Many issues that shape the quality of our lives have an international dimension. Global economic interdependence, the development of appropriate environmental strategies, the resolution of regional conflicts and the enhancement of human rights all require a global perspective. An important component of the educational experience is discussion and interaction with people from many cultures. Since 1964 Kearney State College, now the University of Nebraska-Kearney, has sponsored this international conference to discuss issues of global importance. In 1988, the name of the conference was changed to honor Professor James E. Smith.

In light of U.S. involvement in the current war on terror, it is imperative that we have a complex understanding of cultures, religions and regions of the world in a post-Bush world. Our education experience must present opportunities to develop perspective consciousness so that we are better prepared to live in the 21st century. We hope this year’s conference will assist you in developing a better understanding of human rights and that it will give you multiple perspectives of this complex issue.

March 10, 2008

**Monday**

**Ponderosa A & B**

**Politics of Tolerance and Ethnic Conflict**

905-9:55 AM

Global War on Terrorism: “Home Game” & “Away Game”

Canadian Perspective

**Dr. Joel J. Sokolsky**

Royal Military College of Canada

Ontario, CANADA

Change in the Middle Eastern Power Balance and its Reflection on Current Politics of Conflicts

**Dr. Andy David**

Deputy Consul General

Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest

Chicago, IL

Moderator: **Dr. Frank Tenkorang**, Department of Economics
Ponderosa C & D  Politics, Indigenous Rights and Poetry
9:05 – 9:55 AM

Fredy Chicangana, Indigenous Poet
Cauca, Colombia

Hugo Jamioy Juagibioy, Poet
Kamentsa Nacion, Putamayo, Colombia

Moderator: Alison Hedge Coke, Department of English

Ponderosa A & B  Democracy and the War on Terror – A Discussion
10:15-11:30 AM

His Excellency Ambassador Pierre Vimont
Embassy of France
Washington, D.C.

His Excellency Ambassador Nabil Fahmy
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Washington, D.C.

His Excellency
Ambassador Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Dr. Carol Lilly, Department of History

Chancellors Dining Room  Chancellors Luncheon
11:45 – 1:45 PM

Welcome

Secretary of State John Gale
French/U.S. Relations

His Excellency Ambassador Pierre Vimont
Embassy of France
Washington, D.C.

Introducer: Chancellor Douglas Kristensen

Ponderosa A & B  Challenges in the Middle-east from an Egyptian Perspective
1:25 - 2:15 PM

His Excellency Ambassador Nabil Fahmy
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Dr. William Aviles, Department of Political Science

Ponderosa C & D  Foreign Policy Challenges in a Changing Global Scenario
2:30 – 3:45 PM

Mr. Achilles Zaluar
Counselor
Embassy of Brazil
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Sibi George, Political Counsellor
Embassy of India
Washington, D.C.

Mr. B. Odonjil,
Deputy Chief of Mission & Minister Counselor
Embassy of Mongolia
Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Dr. Satoshi Machida, Department of Political Science
Ponderosa A & B  Dealing with Strategic Partners in the Muslim World

2:30 – 3:45 PM

Dr. Thomas Bagger

Counselor & Deputy Head of Political Section
Embassy of Germany
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Yusri Hazran

Fulbright Scholar / Israel
Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Harvard University

Moderator: Dr. Chris Stevens, Department of Political Science

Chancellor’s Dining Room  Reception & Dinner
5:00-7:00 PM

Nebraska as a World Partner
Secretary of State John Gale

ASEAN: Benefits & Complications of a Growing Financial Power

His Excellency

Ambassador Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
Washington, D.C.

Ponderosa E  Procession of Conference Guests

Keynote Address
Welcome & Introduction of Conference Guests

Dr. Frank Harrold, Dean,
Natural & Social Sciences

The state of the UN and its Future Role

Ms. Gillian Sorenson
Senior Advisor & National Advocate
United Nations Foundation

March 11, 2008  Tuesday

Ponderosa A & B  Torture and Civil Liberties in the War on Terror
9:30-10:45 AM  Dr. Stephen Soldz
Director of Center for Research, Evaluation and Program Development
Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis
Brookline, MA

Dr. Pardiss Kebriaei, Staff Attorney
Guantanamo Global Justice Initiative
Center for Constitutional Rights

Moderator: Dr. Richard Miller, Department of Psychology

Ponderosa C & D  Conflict Resolution and Democracy
9:30-10:45 AM

Dr. Dorina Akosua Bekoe, Senior Research Associate
Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention
United States Institute of Peace
Dr. Linda Bishai, Senior Program Officer
Education Program
United States Institute of Peace

Moderator: Dr. Kurt Borchard, Department of Sociology

Ponderosa C & D  The Science of War: the Uranium Battlefield
11:00-12:15 PM

Dr. Alexandra Miller
Senior Scientist
Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI)

Dr. Wayne Briner
Psychology Professor
University of Nebraska-Kearney

Moderator: Dr. Marc Albrecht, Department of Biology

Ponderosa A & B  Human Trafficking: Local and Global Impacts
11:00-12:15 PM

Kathleen Murray
Program Coordinator
Fort Worth Police Department – Human Trafficking Unit

Kristin Wiebe, J.D.
Director of Anti-Trafficking Programs
World Hope International
Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Dr. Jim Gilbert, Department of Criminal Justice and Social Work

Nebraskan Atrium  Take a Delegate to Lunch
12:30-1:45 PM
**Ponderosa A & B**  The European Union: Moving Toward a United States of Europe?

