

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



JOHN F. KENNEDY
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP BOARD:

A GLOBAL FORCE FOR CHANGE

November 2006
Board Meeting

OPENING DINNER, NOVEMBER 3, 2006

“What I love about the Kennedy School of Government is that we worry about poverty and international relations in an analytic way. We use hard heads but soft hearts to use the best evidence, the most rigorous arguments in the service of our fellow men and women.” – Professor Mary Jo Bane, Academic Dean, Kennedy School of Government



Roxanne Mankin Cason, Chair, opens meeting



Development and Stewardship Committee Chair, Melanie Sabelhaus introduces panel

OPENING PANEL: The Mid-Term Elections: What is at Stake for Women?

Moderated by Marie Wilson, President of the White House Project and Women’s Leadership Board member. Panel included Professor David King of the Kennedy School and Kennedy School Fellow Christina Martin, former Press Secretary for Newt Gingrich.

INTRODUCTION: Melanie Sabelhaus, Development and Stewardship Chair, Women’s Leadership Board

“The Republicans and Democrats are fighting with everything they’ve got to the end. Today, the **New York Times** stated women may make the difference in this election. Ladies are the #1 economy in the world. Call your girlfriends and make sure they are getting out there to vote! We also have to write checks to make a difference. When working for the US government, I learned how important it was that women were stepping up like never before.”

Professor King shared his thoughts on the top issues in the voting public’s minds. “The number one issue for the young voters is the war. The number two issue is immigration.” He went on to note that a staggering “89% of young people don’t even have a ‘somewhat favorable’ opinion of the media.”

Christina Martin shared what her experience in politics has taught her about women’s roles. “One thing I observe with women in politics is that women want more briefing and schooling before they respond to media. We need women to get their confidence up so they realize they do know as much as another person in the room. Women also need to learn that when they go into the House and Senate, if you are a woman in leadership, you need to have a speaking role and a seat at the table. We have to do a better job of getting equal air time in our respective parties.”

GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2006



Holly Taylor Sargent, Senior Director for Harvard University Women's Initiatives, describes the Board's role at Harvard and beyond

INTRODUCTION

Holly Taylor Sargent, Senior Associate Dean for Advancement and Senior Director for University Women's Initiatives:

"We are a global body of distinguished leaders who serve as an innovative global force in the advancement of women and girls. We have all been called by Harvard. There is no other board like ours at Harvard – an incredibly distinguished group of women who can represent and embody what we hope to achieve for women and girls."

Holly Taylor Sargent, Senior Director for Harvard

PRESENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

Our strategic plan was presented by Juli Ann Reynolds and Christie Hardwick Vianson, the Co-Chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Five L's: Our Lenses

- a. **Learn:** About global challenges facing women and girls to optimize change.
- b. **Leverage:** Harvard's brand, expertise, and platform for global initiatives that re-imagine the role of women and girls in their local and national communities.
- c. **Link:** Networks with world power players in business, academia, nonprofits, governments, and religious groups; through partnerships and alliances with Harvard and with the Women's Leadership Board.
- d. **Lead:** Global change through women and girls' public policy, initiatives, and projects.
- e. **Legacy:** Build a legacy of what happens on our shift. Declare the impact.



Kelvy Bird, Graphic Facilitator, recorded the entire meeting on large placards. This section reflects the presentation of the Strategic Plan

The Women's Leadership Board is setting forth two new strategic initiatives. The first initiative is to connect established and emerging global women leaders. We do this with everything from supporting WAPPP to our international study delegations and our convening of global women leaders. The second initiative is to build the pipeline (advance and promote women to meet their full potential as leaders). It is important to choose to link with organizations and people who benefit from and embody our vision. These linkages are critical to our success.

REPORT ON IMPACT: PROJECTS AND NETWORKS OF THE BOARD



At-large Executive Committee Member, Michele Boutros Ghali, looks on as WAPPP makes their presentation

I. Women and Public Policy Program (WAPPP) – Holly Sargent:

“I see our impact every day carried out by WAPPP. If you build it, they will come – the number of prestigious faculty in and out of the Kennedy School of Government (KSG) who have been drawn to thinking about gender is amazing.” WAPPP has become an insurgency! We infiltrate in the best ways. This is the heart and soul of our day-to-day visibility and action in the world, the heartbeat.” Victoria Budson, Director of WAPPP, reported on the WAPPP program. Professor Iris Bohnet discussed her research on trust and gender. Victoria announced Iris Bohnet was offered tenure and has officially accepted; Bridgette Madrian and Rohini Pande have joined the Kennedy School as faculty and Mary Jo Bane has been appointed Academic Dean.

