PROTECTING INSTITUTIONS OF DIPLOMACY

NEW RELEASE
*Strengthening the Department of State*

The Academy’s newly-released report *Strengthening the Department of State* tackles a number of out-of-date practices that hamper diplomacy by offering the Department concrete recommendations for how to enhance its structures and processes to better identify, recruit, train, support, equip, and protect its people.

“Secretary Pompeo is looking for ways to up performance. In response, we’re proposing new ways to meet his goals based on deep experience,” described Tom Pickering, chairman of the Academy and of the project.

The deep experience referenced by Pickering came from such top experts, as former Directors General, senior leaders including Bill Burns and Tom Shannon, and the deep bench at the Partnership for Public Service, along with many others. The Academy is particularly grateful to Alex Karagiannis, Robert M. Beecroft and John Naland for their efforts on this project, and to the Honorable Hushang Ansary for funding it.

...*continue reading on p.2*

**ATTENTION: After July 29, 2019, the Academy will be temporarily located on the 10th floor of its current building pending the renovation completion of our 9th floor office.**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The level of activity documented below cannot continue indefinitely at the rate we draw from our investments. We must grow financially or cut activities.

The campaign to raise $3 million in three years is about twenty five percent of the way to the goal. Twenty two members have joined the Founders Society.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED, PLEASE DO!**

Details are on p. 4 or at [https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/donate/3-in-3-capital-campaign/](https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/donate/3-in-3-capital-campaign/)

**AAD ON THE HILL**

As a result of our most recent actions, the Academy’s profile on the Hill has grown, which certainly helps our continued engagement with Congress on several issues that impact the Department.

**NEW COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY EFFORTS**

The Academy has been actively working with HFAC and SFRC staff on a new bill on commercial diplomacy (H.R. 1704), which spells out concrete supporting and reporting actions by State and Commerce Departments to encourage synergy and collaboration on the subject. The bill received bipartisan support in the House and is currently being considered by the Senate. Drawing on its previous Support for American Jobs reports, the Academy has put forward several ideas for the Senate to enhance the bill and has even been asked by the minority staff to supply concrete language for the bill.

...*continued on p. 2.*
NEW RELEASE: Strengthening the Department of State

The report has already been shared with top State and FSI leadership as well as with congressional leaders and staff on the Senate Foreign Relations, House Foreign Affairs and Appropriations SFOPS subcommittees.

You can download the report digitally from the Academy’s website or request a hard copy from our office. Also, look for an article about the report in the July-August issue of the Foreign Service Journal.

“Secretary Pompeo is looking for ways to up performance. In response, we’re proposing new ways to meet his goals based on deep experience.”

PROTECTING INSTITUTIONS OF DIPLOMACY (CONT.)

NEW COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY EFFORTS

Our proposals include expanding the role of the private sector, taking into consideration such areas as financial, service and technical flows not adequately supported by dated US regulations, and an examination of what our major foreign competitors are doing.

Our efforts have been spearheaded by Lorne Craner, Mike Van Dusen, Shaun Donnelly, Chuck Cobb, Tony Wayne and Charles Rivkin, all of whom continue to work with both majority and minority staff as the bill moves forward.

While the extent to which our views will be reflected in the bill is still unknown, it is important to note that Republican and Democratic staff of HFAC have encouraged our activity with the SFRC, and we have found bipartisan receptivity from the staff there to hearing our views.

This effort in many ways owes thanks to Chuck Cobb, who energized us to return to the commercial diplomacy issues. With his help we are also pursuing the idea of a joint State-Commerce conference on the recommendations developed by the Support for American Jobs reports, possibly with White House support.

STATE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

On May 1, the Academy sent a letter to the members of Congress urging them to reject the Administration’s budget for the State Department on the grounds that the proposed cuts weaken American diplomacy and pose serious risks to American security.

SISCO FORUM ON RISK

This year’s Sisco Forum will be held on the Hill and will focus on the subject of diplomats taking risk and getting out beyond embassy walls. The goal is to raise congressional awareness about the importance of this subject before starting a conversation with the Department about changing its current practices. The event will bring together a panel of high profile Academy members to speak to congressional staff about the importance of on-the-ground access to influence leaders to do what we want and to obtain essential threat warnings and information essential for making good policy judgments.

AAD ON THE HILL
The Academy and the McCain Institute, are closing in on the completion of its Ambassador Security Training Project, which aims to prepare new ambassadors and DCMs for effective decision making in pre-crisis situations. With guidance from the project’s Advisory Group, composed of members with expertise in diplomatic security and prior experience in crisis and pre-crisis situations, all five scenarios as well as facilitation materials for the simulation have been completed and put through several rounds of rigorous tests.