Dr. Robert Zisch
Consul General
Consulate of Austria in Chicago

Introducer: **Dr. Christa Jones**, Department of Modern Languages

**Ponderosa C & D**  Poetry Reading
2:00-3:30 PM

Fredy Chicangana, Indigenous Poet
Cauca, Colombia

**Hugo Jamioy Juagibioy**, Poet
Kamentsa Nacion, Putamayo, Colombia

Moderator: **Alison Hedge Coke**, Department of English

**Ponderosa E**  The Future of the U.S. in a Post Bush World
3:45-5:00 PM

Open Discussion

Moderator:  Dr. Jerry Fox, Department of International Education

Chancellors Dining Room  Dinner
5:30-7:00 PM

Hosted by **Chancellor Douglas Kristensen**
Ponderosa E       Procession of Conference Guests

Keynote Address

7:30 PM

Welcome & Introduction

Dr. Finney Murray, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

University of Nebraska-Kearney

The Politics of the Muslim World

Vali Nasr

Professor and Associated Chair of Research

Department of National Security Affairs

Naval Postgraduate School

Keynote Speakers

-

Gillian Sorenson

Senior Advisor & National Advocate

United Nations Foundation

Gillian Sorenson, now Senior Advisor/National Advocate at the United Nations Foundation, has had a long career working with and for the UN. From 1997-2003, she served as Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations on appointment by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. She was responsible for outreach to civil society, including NGOs committed to peace, justice, development and human rights. From 1993-1996, she served as Special Adviser for Public Policy on appointment by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, where she led the global commemoration of the UN’s Fiftieth Anniversary and the coordination of the UN50 Summit at Headquarters in New York with 180 Heads of Government participating.

From 1978-1990, she was the New York City Commissioner for the United Nations, head of the City’s liaison with the world’s largest diplomatic community, on appointment by Mayor Edward Koch. Her responsibilities related to diplomatic security and immunity, housing and education, and other cultural and business contacts between the host city and over 30,000 diplomats. She was referred to by The New York Times as “The Diplomat’s Diplomat” for her work at this time.

Mrs. Sorensen is a graduate of Smith College and studied at the Sorbonne. She has been a Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government (Institute of Politics) at Harvard University. She is a frequent speaker on
United Nations issues and the US-UN relationship. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Women’s Foreign Policy Group. In addition to her public service, she has been a delegate to three national Presidential conventions.


Vali Nasr

Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations

New York, NY

Vali Nasr is one of the world's leading experts on the Islamic world and Muslim politics. He has advised senior policy makers, members of Congress, and leading executives in the private sector. As a consultant to the Department of state and USAID, he has provided expert testimony to the US Senate on the Muslim world, and is a major influence on ongoing public debates on such critical issues as Islam and democracy, Islamic extremism and anti-Americanism, America's relations with Iran, the war in Iraq, and potential global effects of conflict within Islam.

An Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and Professor and Associated Chair of Research at the Department of National security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, Nasr is the author of several important books on politics and Islam, most recently, Democracy in Iran and The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future. He has written for The New York Times, TIME, and The Washington Post, and is a frequent guest on CNN, BBC, NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, NPR, 60 Minutes, NOW with BILL Moyers and Frontline.

Nasr's singular understanding of conflicts within Islam and their potential global effects has not gone unnoticed: he has been awarded grants from the MacArthur Foundation, The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council.

Conference Speakers


Dr. Dorina Akosua Bekoe

Senior Research Associate

Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention

United States Institute of Peace

Dorina A. Bekoe is a senior research associate in the center for Conflict analysis and Prevention, where she specializes in African conflicts, political development, institutional reform, and peace agreement implementation. She manages a project on political transition in Africa that includes work on electoral violence, Nigeria, and Cote d'Ivoire; and organizes working groups on Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan. Previous research has focused on the incentives for warring parties to comply with peace agreements, the new Partnership for Africa's Development and its related African Peer Review mechanism, and the regionalization of conflict in Africa. Bekoe holds a B.A. in economics from Franklin and Marshall College, and M.S. in public policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University.
Dr. Linda Bishai

Senior Program Officer of the Education Program

United States Institute of Peace

Linda Bishai is a senior program officer in USIP; Education program, where she focuses on secondary and university education in international relations, conflict resolution, human rights, and peace studies. She is responsible for curriculum development and developing faculty and teacher workshops throughout the United States and in conflict zones, especially the Sudan.

