



*Academy of Diplomacy and Under Secretary of State William J. Burns
Host Awards Luncheon*

**Academy Announces Expanded Support for the Foreign Affairs Budget
Project**

Ambassador William Lacy Swing to be honored

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC-- The American Academy of Diplomacy and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs **William J. Burns**, will host its annual awards luncheon on Thursday, December 3, 2009, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the U.S. Department of State. The Academy continues to highlight its ground-breaking "Foreign Affairs Budget of the Future" report, which finds that the State Department, USAID, and related organizations lack the tools to meet today's complex diplomatic challenges. Our outreach efforts in 2009 spanned more than fifteen cities across the United States with an additional 15+ events planned for 2010. These events are part of our prolonged outreach efforts to promote the report's findings within Congress, the new administration, and key districts across the U.S.

"Success in Afghanistan will be as much about diplomacy and aid as fighting but hollow diplomatic resources weakened over years will take time to rebuild," said **Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann**, President of the Academy. "The effort to properly recruit and train new diplomats and development specialists must continue."

The Academy will also have the pleasure of presenting the 2009 Douglas Dillon Book Award to **Ambassador Howard B. Schaffer**, for his book *Limits of Influence: America's Role in Kashmir*, published by Brookings Institution Press.

The Academy will also present the 2009 Walter and Leonore Annenberg Award for Excellence in Diplomacy to **Ambassador William Lacy Swing**. Ambassador Swing, who is currently the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, will deliver a keynote address discussing the contribution of diplomacy to international affairs drawing on his varied experiences in and after the State Department.

"As a Foreign Service Officer, Bill Swing mastered the toughest diplomatic assignments; after retirement he has directed challenging international operations," said **Ambassador William Harrop**, Board Member of the Academy. "He is a credit to his profession."

Anthony Shadid of *The Washington Post* and **Helen Thomas** of *Hearst Newspapers* will receive the Arthur Ross Award for Distinguished Reporting & Analysis of Foreign Affairs.

The American Academy of Diplomacy annually grants these awards to recognize major contributions to the field of diplomacy, and to stimulate further interest in and public understanding of the need for excellence in the practice of America's relations with the rest of the world.

The Academy will also recognize **Stephen Doyle**, graduate student at Johns-Hopkins SAIS and winner of the Philip Merrill Fellowship for the Best Essay on the Practice of American Diplomacy and **Ches Thurber**, graduate student at Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and first place winner of the Leonard Marks Foundation Essay Contest for Creative Thought and Writing on American Foreign Policy

This event is open for press coverage.

Pickup time for cameras is 11:00 am from the 23rd Street entrance. Pickup time for writers and stills: 11:30 am from the 23rd Street entrance. Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) A U.S. Government-issued identification card (Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense, or Foreign Press Center); (2) a media-issued photo identification card; or (3) a letter from their employer or letterhead verifying their employment as a journalist, accompanied by an official photo identification (driver's license or passport).

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About the American Academy of Diplomacy

The Academy was founded in 1983 by Ambassadors Ellsworth Bunker, U. Alexis Johnson, and John J. McCloy to explore ways in which persons who had served in positions of major responsibility could cooperate to promote the highest standards in the practice of American diplomacy. Today, the Academy is dedicated to strengthening the resources and tools America brings to managing its diplomatic challenges, and accomplishes this through outreach programs, lectures, awards, and writing competitions. In doing so, the Academy promotes an understanding of the importance of diplomacy to serving our nation and enhancing America's standing in the world.