In addition to covering U.S. policy toward Iran, the war in Iraq, and the threat posed by al-Qaeda, during the past year *Foreign Affairs* published groundbreaking articles exploring the impact of religion, immigration, public health, and the environment on government policy. The magazine’s reputation for publishing timely and insightful pieces by top-notch authors has never been stronger: by the fiscal year’s end, paid circulation stood at an all-time high of 155,861, an increase of more than 40 percent since 2001. In that same period, ad pages from global companies, publishers, nonprofit organizations, and governments doubled.

Essays by Stanford professor Scott D. Sagan in the September/October 2006 issue and by Council Senior Fellow Ray Takeyh in the March/April 2007 issue called for a shift from the current U.S. policy of regime change to one of negotiations aimed at taming Iran’s nuclear ambitions and strengthening its beleaguered moderates. In the March/April 2007 issue, Stanford professor James Fearon declared that the conflict in Iraq is undeniably a civil war and that there is little the United States can do to stop the bloodshed.

Concerning the war on terror, Ohio State professor John Mueller concluded in the September/October 2006 issue that al-Qaeda currently lacks the means to mount another catastrophic strike against the American homeland. Still, on a global basis al-Qaeda has grown stronger, according to veteran intelligence analyst Bruce Riedel. In the May/June 2007 issue, Riedel warned that al-Qaeda is forming networks in the Middle East and Africa and may attempt to lure the United States into a war with Iran.

In addition to the magazine’s coverage of the Middle East and terrorism, a series of major articles on broader themes gained widespread attention. In the September/October 2006 issue, Council Senior Fellow Walter Russell Mead showed how evangelical idealism and a religiously motivated desire to improve the world are pushing U.S. foreign policy toward a greater emphasis on humanitarianism. In the November/December 2006 issue, Tamar Jacoby of the Manhattan Institute claimed there is a national consensus that immigration is good for the U.S. economy. Jacoby urged Washington to offer earned citizenship to the twelve million illegal immigrants now present in the country. In the same issue, Norman J. Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute and Thomas E. Mann of the Brookings Institution called on Congress to reassert its lapsed oversight of the executive branch’s foreign policy.

In the January/February 2007 issue, Council Se-
Foreign Affairs published groundbreaking articles exploring the impact of religion, immigration, public health, and the environment on government policy.

Senior Fellow Laurie Garrett warned that the astronomical rise in funding for global health is creating more problems than it is solving by narrowly targeting specific diseases rather than basic public health. Garrett’s essay received considerable attention, including numerous requests for the author to testify at public hearings and speak in private meetings. In a May/June 2007 piece, University of Minnesota professors C. Ford Runge and Benjamin Senauer warned that the current excitement surrounding ethanol could actually end up starving the world’s poor due to skyrocketing corn prices.

In its continuing coverage of global hotspots, Foreign Affairs recruited a team of expert commentators to analyze the consequences of Israel’s war with Hezbollah in Lebanon for the November/December 2006 issue. Council President Richard N. Haass’s contribution, signaling an end to the American era in the Middle East, was widely quoted in the press. In the January/February 2007 issue, scholar Barnett R. Rubin warned that the U.S.-led coalition must increase its commitment in Afghanistan to forestall a Taliban revival. Former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, in the May/June 2007 issue, recommended a revival of containment to constrain an increasingly authoritarian Russia. Her article provoked angry Russian charges that she was sparking a new Cold War. Finally, in the July/August 2007 issue, presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney presented their first comprehensive foreign policy statements. Policy essays by other presidential candidates will appear in subsequent issues.

Two research studies released during the past year documented the success with which Foreign Affairs engages its audience. The MRI Subscriber Survey found that readers spend, on average, two hours reading each issue. Eighty-five percent of readers said the magazine exposed them to influential ideas ahead of other sources. And, for the second time in a row, the independent research firm Erdos & Morgan ranked Foreign Affairs as the most influential media source for U.S. opinion leaders.

The September/October 2006 issue was the highest-selling issue on newsstands in the history of the magazine.