



# ACADEMY REVIEW

August 2023



## UPS AND DOWNS OF IMPLEMENTING THE BLUEPRINTS

In 2023, the Academy began the effort to implement the recommendations laid out in the *Blueprints for a More Modern U.S. Diplomatic Service* with support from the Una Chapman Cox Foundation. The original study was authored by Marc Grossman and Marcie Ries in 2022 jointly with the Arizona State University, the Academy, and the Cox Foundation. This is a complex project that includes an extensive congressional and State Department advocacy effort as well as a public outreach component designed to build broad support for the Blueprints proposals.

### ADVOCATING FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Academy is approaching its congressional effort in stages. This year, the focus is on pushing forward the recommendations for enhancing professional education and training. Next year will be dedicated to the Foreign Service Reserve recommendation after the State Department completes its study of the concept as mandated by the FY23 State Department authorization. However, even just this narrow scope is a major undertaking, which requires concerted outreach to the Hill and the Department. This effort is being spearheaded by a superstar team composed of AAD members Graeme Bannerman, Mike Van Dusen and Ron Neumann. (Continued on p. 2)

## AAD TURNS 40 IN 2023!

Throughout this year, the Academy will be marking a significant milestone – 40 years since its founding. AAD’s official birthday, as imprinted on the Articles of Incorporation, is July 25, 1983. However, the Academy did not come into existence overnight. Numerous written exchanges preceded its first organizing meeting on June 3, 1983, and the first membership meeting was not held until November 2, 1983. So, to properly mark the occasion, we have designated 2023 as the anniversary year and will continue to celebrate the various aspects of this milestone throughout our different programs.

We started off the festivities with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception at the Meridian Center where more than 80 members and guests joined Ambassadors Stuart Holliday and Tom Shannon in toasting the past achievements and the new important work done by the Academy going forward. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was also one of the focal points at the annual meeting on July 12, where we welcomed the Director General of the Foreign Service Marcia Bernicat and introduced a “limited edition” AAD lapel pin. Finally, many of you have helped us mark the Academy’s official birthday on July 25 with a generous contribution toward our blitz 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraiser. Our profound thanks to all the members who participated for a combined gift of over \$4,000. Throughout the rest of the year, we will continue to come back to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on our social media and our fall programs.



# UPS AND DOWNS OF IMPLEMENTING THE BLUEPRINTS *(Continued from p. 1)*



## **ADVOCATING FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

So far, the Academy's team met with twenty different congressional offices, many of whom seemed to be generally receptive to the concept. However, the political climate on the Hill is especially difficult this year. So, despite the Academy's extensive outreach, the Senate draft of the new State Authorization bill released in June did not include any of the language advocated for by the Academy.

At this point, the Academy's team is focusing on two alternative strategies, which include adding the desired language as an amendment into a House version of the

bill, and working with Senators Bill Hagerty and Ben Cardin on a stand-alone bill. Both options are likely to be long shots in the current session, but the Academy will continue pushing every angle.

## **BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE BLUEPRINTS**

In parallel with its congressional effort, the Academy has been working to build a broader public support for the Blueprints through a set of public speaking programs featuring the authors of the Blueprints report and highlighting the importance of its recommendations.

The Academy launched this effort with a high-profile event held in partnership with the Meridian International Center on May 31, 2023, where CNN's National Security Correspondent Kylie Atwood moderated a bipartisan conversation between Senator Bill Hagerty and Senator Ben Cardin on the topic of the importance of strong and modern diplomacy. Ron Neumann, Marc Grossman and Jo Ellen Powell also provided remarks on the Blueprints during the program. This event was attended by representatives of other congressional offices and several senior members of the State Department. You can read more about the event in an article published by the Meridian.



Capitalizing on the program at the Meridian, the Academy is now taking the Blueprints across the US. Between September and December of this year, World Affairs Councils (WACs) in Alaska, California, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Upstate New York and Utah will hold a public program featuring one of the authors of the Blueprints. Nearly another dozen other WACs expressed an interest in hosting such a program.

## **ARB LAW HAS BEEN CHANGED; NOW WHAT?**

At the end of 2022, after a two-year push, the Academy succeeded in reforming the Accountability Review Board (ARB) law. The new process for investigating security incidents at US missions abroad is now codified in the "Diplomatic Support and Security Act of 2022," part of the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act. Since then, the Academy has been following up about the extent to which the Department plans to use its new flexibility. So far, State had started to take some steps to promote an institutional culture that embraces measured risk and prepares employees to engage in risk management. In particular, the Department has begun onboarding the new process for actual investigations. It also began to add more risk management focus to the training of both FSOs and RSOs. However, at this point these steps are in their initial stages and the Academy will continue to follow up and encourage further implementation.

