

# Khabr-o-Nazar

April 2008

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## Cultural Bridges Through Art





Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani with the delegation of U.S. Congressmen headed by Representative John Tierney (D-MA) at Parliament House in Islamabad.

# U.S. Congressional Delegation Visits Pakistan



The newly-elected Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Fahmida Mirza, exchanging views with U.S. Congressional delegation led by Representative John Tierney (D-MA) at the Parliament House in Islamabad.



U.S. Congressional delegation led by Representative John Tierney (D-MA) meeting with on the Awami National Party chief Asfandiyar Wali.

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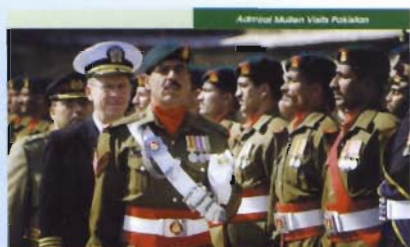
The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, speaking at a reception held in honor of the exhibit "Cultural Bridges Through Art" at her residence in Islamabad.

# Letters to the Editor

## Whose Civilization?

I wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the multi-faceted efforts of the U.S. government for developing a better environment of mutual understanding between masses of the two nations. Since I hail from Taxila, I wish to thank the U.S. government for its support for the conservation of Gandhara remains (February 2008 issue). Let me point out that the last sentence of the report (“the program is a way for Americans to show our respect for other cultures”) must be reconsidered since in my opinion when we are talking of past cultures, we should understand that it was neither a U.S. nor a Pakistani civilization. It gives us an insight into the lives of humanity in those early days. Any civilization may be categorized on ethnic bias today, when it is in practice, but once it is part of history it must not be considered to be specific to certain area or creed. My second observation relates to the contribution of Mr. Imtiaz Mateen (“People’s Hard Work Behind U.S. Progress”). I appreciate his approach on considering Muslims and Jews as cousins. I would like to mention Christians too as members of this family. This positive approach may solve host of problems in today’s world.

**Nadeem Geelani**  
Islamabad



Admiral Mubashir Habibullah, Pakistan Navy Chief, with other officials during a visit to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.



Ambassador Michael O. Hayes (left) shakes hands with Admiral Mubashir Habibullah (right) during a visit to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

### USAID Reviews Maternal & Newborn Health Program in Pakistan

Launches Music Video for Public Education

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) along with its partners reviewed reports on maternal and child health and other Pakistan health officials conducted an annual review of the program on the Pakistan Initiative for Maternal and Newborn (PIMAN) project in Islamabad on February 5, 2008.

“It is pleased to see that the national and international experts who are reviewing the program are seeing the achievements to date, clear operational developments in maternal and newborn health initiatives,” said Anne Aronson, the Mission Director of USAID in Pakistan.

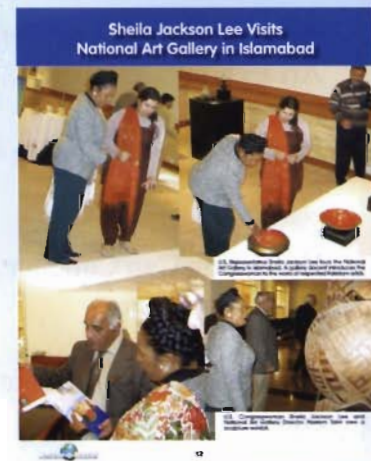
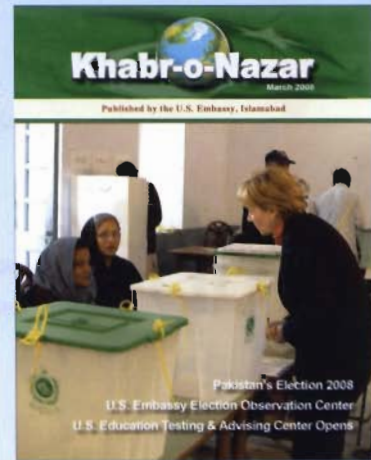
The participants of the meeting also made recommendations for expanding the project’s successful approaches to other provinces. Funded by USAID and implemented by John Snow International (JSI) in partnership with the Government of Pakistan, the \$40.9 million PIMAN project builds the capacity of existing health systems and fosters community-based approaches to ensure a continuum of care for mothers and newborns in 10 districts of Pakistan.

On the occasion, USAID also launched a new music video to educate mothers on maternal and newborn health.

“Music and television can be particularly effective in communicating important health and social messages to young couples,” said Anne Aronson. “I hope this music video will find its way into the hearts of young husbands and wives all over Pakistan, with its strong message about family responsibility for ensuring maternal health.”

