



The 9th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations  
UN Headquarters, New York City  
August 3-5, 2011

Admiral James J. Carey Foundation  
Washington Scholars Fellowship Program

The United Nations has always tried to make the world a better place for us all. In the early days of August, four chosen participants of the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program<sup>1</sup> ([www.washingtonscholars.org](http://www.washingtonscholars.org)), along with their delegation heads, and two very special guests, went to New York City to see firsthand the undertakings of the United Nations at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations (UNYA). Dubbed as “The Annual Global Event Focusing on Idea Leadership”, the assembly’s purpose is to: provide access and information about the work, successes, and current challenges of the United Nations, promote increased youth participation in these programs, strengthen commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and recognize the artistic and diplomatic efforts of the young people currently involved in humanitarian initiatives.

This wonderful opportunity was sponsored by the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation<sup>2</sup> (AJJCF [www.admiralcareyfoundation.org](http://www.admiralcareyfoundation.org)) and allowed this year’s delegates to meet over 600 young leaders from all parts of the world. Rare is the opportunity to meet with so many young leaders from around the globe, all assembled in one place. These young leaders that attended this event were there to discuss some of the most pressing challenges we face, ranging from poverty to hunger to community development. The hope is that this group would be able to take back home a message of action regarding these issues, and where possible, propose solutions to some of the most challenging issues our globe faces. In this unique forum, the delegation was able to further develop an understanding, and appreciation, of the different cultures of the world.

The delegation itself was quite diverse, comprised of Americans, Chinese, Germans, and Canadians. Led by Colonel Robert Bateman and current Executive Director of the WSFP, Fernando Cortes, His Highness Duke Alexander zu Mecklenburg, past WSFP graduate John Poreba, and WSFP Summer 2011 graduates Dachuan Ke, Leslie Ogden, George Platsis, and Ting Wu took part in this once-in-a-



*The Washington Scholars Fellowship Program Delegation  
From left-to-right: Fernando Cortes (Executive Director), John Poreba,  
Ting Wu, His Highness Duke Alexander zu Mecklenburg, Colonel  
Robert Bateman, George Platsis, Dachuan Ke, and Leslie Ogden*

<sup>1</sup> The mission of the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program is to provide opportunities for future leaders in public service and build a network to support and assist former and future Fellows in their careers.

<sup>2</sup> The Admiral James J. Carey Foundation is an Internal Revenue Service approved tax-exempt, tax-deductible foundation whose focus is to support, fund, and operate youth leadership training efforts in areas of national and international public policy. Its aim is to bring the best & brightest of North American youth who have the capability of being future national leadership into training and incentive to pursue lifetime careers in public policy that works and will correct the all-too-numerous mistakes of the past that have led the world to the financial brink of today.

lifetime experience that was truly astounding!

The morning started on New York's subway system (a first for most of the delegation). As soon as we arrived, the delegation was struck by the grandeur of the buildings reflecting the East River and the beauty of the flags proudly flying in the wind. Opening the program was the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, who delivered a powerful message. The message was designed to encourage the youth of the world to keep working together to better the world, regardless of the difficulties, differences, and obstacles in our way. Most certainly her speech fit well in line with the assembly's motto that the delegates are the "leaders of today."



*View of The United Nations from 1<sup>st</sup> Ave in New York City*

The events and sessions of the assembly covered quite a large array of topics from all over the globe. Over the span of the conference, the delegation was able to hear about world issues from persons who have lived, breathed, and experienced these situations firsthand. These people had lived the Arab Spring, worked on village developments in Colombia, saw how children of Kenya to Japan grew since the implementation of the MDGs, and helped empower women throughout the world. Many of these issues struck chords with the delegation as it is one thing to "hear" of these issues and certainly another to experience them.

