

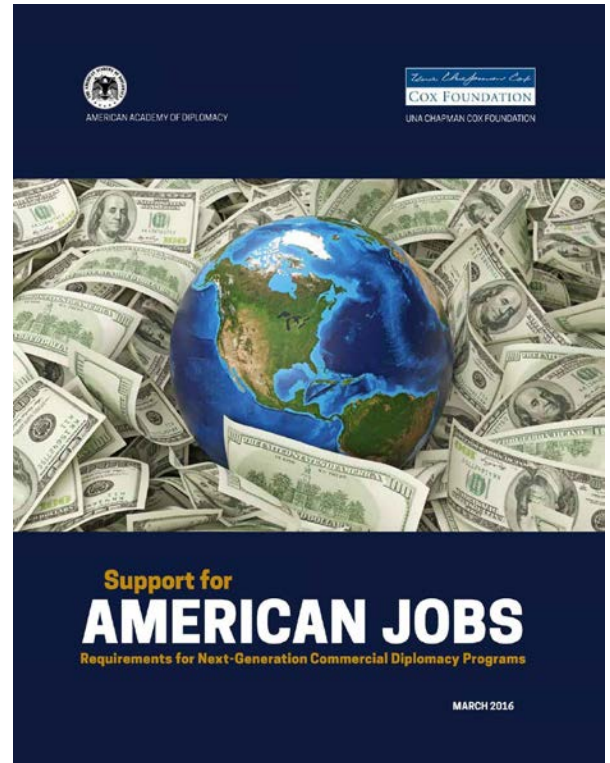


# 2016 in Review

This is the first of what we will try to make regular updates on activities in the future. The Academy had a busy and productive year.

## Publications and Follow up

1. Our major study this year was [Support for American Jobs: 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. It was prepared under the direction of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation and launched in a public event in cooperation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on May 20. This report, drawn from interviews with more than 50 experienced corporate executives and senior executives at the Departments of State and Commerce, identifies requirements to inform the development of these next-generation programs in policy framework, programs and services, professional development, and training and education. Six core recommendations are made for US government action.



The report was received very favorably in both State and Commerce. Several of the recommendations have been accepted and, at the request of both departments, with continued Cox support, the Academy is doing a second phase of the report particularly

focused on expanding public-private partnerships. The report is available on our [website](#). Additionally, [Chuck Ford's excellent article](#) about it was published in October in *The Ambassadors Review*, the magazine of the Council of American Ambassadors.

2. We continued follow up work on the recommendations made last year in our critical study of the Department, [American Diplomacy at Risk](#). Led by Tom Pickering, we held one meeting with Secretary John Kerry, three with Deputy Secretary Heather Higginbottom, and multiple meetings with a working group co-chaired by the Principal Deputy in the Director General's office and Ron Neumann. We nudged a few reforms, supported FSI's expansion of so-called foundational training for entering Foreign Service Officers, and helped to end the overuse of Schedule-B appointments. The report has been referenced in a number of articles and publications, including a study on reform of the State Department authored by the Heritage Foundation. We noted many common themes with the Heritage paper when we briefed the Trump State Department Transition Team shortly before the election to urge continued attention to the need for long term reform (the Democratic Transition Team declined meetings before the election). Our report is accessible on [the website](#).

## Board's Offsite

The Board, including those who will take their seats in January, held an offsite meeting in November to discuss future directions of the Academy. A summary of that meeting was sent to all members. Since then, three committees have been formed to study **outreach** programs, the advisability of creating a **Political Action Committee** (PAC) and preparing specific rewrites to the **Foreign Service Act** of 1980. We will update you on their work as it goes forward.

## Speaking Programs

1. Under two continuing grants we conducted speaking programs at the [University of Nebraska at Omaha](#) (April 29) and [Texas Tech University](#) (March 7). In both cases the subject was **Changing Borders: US interests in a Fragmented Middle East**. Robert Ford, John Limbert, and Ron Neumann were the speakers with Jim Collins moderating in Omaha and Richard Hoagland at Texas Tech. Videos of all the speakers at Texas Tech are on our

[website](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).



SPEAKERS AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

2. Fletcher School at Tufts (Sept. 14): [Iran a Year Later, Did Diplomacy Do its Job](#). Bill Burns keynoted a program that looked at the technical score card (Bob Einhorn), the Iranian view of its policy (John Limbert) and a view of what an American policy based on interests might look like (Ron Neumann). Videos of all the presentations are on our [website](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

3. At Monticello in cooperation with the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Oct. 22): [Diplomatic Challenges for the Next Administration](#). This program began with an historical perspective from Professor Frank Cogliano, a panel discussion chaired by Bob Beecroft and featuring Charlie Ries, Eric Schwartz, and Ron Neumann with Barbara Bodine giving a key note speech on values and interests. The Monticello program has become so popular that it was, again, fully subscribed within a few days of opening registration.