Formerly popular musician, Shafiq Ahmad Ali Khan, the video is one of the new efforts between USAID and the Government of Pakistan to generate awareness regarding the role of the husband and his family in matters relating to mother and newborn health. The video will be aired on major television channels throughout Pakistan.

Popular vocalist Shafiq Ahmad Ali Khan performs for the audience.



## Appealing Layout

The latest issue of “Khabr-o-Nazar” exhibits an appealing layout of excellent work done by the editorial board. Please accept my appreciation and convey the same to all those who were involved in producing this magazine.

**Capt. Iqtidar A. Khanzada**  
Islamabad

## Much Appreciated

I appreciate Ambassador Patterson’s special interest in the cultural heritage of Pakistan (February, 2008). The U.S. support in conservation efforts in Taxila is much appreciated.

**Nusrat Lashari**  
Karachi

## Invaluable Addition

“Khabr-o-Nazar” is an invaluable addition to the Quaid-e-Azam University library and will greatly benefit all our readers. We hope to keep benefiting from your magazine in future also.

**Mehboob Hussain Khan**  
Islamabad



Noted artist Jamal Shah and his wife, Amna Jamal, talk to Ambassador Patterson while Cultural Affairs Attaché Constance Colding Jones looks on.



## Ambassador Patterson Hosts Art Exhibit

Leading Pakistani Artists Help Build “Cultural Bridges” with the U.S.

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, underlined the importance of “ongoing dialogue and exchange” to “deepen our relationship and our understanding” of one another through the work of some of Pakistan’s finest contemporary artists.

“The works of art exemplify the positive aspects of the universal trend of globalization. The artists’ styles and media avoid the imposition of one set of cultural norms; rather, they embrace the flow of ideas, of creative impulses, in order to choose the expression that are most meaningful,” the senior American diplomat said while speaking at a reception in honor of the exhibit “Cultural Bridges Through Art” at her residence in Islamabad on March 7.

The exhibit displayed the talent of some of Pakistan’s leading artists from Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Quetta who have had professional experience in the U.S.

“These artists have contributed to the United States and to Pakistan with their work in building cultural bridges,” Ambassador Patterson said. “This cross-cultural experience and dialogue with fellow artists from different backgrounds have their expressions in these works.”

The American Ambassador expressed the hope that these artists, and the many developing artists they have trained and influenced, continue to build bridges through art to bring the United States and Pakistan closer together.



Painter Iqbal Hasan of Lahore with Ambassador Patterson.



Artists Shayanne Malik and Sohail Malik with Peshawar Public Affairs Officer Steve Lebens.



Artists Mehr Afroze and Riffat Alvi.

# Artist Profiles

**Ali Kazmi**, miniature artist, has fashioned a distinctive technique for his artistic expression. Kazmi's work clearly bears the marks of his personal journey; from painting "beautiful men" on circus billboards in small village in Punjab to teaching drawing at Pakistan's premier art institution, the National College of Arts in Lahore.

**Ayesha Durrani** is a miniaturist from Lahore who was awarded a residency at the Vermont Studio Center in June 2006.

**Bashir Ahmed** is Dean of the Fine Arts Department of the National College of Art in Lahore. He also has headed the Miniatures Department at the NCA for many years. He has taught at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, the University of Central Arkansas, and the University of Arkansas, and has lectured at the University of Maryland, Harvard University, and the Kansas Art Institute.

**Fauzia Aziz Minillah** is an Islamabad-based artist, author, and illustrator. She is also a partner in the Art Miles Mural Project and the International Child Art Foundation in Washington, D.C. She studied at Pratt Institute in New York.

**Ghulam Mustafa**, Executive Director for Punjab Council of the Arts, is another recipient of the President's Award for Pride of Performance. During a residency in the United States, he obtained a certificate for the study of museums and arts centers.

**Ghulam Rasul** of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Islamabad was the winner of the President's Award for Pride of Performance in 1986 and obtained his master's degree in printmaking and fine arts from Northern Illinois University.

**Jamal Shah** is a well-known cultural figure not only for his expression in visual arts but also for his award-winning engagement in the performing arts. He heads the National Art Gallery in Islamabad. His experience in the United States includes a film project as well as a course on museum administration.

**Kaleem Khan**, landscapist and curator of several art exhibitions in the United States, hails from Balochistan. He belongs to a small select group of landscape artists who skillfully capture the ageless spirit of the mountains of Balochistan. Currently, Khan serves as chair at the Department to fine Arts, University of Balochistan.



Journalist Syed Javed Iqbal with artist Naheed Raza and guests.



Press Attaché Elizabeth Colton and journalist Jassim Taqui with artist Fauzia Aziz Minillah.