But the Assembly showed that the youth can make a difference. One panel in particular showed the delegation real-life examples of people who had turned their ideas and initiatives into tangible projects that are leaving a lasting impact. In addition to the "on-the-ground" work that was being presented, we delegation was able to experience how "soft issues" of art, music, and culture, were integrated into all of these projects. With guest performances from world-renowned violinist Jourdan Urbach, and singer Angelique Kidjo, we were able to see that the power of the arts and music can be used as a mighty tool to unite the youth and people around the world.

So many things we enjoy in the West are certainly taken for granted. This is particularly true in the digital age where social media affects so many facets of our lives. While it was evident that social media played such an influential role in the Arab Spring, a moment of “making it real” to the delegation was seeing members of the Chinese delegation asking so many questions about Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Something so “normal” to us in this part of the world is something totally foreign to others. It is for reasons like this

why humanitarian efforts need to be taken from a partnership-approach, one that is culturally sensitive to those who are seeking the aid. As one delegate member pointed it out, while one group of adults and children were living in extreme poverty, they were happy with their lifestyle and refused to move to modern housing. Why? Because it was their home and it is something they grew up with and became accustomed to. When such intangible attachment exists, it is essential that there is respect and tolerance for all cultures. Inasmuch, when one understands this concept, it makes it much easier to realize that aid and cooperative efforts may not be as expensive as one makes them out to be.

The first day also included an opportunity to see where some of the most important decisions of our history have come: the General Assembly and the Security Council. For most of the delegation, it was somewhat of a surreal moment to actually be in the same room where such pivotal decisions had been made. Even while we were sitting in the Security Council chambers, just next door was a closed Special Session on Syria. The second day’s tours were just as exciting, particularly as the delegation was split up and able to go visit some of the Permanent Missions. More specifically:

- *Dachuan Ke went to the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic, where he was able to hear about the fine history of the nation*
- *Leslie Ogden went to the Permanent Mission of Chile, where she was able to learn about the country’s priorities for the upcoming years*
- *George Platsis went to the Permanent Mission of Egypt, where he was able to discuss, one-on-one, with Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz about the current situation of Egypt in the aftermath of the revolution, and future aspirations for the country*



*Summer 2011 Washington Scholars standing by the East River  
George Platsis, Ting Wu, Dachuan Ke, and Leslie Ogden*



- *Ting Wu went to the Permanent Mission of New Zealand, where she was hosted by Ambassador Jim McLay, who at one point also served as the Deputy Prime Minister for New Zealand, and also had the opportunity to meet with Ronald Bruder, the founder and chairman of Education For Employment*

After the Permanent Mission visits, the conference also arranged for a wonderful sight-seeing experience that some of the delegates took part in, which was a private dinner cruise down the East River. Those who took part were able to experience a stunning view of the New York skyline, lit up, as the boat circled the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.



*On the East River*

The delegation was also able to participate with a group that looks to be working closely with the AJJCF and WSFP, the Chinese Society of Education Training Center (CSETC). Dachuan Ke and Ting Wu, the two first Distinguished Scholars of China from the AJJCF, helped the Chinese representatives, Irene Liu, Director of the CSETC, and Principal Yuan Aijun, Director of the World Heritage Youth Education Center to introduce the International Volunteer Program at the MDG Campaign Night. As the AJJCF and WSFP look to attract more international talent into their prestigious programs, having a working relationship with the CSETC provides one of the best avenues for cross-cultural understanding, education, respect, and tolerance.

In all, the delegation took part in a wonderful experience that was life-changing. It was an opportunity to learn about, and come face-to-face with, many global organizations associated to the United Nations, such as Habitat for Humanity and Roots & Shoots. But there were two important takeaways that the delegation truly appreciated: the value of networks and the need for leadership. The two intangible assets, so often, end up being the key difference between “getting things done” and having ideas and initiative sit and dither away. The opportunity to expand the networks through the United Nations, and speak with people who are making a true difference with their efforts, is the type of opportunity that the AJJCF and WSFP excels at, arming these young leaders with the tools needed to address today’s and tomorrow’s challenges.



