



**Robertson Foundation  
for Government**

## Robertson Report

**Quarter 3 | September 2018**

*Public Service. National Leadership. Global Engagement.*

### **RFFG is now RFG... and has a new look!**

We are pleased to introduce the quarterly Robertson Report in e-newsletter format.

The new e-newsletter is part of an overall rebranding effort. The Robertson Foundation for Government has established a new logo that honors the past while emphasizing the future, and is reverting to its original RFG acronym.

#### **What's behind the new logo?**

The funds that created the Robertson Foundation initially were from shares of The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, which became a leading national grocery store chain known as A&P. Marie Robertson was an heiress to the A&P fortune. Among their many philanthropic endeavors, Marie and her husband Charles Robertson donated A&P stock to support training that fosters future public service leaders for the federal government, with an emphasis on foreign affairs, international relations, and national security.

While an American company, A&P was a wholesaler and retailer of tea and coffee from around the world, transported via ships traveling across the globe. The new logo links that past world-wide connection to the foundation's focus on cultivating future U.S. government leaders who are informed with international perspective.

The four segments within the globe symbolize the pillars of RFG's activities to support public service leadership: 1) graduate academic fellowships, 2) government internships, 3) professional development and educational programming, and 4) networking and partnerships that promote public service. Together, these elements help catalyze careers in service to the nation.

#### **What's next in the rebranding?**

The new RFG website with an embedded fellow directory will launch in the fall, along with new and updated social media channels. Our aim is to expand and enhance visibility of the Robertson Fellows; to make connecting easier and more effective; and to highlight the efforts of the foundation, fellows, our partners and affiliated organizations to promote public service.

We welcome your ideas! Please [email RFG President Cynthia Robinson](#).

### **Congratulations to the 2018 Class!**



RFG is pleased and proud to congratulate the 2018 graduating class of fellows from our five partner schools: Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs (Maxwell), Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service (Bush), Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Fletcher), University of Maryland School of Public Policy (UMD SPP), and University of California San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (UCSD GPS).

Members of the class have already launched into their public service careers across a number of federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Reserve Board, General Services Administration, International Trade Administration, Office of Management and Budget, State Department, and U.S. Agency for International Development.

*Photo: (left to right) RFG President Cynthia Robinson with UMD SPP graduates Nathan Frierson, Kelly Roberts, William Creedon.*

## Featured Fellow: Paul Massaro, U.S. Helsinki Commission



Paul Massaro, UMD SPP Class of 2015, is a policy advisor at the U.S. Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe, commonly known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which he joined in 2013. His portfolio focuses on countering globalized corruption, specifically transnational authoritarian and criminal networks.

[Read our full profile of Paul Massaro](#)

## Engaging Iran: Next Steps and Policy Cross-Currents



During a busy summer of events, RFG partnered with the Syracuse University Maxwell in Washington program to host a national security roundtable, “Engaging Iran: Next Steps and Policy Cross-Currents.” It featured a panel of regional experts including: [Barbara Slavin](#), director of the Future of Iran Initiative of the Atlantic Council; [Joyce Karam](#), correspondent for The National of Abu Dhabi, UAE; [Nick Schiffrin](#), foreign affairs and defense correspondent for PBS NewsHour; and [Ryan Costello](#), assistant policy director for the National Iranian American Council. [Watch a full recording of the event](#)

## Summer Internships Offer High-level Encounters



As an intern at the State Department Beijing Press Office, Noelle Camp (Bush '19) had the opportunity to support Secretary Pompeo's visit to Beijing after the Singapore Summit in June. Her role was to track press related to his meetings with Chinese government leaders. The photos above were taken during Secretary Pompeo's Meet & Greet with Embassy staff. “I was able to shake the Secretary's hand and ask him about his advice for individuals starting out in a public service career,” says Noelle.

The RFG class of 2019 fellows benefited from internship experience and professional connections internationally and across the U.S. in California, Hawaii, and Washington DC. [View the full list of 2018 summer internships](#)

## Maxwell alumnus co-funds two Robertson Fellows

The Maxwell School of Syracuse University announced that thanks to the generosity of alumnus Joseph A. Strasser, '53 BA (History)/'58 MPA, Robertson Fellowships have been awarded to two additional students, bringing the total number of current fellows at the school to seven.

“Joe is one of the Maxwell School's biggest supporters and a lifelong public servant: he served as a finance officer in the U.S. Army before holding a series of impactful public management and finance positions in state and local government,” says David M. Van Slyke, Dean of the Maxwell School. “By committing scholarship funding to extend the Robertson Fellowships, and encouraging a new generation of promising young leaders to enter public service, Joe continues to create an enduring impact on the profession and in our communities. I can think of no better way to honor his life's work.”