Artist Noorjehan Bilgrami presents a gift to Ambassador Patterson. From left are artists Mehr Afroze, Riffat Alvi and Naheed Raza. Counselor for Public Affairs Kay Webb Mayfield and Cultural Affairs Officer Constance Colding Jones look on.



National College of Art Rawalpindi Principal Nisar Malik in conversation with Constance Colding Jones and Naeem Tahir of the Pakistan National Council of Arts.



**Mashkoor Reza**, is an accomplished artist spanning more than three decades; he has established himself as a highly regarded entity for his work on women. His work is owned by private galleries in the United States. He has exhibited widely.

**Meher Afroz** is a printmaker based in Karachi whose work reflects her concern with the women of Pakistan. She participated in a woodcutting and printmaking course at the Kala Institute of San Francisco, California.

**Mobina Zuberi** lives in Islamabad. She spent four years as a high school student in Iowa City, Iowa, where she discovered art and galleries. She subsequently joined the Art Students League at Greenwich Village, New York.

**Mussarrat Nahid Imam**, a painter and writer, is the Director of Visual Arts at the National Art Gallery, Islamabad. She joined the printmaking faculty at the University of Hawaii, where she worked on advanced techniques of lithography. She also participated in an arts program at the Institute of Culture and Communication at the East-West Center in Hawaii.

**Nahid Raza** is principal of the Central Institute of Arts and Crafts in Karachi and one of Pakistan's master artists. In 2007 she received Pakistan's highest honor, the Pride of Performance Award. She has exhibited in the United States and completed a fellowship and residency program at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

**Noorjehan Bilgrami**, artist, textile designer, and researcher, works with traditional crafts, which has led her to establish KOEL, a workshop that pioneered in the revival of hand block-printed fabrics in Pakistan. She is one of the founders of the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture.

**Riffat Alvi** is the director of V.M. Art Gallery in Karachi. From 1986 to 1987, she pursued design and orientation research in the United States and was selected to participate in the "Common Ground World Project" by Neil Tetnowasky at United Nations headquarters in New York.

# No Nation Can Conquer Avian Influenza Alone: Bryan Hunt

Following are excerpts from U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt's remarks at the National Awareness event on Avian Influenza hosted by the Pakistan Medical Society in Lahore.

The United States has been at the forefront of international public health efforts to fight avian influenza around the world, and here in Pakistan. We have pledged almost 400 million dollars for global programs centered around five goals:

- First, to facilitate the development of national plans to diagnose and contain avian influenza outbreaks.
- Second, to support development of diagnostics and laboratory capacity.
- Third, to help countries stockpile personal protective equipment and emergency health supplies.
- Fourth, to conduct international communications campaigns and public outreach activities so that people will be aware of the risk of avian influenza and how to protect themselves.
- Fifth, to train responders to deal with animal and human outbreaks of the disease.

Our international partners in these efforts include the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health. We also work closely with the national governments in dozens of countries, including Pakistan, to identify and contain outbreaks and to bolster national capacity to confront avian influenza.

At present, the risk of avian influenza may seem minor compared to that of many other infectious diseases, but the risk is real. It has had a significant impact around the world. Since the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus was first isolated in 1996, it has spread through three continents. Infected animals have been found in at least 68 countries across Asia, Europe, and Africa. In Pakistan, there have been 77 H5N1 outbreaks in poultry reported since December 2003. More than half of those outbreaks, 47 of them, took place in 2007. Worldwide, at least 340 humans have contracted the virus. More than 200 have died, including one in Pakistan last December.

As you can see from the breadth of coordination and cooperation against avian influenza, both the United States and Pakistan take seriously the mission to contain this disease. Any avian influenza outbreak represents a major public health threat that also has serious economic consequences for farmers who depend on poultry as a source of income. We want to help to ensure the safety of the food supply, promote healthy poultry flocks, and protect the general public from the risk of contracting avian influenza. To achieve these goals, the United States will continue working in partnership with scientists and public health officials in Pakistan and around the world.



Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Ziaur Rehman, PMLN MPA elect Dr. Asad Ashraf, U.S. Consulate Principal Officer Bryan Hunt, Vice Chancellor UVAS Dr. Muhammad Nawaz and Associate Professor Ganga Ram Hospital Dr. Aftab Asif at National Seminar on Bird Flu at Government College for Women, Choona Mandi Lahore





## Scholars Discuss Islamic Teachings Against Terrorism

Islamic scholars in Karachi, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Lahore linked via videoconferences with American Imam Yahya Hendi to talk about the Islamic teachings against terrorism were unanimous about “making peace with all people.”