*At the MDG Campaign Night*

*From left-to-right: His Highness Duke Alexander zu Mecklenburg, Leslie Ogden, Fernando Cortes, Irene Liu, Ting Wu, Dachuan Ke, and George Platsis*

## The Delegation, Contact Information and Biographies

**Head, Colonel Robert J. Bateman**

+1.610.291.5238

bobbateman@verizon.net

**Co-Head, Fernando Cortes**

+1.847.644.0954

fcortes@washingtonscholars.org

**His Highness Duke Alexander zu Mecklenburg**

**John Poreba**

+1.856.305.7118

j.poreba@gmail.com

**Dachuan Ke**

+1.832.407.1487

dke@uh.edu

**Leslie Ogden**

+1.919.475.8097

leslie.ogden@tufts.edu

**George Platsis**

USA: +1.312.731.5416

Canada: +1.416.875.7877

george@platsis.com

**Ting Wu**

+1.215.820.9968

tw379@drexel.edu

## Head, Colonel Robert J. Bateman

+1.610.291.5238

bobbateman@verizon.net



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, 88<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Co-Head, Fernando Cortes

+1.847.644.0954

fcortes@washingtonscholars.org



Fernando Cortes is a graduate of the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana, College of Business and holds a BS in Finance. Currently he serves as the Executive Director of the Washington Scholars Fellowship Program. Moreover, he holds the current positions of Deputy Controller of the Ron Paul 2012 Presidential Campaign, Inc., and the Vice-President of the Future Leaders of America Foundation. He sits on the Board of Trustees of The Good Samaritans of The KnightTemplar Foundation and is a Knight Commandeur in the Priory of St. King Charles the Martyr, SMOTJ, in Washington, DC, and is the Chief Financial Officer for the St. Elias Seminary and Graduate School. He is the Past Vice-President of the Zeta Psi DC Elders Alumni Association and a member of the

Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC.

## His Highness Duke Alexander zu Mecklenburg



His Highness Duke Alexander of Mecklenburg is the elder son of Duke Borwin and Duchess Alice of Mecklenburg. Duke Alexander's father, Duke Borwin, is the current head of the formerly sovereign House of Mecklenburg, one of the oldest royal houses in Europe. Mecklenburg (now included in the modern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) is situated in extreme northern Germany, and was until 1918 comprised of two Grand Duchies: Mecklenburg-Schwerin (senior line) and Mecklenburg-Strelitz (junior line, to which Dukes Borwin and Alexander belong.)

Duke Alexander's ancestry is fascinating. Besides his male-line Mecklenburg descent, among current or formerly ruling families he is descended from the houses of Habsburg (Holy Roman and Austrian Emperors, Grand Dukes of Tuscany), Romanov, Bourbon (including Kings of France, Spain, the Two Sicilies, and Dukes of Parma), Wittelbachs of Bavaria, Saxe-Coburg, Saxe-Altenburg (Hildburghausen), Württemberg, Hesse-Cassel, and Nassau. Through his Russian great grandmother and great-great grandmother, Duke Alexander descends from many noble Russian families, including Raevsky, Vanljarsky, Uvarov, Dmitriev- Mamonov, the Princes Gagarine, Dashkov, Lomonov, and the Princes Volkonsky (descending from the 9th Century founding princes of Rus.)

Among the most recent monarchs from whom Duke Alexander descends are: the Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria; Grand Duke Ferdinand IV of Tuscany, Archduke of Austria; Louis Philippe, King of the French; Francesco I, King of the Two Sicilies; Emperor Paul I of Russia; Carlos III, King of Spain; Ludwig I, King of Bavaria; and Charles X, King of France.

## John Poreba

+1.856.305.7118

[j.poreba@gmail.com](mailto:j.poreba@gmail.com)



John Poreba is a 2011 New York City Scholar for National Security. He earned a BS from the Pennsylvania State University in 2005 and graduated magna cum laude from the Institute of World Politics in Washington, DC with an MA in Statecraft and National Security Affairs in 2011. Prior to his position with the New York City Scholars Program, John served as the Director of Regional Development for the Leadership Institute, a nonpartisan 501(c)3 educational foundation in Arlington, VA.