The initial trial run, held in February, focused on a single scenario and involved three high-profile volunteers from DC think tanks and the FSI acting as trainee ambassadors. The successful performance of this initial trial led to two full-length trial runs with the involvement of volunteers from the actual COM and DCM classes provided by FSI. The first full-length trial run was held at the McCain Institute’s Decision Theater and was observed by FSI’s Deputy Director Ambassador Julieta Noyes and her staff. The second full-length trial run was held at FSI and was observed by FSI’s Director Ambassador Dan Smith and other senior FSI staff members.

Overall, the project’s trial phase has trained seven members of the Foreign Service – two COM nominees, five outgoing DCMs and two Principal Officers – and received an overwhelmingly positive response. Everyone noted that it was a very useful exercise and that they have not done anything like that before. One participant noted speaking about the simulation that, “I don’t know what perfection is, but this is pretty close.”

FSI leadership has also been impressed by the training and its potential. They have told us they want to integrate it into COM training. We are working out the details of formal transfer and what kinds of assistance FSI may need to get the program up and running.

Primary funding came from the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, Replogle Foundation, Garda Federal Systems, the Delevan Foundation, and the Sisco Family Fund. Without their generous support this vision could never have become reality.
The Academy’s Ambassadors Forum at Texas Tech University keeps going strong with its 4th annual forum held in March of 2019. Addressing “Nationalism and World Crises: A Discussion of America’s Role in International Affairs”, Ambassadors Ronald E. Neumann, Frank Almaguer, Catherine A. Novelli, and Michael C. Polt engaged in dialogue related to the role America plays in foreign policy and international relations.

The Academy has become an effective and respected defender of professional diplomacy. Our activities, programs and studies detailed in this newsletter alone show just how much the Academy’s work has expanded. But the Academy has been implementing these programs on a shoestring budget. To ensure the Academy’s long-term ability to expand its work, we need a secure financial base. That is why this January we launched a three-year campaign to raise $3 million, with $1.5 million in donation commitments that will be paid over three years and another $1.5 million in planned giving legacy bequests that would be paid to the Academy over a longer period.

To-date, the campaign had received $717,617 in pledges. 129 members have stepped up with donation commitments, including the entire Board of Directors. Additionally, 6 members have made legacy pledges. We greatly appreciate each of these commitments, as every one of them helps us move toward our target, but we still need your help. There are many ways to make your contribution, including cash, appreciated securities, required distributions, or legacy pledges. Please see our website for more info.

The proceeds of the campaign will not divert the Academy from its commitment to lean staffing and expense sharing such as our shared office space. Instead, a successful campaign will provide the resources needed to ensure small operating deficits are covered and provide seed money needed to develop new programs that will be funded by individual donors, foundations, or other institutions.

To recognize those members, who contributed, or pledged to contribute, $10,000 or more to the Capital Campaign, the Academy has established the Founders Society. The following 22 members went above and beyond in helping the Academy achieve its goal of long-term financial sustainability:

- Thomas Boyatt
- Kate Canavan
- Charles Cobb
- Shaun Donnelly
- Nancy Ely-Raphel
- Alonzo Fulgham
- Marc Grossman
- John Hamre
- Bill Harrop
- Robert Hunter
- Janice Jacobs
- John Negroponte
- Ronald Neumann
- Thomas Pickering
- Francis Ricciardone
- Rozanne Ridgway
- Charles Rivkin
- Peter Romero
- Clyde Taylor
- Frank Taylor
- David Welch
- Frank Wisner
Podcasts

With efforts of the podcasts’ hosts, the Advisory Group, and the Academy’s continued partnership with the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, The American Diplomat: Real Stories Behind the News and The General and the Ambassador: A Conversation have significantly grown their reach and listener base since the beginning of the year. In March of 2019, both podcast series were featured in several “Top” lists by Apple, Podbay.fm, Player.fm and Podtail.com. Featuring 122 podcast episodes combined, American Diplomat and The General and the Ambassador have accumulated more than 100,000 downloads from listeners all over the world.

AD downloads have doubled since last year, reaching 88,000 with an average of 7,000 monthly downloads. G&A, with nearly 18,000 total unique downloads, averages over 1,600 monthly downloads. In addition to downloads, both podcasts are also growing their numbers of subscribers. AD has 2,999 subscribers on Spotify, and the G&A has 216 subscribers on iTunes.

To expand their outreach efforts, both podcasts have hosted live recording events at universities around the country. In March, The General and the Ambassador brought together Lt. General Sean McFarland and Ambassador Stuart Jones to discuss civil-military cooperation in Iraq at Duke University’s Program in American Grand Strategy. In an event titled, “US/Brazil Bromance: What’s in Store for Us?”, the Weiser Diplomacy Center at the University of Michigan and the hosts of American Diplomat joined Ambassador Thomas Shannon to examine the two countries’ relations on April 11.