Imam Hendi is the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He also serves as Imam of the Islamic Society of Frederick, Maryland; as the Muslim chaplain at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; and as a member and spokesman for the Fiqh Council of North America.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and U.S. consulates in Karachi, Peshawar, and Lahore organized the dialogues in March, 2008. The primary topic of the discussion was the Fiqh Council of North America’s 2007 fatwa against terrorism and religious extremism.

Imam Hendi discussed what constitutes terrorism according to Islamic teachings, and agreed with the panelists on the need to intensify efforts to communicate the values of peace and coexistence as values of Islam.

Panelists in Islamabad included Dr. Mohammad Khalid Masud, Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology; and his colleagues from the Council of Islamic Ideology Dr. A.R. Kemal, Dr. Mohsin Muzzafar Naqvi, and Dr. Nasir Zaidi.

In Karachi, prominent religious scholars, representing various sects and U.S.-sponsored exchange program alumni, took part in the dialogue. The panel comprised Mufti Munibur Rehman, Chairman Tanzeem-ul-Madaris; and Dr. Abdul Rasheed, Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies, Karachi University; who moderated the discussion.

“We being Muslim scholars have the responsibility of guiding our youth and bringing them to the truth,” Imam Hendi said. “We continue to shape the minds of our brothers.”

The program in Peshawar brought together seven religious leaders and scholars for dialogue with Imam Hendi. The participants examined at length the Holy Qur’an’s prohibitions against suicide and attacks on innocent civilians. They discussed the importance of the Fiqh Council’s fatwa, and similar fatwas that Islamic leaders in Pakistan and India have issued in the past.

The videoconference with Lahore brought together religious scholars, clerics, journalists, and law students. Panelists in Lahore were Dr. Muhammad Amin, founder of the Arqam Foundation, which promotes modernization of education in religious schools; and Professor S.M. Rafi, Principal of Umm Al Qura Institute of Jamia Ashrafia.



Members of the Council of Islamic Ideology in Islamabad participate in a DVC with Imam Hendi from Washington D.C.

# ‘Sustain the U.S.- Pakistan Relationship’ -Negroponte



In their visit to Pakistan March 25-27, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Richard A. Boucher “expressed support for the democratic transition under way in Pakistan and reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to the Pakistani people.”

The Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretary, who regularly travel to Pakistan to discuss issues of mutual interest in the U.S.-Pakistan relationship, met with government officials, political party figures, tribal elders, civil society leaders, and business people during their visits to Islamabad, Peshawar, and Karachi.

“This trip is another of my periodic visits, which afford me the opportunity to meet with Pakistan’s government officials, its political and military leaders, and representatives of civil society,” he said. “As it turned out, the timing was fortuitous, and gave me an excellent opportunity to be here to congratulate the leadership of Pakistan for the successful conduct of the recent elections and to be able to reaffirm the strong friendship and support that we have for your country,”

“We all recognize that this is an important time in Pakistan’s history, as the new Parliament’s leadership takes office and begins to set the legislative agenda, and as the new government starts to take shape,” the Deputy Secretary said. “My visit afforded me the opportunity to meet with a number of leaders from across the Pakistani political spectrum who are working together in this process.”

In Islamabad, he met with Prime Minister Yousef Raza Gillani, President Pervez Musharraf, National Assembly Speaker Fehmida Mirza, Pakistan People’s Party leader Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Nawaz Sharif, and Chief of Army Staff Gen. Ashfaq Pervez Kayani

On the visit to Peshawar and Landi Kotal, he added, “ We met with North-West Frontier Province Governor Ghani, Khyber Political Agent Syed Amir Uddin Shah, 11<sup>th</sup> Corps Commander General Masood Aslam, and tribal elders from Khyber Agency. Our delegation also received briefings on United States assistance efforts in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas – totaling about \$150 million per year – and how our two governments are using these funds to build much-needed roads and schools.”

Characterizing Karachi as a “vibrant port city” that is “a key trading hub in the global economy,” Deputy Secretary Negroponte expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet Karachi Nazim Syed Mustafa Kamal; Sindh Governor Dr. Isratul Ebad Khan; and members of the American Business Council.

“Many have asked us this week about the prospects for United States-Pakistan relations,” Deputy Secretary Negroponte said. “Our response is that the United States-Pakistan partnership remains strong, and that we envision a continued close, productive alliance that benefits both countries. The United States is committed to working with all of Pakistan’s leaders on the full spectrum of bilateral issues, from fighting violent extremism to improving educational and economic opportunities.

The Deputy Secretary called for “a multi-faceted approach” in dealing with violent extremism “in this country or elsewhere where it occurs in the world . . . There is no single solution.”

“We want to deal with the issue of militant extremism, and other problems that we confront, in a mutually agreeable way,” he continued. “We think it should be done through cooperation and not through unilateral measures, and that these problems, if they’re going to be dealt with on a sustainable basis, must be dealt with on the basis of partnership.