SPEAKERS AT MONTICELLO

4. We put special emphasis into explaining the role of the Foreign Service to Americans outside the Beltway. We funded speakers for programs that involved the showing of the excellent film [America's Diplomats followed by a Q&A session](#). Programs to date:

Screening	Date	Speakers
Missoula, Montana	4/12/2016	Mark Johnson
Grand Rapids, Michigan	6/15/2016	Ronald Neumann
Jacksonville, Florida	8/8/2016	Marilyn McAfee and James Jeffrey
Nashville, Tennessee	9/7/2016	Dick Bowers and Ronald Schlicher
Portland, Oregon	10/10/2016	Harriet Isom, John and Mary Carlin Yates
Houston, Texas	11/17/2016	Thomas McNamara
Anchorage, Alaska	12/2/2016	John Yates

We will have a few more programs next year. If members have an audience and would like to put on a program, either speaking themselves or with a speaker we provide, please let us know. We can get you the film. Similar programs built around the film have been sponsored by AFSA and by the Diplomacy Center. We have maintained sufficient coordination not to duplicate each other's efforts.

## Member Lunches

The Academy periodically organizes member lunches at DACOR, during which one of our members addresses a subject of his expertise. In January 2016, Ambassador Kurt Volker gave remarks on the refugee crisis in Europe, and was introduced by Ambassador Tom Miller, who gave brief remarks on the Greek perspective. In March, Ambassador Jim Jeffrey discussed the outlook for the campaign against ISIS.

In May, Ambassador Robert Hunter discussed the topic: "NATO's Warsaw Summit: Win or Window-Dressing." In September, it was the turn of Ambassador "Tony" Wayne to discuss the topic: "Building a Partnership with Mexico." Our last lunch of the year took place last Thursday, December 15, gathering over 30 members to listen to Ambassador James Collins sharing his thoughts on Russia.



AMBASSADOR COLLINS AT A MEMBER LUNCH

## Awards

This year's 27<sup>th</sup> [Awards Luncheon](#) was co-sponsored by Undersecretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon. The Annenberg award for excellence in diplomacy went to [Robert Zoellick](#), former Deputy Secretary of State, Head of USTR and President of the World Bank. You can access his remarks [here](#). The Dillon book award was won by [Nancy Mitchell's](#) *Jimmy Carter in Africa*. Her [acceptance remarks](#) were a notable tribute to the Foreign Service. The Ross media award for Reporting was won by [Jason Rezaian](#) of the Washington Post, now free from imprisonment in Iran. [Roy Gutman](#) took the Columnist's award. A special mention was made to [Mrs. Patricia Taylor](#), wife of the late Canadian Ambassador Kenneth Taylor, who was recognized for the courage that her husband and herself showed in 1979 during the hostage crisis in Tehran.



ROBERT ZOELICK RECEIVED THE ANNEBERG AWARD



SPECIAL MENTION TO PATRICIA TAYLOR

## Membership election

Our membership election brought in excellent new members to the Academy. The new members list and biographies can be found in [our website](#). Following discussions in the membership committee and the offsite, membership chairman Shaun Donnelly has formed a small committee to work particularly on increasing our diversity.

## 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 2016, ten Academy-sponsored speakers/panelists have volunteered to speak to students of the Basic Regional Security Officer (BRSO) courses at the DS Training Center. 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 the 2017 edition of the courses.

## Website

The Website has been significantly redesigned. We have added a new page on [books published by members](#). Some of the bios are out of date as many of you continue to add to your laurels. I encourage you to send us updates (contact [academy@academyofdiplomacy.org](mailto:academy@academyofdiplomacy.org).)

## Financial Condition and staff

With excellent support from members, hard work and some luck, we are closing the year with a small surplus. Our yearly audit has given us a clean bill of health. However, we will again start the new year with a projected deficit since our holdings do not generate enough to cover all recurring expenses without getting into principal; something we have so far avoided. With continued support from our members and, perhaps, another project or two, we hope to close the gap but we will not know for some time.

Aimee Stoltz, our excellent managing director, left over the summer to further her career. Isabel de Prado, who had been our administrative assistant, moved up to take Aimee's position. I can report with enthusiasm that the transition was essentially seamless and our tiny office continues to have the excellent support that many of you have experienced in person. Clara Ren has joined us as our new administrative assistant.

## 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,
- Johnston-Hanson Foundation,
- Walter and Leonore Annenberg Foundation,
- Arthur Ross Foundation, and
- The Dillon Fund.



CAROL SISCO RECEIVING SPECIAL AWARD IN 2015

## Final Note

The next Administration is still shaping up but the need for top quality diplomacy is a constant. We will continue do our best to explain this to the American public and to make the case for essential reforms to the incoming Administration. We will continue to try to make a difference with the support of our members who continue to give generously financially, in speaking on important subjects, and in working on our various projects and committees.

All the very best to all of you,

Ron Neumann  
President