In addition, University Professor John L. Palmer, a former long-time dean of the Maxwell School and current RFG Advisory Board member, and his wife, Stephanie G. Palmer, have made a major gift commitment to the Maxwell School. It will, among other things, help

support career development services at the Maxwell Career Center, which has been named in their honor.

## Grants to Diversify International Relations, Expand Internships

Each year RFG supports a number of organizations, programs and projects that align with the foundation's mission to advance and promote public service, and highlight and address international relations and national security issues, challenges and opportunities.

### APSIA Diversity Forum

In 2018 RFG is supporting the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) Diversity Initiative. APSIA launched its Diversity Forum series in 2017 to inspire students and young professionals -- and those who counsel them -- to pursue careers in international affairs. The series particularly focuses on students who are traditionally underrepresented in the field. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and many other executive branch agencies, as well as Congress and the judicial branch, have identified the need for greater diversity as critical to a strong federal workforce.

As part of the initiative, APSIA partnered with Foreign Affairs, the publication of the Council on Foreign Relations, to conduct a forum and graduate school fair in New York City on September 13. [For more details](#)

### Harold Rosenthal Fellowship in International Relations

2018 marks the seventh year of RFG funding for the Harold Rosenthal Fellowships in International Relations, enabling the program to increase the number of summer internships it offers and to expand its educational activities. The Rosenthal Fellowships were launched in 1977 with the aim "to expose young scholars of foreign affairs to the inner workings of Congress, the U.S. Department of State and other agencies of the federal government."

[For more information](#)

## From the Alumni Board

Hello all, and a special welcome to the newest Robertson Fellows! As you begin to meet and interact with fellows at your school, remember that you also belong to a national network of public service leaders from the five RFG partner schools. We look forward to helping connect alumni and current fellows across classes and schools.

We're also excited to announce that the alumni board will be undertaking a strategic planning effort to develop, refine and clarify our mission, goals, roles and procedures. A planning retreat will be held on Saturday, September 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET in Washington, DC. All alumni are welcome, and we especially encourage participation from former alumni board members and those who may be interested in running for the alumni board in November. If you are interested in joining (in person or via teleconference), or would like to share your thoughts via email, please contact [jessica.gottesman@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.gottesman@gmail.com).

Jessica Gottesman, President  
Edith Yu, Vice President  
Samantha Stein, Internships and Careers Chair

Jill Maloney, Social Chair  
Patricia Weng, Treasurer and Professional Development Chair  
Melia Ungson, Secretary

## Resources

The Volcker Alliance issued the report [Preparing Tomorrow's Public Service – What The Next Generation Needs](#). It merits consideration, notes Dr. Michael Schneider, RFG Career Advisor. The central take-away: communication skills + vision + resilience are vital for success. [Read Dr. Schneider's overview of the report](#)

[OPM's "Unlock Talent" site](#) issued a report this past summer that offers a number of very interesting windows into satisfaction with federal service, identified by agency. The [Global Satisfaction section](#) contains data from the [Global Satisfaction Index of the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey \(FEVS\)](#). Want to identify a small agency – very specialized and not often a lot of openings, but valuable work? Check out [the site's chart](#) which identifies 46 agencies – many you may have never heard about.

## Events

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

**Release of No Time to Wait: Part II**

National Academy of Public Administration

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

[More information and register](#)

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018**

**Whither U.S. Trade Policy: Next steps, possible impacts, and consequences**

Robertson Foundation for Government

6:00 p.m.

[More information and RSVP](#) by September 20, 2018

**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

**RFG Alumni Board Planning Retreat**

Robertson Foundation for Government

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[RSVP with Jessica Gottesman](#)

**Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

**Speed Mentoring from Intelligence Champions Council**

Intelligence and National Security Alliance

5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

[More information and register](#)

**Thursday, October 4, 2018**

**China's Military and Geopolitical Rise and its Challenge to the US**

The Institute of World Politics

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

[More information and register](#)

**Thursday, October 11, 2018**

**Thursday, October 11, 2018**

**Crucial Conversations Professional Development Workshop**

Robertson Foundation for Government

5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

[More information and RSVP](#) by October 4, 2018

**Friday, October 26, 2018**

**RFG Network Reception**

Robertson Foundation for Government

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Save the date, details to come

**Tuesday, October 30, 2018**

**Confessions of a Corporate Lobbyist with Michael Maibach**

The Institute of World Politics

4:00 - 5:45 p.m.

[More information and register](#)

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