# AAD AND CSIS PARTNER TO REVITALIZE AMERICAN COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY



This April, the Academy together with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) held a half-day conference titled “Revitalizing American Commercial Diplomacy.” The conference brought together US government officials, diplomats and business executives to highlight the importance of commercial diplomacy, discuss whether the Biden administration is meeting the challenge of upgrading our efforts, and recommend additional actions the U.S. can take. Under Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez

and Deputy Director General of the US and Foreign Commercial Service Dale Tasharski opened the conference with brief keynote remarks. Under Secretary Fernandez highlighted some recent commercial diplomacy accomplishments, but also noted that the US can and should do better on commercial diplomacy going forward. Mr. Tasharski praised the increased interagency collaboration and mentioned the forthcoming executive order to establish the long-awaited congressionally mandated Economic Diplomacy Action Group (EDAG) that would formalize the “all-of-government” approach to commercial issues.

The two keynotes were followed by two expert panels, which dug deeper into some of the issues raised by Fernandez and Tasharski. Throughout the conference, the panelists kept coming back to the idea that commercial diplomacy as a vital offensive tool for the US to advocate for its businesses overseas, and that it has been greatly underutilized by the last two US administrations.

“Don’t be timid!” implored Ambassador Chuck Cobb and Kathleen Ambrose of TE Connectivity. They both noted that it is in the US national interest to be more assertive in advocating for US businesses. Cathy Novelli also discussed the “whole of America” approach to commercial diplomacy, noting the importance of engaging state governors, mayors, individual businesses and other actors.



The panelists agreed that the current administration is underperforming in its current commercial diplomacy efforts, and that there needs to be a more concerted effort to implement the Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act of 2019 (CABDA). Finally, all panelists repeatedly emphasized the need for more specialized training to better prepare US diplomats for future commercial diplomacy efforts. The complete recording of the conference is available on the CSIS website:

<https://www.csis.org/events/revitalizing-american-commercial-diplomacy-conference>.

The conference was the final chapter of the Academy's Commercial Diplomacy Initiative that has been ongoing since 2015 with support from the Una Chapman Cox Foundation. As part of the initiative, the Academy published a two-part report *Support for American Jobs*, which put forward a set of recommendations for how to improve US commercial diplomacy based on extensive interviews with more than seventy-five experienced corporate executives of globally-active US companies and leaders of US trade and diplomatic agencies. Subsequently, some of these recommendations were the foundation of the 2019 CABDA Act, which offered a notable step forward in prioritizing commercial diplomacy and improving inter-agency cooperation, Foreign Service training and private-public engagement on the issue. Even though the original commercial diplomacy project is now officially complete, the Academy’s Commercial Diplomacy Working Group will continue to monitor and push for the implementation of the CABDA Act.



# OUTREACH PROGRAMS

## 2023 Texas Tech Ambassadors Forum

On March 2, 2023, Texas Tech University's Office of International Affairs and the American Academy of Diplomacy hosted the eighth installment of the Texas Tech Ambassadors Forum. This year's forum was entitled "The Global Citizen and Diplomacy," and was moderated by Ambassador Neumann. Our panelists, Ambassador Robert Blake, Ambassador Tibor Nagy, and Ambassador Pamela Spratlen, discussed the idea of the "global citizen," nationalism versus globalism, climate change, and the dangers of misinformation in the media.



## 2023 Joseph J. Sisco Memorial Forum



This year's Sisco Forum was held on May 8th, 2023 at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy and explored the subject of "How Will Putin's War End?" During the keynote discussion, Ambassador Neumann joined Kay Bailey Hutchison to reflect on the European geopolitical landscape and the NATO alliance. The panel discussion, moderated by the Baker Institute's President Ambassador David M. Satterfield, featured Ambassador Doug Lute, Kenneth B. Medlock III, Ph.D., and Ambassador William Taylor, and focused on the many facets of the Ukrainian war and possible outcomes for all parties.

# INTERN OUTREACH SERIES

Every semester, AAD welcomes two interns to its team. In addition to assisting the Academy with its day-to-day work, our interns also get to design and implement their individual projects. Below is the list of outstanding and diverse projects completed by our interns.

## VIRTUAL PANEL ON U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

On April 25, 2023, Academy Intern Bob Greenbaum (Spring '23) held a virtual discussion on U.S. diplomacy and democratic backsliding in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The panel titled, "U.S. Public Diplomacy in Central America" was moderated by Ambassador Earl Anthony Wayne with contributions from Dr. Mark L. Schneider, Ambassador Liliana Ayalde, and Ambassador Luis Arreaga.

## VIRTUAL PANEL ON DIPLOMACY IN CRISIS

On May 2, 2023, Academy intern Toby Szustack (Spring '23) hosted "Diplomacy in Crisis," a virtual panel focused on the challenges of working amidst antagonistic governments and public reception. Ambassador Ronald Neumann moderated the discussion between Ambassadors John F. Tefft, James Jeffrey, and Susan Page.

## VIRTUAL PANEL ON PERSONAL IDENTITY IN DIPLOMACY

On January 17, 2023, Academy intern Kennedy Carmichael (Fall '22) hosted a virtual discussion focused on "Personal Identity in Diplomacy." The panel, moderated by Ambassador Tibor Nagy, featured Ambassadors Deborah Jones, Charles Ray, Marcelle Wahba, and Ted Osius as they discussed their experiences with personal identity and cultural challenges in diplomacy.

## INTERVIEW SERIES SHORTS

Academy intern (Fall '22), Megan Kibogo, a student at Smith College, designed and edited an interview series with Academy members. Through this series, Megan launched the Academy's presence onto the youth-dominated platform, Tik Tok. The bite-size videos featured Ms. Anne Aarnes and Stuart Holliday, exploring the top global issues and sharing their experiences connecting with individuals on the ground throughout their careers.

AN EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION  
**U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA**  
DEMOCRATIC TROUBLES IN OUR BACKYARD?  
TUESDAY, April 25, 2023 | 4-5 PM ET | Zoom

GUATEMALA HONDURAS EL SALVADOR

AN EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION  
**DIPLOMACY IN CRISIS**  
A virtual discussion on how diplomats navigate hostile governments, public opinion, and orders from Washington

TUESDAY, May 2, 2023 | 4-5 PM ET

AMBASSADOR RONALD NEUMANN, AMBASSADOR SUSAN PAGE, AMBASSADOR JIM JEFFREY, AMBASSADOR JOHN TEFFT

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMACY THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 4-5 PM ET  
**DIVERSITY IN DIPLOMACY**  
AN EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

AMBASSADOR HOVAKIMYAN, AMBASSADOR HOVAKIMYAN, AMBASSADOR HOVAKIMYAN, AMBASSADOR HOVAKIMYAN, AMBASSADOR HOVAKIMYAN

# PODCASTS

The Academy's two podcasts – *The General and the Ambassador* and *American Diplomat* – have grown into a huge success since their beginning in 2018. Collectively, they reached more than 1 million downloads! But things never stand still in the world of podcasts, and we have some good and bad news to tell you.

It is with a heavy heart that we share with you that *The General & the Ambassador* podcast will be sunsetting this year. Over the years the podcast received great support from a variety of generous donors, including the Fletcher School, Dataminr, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Una Chapman Cox Foundation. With their help, the podcast reached over 146,000 downloads. But the funding has ended this year, and the podcast recently recorded its 80<sup>th</sup> and final episode.



Before wrapping up, *The General and the Ambassador* highlighted several distinguished civ-mil pairings, including, General Tod Wolters and Ambassador David Satterfield on Turkey, Admiral James Foggo and Ambassador Philip Kosnett on Kosovo, Colombian General Alberto Mejia and Ambassador Kevin Whitaker on Columbia, and General Janson Boyles and Ambassador Pamela Spratlen on the partnership between Mississippi and Uzbekistan. The podcast episodes will continue to be available on all major podcast platforms. Furthermore, despite no longer recording new episodes, *The General and the Ambassador* will continue its direct student engagement component through partnerships with new and diverse universities.

*American Diplomat: The Podcast* is still going strong, but it is also entering a new chapter. Beginning in 2023, it will be moving to a new official home – Arizona State University's DC-based Leadership, Diplomacy, and National Security Lab. The Academy will still play a role in supporting the production in the future, but in a smaller role. So, it is not really a goodbye, but simply the next stage for this podcast.

In 2023, the *American Diplomat* produced 30 new episodes and reached a total of more than 875,000 downloads. The podcast has explored a variety of topics including hostage diplomacy, the future of NATO, the Netflix series "The Diplomat," gender transition in the Foreign Service, and many others.