Before coming to USIP, Bishai was an assistant professor of political science at Towson University, where she taught courses in international relations, international law, the use of force, and human rights. Her research interests include identity politics, international human rights law in domestic courts, and the development of international law after the Nuremberg trials. During 2003-04, Bishai served as a Supreme Court Fellow at the Federal Judicial Center where she worked on an introduction to international human rights law for the federal judiciary. She has also taught at Brunel University, the London School of Economics, and the University of Stockholm.

Bishai holds a B.A. in history and literature from Harvard University, a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, and a Ph.D. in international relations from the London School of Economics.

Fredy Chicangana

Indigenous Poet

Cauca, Colombia

Fredy Chicangana is a poet from the Yanacona Community of Sur-Oriente of the Cauca of Colombia and is a heavily lauded speaker for Quechua and other Indigenous peoples pertaining to permanence and human rights. His poems have been published by varied national magazines and newspapers and internacionales in the Anthology of Indigenous Literature of America, Chile 1998. He has participated in continental encounters and national events of writers working to preserve Indigenous languages in Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Chile and Ecuador and Peru. Within his literary work, the Yanacona culture, songs, stories, and oralitura are brought to consideration. He is a charter member of the Yanamauta group, "Knowledge and Saberes Yanaconas".

Dr. Yusri Hazran

Fulbright Scholar / Israel

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Harvard University

Yusri Hazran was born in the Druze village of Yarka. He received his Ph.D. from Hebrew University in Israel (2007). His dissertation explores the relationship between the Druze community and the Lebanese state from 1943-1975.

Between the years of 1998-2006, he worked as a junior lecturer at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University where he taught Introduction to the Islamic Religion and a Methodology

Dr. Pardiss Kebriaei

Staff Attorney for Guantanamo Global Justice Initiative

Center for Constitutional Rights

New York, NY

Pardiss Kebriaei joined the Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in July 2007. She provides direct representation to several of CCR’s clients at Guantánamo and helps coordinate CCR’s network of hundreds of pro bono counsel representing other prisoners. She also focuses on using international human rights mechanisms to bring international pressure to bear on the U.S. government and hold other governments accountable for their role in the violations at Guantánamo.

Pardiss came to CCR after five years at the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she specialized in international litigation, working within the Inter-American, European and UN human rights systems, and in foreign jurisdictions including the Philippines, India, Nepal, Thailand, and Colombia. She has also worked with Global Rights in Morocco and as an adjunct professor at Hunter College in New York, where she taught courses on international human rights and women’s rights. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and has degrees in Middle Eastern studies and cello performance from Northwestern University. She speaks Farsi, Dari and French.

Hugo Jamioy Juagibioy

Poet

Kamentsa Nacion, Putamayo, Colombia

Hugo Jamioy Juagibioy is a poet, cultural and oral literature proponent, and Indigenous human rights activist from the Kamentsa People of Putamayo, Colombia. He has performed as a crowd favorite invitational featured poet in festivals throughout Latin America, has read in Italy, Spain, and the United State. His poetry is heavily demonstrative of Indigenous thought and philosophy, its relevance to humanity is well-received and testifies to the right for Indigenous permanence and sustainability in a time where humanity has injured the planet in its taking of so many indigenous lives/people from the landscape of origin they serve to protect. His people have bore the burden of the unwanted in a genocidal war upon them throughout his life. The International Festival of Poetry in Medellin welcomes him year after year to please the crowds upward in the thousands who hang on his every word during presentation performances. He several author publications entitled: *Mi fuego y mi humo, mi tierra y mi sol; We are not people; Bínýbe Oboyejuaayëng/Danzantes del Viento; and Bínýbe Oboyejuaayëng/Danzantes del Viento.*

Dr. Alexandra Miller

Senior Scientist

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI)

Bethesda, MD
Alexandra C. Miller is currently a senior scientist and principal investigator at the U.S. Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD. She received her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD in 1981 and in 1986 she received her Doctorate in Radiation Biology and Experimental Pathology from Roswell Park Cancer Institute Division at the State University of NY in Buffalo, NY. Dr. Miller completed two post-doctoral projects; the first at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute from in the area of cellular radiobiology and the second at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences from studying molecular biology and carcinogenesis. She has received training awards from the American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology and the Photo-radiation Society. Dr. Miller has been a visiting scientist at the National Cancer Institute Division of Cancer Treatment and at the University of Paris, in France. Dr. Miller was nominated for the Radiation Research Society Michael J. Fry award three times since 1996 and has over fifty-five peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Miller has received extramural funding from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for Medical Research, NASA, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command, and the USAMRMC Congressionally directed medical research program. The author has been the principal investigator for more than eleven research projects since 1992. She has been an ad hoc member of panels for the World Health Organization, NIH-NCI, U.S. Army Medical Research Command, U.S. CDMRP, U.S. Agency on International Development Committee, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Miller’s research interests include carcinogenesis, trans-generational genotoxicity, chemoprevention, and biodosimetry. Current research projects include heavy metal carcinogenicity, trans-generational genotoxicity, radiation protection against internal radiation emitters and external radiation exposure, chemoprevention of radiation-and heavy metal-induced leukemia’s, and biomarkers of exposure and disease development. Past research focused on molecular genetics of radiation resistance and photodynamic therapy of cancer.

