



WORDS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

We are delighted to report on our activities in 2023 – a year that marked a number of notable milestones for the Foundation and our programming. As we enter 2024, we remain incredibly grateful to our friends, partners and supporters for your ongoing commitment to the Foundation and our unique mission, so thoughtfully developed by Secretary Rumsfeld over the years.

At the cornerstone of the Rumsfeld Foundation is our people: the talented rising leaders we engage in our Fellowship Programs which provide us with continuous inspiration, and equally important, the special network of experienced and insightful public service professionals that Don Rumsfeld cultivated throughout his lifetime that have generously lent their time and expertise in support of these rising leaders.

These individuals embody Secretary Rumsfeld's example of dedication and leadership in service to nation and ultimately propel the Foundation forward in all we do.



An important Rumsfeld's Rule reminds us: "Remember where you came from."

As we begin a new year, with several new initiatives on the horizon, we take stock of the remarkable trajectories of our networks, starting from our very first Fellowship cohorts to the present day – a reflection of the energy and capacity among our Fellows and their enduring commitment to contributing to a better tomorrow.

Once again, we extend our sincere appreciation to our cherished community – Fellows, friends, partners, donors and more – in helping us to continue and improve our efforts. Thank you for being a part of our story.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah C. Tonucci'.

SARAH TONUCCI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IMPACT SINCE 2007

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\$18.5M+

IN TOTAL GRANTS

204

GRADUATE FELLOWS

277

CAMCA FELLOWS

21

FELLOWSHIP NETWORK
CONFERENCES

8

CAMCA REGIONAL
FORUMS

47

BLOG POSTS



GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR

With the addition of our 2023-24 class, we have now supported over 200 Graduate Fellows and awarded over \$4 million in grants - two exciting program milestones!

Our **20** current program Advisers teaching at universities across the country nominated our 2023-24 Graduate Fellows for their demonstrated leadership potential as well as their commitment to public service, outstanding intellectual ability, moral character, academic achievements and civic contributions.

Over **\$212,000** was awarded to these **14** scholars with areas of focus including intelligence, global policy, international affairs, law, defense and strategic studies, public policy, statecraft, politics, public administration and more.

ALUMNI NETWORK

Following their graduation, Fellowship recipients go on to work in important public service posts benefiting our nation. Such institutions currently include:

Air War College
Arizona State University
Central Intelligence Agency
Defense Threat Reduction Agency
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Reserve Board
Governors' Offices
Harvard University
NASA
National Defense University

Naval War College
University of Notre Dame
Office of the Deputy Under Sec. of the Army
Office of the Sec. of the Air Force
Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)
Purdue University
U.S. Air Force
USAID
U.S. Dept. of Defense

U.S. Dept. of Justice
U.S. Dept. of State
U.S. Dept. of Treasury
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Embassies abroad
U.S. GAO
U.S. Navy
U.S. Secret Service
U.S. Strategic Command
U.S.-China Commission

2023 NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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ALUMNI LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Our network's leadership body is comprised of engaged alumni who help shape the future development of the Graduate Fellowship Network.

This year's Council assisted Foundation staff in developing 2023 event programming, selecting the Alumni of the Year Awardee, providing important feedback on program initiatives and much more. They also delivered a briefing to network members at the 2023 Conference, pictured below.

The term of our inaugural members concluded at the end of 2023. We are incredibly grateful for their valuable assistance and thoughtful insights over the past two years!

2023 SPRING RETREAT

In May 2023, network members gathered in Annapolis, Maryland for a daylong retreat including opportunities for targeted networking among Fellows and program Advisers, remarks from the Director of the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, an alumni panel, a foreign policy discussion with a program Adviser, a tour of the U.S. Naval Academy and a closing dinner in the historic downtown.

NETWORK CONNECT

Through our mentorship initiative, we made 11 Fellow-to-Fellow mentor connections in 2023. We are delighted that feedback from these matches has been terrific!

