Naval Institute, the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Ontario Association of Emergency Managers, ASIS International, the Global Association of Risk Professionals, the Disaster Recovery Information Exchange, and the Business Continuity Institute and is certified by Toronto EMS as an Emergency First Responder, also holding other related first-response training, and professional business continuity certifications.



Shaoping (Jennifer) Li – China

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Shaoping (Jennifer) Li was from Beijing, China. She holds a MBA in international management from University of Illinois at Chicago. Currently, she is working as Assistant Manager of Marketing Communications at China Telecom Americas, where she interned this summer as a Washington Scholar. She had over seven years work experiences in marketing and communications from Ketchum Public Relations and a couple of other media companies in Beijing before coming to the US in December 2010.



Raissa Mendes – Brazil

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Raissa Mendes earned a BA in International Affairs and Latin American Studies from The George Washington University in 2012. This summer, she was an intern in the Latin American and Caribbean department at Vital Voices Global Partnership, where she had the opportunity to work on women empowerment related issues. Originally from Brazil, Raissa is interested in Emerging Markets, International Business and the economic prospects in Latin America. Her interest for Latin cultures and economic development has taken her to study abroad in Argentina and to travel extensively throughout South America.



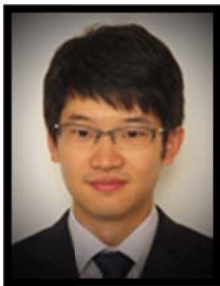
Erik Steiner – United States

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Erik Steiner is a senior at the Georgia Institute of Technology and from McLean, Virginia pursuing a degree in Economics and International Relations. Erik spent the past summer interning in Arlington, Virginia, at the Lexington Institute. His main areas of focus within his research were National Security, Energy with respect to commercial transportation, and Education.

Erik is a proud Eagle Scout of America and served three years in Naval ROTC at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His experiences within these communities have given him a strong sense of leadership and a respect for mentorship. Finally, Erik has been an avid traveler since he was raised in Belgium as a child. Aside from Western Europe, Erik has traveled to Costa Rica, Mexico, Japan, Canada, and Russia. He was part of a student exchange program from Moscow to D.C. and has been studying Russian ever since. Erik believes that his worldwide travels and other life experiences have properly prepared him for his hopeful career as a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State.



Gaonan (Greg) Wang – China

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Greg is currently completing his graduate degree program at UC Berkeley, majoring in industrial engineering and operations research. His internship this past summer was at the National Rifle Association, where he works as an assistant to the President of the NRA, Mr. David Keene, and his wife.



Chu (David) Wu – China
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Chu Wu is from Northeast China and goes by the name David as well. He holds a BS in Biotechnology from Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He is currently a second-year Master of Public Health (M.P.H) student majoring in Biostatistics from School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park. Studying public health and living near the capital of United States, allow him to pay closer attention to the complicated social and economic implication brought by health care reform policies, particularly as this is an issue that has taken hold of much of the American public discourse.

On the other side of the world, China is also facing new challenges due to accelerating urbanization and an aging population, which will allow David to compare and contrast the challenges faced in the United States versus those in China. He believes that the blooming Sino-U.S partnership will organize healthcare industry strengths and government capabilities to foster long-term cooperation in the areas of research, training, regulation and the adoption of an environment that will increase accessibility to healthcare services in both China and U.S.

He has been working at University of Maryland as graduate assistant for two years. This summer, he is selected as a Distinguished Chinese Scholar in Washington Scholars Fellowship Program and he is interning at Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed) Foundation.

Reference Links

UNYA : <http://faf.org/main/youth-assembly-at-the-un/>

FB: <http://www.facebook.com/AnnualYouthAssemblyattheUnitedNations>

Twitter: [YouthAssembly FriendshipAmbas](#)

WSFP: <http://www.washingtonscholars.org/>

WSFP Pictures: <http://picasaweb.google.com/washington.scholars.tasker>

MDGs: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview.html>

Millennium Campus Network: <http://www.mcnpartners.org/>

Tzu Chi: <http://www.us.tzuchi.org/us/en/>