



# the ROBERTSON REPORT

Cultivating Public Service, National Leadership and Global Engagement

*Celebrating 10 Years*

**Quarter 4 • December 2020**

## Celebrating our 10th Anniversary

As RFG wraps up celebration of its tenth year and graduation of the tenth class of fellows in 2020, we are proud to look back on the difference our support has made to students at our partner institutions. Following are just a few of the statements fellows have provided about the ways that a Robertson Fellowship has had an impact. We will continue to publish testimonials in the Robertson Report and on our website during 2021.



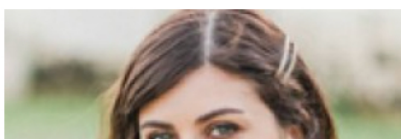
"The Robertson Fellowship made my dream of attending the Bush School possible. Without it, I wouldn't have received the excellent education, mentorship, nor the career-broadening professional experiences that have set me up for success in my federal career."

[Gabrielle Keleher \(Bush, '16\)](#)



"With a Robertson Fellowship at UC San Diego, I was able to prepare myself for a federal career both academically, through rigorous coursework, and professionally, through the RFG Fellows events and an internship at the State Department. Thanks to the support of RFG, I became a Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of Energy after graduating. I am grateful to have been chosen as a Robertson Fellow and look forward to seeing what the next 10 years of fellows accomplish."

[Isabelle Heilman \(UCSD GPS, '19\)](#)



"As a first-generation college graduate, being chosen to be part of the Robertson Foundation meant so much to me. Not only did it allow me to go to graduate school with a lesser financial burden, but it also provided me with several



financial burden, but it also provided me with several opportunities to network, gain skills, and develop myself as a professional."

[Diana Hajali \(Bush, '20\)](#)

## Ambassadors Dobriansky and Thomas-Greenfield Joined RFG Advisory Board



Ambassadors Paula J. Dobriansky and Linda Thomas-Greenfield were inducted to the RFG Advisory Board this fall, broadening the international relations, foreign policy, national security, diplomacy, and federal service expertise informing the foundation.

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## Robertson Fellow News



Bess published in Ms. magazine on consequences of "Invisible Women" in world affairs

[Caitlyn Bess \(Bush, '21\)](#) published an article in Ms. magazine highlighting ways that "the invisibility of women in world affairs leads to unnecessary pain and suffering, for women and men alike."

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Sunabe featured in Maxwell article on Peace Corps evacuees at the school

[Kelli Sunabe \(Maxwell, '22\)](#) is among 35 Peace Corps



evacuees at Syracuse University's Maxwell School, where she is pursuing her interests in international labor. Kelli knew that she was headed to Maxwell when she was evacuated near the end of her Peace Corps service. "My dream is to work for the U.S. State Department, for the Office of International Labor Affairs," says Kelli, who also is pursuing dual MPA/MAIR degrees. "The Office is responsible for overseeing regulations and ensuring that American companies are treating workers overseas ethically."

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*We invite current fellows and alumni to submit links to their published writings, mentions of their work in the media, promotions and more for inclusion on our website and this quarterly newsletter. Please [email Communications Manager Lauren Hertel](#) with links.*

## RFG Foundation Partner News

### RFG joined 20 good government organizations on Schedule F Coalition letter to the Hill

RFG joined more than 20 good government organizations and individuals who recently [sent a letter on this issue](#) to members of the U.S. Congress, urging them to block the detrimental executive order. A letter also was submitted to the incoming Biden Administration to make it a priority to rescind the order and prevent damage to the professional nonpartisan American civil service, an essential feature of our democracy.

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### Georgetown unveils resources to diversify syllabi and foster inclusion in higher ed

With support from the Robertson Foundation for Government, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) recently launched a resource portal on diversity, equity and inclusion in international affairs education. The DEI portal responds to growing demand from American colleges and universities—often pushed by students and alumni—to revisit and enhance commitments to DEI. The portal includes syllabus guides, research summaries, and a list of DEI strategies and plans from American universities compiled through an initiative led by [GIWPS Distinguished Fellow Carla Koppell](#).

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## A Year of Action for Volcker Alliance's G2U Initiative

In spite of its extraordinary uncertainty and disruption, 2020 has been a year of impact and expansion for the [Volcker Alliance's Government-to-University \(G2U\) Initiative](#). G2U addresses critical governance challenges by building regional networks of governments and universities to sustainably connect government's hiring and research needs with local university capacity. In 2020, the alliance expanded significantly and today has five G2U sites—in [Chicago](#), [Kansas City](#), [Los Angeles](#), [North Carolina](#), and [Pittsburgh](#). RFG is a sponsor of the G2U initiative.

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## 2021 Sammies nominations now open

If you know a federal employee making an incredible impact, nominate them for a Sammies award. Nominations are due January 15, 2021, but don't wait until then to start yours. The Robertson Foundation for Government has proudly sponsored the Sammies.