"Thanks for helping with the alumni connections. I just had a great phone call with my Network Connect match; we have a tremendous amount in common and he gave me some very helpful advice on internship decisions for this summer. The Rumsfeld Network really works!"

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Fellows and Advisers collaborate year-round in co-authoring articles, inviting each other as speakers, and sharing jobs, professional opportunities and resources, in addition to updating one another on career advancements through our monthly communications and bi-annual newsletter.

We also hosted 3 book discussions - one on a Fellow-authored book on today's political divide, another on an Adviser-authored book on President Reagan's foreign policy and the third in partnership with the Andrew W. Marshall Foundation on net assessment.



2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 21-22 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

At our program's 11th annual flagship gathering, events showcased the professional achievements of long-time network members, as well as offered opportunities for Fellows and Advisers to make valuable connections while discussing important policy topics.

External speakers included: Thom Shanker, former *New York Times* correspondent, on his recent book, *The Age of Danger* (pictured below); Dr. Nadia Schadlow of the Hudson Institute on strategy and practice in national security; Alex Vatanka of The Middle East Institute on Iranian policy; and Daniel Fata of Fata Advisory LLC on current U.S. foreign policy challenges.



Experienced Fellows and Advisers also led Network Roundtables on subjects of their expertise: *Inside the Intelligence Community*; *Pursuing Truth in Academia – A New Model*; *The Future of Nuclear Deterrence and U.S. Alliances*; and *Federal Career Pathways*; in addition to a panel of Fellows who offered advice from their various public service paths (pictured at top right.)



At the conference's closing dinner, the **2023 Alumni of the Year Award** was presented to **Dr. Ben Judge**, President of the America Fund and former Claremont Graduate University Fellow, pictured below. Ben was recognized for his service in the U.S. Navy Reserves as well as his academic contributions to American political thought and history. Read more on Ben's outstanding accomplishments in this [blog post](#).



CAMCA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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2023 FELLOWSHIP STATS

With the addition of our two 2023 Fellowship cohorts, we have now supported **277 Fellows** throughout **27 Fellowship sessions** in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at the American Foreign Policy Council.

The 2023 Fellows participated in over **150** meetings in Washington, D.C. and dozens more throughout their travels in **6** cities where they learned about governance and economic development at the local level: Chicago, Illinois (pictured above); Dallas, Texas; South Bend, Indiana; Kalamazoo, Michigan; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Los Angeles, California.

2023 FELLOWS

The 2023 Fellows represented some of the best and brightest of a new generation across the **CAMCA (Central Asia-Mongolia-Caucasus-Afghanistan)** region: including the nations of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. **2023 Fellows held positions such as:**

- Consultant with the Uzbek Agency for Strategic Reforms under the Office of the President
 - Economist at the International Monetary Fund
 - Senior Investment Officer, Asian Development Bank
 - Founder of an eco-boutique hotel
 - Co-Founder of an Agroindustrial Development Association
 - Information and Data Analysis Division Director of The New Recovery Policy Accelerator Centre in the Office of the Prime Minister of Mongolia
 - Portfolio Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - General Manager of External Affairs & Communications at Oyu Tolgoi
-

PROGRAM MEETINGS

2023 Fellows met with top leaders and experts including: Bob Zoellick, former President of the World Bank; Amb. Kurt Volker, former U.S. Amb. to NATO; Amb. John Bolton, former U.S. National Security Advisor; Gen. Richard Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Doug Conant, former CEO of Campbell Soup Company; top officials at the U.S. Depts. of State and Defense focused on the region; and with representatives of companies like GM, Bank of America, Bain & Company, and many more.

A top highlight was a meeting with former President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush in Dallas, Texas in Oct. 2023, pictured below.

Thank you to all of our friends and partners who met with the 2023 Fellows!

CAMCA NETWORK

The CAMCA Fellowship's alumni group, the CAMCA Network, organizes year-round network events and activities, in addition to developing joint projects focused on furthering regional cooperation. The 270+ member group is led by the **CAMCA Network Board**, comprised of a representative from each of the 10 countries.



