The Communications Department’s main priority is to connect members and media with the Council’s staff and programs. The Council began an initiative this year to expand outreach to the media by holding press briefings in advance of major international events, like the Summit of the Americas and the biannual meeting of NATO foreign ministers. The Council has also teamed with the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press to jointly release polls throughout the year on key foreign policy issues.

The high-quality expertise of Council fellows has made the Council on Foreign Relations the first stop for journalists seeking expert opinion and in-depth analysis on international issues. Council fellows and their work are ubiquitous in the news, primarily through articles and op-eds they author in magazines and newspapers around the world.

As part of the Council’s efforts to reach beyond its own walls to the interested public, this year the Council sponsored over 60 on-the-record events, including panel discussions, press briefings, addresses by world leaders, videoconferences, and study groups. These events and Council-sponsored publications were all covered by major news outlets, including network and cable television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet.

The Communications Department also produces the members’ monthly newsletter, Calendar & Chronicle, and has redesigned and updated all Council websites.