II. Zambia – Janice Shorenstein, Executive Committee Member and former Chair:

“One year ago, the First Lady Maureen Wanawassa came to speak to the Women’s Leadership Board at the invitation of Aniyssa Thomas and the Fritz Institute. Dr. Thomas Burke, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Director of Massachusetts General Global Health Disaster Relief, addressed the Women’s Leadership Board about the work being done in Zambia. “This project to improve maternal health represents the best of what we have to offer. It joins purpose with passion. It is tangible and transformative. It not only deals with leadership, but it deals with lives.”

There are 12.3 million people in Zambia. Of all ten-year-old girls who are pregnant, half will die. Twenty percent of children born die by age five, usually within the first year or the first 24 hours. There are no emergency obstetrical or infant care centers in any of the hospitals. We have three wonderful opportunities in Zambia. First, we can continue to work with Dr. Burke to deal with the medical issues in the country. Dr. Burke has started an advanced midwife program so that help will be available before tragedies occur. We will try to promote this throughout Africa. We have the opportunity to provide tangible feedback to the way we thought the project would emerge and will have the opportunity to continue to do that. Second, we can partner with the First Lady of Zambia to respond to the immediate needs of the country (clothes for children, books). This is a tangible and specific way we can support the country. Lastly, we created five Zambian Fellowships. Our member, Anna Ouroumian, offered fellowships to the five girls in Zambia at her Academy of Business and Leadership this past summer. These young women carry their learning home to share the information and will speak at schools and other groups to reach at least 10,000 young people. Our leadership role in connecting the initial parties was instrumental to the project now under the direction of Dr. Tom Burke.

III. Launch of Corporate Membership – Julia Dulan, Chair Corporate Membership Committee and Eric Sinoway, Associate Director for Advancement, Harvard University. The Strategic Rationale for Corporate Membership:

The Corporate Membership Program will strengthen the Board’s relationship with like-minded corporations and allow for the advancement of our mission and goals within the business community. It will also provide opportunities to use corporate resources to further our programs. Corporate members will commit to a three-year, \$25,000 annual amount to fund activity undertaken or supported by the Board. This commitment includes sponsorship of one annual summer corporate internship offered to a Harvard student. These corporations must support advancement of women as a strategy of their business plan.

LUNCH PRESENTATION, NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT



Johan Koss presents to the Women's Leadership Board at Harvard.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Johan Olav Koss, President and CEO of Right to Play

This is an athlete-driven, not-for-profit organization that utilizes sports and play to aid in the development of children and to build stronger communities. Their program and motto of "Look after your self, Look after each other," has reached 500,000 children since 2000. The organization strives to teach young people that it is okay to be strong and to play to win. The more kids win, the more responsible they are for each other. Many of the games are used to teach about protecting oneself from AIDS. Sports help break down tribal barriers and empower girls in patriarchal societies. Games are used to prevent conflict and aids in conflict resolution/peace building processes.

LAUNCH OF THE ADRIENNE HALL WOMEN'S MENTORSHIP FUND

Mentoring programs developed by the Women's Leadership Board have included Harvard students, junior faculty, young visiting women fellows, and Kennedy School alumnae. Initiatives have included "Career Conversations" (a very successful series of seminars, lectures, and interactive sessions), privately hosted dinners, and breakfast events during the Women's Leadership Board's bi-annual meetings. The Women's Leadership Board works closely with the Women in Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School to support young women faculty and to build a network of support among female visiting fellows. Funding has also provided an opportunity for the mid-career women to create a seminar series in which they do peer mentoring. These efforts have been constrained by limited availability of funding. The Adrienne Hall Women's Mentorship Fund expects to raise funding and awareness to enable expanded mentorship of students. The success of these programs has highlighted the need for more extensive and intensive mentoring activities. More students wish to avail themselves of access to information from a universe of diverse accomplished women. The endowed fund, conceived and established through a founding gift by Loreen Arbus, will institutionalize, expand, and enhance the mentoring function of the Women's Leadership Board.



Rayona Sharpnack, Mentoring and Leadership Committee Chair

THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE LEADER

RAYONA SHARPNACK, CHAIR, MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

JULI ANN REYNOLDS, CO-CHAIR, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND

MAGGIE CRADDOCK, MEMBER, WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP BOARD

This Leadership Development panel was set up in response to the Board's call for more leadership development in how to be a more effective leader and a leader for the future.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS



Former Chair and Executive Committee member, Jean Minskoff Grant, participates in one of the Executive Leadership Development sessions

Members had an opportunity to experience a bit of “life as a student” at Harvard in one of three sessions about leadership presented by Dutch Leonard, George F. Baker Jr., Professor of Public Management, Kennedy School of Government **Leadership in Transitions and Crisis**; Shalom Saar, Senior Fellow at the Center for Public Leadership, Kennedy School of Government **The Development of Leaders and Leadership Skills**; or Elizabeth Keating, Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law School, Senior Research Fellow, Hauser Center Kennedy School of Government **Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector**. Each of these sessions provided participants with a different lesson related to leadership using the same methodology and material used in Harvard courses and seminars. Dutch Leonard, Shalom Saar, and Elizabeth Keating are among the University’s leading experts in leadership and the development of leaders.