NETWORK ACTIVITIES

In 2023, the Board met on a monthly basis to further ongoing member activities as well as to contribute to content development and planning for the annual CAMCA Regional Forum (more on page 9.)

The network's Working Groups - which develop and facilitate initiatives in the following sectors: business, education, women's empowerment, think tanks and media - also organized meetings and discussed regional opportunities within their fields.

The network's annual in-person convening took place alongside the events of the CAMCA Forum in Almaty. The daylong meeting included briefings by the CAMCA Network Board, interactive team-building exercises (pictured above), network award presentations, targeted networking and discussion sessions among the various Working Groups.



2023 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM

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JUNE 15-16 - ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN



As a part of our efforts to encourage regional cooperation across the CAMCA region and to support our CAMCA Fellowship's alumni network, the Foundation annually organizes the **CAMCA Regional Forum** in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the CAMCA Network.

The 2023 CAMCA Regional Forum was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** over June 15th-16th, convening over **180 attendees** from **15 countries** including **60+ speakers** to discuss key regional issues and developments surrounding the 2023 Forum theme, "**Uniting CAMCA: Progress and Possibilities.**"

Keynote speakers included: *Askar Shakirov*, Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan; *Hernando de Soto*, renowned economist and President of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy in Peru; *Senator Sodyq Safoev*, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majilis of the Republic of Uzbekistan; and *Renat Bekturov*, Governor of the Astana International Financial Centre.

Forum sessions featured topics such as: regional coordination; geopolitics; regional media; religion and state; transportation corridors; think tank synergy; digital transformation; transformative education; entrepreneurship; women's empowerment; and regional investment opportunities and impediments.

"I found so many eager partners who agree that communication and collaboration across this region are absolutely critical to driving further security, stability, and prosperity for Central Asia, the Caucasus and well beyond...This Forum could not be more timely as today it is clear there are strong tailwinds behind regional integration as much, or perhaps more than ever before." - 2023 Forum Speaker



WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING THE 2024 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM IN BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC OVER JUNE 12-13TH! LEARN MORE AT WWW.CAMCAFORUM.ORG.



2023 ALUMNI NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM CROSSOVER

During our Fall 2023 CAMCA Fellows' travel week, half of the cohort visited Salt Lake City, Utah through our partnership with the Open World Leadership Center. There, Open World tapped local international visitors organization, Utah Global Diplomacy, to facilitate the Fellows' stay and programming. It came as no surprise that, given the international and service-oriented nature of many of our Graduate Fellowship Network members, one of our Graduate Fellows was serving as the Chair of the Board at Utah Global Diplomacy, and had volunteered to host one of our CAMCA Fellows during their visit. We were delighted to feature this special "crossover" experience in a recent [blog post](#). (At right, Graduate Fellow, Kimberly, pictured with two CAMCA Fellows exploring Utah.)

CAMCA ACADEMY

Standout projects launched by the CAMCA Network in 2023 were CAMCA Academy and the CAMCA Academic Consortium, two regional education initiatives led by Murod Ismailov, a Fall 2009 Uzbek Fellow, in partnership with several other network members, pictured above. Murod is aiming to pay forward the benefits received from his own professional and academic experiences in order to advance educational institutions across the entire CAMCA region. Learn more directly from Murod in this [blog post](#).



SUPPORTING OUR WORK

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We are grateful to our donors for their belief in Secretary Rumsfeld's vision for our efforts and their generosity in supporting our work and the rising leaders we engage in our programs.

For those interested in helping us carry forward our mission to encourage leadership, public service and free political and economic systems at home and abroad, tax-deductible contributions can be made on our [website](#) or by check mailed to:

**1100 17TH STREET NW
SUITE 402
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036**

\$1 MILLION+

In profits from Don Rumsfeld's projects - his memoir, Known and Unknown, the Churchill Solitaire app and his last book, When the Center Held - have benefitted our programs.

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