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## RFG featured on ProFellow's list of fellowships in U.S. government

RFG was recently featured on ProFellow's list of 30 fellowships in U.S. government for recent graduates and young professionals. ProFellow's mission is to make funding opportunities easier to find and to share advice on the competitive application process. All of their content is voluntarily produced by current and former fellows who aim to pay-it-forward and inspire the next generation of aspiring fellows and future leaders.

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## Meridian Center for Global Leadership set to launch

Meridian International Center is strengthening its commitment to developing the next generation of global leaders by launching the Meridian Center for Global Leadership in January 2021. Through the development of the new Center for Global Leadership, Meridian will strengthen its overall programming to empower future leaders and changemakers.

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### Alumni Corner

#### RFG's Financial Literacy series webinars now available online

In October, RFG offered two webinars on financial planning for federal employees in collaboration with [Serving Those Who Serve](#). Both events were led by [Ed Zurndorfer](#), a Certified Financial Planner and top authority on Federal benefits training. His work is routinely featured in FedSoup, My Federal Retirement and The FedZone.

RFG Fellows and alumni can log onto the fellows' [Resources section](#) of the RFG website to view the two webinars, as well as the first in the three-part series, Savvy Secrets to Negotiating Federal Salaries with Lily Whiteman.

### Resources



#### Diplomatic Toolbox: Multilateral Negotiations

As the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary, the world faces a myriad of global challenges from pandemics and proxy wars to climate change and humanitarian disasters--all of which require cross-border, multilateral solutions. What makes for a successful multilateral negotiation? What role do diplomats play, and what are their responsibilities? How has diplomacy changed during the pandemic? Seasoned negotiators and authors Rebecca Webber Gaudiosi of the U.S., Liliana Leiva-Roesch of Guatemala, and Ye-Min Wu

Rebecca Weber, Editor of the CRJ, Emma Lora Robson of Cadmus, and Thomas Va of Singapore shared lessons learned in this event co-sponsored with Women In International Security and the Robertson Foundation for Government.

RFG Fellows and alumni can view the webinar recording by logging into their account on the RFG website and visiting the [Resources section](#).

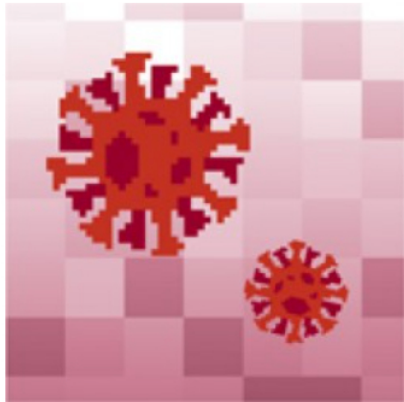
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## WFPG's Guide to Women Leaders

[WFPG's Guide to Women Leaders](#) highlights women shaping foreign policy around the world and the role that they play as leaders, diplomats, and policymakers. The Guide provides an index of prominent women from across the international community, including heads of state and government, government ministers and diplomats, and leaders of international organizations and corporations. Follow [#g2wl](#) on Twitter for more inspirational quotes, stories and statistics.

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## Bit by Bit: How governments used technology to move the mission forward during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of people's lives, including the business of government. Facing unprecedented obstacles, many federal, state and local governments turned to technology to navigate the challenges. Technology enabled government to evolve and remotely perform previously in-person functions, expand how it offers existing services to the public, and establish new ways to deal with the pandemic. The crisis became an opportunity to innovate. Read stories from federal, state and local governments and the lessons learned [in this report produced by the Partnership for Public Service and Microsoft](#).

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## Center for Presidential Transition Newsletter

A new newsletter from the Center for Presidential Transition is filled with valuable information and insights. Listen to Representative Derek Kilmer discuss his efforts to improve civility, bipartisanship and trust within Congress; watch a panel of presidential transition experts discuss how an incoming administration builds and deploys a White House staff; read a new Center study featured on CBS News on



how the Senate traditionally confirms most Cabinet secretaries; learn about the history and the process of presidential transitions in a documentary from ABC News; register for The Atlantic's virtual forum on what it takes to assemble a new administration; and read the latest transition news stories. [Sign up to receive your own copy.](#)

## Opportunities

### White House Fellowships

The application for the 2021-2022 White House Fellowship is now open. The deadline for submissions is January 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. ET. [Learn more](#)

### 2020 Arthur S. Flemming Awards Nominations

The Flemming Award was established in 1948, in order to reflect Dr. Arthur S. Flemming's desire to recognize early to mid-career public servants who go beyond what is expected and whose federal government achievements have a broad, positive impact on society. Nominations for the 2020 Awards are now open and must be received by the George Washington University no later than 5:00 p.m. ET, Friday, January 31, 2021. For more information or to request nomination additional packets, please contact Eleanor Thompson at [FlemmingAwards@gwu.edu](mailto:FlemmingAwards@gwu.edu) or visit [tspppa.gwu.edu/arthur-s-flemming-awards](https://tspppa.gwu.edu/arthur-s-flemming-awards).

Robertson Foundation for Government  
1612 K Street NW, Suite 1202  
Washington, D.C 20006  
202-289-7700 / [info@rfg.org](mailto:info@rfg.org) / [www.rfg.org](http://www.rfg.org)



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