## USAID Course Trains Health Managers in Reproductive Health



From left to right: Dr. Zeba Sathar, Country Director, Population Council, Pakistan, Ms. Mary Skarie, Director, Health Office, (USAID), Prof. Dr. A.J.Khan, Minister for Population Welfare, Mr. John Townsend, Director, Reproductive Health, Population Council, New York, and Ms. Shahida Azfar, Chief of Party, Family Advancement for Life and Health (FALAH) listening to a speaker at the training workshop.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) certified on March 4 in Islamabad twenty-five district health managers from Sindh and Balochistan in leadership skills and client-centered services related to reproductive health.

“We know that infant and child survival rates have not changed much in the past ten years,” said Mary Skarie, USAID/Pakistan’s Health Office Chief. “We also know that infant and child deaths can be reduced if births are spaced three to five years apart. This training enables these district managers to emerge as leading voices to encourage birth spacing in their districts.”

The course also trained health managers to consider the impact of population dynamics and reproductive health issues on their districts. The managers are now better prepared to respond to the health and development challenges facing the areas they serve.

The eight-day training workshop was part of USAID’s five-year, \$60 million Family Advancement for Life and Health (FALAH) program. FALAH, being implemented in 20 districts throughout Pakistan, increases the accessibility and use of contraceptives and birth-spacing methods that can help reduce Pakistan’s high rates of maternal and infant mortality.

Support for this project is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid that the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan over five years to improve economic growth, education, health, and governance and to assist with earthquake reconstruction.

# New Initiative for Local Businesses Unveiled

Shaukat Ali Brah, Dean of Suleman Dawood School of Business at LUMS, greets U.S. Embassy Counselor for Economic Affairs Amy E. Holman and U.S. Consulate Lahore Acting Public Affairs Officer Megan Ellis in his office.

The United States Embassy Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Amy Holman, stressed that Pakistan and the United States would benefit from a “sustained and balanced economic relationship” while speaking at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) on February 13.

“Pakistan has an impressive story to tell on economic growth and development since 1999,” stated the U.S. diplomat addressing students and faculty. “Economic growth will play an important role in securing Pakistan’s future as a peaceful, democratic state.”

With \$913 million invested in 2007, the U.S. has been Pakistan’s largest foreign investor, noted the diplomat, adding that the U.S. continues to be Pakistan’s largest export market. During fiscal year 2006-07, 28.4 percent of the country’s total exports of \$17.08 billion were to the U.S.



“The U.S. government is committing \$750 million over five years to complement Pakistan’s 10-year plan for the frontier region,” remarked the U.S. diplomat. “Our joint efforts in securing good health and education systems, and economic growth in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) will help promote stability in South Asia.”

Ms. Holman outlined a new initiative, Economic Empowerment in Strategic Regions (EESR), which will give local businesses and entrepreneurs the opportunity to connect with potential partners in the private sector and the U.S. government. She invited business students to visit the EESR website ([www.state.gov/e/eeb/tpp/eesr](http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/tpp/eesr)) and submit their ideas.

# Civil Society Influences Life & Culture

by Sameena Imtiaz

Vibrant societies are based on developing knowledge and skill through continuous discussion among government representatives, the intelligentsia, and advocates of civil liberty. I had a unique opportunity to expand my knowledge through a three-week International Visitors Leadership Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State on “Human Rights Advocacy & Awareness,” November 26 - December 14, 2007.

Members of my IVLP group included civil society representatives from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The program on one hand educated us about American society, and on the other enabled us to share our perspective with Americans eager to learn about Pakistan and other South Asian nations. These interactions also highlighted the diversity of the U.S. socio-political landscape and gave us the occasion to understand American official and private views.