## Dachuan Ke

+1.832.407.1487

dke@uh.edu



Dachuan Ke was born in Beijing, China. In June 2006, he received a BS degree in Chemistry and Biological Sciences from Peking University, China. In August 2006, Dachuan joined enzymologist Dr. Shiao-Chun Tu's lab in University of Houston and studied on redox enzymes for the Ph.D. degree, which he received this May, in Biochemistry. This summer, he was awarded the distinction of Distinguished Scholar of China from the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation. As a Washington Scholar, he interned at Small Biotechnology Business Coalition on the grassroots advocacy of Small Business Innovation Research program. Additionally, he also interned at 20/20 gene systems on patent landscaping, early lung cancer detection assay and layered immunohistochemistry.

## Leslie Ogden

+1.919.475.8097

leslie.ogden@tufts.edu



Leslie Ogden is a rising senior at Tufts University and from Durham, North Carolina majoring in International Relations and Political Science. Leslie spent the last two summers interning in Washington, D.C. working for Senator Hagan (D-NC), and most recently working at the National Security Network as a Roosevelt Academy Summer Fellow. This summer, she was an intern at the Department of State in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs in the Office of Human Rights. She enjoyed an active summer working on issues from the most recent UN LGBT resolution to Sudan and Israel-Palestinian issues.

Leslie served as the co-President and Policy Center Director of the Roosevelt Institute at Tufts and previously as the Defense and Diplomacy Policy Director. She thrives in challenging environments and is interested in a variety of subjects from journalism to city politics. Her interests have taken her on a variety of journeys including extensive travel throughout Latin America, including a research trip to Sri Lanka studying reconciliation and transitional justice. She continued her travels and studies at the University of Hong Kong last spring and enjoyed experiencing Asian culture and life.

On campus, Leslie has worked as an editor on the Tufts Daily, written for the Tufts Roundtable, and was a member of the 2009-2010 Institute for Global Leadership's "Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship" colloquium, spending a year delving into the complexities of South Asia. Her policy interests include international security, the Middle East, South Asia, nuclear proliferation, energy security, and conflict resolution.

## George Platsis

USA: +1.312.731.5416

Canada: +1.416.875.7877

george@platsis.com



George Platsis holds a BBA, a MBA, and a MA in Disaster and Emergency Management, all from York University (Toronto, Canada). Currently, he is the Director of the Research Center at the National Defense Foundation (Washington, DC) and most recently served as a Fellow at the Atlas Economic Research Foundation (Washington, DC), where in all his capacities he specifically focuses on the intersecting issues of: security, economy, and homeland defence, with a view to their influence on domestic and international public policy. For this work, he achieved the distinction of “Distinguished Scholar of Canada” from the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation. Additionally, he continues to serve as the Program Director for the Centre of Excellence in Homeland Security and Resiliency 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, while serving as an instructor as well. Moreover he is the Vice-Chairman and Executive Director of the newly created National Defence Foundation of Canada (Toronto, Canada).

He holds memberships with: 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, the Business Continuity Institute, and the Capitol Hill Club (Washington, DC). Along with being certified by Toronto Emergency Medical Services as an Emergency First Responder, he also holds other related first-response and disaster-mitigation training certifications. Additionally, he serves as the Managing Director of GCOR7, an interdisciplinary consultancy advising organizations of emerging threats, risk identification, and resiliency measures.

## Ting Wu

+1.215.820.9968

tw379@drexel.edu



Ting Wu holds a BS in Economics and Insurance for the Central University of Finance & Economics in China. Currently, she is pursuing graduate studies at Drexel University, LeBow College of Business and expects to receive her MS in Finance in early 2012. This past summer, she interned at the Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation and previously interned at the Headquarters of the Bank of China in Beijing. For her work, she has also achieved the distinction of Distinguished Scholar of China from the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation.