



2017 December Review

This is our review of activity since the summer, as we continue regular updates on activities, past and coming.

Protecting the Institutions of Diplomacy

The Academy has continued to work on issues concerning the problems in the State Department. Our offers to help with the famous redesign have elicited no response but we have consulted with the Congress. We have kept in close touch with AFSA President Barbara Stephenson and Tony Wayne, the head of the AFSA PAC, as they work budget issues with Congress. AFSA has some "bread and butter" issues particular to the Foreign Service that are not ours, but on the broad budget issue, our interests overlap and we can be mutually reinforcing.



The big change was the decision by the board to oppose the nomination of Stephen Akard as Director General of the Foreign Service. The law requires that the DG be a current or former Foreign Service Officer; Akard served for eight years, leaving the Service in 2007 for private industry. He is not qualified to be the senior advisor to the Secretary on personnel and his nomination is a significant step away from the professional diplomacy the Academy has worked for. The decision to oppose, the first time the Academy has taken such a position in years and perhaps ever, has been followed by action. Chairman Pickering and I wrote to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's chairman and ranking member and circulated our letter to all members of the SFRC. A congressional committee was organized. Led by Lorne Craner and Mike Van Dusen and with active support from several Academy members with strong congressional connections, it has been consulting actively. Former Senator Lugar has weighed in with Chairman Corker. Ten former directors general (all those living and not still in the Service) have sent a letter to the committee opposing the nomination. Most recently, former Secretary of State George Shultz has written to Corker to add his influence to the nomination's opposition.

Both the letter noted above and that from the former directors general can be found [here](#).

New Project in Security Training

New Ambassadors get a bit of lecture time on security and FSI does training on crisis management, but there is no really focused training on how to manage emerging threat situations or how to think about how to weigh risks vs. gains in making decisions with security implications. The post Benghazi near-zero risk tolerance makes such training particularly necessary. We have designed a project to produce a number of scenarios for simulation training by small groups in the ambassadors and DCM courses. The project intends to produce the simulations, test and refine them with volunteers from the above courses, and then turn the finished product over to the Department. We have support from the acting DG, FSI and the new assistant secretary for DS, and we will produce the scenarios in cooperation with the McCain Institute of Arizona State University. The project is now fully funded thanks to the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, the Replogle Foundation, the Sisco Family Fund, the Delavan Foundation and GardaWorld Federal Services. We will begin work in January.

Podcasts

In our review last summer, I noted that we were focusing our outreach programs particularly on explaining the importance of diplomacy and giving a sense of what it does. The program committee - led by Deborah McCarthy - is going forward with two lines of effort. One is focused on our traditional type of speaking programs, detailed on page 3.



The second is an effort to reach new audiences through podcasts. Deborah has begun a series, titled [*The General and the Ambassador*](#), which uses the interaction between a commander and an ambassador to showcase how diplomacy actually works. The first program featuring Ambassador Ryan Crocker and General David Petraeus has been released and can be found [here](#). Several more podcasts in this series will follow.

Meanwhile, Pete Romero has begun a separate series of podcast interviews with former ambassadors in a short and chatty format; again to carry the message of what diplomacy is really all about. While these are not Academy programs, they are very much within our shared aims. I encourage you to try out some of these short interviews, which can be found [here](#).

Speaking Programs

1. The dates for our [Omaha](#) and [Texas Tech](#) Ambassadors Forums have been set for April 3 and April 14, 2018, respectively. The topic will be “**The Administration's Foreign Policy One Year In: A selected scorecard**”, and will include panel discussions with Ambassadors Deborah McCarthy, Marcie Ries, Tony Wayne and Susan Ziadeh, moderated by either Jim Collins or Ron Neumann.
2. On October 28, at Monticello, in cooperation with the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, we addressed [America's Security Alliances: What's the Price, What are they Worth?](#) Joe Mussomeli, Bob Beecroft, and Deborah McCarthy were panelists, with Richard Boucher giving the keynote. The program was very successful. Mark your calendars for the next edition, which has been set for October 27, 2018.



THE AUDIENCE AT MONTICELLO IN OCTOBER 2017, INCLUDING THE PROGRAM'S SPEAKERS

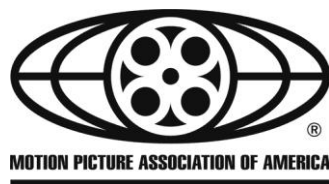
3. The [2017 Sisco Forum](#) on October 30 addressed the issues of migration and immigration and was held at the Humphrey Center at the University of Minnesota. Phyllis Oakley and a

local speaker, Dr. MayKao Hang, discussed the issue, with Ron Neumann moderating. Eric Schwartz delivered the keynote address.



SISCO FORUM SPEAKERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IN OCTOBER 2017

- Ambassador Robert Kimmitt very kindly gave the Academy a donation to develop programs in coordination with the **American Council on Germany**. The first lecture will be next year in Atlanta, where Ambassador Charles Rivkin will be exploring some fascinating diplomacy with Germany and the EU in support of the American film industry. Why this subject in Atlanta you might ask? Because, as Charlie Rivkin educated me from his new post as CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America, Atlanta films more movies than Hollywood.



Publications and Follow up



Our major study last year was *Support for American Jobs - Part I Requirements for Next-Generation Commercial Diplomacy Programs*. Chaired by Charles Ford and

ably assisted by Shaun Donnelly, the report examined how to improve State-Commerce cooperation in support of U.S. commercial diplomacy programs. In June the team finished a follow-on report that was prepared at the requests of State and Commerce. Chuck and Shaun were assisted by former Foreign Commercial Services FSO Carmine D'Aloisio, again under the direction of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation and with support from BCIU. It again draws extensively on interviews with experienced corporate executives and senior executives at the Departments of State and Commerce to make recommendations on how to respond to our major competitors, win more business, and enhance public-private partnerships. You can find it [here](#). We're now working on drawing significant policy attention to the report.

New Members

The membership committee chaired by Shaun Donnelly made a highly successful effort to broaden our diversity recruitment as well as keep up with the sudden departure of highly qualified candidates from active service. The result was a particularly large and well qualified addition of [new members](#) to our ranks after the election. Congratulations to Shaun and the members of the membership committee who made a special effort to bring about this year's success.

Member Lunches



AMBASSADORS BURK AND KENNEDY SHARED LUNCH WITH FELLOW ACADEMY MEMBERS BEFORE MAKING THEIR REMARKS

The Academy periodically organizes member lunches at DACOR, during which one of our members addresses a subject of his or her expertise. In October 2017, we brought together two Academy members, Ambassadors Susan Burk and Laura Kennedy, to make a joint presentation on "The Challenges of Multilateral Nonproliferation and Disarmament." In December, Ambassador Theodore Kattouf presented "Syria: Choosing Among the Limited (Bad) Options Remaining" to an audience of 40 members.

Our next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2018. Ambassador Robert Einhorn will give some remarks on "Getting Realistic about Addressing North Korea's Nuclear Challenge." Send us an email if you would like to sign up!



AMBASSADOR KATTOUF AT THE DECEMBER MEMBER LUNCH AT DACOR

Annual Awards' Lunch

The Academy held its [Annual Awards' Lunch](#) on November 29, 2017, in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the State Department, co-hosted this year again by Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon. With 140 members and guests in attendance, it was our largest such event to date. Former Secretary of Defense [William Perry](#) was our guest of honor and recipient of the Academy's Annenberg award for diplomatic excellence. Perry's very interesting speech will be shared online once we receive it. The Dillon Book award went to [Ambassador James Dobbins](#) for his memoir *Foreign Service – Five Decades on the Frontlines of American Diplomacy*. The Ross Media awards honored [Jonathan Landay](#), as a reporter, and [Fareed Zakaria](#) in the commentator category.



DR. BILL PERRY AND HIS DAUGHTER ROBIN POSE BEFORE THE AWARDS LUNCHEON WITH ACADEMY PRESIDENT RON NEUMANN

Some Gaps in our Ranks

We lost some good friends this year. At the Awards' Lunch, we had a moment of silence for friends and colleagues who have left us this year:

- Donald Bandler - 2/25/17
- Richard Solomon - 3/13/17
- Deane Hinton - 3/28/17
- Richard Fox - 4/9/17
- Lawrence Pezzulo - 7/26/17
- Robert Miller - 9/11/17
- Howard Schaffer - 11/17/17

Cooperation with FSI

The American Academy of Diplomacy has partnered with the Foreign Service Institute to have experienced Academy members serve as lecturers or panelists in a variety of courses since the year 2010. In 2017, twelve Academy-sponsored speakers/panelists have volunteered to speak to students of the Basic Regional Security Officer (BRSO) courses at the DS Training Center in

Dunn Loring. This is the one opportunity new ARSOs have to get a front office perspective before they deploy to their first overseas posting. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer as speaker in future editions of the courses. We are still looking for a speaker for the August 13, 2018 session.

Website and social media

The Academy has made a significant effort to increase our social media presence, as a way to reach broader audiences and increase our outreach. We ask for your help in keeping our website sections up-to-date: [books published by members](#), [teaching resources](#), and [member biographies](#). Some of the bios are out of date, as many of you continue to add to your laurels. Please do send us your updates at academy@academyofdiplomacy.org.

We also ask for your help in “spinning the wheel” of our social media handles, particularly Twitter, where the impact of a re-tweet from you surpasses many hours of our own efforts!

Please follow us: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)

Top Tweet earned 10.7K impressions

This [@ForeignPolicy](#) piece offers 5 options for Senator Corker to curb the damage being done to the diplomatic corps, starting with the refusal to hold a hearing for Trump’s nominee as director general of the Foreign Service.

foreignpolicy.com/2017/11/13/can...
pic.twitter.com/ykW6tGqgBY



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OUR TOP TWEET DURING THE PAST 6 MONTHS EARNED 10,700 IMPRESSIONS

Financial Condition and staff

We again had a clean audit. The finance committee - under the chairmanship of Tom Boyatt - is regularly reviewing our financial strategies. With excellent support from members, hard work, and some luck, we completed another on-budget year and were even able to bank a small surplus. However, since our holdings do not generate enough to cover all recurring expenses without getting into principal, we will again start the year 2018 with a potential \$20,000 deficit. We are grateful for the many voluntary contributions we have received and will look to those and to possible new programs to again close the gap.

Isabel de Prado continues to do a masterful job of supporting our committee heads as well as myself. It is difficult to overstate how much we depend on her. Summer Minden has moved from being our intern to taking over an expanded administrative assistant's portfolio. We have expanded the job to a full time one with more program responsibilities and are very pleased with how Summer is taking hold and helping to expand our ability to support all our varied programs.



THE ACADEMY'S STAFF POSED FOR A HOLIDAY CARD. FROM L TO R, SUMMER MINDEN, RON NEUMANN, ISABEL DE PRADO

Donors

The Academy would like to thank [our donors and supporters](#):

- The Una Chapman Cox Foundation,
- Sisco Family Fund,
- Nelson B. Delavan Foundation,
- Luther Replogle Foundation,
- Black & Veatch Corporation,
- Garda Federal Services
- Johnston-Hanson Foundation,
- Walter and Leonore Annenberg Foundation,
- Arthur Ross Foundation, and
- The Dillon Fund.

All the very best to all of you,

Ron Neumann

President