The podcast team has engaged the services of the Golding Group from Oklahoma in order to increase audience engagement throughout Midwestern states.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Arthur Ross Discussions at Monticello

This year’s annual program in Monticello is titled “American Support for Democracy; a Path Full of Pitfalls. It will be on October 26, 2019 and will feature a panel discussion by Lorne Craner, Ronald Neumann and John Tefft. Robert Beecroft will lead a keynote discussion with Anne Applebaum.

Hotchkiss Ambassador Speaker Series

Tom Countryman will represent the Academy at our annual Ambassador Speaker Series at the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, CT at the end of October.

Ambassadors Forum at University of Michigan

This year the Academy is starting a new collaboration with the Ambassadors Forum at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and the Weiser Diplomacy Center at the University of Michigan. Our first Ambassadors Forum there will take place on November 21, 2019. Deborah McCarthy will moderate a Persian Gulf-focused panel that includes Gerald Feierstein, John Limbert and Ronald Neumann.

Ambassadors Panel at George Washington University

One of our spring semester interns, Sarah Moon, showed an exceptional initiative by connecting the Academy with GWU’s Alexander Hamilton Society and organizing a co-sponsored Ambassador panel event that featured Shaun Donnelly, Chas Freeman and Jenonne Walker, moderated by Ronald Neumann. More than 40 students and community members attended the event, and the Alexander Hamilton Society student leadership expressed an interested in co-hosting future events with the Academy.
Annual Membership Meeting

On May 31st, the Academy once again welcomed over 90 members and guests at its Annual Meeting at DLA Piper/The Gohen Group. The Academy’s Chairman Thomas Pickering gave impassioned welcome remarks on the state of diplomacy and how the Academy’s work contributes to it. The Vice Chair Marc Grossman persuasively called on the members to participate in the Academy’s Capital Campaign. Committee chairs updated the members on the work of the Academy. In the second half of the meeting, the membership heard from this year’s keynote speaker, Director General of the Foreign Service, Ambassador Carol Perez.

Member Lunches

In February, 13 new members gathered at DACOR to hear from the Academy’s leadership and committee chairs about our work and how they can join the effort. Since then, C. Fred Bergsten joined the Finance Committee, Bruce Wharton and Maura Connelly joined the Program Committee, Jeffrey DeLaurentis joined the Book Award Committee, and David Pearce joined the Media Award Committee. Thank you to all of them for their active participation!

The Academy also held two informal member lunches so far this year. In March, 34 members came to hear Earl Anthony “Tony” Wayne speak about Mexico, and in May, 29 members gathered for a talk by Richard Olson on Pakistan.

Looking Ahead

Nominate New Members!

The 2019 new member nomination process is about to launch, so please be on a lookout for an email with instructions and forms.

What is on your reading list this summer?

Members of the Book Award Committee would like to know what you are reading and encourage you to reach out to them with suggestions of recently-published books by authored by US citizens on diplomacy for the Dillon Award consideration.

Do you have a favorite journalist or a commentator?

Please let the Media Award Committee know as they may be a candidate for the Ross Media Award.

Save the Date: November 12, 2019!

This year’s Annual Awards Luncheon will be on November 12, 2019 and will be hosted by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador David Hale. Look for a formal Save the Date email in your inbox in the next couple of weeks!
Since the beginning of the year, the Academy has lost several great friends and colleagues. We thank them for their friendship and service, and we honor their memory.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Academy continued to expand its efforts to promote diplomacy’s role and importance through its online presence. On Facebook, we grew our number of followers from 1,773 to 2,054 since the beginning of the year. Similarly, on Twitter our follower count is up to 2,298 from 1,982 in last December. On LinkedIn, the Academy has gained 62 new followers and now has 432 total followers, with the overall engagement rate of 5.32%, which is more than double compared to the State Department’s LinkedIn page.

Across our social media platforms, the Academy continues to distribute member articles, share weekly “featured member” profiles, highlight diplomacy-related historic events, and showcase American Diplomat and The General and the Ambassador podcast episodes.

Please help us reach wider audiences about diplomacy – re-tweet, like, share, and comment on our posts. Also, if you have published new books, taught new courses, or recently updated your bio, please let us know so that we can update those sections on the Academy’s website. You can email your updates to academy@academyofdiplomacy.org.

STAFF

This spring, the Academy welcomed interns Fatu Dukuly, a student from Belmont University, and Sarah Moon, from George Washington University. Following their internships, Fatu has graduated and is entering the professional world of international affairs in Washington, DC, while Sarah Moon is interning with the U.S. Embassy in Osaka, Japan before returning to GWU. At the end of May, Bailey McCue from the University of Colorado, Boulder and Paul Litwin from the University of Pennsylvania joined the Academy in May as our Summer Interns.