As the co-hosts of the podcast Pete Romero and Laura Bennett observed, "We remain the only podcast in the space whose primary mission is to inform and entertain this audience and the general public about the contribution of the career Foreign Service to America's well-being." We hope that you will continue to listen to the podcast and perhaps even join it as guests in the years to come.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### **2023 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AMBASSADORS FORUM**

This year's Ambassadors Forum at the University of Michigan will take place on September 25-26. Moderated by Ronald Neumann, Liliana Ayalde, John Feeley, and Michael McKinley will discuss the panoply of issues defining U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America.

### **2023 NEBRASKA AMBASSADORS FORUM**

On October 23-24, Alonzo Fulgham, Dawn Liberi, J. Peter Pham, and Ronald Neumann will travel to the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Lincoln for the Nebraska Ambassadors Forum, which will focus on the important connection between diplomacy and development

### **ARTHUR ROSS DISCUSSIONS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AT MONTICELLO**

This year's discussion at Monticello will take place on November 17 and will welcome Lino Gutierrez, Donna Hrinak, and P. Michael McKinley to examine, "Democracy in the Americas: the Monroe Doctrine and the Past and Present of US Policy in Latin America." AAD Chairman and former Undersecretary of State Ambassador Thomas Shannon will deliver the keynote address.

# MEMBERS' CORNER

## *Annual Membership Meeting*

On June 12, 2023, the Academy once again welcomed over 90 Academy members to the luncheon, which featured keynote speaker Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, the State Department's current Director General of the Foreign Service, who updated the Academy on several ongoing departmental modernization efforts.

Academy chairman Thomas Shannon also gave remarks on the overall state of the Academy, and committee members presented updates on their work such as that of the Dillon Book Award and the success of the Academy's programs.

## *Nominate New Members!*

Warm weather calls for nominating new Academy members! The call for nominations has been issued, and we invite you to submit nominations of qualified candidates to join the Academy's membership.

The deadline for submitting nominations is **August 25, 2023** and it is quickly coming up. So, if you know any distinguished retired colleagues who would be interested in becoming a part of the Academy, please act now! Instructions to submit nominations can be found here: <https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/members/membership-election-process/>

## *Academy Member Speaker Series*

Since the start of the new year, the Academy has continued hosting its Academy Member Speaker Series, including several in-person discussions at the DACOR Bacon House. In continuing to explore a variety of diverse topics, the Academy's Series has featured several members this year including Chas Freeman on China, Marie Yovanovitch on her memoir "Lessons from the Edge" and Ukraine, moderated by Pamela Spratlen, and Robert Blake on global climate efforts.

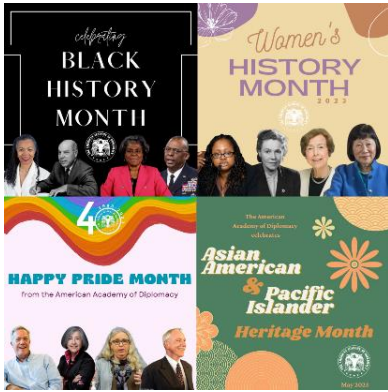
Most recently, Academy members joined Michael McKinley at the DACOR Bacon House for a lively hybrid discussion on the current situation in Latin America.

## *Henrietta Fore Award for Excellence in Development*

The field of international development frequently goes hand-in-hand with diplomacy, and the careers of many Academy members have spanned both fields. Yet, development has not received a separate recognition in the same way as diplomacy until now. This year, the Academy established a new award designed to "recognize an individual or a group who has made exemplary contributions to the field of development, either as a US Government official or in support of American developmental work."

This new award will be equivalent in prestige to the Academy's Annenberg award for excellence in diplomacy and will be named after Henrietta Fore, who proposed the idea and donated \$100,000 to the Academy for that purpose. The money will be used to offset the costs of organizing the Academy's Annual Awards Luncheon, where the award will be presented. The first recipient of the Henrietta Fore Award for Excellence in Development will be announced shortly.





## SOCIAL MEDIA

Since the beginning of the year, we have used our social media platforms to welcome our new members, celebrate different cultures, and promote inclusivity and diversity in the State Department. From #MondayswithMembers, to Black History Month, Women’s History Month, AAPI Heritage Month, and Pride Month, we have used our platform to share the stories of our members and celebrate the beauty of our

differences and our heritages.

We will also be continuing our Summer Reads series this summer, so stay tuned for book recommendations and feel free to submit your August recommendations!