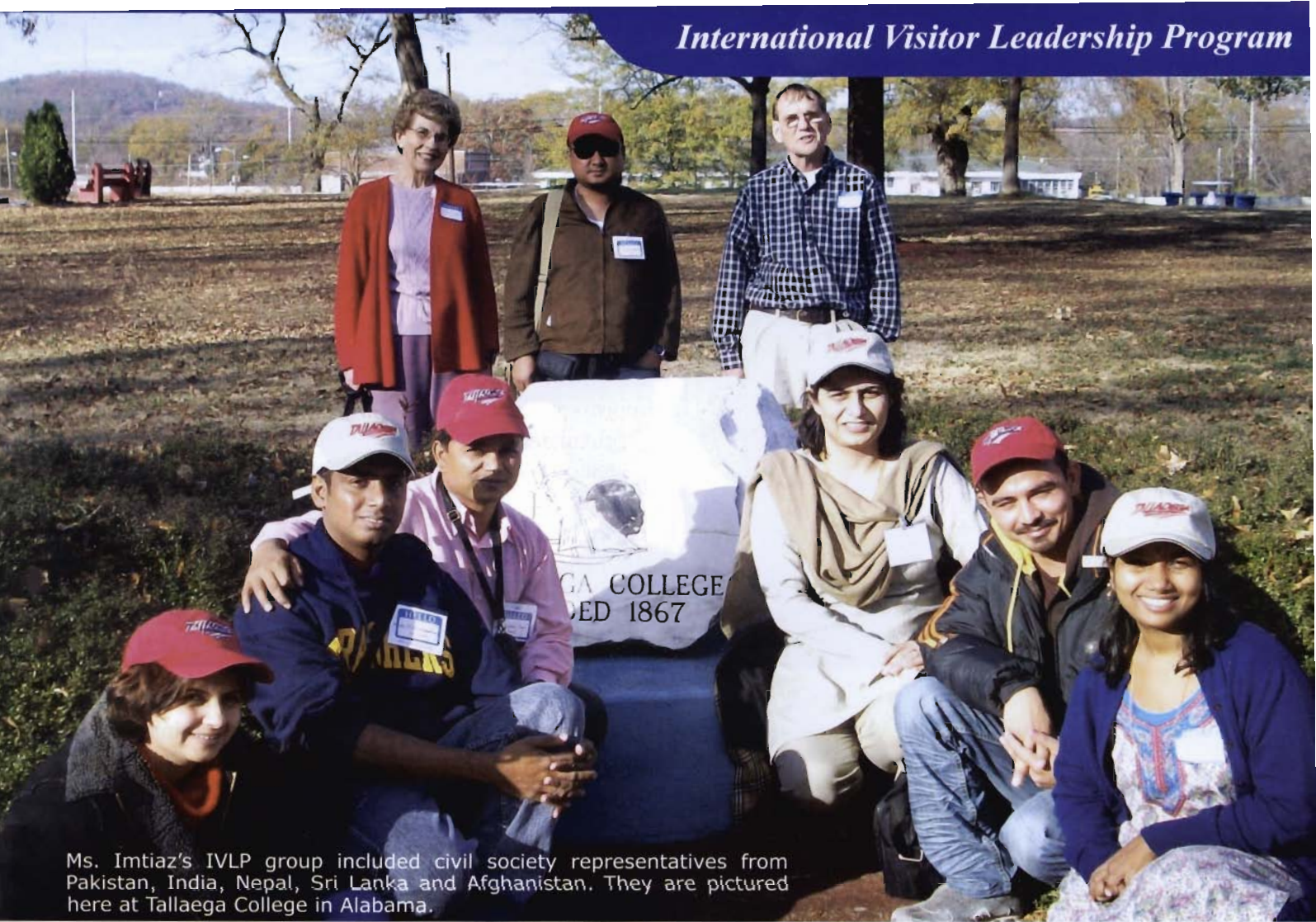
The author at the Civil Rights Memorial Center, Montgomery Alabama.

*Sameena Imtiaz is the Executive Director of the Peace Education and Development Foundation. She attended the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness, November 26 – December 14, 2007. The objective of the IVLP is to develop and strengthen professional and personal ties between Pakistani and American professionals and their institutions.*

The group members informed their U.S. interlocutors about the enormous challenges of poverty, illiteracy, extremism, and economic instability faced in South Asia and the urgent need to address these issues for the security, stability, and prosperity of the region.

The program also helped the participants immensely in analyzing and shaping up their views on U.S. policies and governance system while comparing them to their own national policies and practices.

Interactions with Department of State and Pentagon officials, academicians at various universities in Washington D.C., and human and civil rights non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives gave us an insight into the American system of governance. I was amazed to learn the extent of the autonomy that each state enjoys with its own constitution. Each



Ms. Imtiaz's IVLP group included civil society representatives from Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. They are pictured here at Tallaega College in Alabama.

state makes its own laws best suited to the needs of its people; devises its own policies on education, health, housing, etc.; and has the authority to levy taxes at the state level.

It was also interesting to know that the media operate freely and are not guided by a Ministry of Information. Media are privately owned and run and hence for their own survival they have to give the best to their audiences.

Something really important that I learned was that civil society is very vibrant and strong in the United States. The organizations not only influence public opinion but also have a large impact on policy-making.

Our visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery, Alabama, were memorable and reinforced the idea that civil society has strongly influenced American life and culture. The American civil rights movement has come a long way since the mid-1960s when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King successfully campaigned for black

people's rights. Leading a nonviolent movement, Dr. King inspired millions to brave police batons, arrests, persecution, trials, and detention, which finally put an end to systematic racism and class oppression.

