



ALFRED FRIENDLY PRESS FELLOWSHIPS

OUR CURRENT WORK

The Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships (AFPF) is a cultural and professional exchange program for journalists. Through AFPF, journalists and their readers gain a broader view of the world and journalism thereby creating mutual understanding between Americans and people of other nations. In the last five years we have refined the core program for increased journalistic and cross-cultural impact by expanding the enrichment activities we offer to our international Fellows, creating partnerships, hosting forums, sending American journalists overseas to conduct training and requiring the Fellows to conduct journalism seminars upon returning home.

Core Program

Since the program began in 1984, AFPF has trained 248 journalists from 77 developing countries. The core program that Alfred Friendly envisioned remains the same – print journalists between the ages of 25 and 35 spend six months reporting in American newsrooms to learn about America, its people, democracy and journalism. We recently chose the 2008 Fellows – from Brunei, China, Hungary, India, Kenya (2), Nepal, Pakistan, Turkey and Uruguay. This class of ten – the largest class since 2003 – will arrive in Washington, DC in mid-March for a two-week orientation program, the highlight of which is a six-day journalism bootcamp which prepares them for their American newsroom experience. The course includes opportunities to write obituaries, crime stories, a speech story and a person-on-the-street story. Here University of Maryland journalism professor Rafael Lorente works with Phuong Ngan Do (Vietnam, 2006) during the course.



Enrichment Activities

In 2004, AFPF suspended the fellowships for one year to conduct an in-depth self-study aimed at sharpening its operations and making sure the model on which the program was based in 1984 was still appropriate for the 21st century. We learned that AFPF had largely been an individual and self-directed experience for our Fellows – one that is not shared as often as we would like with colleagues, editors and publishers in the Fellows' home newsrooms. We realized that we had succeeded in improving many journalists on an individual level but that we needed to expand our focus to make a wider impact on journalistic practices around the world.

With this objective in mind we significantly expanded the annual enrichment activities we offer to our participants in 2005 when we resumed the program. Special AFPF seminars are organized for the group at the beginning, middle and end of the program that focus on practical skills such as accuracy, interviewing, media technology, newsroom coaching, and planning and leading a seminar. The midterm seminar, held at the highly-respected Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida, focuses on coaching, writing, editing, interviewing, ethics, managing people in a newsroom, leadership and training their peers.



We now train the Fellows how, and require them, to conduct training seminars upon returning home. Sessions at the orientation, midterm and final seminars prepare them to do so. Here, at the final seminar, Deborah Potter of Newslab and 2007 Fellow Shamim Ashraf discuss Shamim's 30-minute lesson he gave to the other Fellows – a rehearsal for the training Shamim continues to do since returning home to Bangladesh in September, 2007.

Now each Fellow receives a \$3,000 training allowance to buy books and publications, make short-term professional visits to other organizations that are relevant to their work at home, attend workshops, give workshops and invite American journalists to their home countries to provide training. One third of the allowance is used for the Fellows' personal education and the remaining two-thirds is for the benefit of their home newsroom or press association. We expect our Fellows to share what they've learned with others at home so that they, and in turn AFPF, contribute to improving journalism in their home country.

Partnerships

Since 2002, AFPF has partnered with the Daniel Pearl Foundation. Created to encourage dialogue among people of different cultures, reduce cultural and religious hatred and create a platform for responsible and creative journalism, the fellowships are offered to journalists from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. They honor *The Wall Street Journal* South Asia bureau chief who was kidnapped and killed in Pakistan in 2002. Pictured here are 2006 Daniel Pearl Fellows Ghanashyam Ojha (Nepal) and Shahid Shah (Pakistan) on stage for a Q&A with *Jewish Journal* Editor-in-Chief Rob Eshman at the Los Angeles Press Club.



International Exchange

In the last few years we have expanded our program to include sending host newspaper mentors, Advisory Committee members, or other journalism professionals to the Fellows' home countries to provide workshops and direct newsroom mentoring—usually alongside a Friendly Fellow. To date we have sent six journalists to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Kenya and Uganda.



And this year we formalized a three-year partnership with *The Kansas City Star* and Nation Media Group of East Africa that will send *Nation* journalists to the newsroom of *The Star* for six months of on-the-job training through AFPF and send *Star* journalists to Kenya, Tanzania and/or Uganda to provide training and direct newsroom mentoring to *Nation* journalists. This partnership deepens understanding, enlightens readers, and improves business models and journalistic skills in the U.S. and East Africa. Here are Rhonda Chriss Lokeman (*KC Star*) and Mugumo Munene (Kenya, 2007) at the *Daily Nation* in September, 2007.

Forums

Since 9/11 and the Iraq War, cross-cultural understanding has become increasingly important as America's reputation has deteriorated around the world. During the 2007 final seminar this year, we offered a 90-minute panel discussion that featured four of this year's Friendly Fellows discussing xenophobia in the U.S. and anti-American sentiment in their home countries. Held at the National Press Club in conjunction with Our Voices Together, the event was broadcast on CSPAN and was attended by more than 100 people. Fellows have also talked at other Press Clubs and World Affairs Council events. Pictured here is 2007 Daniel Pearl Fellow Amr Emam (Egypt) at the National Press Club.