## FOUNDERS’ SOCIETY

The Academy would like to recognize the 47 members, who went above and beyond in helping us achieve the goal of long-term sustainability by contributing or pledging \$10,000 or more to the Capital Campaign:

- Madeleine Albright*
- John Allen*
- Hushang Ansary*
- Robert Blake*
- Barbara Bodine*
- Thomas Boyatt*
- Kate Canavan*
- Timothy Carney*
- Charles Cobb*
- Paula Dobriansky*
- Shaun Donnelly*
- Nancy Ely-Raphel*
- Henrietta Fore*
- Alonzo Fulgham*
- Harold Geisel*
- Robert Gelbard*
- Edward Gnehm*
- Marc Grossman*
- John Hamre*
- Bill Harrop*
- Stuart Holliday*
- Robert Hunter*
- Janice Jacobs*
- Richard Jones*
- Craig Kelly*
- Robert Kimmitt*
- Steven Mann*
- Larry Napper*
- John Negroponte*
- Ronald Neumann*
- Tom Nides*
- Catherine Novelli*
- Anne Patterson*
- Thomas Pickering*
- Francis Ricciardone*
- Rozanne Ridgway*
- Charles Rivkin*
- Peter Romero*
- George Shultz*
- Carol Sisco*
- Ronald Spiers (in memory)*
- Clyde Taylor*
- Francis X. Taylor*
- David Welch*
- Frank Wisner*
- John Wolf*
- Robert Zoellick*

## IN MEMORIAM

Since our 2022 issue, the Academy has lost six great friends and colleagues:

- Elinor Constable (December 8, 2022)
- Thomas L. Hughes (Jan 2, 2023)
- Roger Kirk (January 18, 2023)
- Steven McGann (May 24, 2023)
- James F. Dobbins (July 3, 2023)
- Anthony C.E. Quainton (July 31, 2023)

We thank them for their friendship and service and honor their memory.



## STAFF UPDATE

We are sad to announce that Program Associate, Katie Azelby will be departing from her position to pursue her Master's in Public Administration at George Washington University in the fall. However, she won't be leaving the Academy completely, as she'll stay on part-time for the fall semester.

As for Katie's replacement, following a rigorous and competitive search, we welcomed a new Program and Finance Assistant, Sienna Ross. Sienna first joined the Academy as our summer intern, but very quickly demonstrated her exceptional abilities, and we just had to welcome her to the team permanently. Sienna moved to DC after graduating from New York University, where she studied Politics and Middle Eastern Studies. Prior to the Academy, Sienna interned at Network 20/20 as a program and communications intern, and for the City of Claremont as a public policy intern and speechwriter for Claremont Mayor Jed Leano.

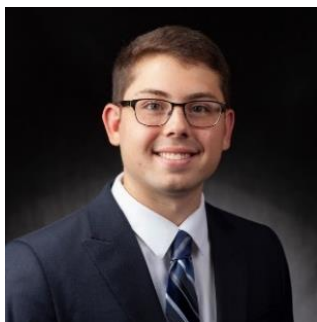


The Academy's intern program continues to welcome exceptional undergraduate and graduate students from universities around the country to gain valuable professional experience while working on our team.

During the Spring 2023 term, we welcomed Bob Greenbaum, a graduate student at American University, and Toby Szustak, a sophomore attending Texas Tech University.

For the Summer 2023 term, Josh Ford, a rising junior at Georgetown University, joined our team.

In the Fall 2023, the Academy team will be joined by Morgan Kogan from George Washington University, and Mariana Melzer from Brown University.



## DONORS & PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Academy would like to extend a sincere thank you to our donors, supporters and program partners. Without you, we would not be able to host the programs we do today.

*American Foreign Service Association*

*Arthur Ross Foundation Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training*

*Carnegie Corporation of New York*

*College of William & Mary Council of American Ambassadors*

*DACOR Bacon House Fletcher School at Tufts University*

*Foreign Service Institute Henrietta Fore*

*Hotchkiss School*

*Johnston-Hanson Foundation Kent School*

*Leadership, Diplomacy and National Security Lab at Arizona State University*

*Luther I. Replogle Foundation Rice University*

*Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello*

*Sisco Family Fund*

*Thomas Jefferson Foundation Texas Tech University*

*The Dillon Fund*

*Una Chapman Cox Foundation University of Michigan*

*University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Omaha*

*Walter and Leonore Annenberg Foundation*

### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMACY

1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 902 • Washington, DC 20036 • Tel (202) 331-3721

academy@academyofdiplomacy.org • www.academyofdiplomacy.org