Dean David Ellwood addresses the Board

DINNER PRESENTATION, NOVEMBER 4, 2006

Board members dined in the JFK Jr. Forum. Dean Ellwood spoke about the global policy work of the Kennedy School and the challenges that lay ahead. He encouraged Board members to recognize the many successes of women at the Kennedy School since the inception of the Board.

Cristina de Manuel, Former Secretary, Women’s Leadership Board, presented her Blue Ribbon of Peace Award on behalf of the Board posthumously to Anna Politkovskaya, Reporter, Novaya Gazeta. Members viewed a moving video created by Swanee Hunt in memory of Anna and her daring

work to report the atrocities committed on women and children in Russia. Cristina said, “I never met Anna, and never will, for she was murdered less than a month ago, and she was murdered for her courage in advocating for the full inclusion of women in peace, for maintaining a critical stance in her native Russia, and fighting for freedom of speech.”

Some believe she was murdered because of her defense of the role of women in the security sector, as protectors of human rights, as journalists, as politicians, as leaders of civil society, and freedom of speech.



Maria Cristina Caballero, journalist and writer and current Center for Public Leadership Fellow, accepts the Blue Ribbon of Peace Award on behalf of Anna Politkovskaya

DINNER PRESENTATION CONTINUED



Members participate in Molly Melching's interactive presentation on the challenges of changing social constructs

Keynote speaker, Molly Melching, Founder and Director of Tostan, shared her inspirational stories of how Tostan is changing the lives of women in Senegal and will soon be adopted by many other African countries with the support of international NGO's and the UN. Tostan is an NGO based in Senegal, West Africa. Tostan's mission is to empower African communities to take charge of their own development and community management. It is known as an innovative and effective force in reducing female genital mutilation.



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN PRESENTATION

Member Elizabeth Colton, Founder and CEO of the International Museum of Women (IMOW), gave an inspiring presentation on the progress and work of the museum. IMOW is a powerful vehicle for women's and girls' advancement. Colton and her team are using technology to reach out to girls around the world. They institutionalize and archive history while encouraging dialogue around the world relating to women, girls, and their lives.

GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2006

CHINA BRIEFING

INTRODUCTION AND MODERATION by Laurie McDonald Jonsson, Secretary, Women's Leadership Board

Members of the faculty, Professor Anthony Saich, Director of Asia Center, Harvard University, and Lecturer Kelly Sims Gallagher, Director, Energy Technology Innovation Project, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, presented an update on critical issues in China. Professor Saich spoke about the strains on China's institutions, infrastructure and social fabric caused by rapid growth and urbanization. He shared information on the extraordinary contrasts of a booming economy with 300 million Chinese middle-class and 900 million people below the poverty line. Kelly Sims Gallagher presented an update on industrialization and environmental risks in China as well as the Chinese government's reaction and proposed strategy for meeting rising demands. She discussed China's drive for natural resources including gas and oil and the attendant pollution issues. Also, addressed was the importance of China's need to fuel its economy and provide job growth and stability.

GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2006 CONTINUED



Former Chair and Executive Committee member Janice Shorestein and member Elyn Bank participate in the Zambia discussion

Sunday's agenda included working sessions for our committees and program initiative groups. Members broke out into one of the following groups to discuss progress and ideas:

- Corporate Membership and Development
- Zambia
- Mentoring/Leadership
- Somalia
- Board Initiatives
- Fellowship Design

LIBERIA REBUILDING A NATION – ONE WOMAN AT A TIME

LEYMAH GBOWEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WOMEN IN PEACE BUILDING NETWORK, LIBERIA

Leymah Gbowee is an inspiration! Such passion and commitment!! A lesson in how important vision remains for a leader and how very important "followship" is to take the job home. Her followers embraced her vision and together they changed the world for Liberia.

"We have learned that when we rise up to face tyranny the cowards who hide behind violence and tyranny often flee. We have learned that rebuilding a nation takes one woman at a time and, when we work together with a clear purpose and resolute minds, our victory is certain. In conclusion, the journey to nation rebuilding is ongoing and we have the words of the great African-American freedom fighter Harriet Tubman as our guide. 'If you are tired keep going, if you are hungry keep going, if you are scared keep going, if you want a taste of freedom, keep going.' We are committed to keep going individually and collectively until our nation is rebuilt."



Strategic Committee Co-Chairs Christie Hardwick Vianson and Juli Ann Reynolds listen as Leymah Gbowee presents her harrowing story of life in Liberia