At the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery, Alabama visitors make pledges to take stand against hate, injustice, and intolerance by inscribing their names into the 20-foot by 40-foot Wall of Tolerance. By placing my name on the wall, I also reiterated a commitment to continue to work for justice, equality, and human rights - the ideals for which the martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement died.

I also came back with a dream. While visiting the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic site in Atlanta, I was wondering why we, as a nation, are so impoverished. Why are we divided on so many sectarian, linguistic, and geographic lines? I have no words to express a certain craving that the memorial aroused in me. Why can't we have a "Martin Luther King" for our part of the world, to bridge social divides and push the nation to greater political harmony and a future based on ideals of justice and equality.

U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché, Constance Colding Jones presenting a book to the Murree city Nazim, Sardar Muhammad Saleem Khan, in Bhurban.



U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché Constance Colding Jones recently visited civic and educational institutions of Murree. She began her visit at Lawrence College and spoke on the topic of “American Families” to senior students there.

The American diplomat highlighted typical school and family activities in the United States and answered questions about U.S. universities. The college principal, Air Commodore (retd.) Farooq H. Kiyani, briefed Ms. Jones on the history and achievements of his institution over the last 150 years.

During her visit to the newly renovated Christian chapel dating from the 1850s located on the campus, Ms. Jones expressed her appreciation for Lawrence College’s efforts to promote interfaith dialogue and religious harmony.

Later the same day, the American cultural attaché also visited Chinar Army Public School. She met with the faculty and students who expressed their appreciation for the American Discovery Center the U.S. Embassy had established at the school in 2003. The American Discovery Center materials include books, a computer, and multimedia educational software.

Ms. Jones met with the city Nazim, Sardar Muhammad Saleem Khan, who briefed her about the environmental impact of the area’s fast growth over the past few years. She also visited the Iqbal Public Library of Murree, established in 1932, and discussed ways to enhance the library collection and provide training for library staff.

## U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché Visits Murree



Ms. Jones speaks to students at Chinar Army Public School’s American Discovery Center.



# Ambassador Patterson Reviews \$20 million for Health Projects with NWFP Governor Ghani

U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson and NWFP Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani reviewed support managed by the USAID in FATA and across Pakistan “including \$20 million worth of projects” in the health sector.

“Healthy people are a prerequisite for economic and social development,” Ambassador Patterson remarked during the meeting held at the Governor’s House “The United States Government and the American people believe that healthy Pakistani mothers, children and families are essential for a stronger, more productive Pakistan.”

During the meeting the Ambassador and the Governor also discussed the more than \$20 million dollars worth of support to the FATA being provided by the United States Government to improve mother and child health, renovate health facilities, train skilled health workers, increase access to clean drinking water, and prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS.



NWFP Governor, Owais Ahmad Ghani and U.S. Ambassador, Anne W. Patterson witnessing the signing ceremony of four MOUs signed for the support of FATA at Governor House in Peshawar.

Support for better health in Pakistan is part of \$1.5 billion in aid the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan over five years to improve economic growth, education, health, and governance and to assist with earthquake reconstruction.

During her stay in the provincial capital, the Ambassador also visited the Levy Training Center in Shah Kas and reiterated the “U.S. Government’s commitment to help Pakistan combat terrorism and strengthen the ability of local authorities to maintain law and order in the tribal agencies” during her meeting with the Secretary of Security for the FATA Secretariat and Political Agent for Khyber. The U.S. Government has committed \$5.71 million for the construction and equipping of this training center for Levy personnel.



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson speaking with Mr. Ghulam Qadir, Secretary, Law and Order FATA during her visit to the Levy Training Center, Khyber Agency. Also seen in the picture are Robert Traister of Narcotics Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy; and Ms. Lynne Tracy, Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate Peshawar.

U.S. Embassy holds

# Survey of Ame

The five-day American History Course for college and university students “providing them an opportunity to know and understand Americans” concluded at the National Library in Islamabad on March 10. The course, attended by over 600 students, was organized by the U.S. Embassy’s Public Affairs Section.

“Knowing about the experiences, the influences and the values that have led up to what the United States is today is necessary for a better appreciation of the motivations that shape our country’s actions in the world,” the U.S. Embassy’s Counselor for Public Affairs, Kay Webb Mayfield, said while speaking at the concluding ceremony.

Those who delivered lectures at various sessions of the course included Dr. Rukhsana Qamber, American Study Center, Quaid-e-Azam University; Dr. Grace Clark, Director, U.S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan; Dr. Noman Omer Sattar, ASC, QAU; and Stacy Nicholas, Terry Steers-Gonzalez, Deborah Campbell, Clifford Wardlaw and Steve Lebens from the U.S. Embassy.

“Our nation is known through its popular culture, fashions, music, television, movies, innovations; but the roots of these phenomena reflects the ongoing effort to define ourselves,” the American diplomat said. “To understand who Americans are today, one must understand the context behind our actions. Those are based in the American experience – the social, political, economic, and cultural heritage that contributes to our identity.”

The American History courses are an annual feature of the U.S. Embassy’s programming in Pakistan and have been hosted at the embassy or one of its three consulates for the last many years.



U.S. Consulate Peshawar Public Affairs Officer Steve Lebens spoke about the Cold War and the post 9/11 Era.



U.S. Embassy Political Officer Terry Steers-Gonzalez explaining the U.S. electoral process and presidential elections. He also spoke on the “Framing of the Constitution and the Evolution of democracy in the U.S.”

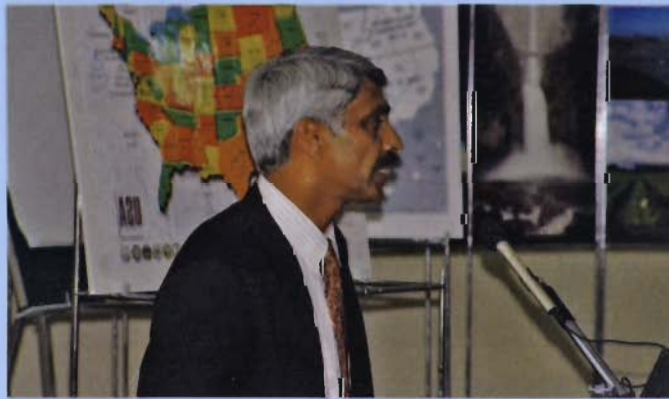


U.S. Embassy Deputy Political Counselor Stacy Nichols speaking about “American Federalism and the Evolution of the Political Party System in the U.S.”

# American History



American Citizen Services Officer Deborah Campbell discussing "Slavery, Sectionalism and the U.S. Civil War".



Dr. Noman Omer Sattar of the American Studies Center at Quaid-e-Azam University offers a presentation on "Westward Expansion".



Clifford Wardlaw, Resident Legal Advisor of the U.S. Embassy Narcotic Affairs Section engaging the audience on the subject of "America at War" including the Spanish American War, and World War I and II.

The topics discussed included an overview of American history, colonial experience, American Revolution, framing of the Constitution and evolution of democracy, American federalism, evolution of political party system, U.S. electoral process and presidential elections, slavery, sectionalism and the Civil War, reconstruction: post Civil War America, overseas expansion, industrialization, Westward expansion, America at war, and the Cold War and the post 9/11 era.

Students from Allama Iqbal Open University, Air University, Bahauddin Zakria University, Comsats Institute of Information Technology, Federal Urdu University, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Government College Daggar, Government Degree College, ICAP, Islamabad College for Girls, IEEE, International Islamic University Islamabad, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Jamshoro University, MAJU, MUML, National Defense University, NUML, Peshawar University, PIES, Post Graduate College, Punjab University, Punjab College, Punjab College of Commerce, Quaid-e-Azam University, Shah Abdul Latif University, Virtual University, F. G. College for Women, Urdu University, and Government College Asghar Mall participated in the American History Course.



U.S. Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs Kay Webb Mayfield takes questions from students after her presentation on "Reconstruction, Post Civil War America."

# What the Students Say about the American History Course . . . .



“This was a superb and information studded seminar on American history. Wonderful lectures and documentaries helped students to see an overview of US history.”

**Qamar Abbas Cheema, Quaid-e-Azam University**

“It was a privilege for me to participate in the American History course. It was very exciting and interactive get-together that not only gave Pakistani students a chance to know the history of the Super Power but also provided a platform for discussion to the students.”

**Saba Sohail, Islamabad College for Girls**

“Being a student of history, it was a fascinating opportunity for me to have a profound knowledge about American History. The course was very informative covering all the pros and cons of American history, culture, geography, economy, politics, civil war, constitution, and political parties etc.”

**Zaigham Sarfraz, Quaid-e-Azam University**

“I gained a great deal of knowledge through this course on American History. I am grateful to the U.S. Embassy which arranged such an unprecedented and informative program.”

**Waheen Ahmed Memon, Cabinet Division**

“Prior to attending this course, I had great suspicions in mind. But the course helped me in removing all my doubts. Such courses should also be conducted in the rural areas of the country so that the negative perceptions of the people about the United States could be removed.”

**Kashif Fayyaz, International Islamic University**



“This course helped me in learning about American society, culture, and literature. This course helped a lot all those students who wanted to learn about the American History.”

**Sara Bokhari, Islamabad College for Girls**