Kathleen Murray

Program Coordinator

Fort Worth Police Department – Human Trafficking Unit

Fort Worth, TX

Ms. Kathleen Murray, LMSW, is the program coordinator of the Fort Worth Police Department’s Human Trafficking Unit where her primary responsibilities include public outreach and education, training for law enforcement officers, grant program management and compliance, victim service support, and general support of the activities of the Unit’s investigator. The Human Trafficking Unit supports the activities of a federal taskforce, The North Texas Anti Trafficking Taskforce (NTATT), which includes members from local and federal law enforcement agencies and non-governmental service agencies. The NTATT operates in the Northern District of the U.S. Attorney’s Office covering 54 counties.

Before coming to the Fort Worth Police Department, Ms. Murray worked in refugee resettlement assisting refugees and human trafficking survivors from all over the world adjust to life in the United States and rebuild their lives.

Ms. Murray holds a B.A. in Political Science from Ohio University, a Master’s of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington, and is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer having served in Honduras, Central America.
Dr. Stephen Soldz

Director of Center for Research, Evaluation and Program Development

Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis

Brookline, MA

Stephen Soldz is a psychologist, psychoanalyst, and public health researcher who is currently Professor at the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. At BGSP he teaches research methods and courses integrating social and psychodynamic aspects of violence. He also directs BGSP's Center for Research, Evaluation, and Program Development, where he consults to government, university, and corporate clients on research and program evaluation issues. He is also a Lecturer in the University of Massachusetts Boston Sociology Department and has taught at several other Universities, including a nearly a decade as Assistant Clinical Professor at Harvard Medical School. He has conducted research on topics as diverse as psychotherapy process and outcomes, personality, substance abuse treatment and prevention, tobacco control, social violence, and psychoanalysis. He is the Co-editor (with Leight McCullough) of Reconciling empirical knowledge and clinical experience: The art and science of psychotherapy (APA Books, ; 2000) and of numerous papers in professional journals. He has a private practice of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis.

In recent years Dr. Soldz has written social commentary on such topics as the Iraq war, social aspects of mental health, and the role of psychologists in abusive interrogations in the war on terror. His work has appeared on numerous internet sites, including CounterPunch, ZNet, Common Dreams, OpEdNews, Information Clearinghouse, and Dissident Voice among others, as well as his own Psyche, Science, and Society blog. As an outgrowth of this writing, he was thrust into a leadership role in the movement to confront and change American Psychological Society policy permitting and even facilitating psychologist participation in coercive interrogations. Dr. Soldz is a founding member of the steering committee of the Coalition for and Ethical Psychology and is Co-Chair of the Psychologists for Social Responsibility End Torture Action Committee. He was principal author of an open letter from psychologists to the Senate Intelligence Committee, as well as numerous other documents on these issues. Dr. Soldz has also published and is preparing a number of scholarly works on the history and ethics of psychologists' involvement in coercive interrogations.

Kristin Wiebe, JD

Director of Anti-Trafficking Programs

World Hope International

Washington, D.C.

Kristin Wiebe directs anti-trafficking programs in Africa and Asia for World Hope International, and advises on anti-trafficking programs for the Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAAAT). After designing handcrafts for rural women's cooperatives in Bangladesh, she pursued a law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law to gain skills to use in the fight against human trafficking. Ms. Wiebe has been working on human trafficking since 1998 in countries including Ecuador, Russia, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Albania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South
Africa, Cambodia, and the United States. She has lobbied at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to address the demand for trafficking, and given several anti-trafficking presentations at venues including the U.S. Committee on Homeland Security, Georgetown University, Christian Communities in Health and the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

International Diplomats

His Excellency Ambassador Nabil Fahmy

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United States since October 1999, is a career diplomat who has played an active role in the numerous efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, as well as in international and regional disarmament affairs. He has also served as Egypt’s Ambassador to Japan and was the Political Advisor to the Foreign Minister. Over the years, he has been a member of the Egyptian Missions to the United Nations (Disarmament and Political Affairs) in Geneva and New York and has held numerous posts in the Egyptian Government.

Ambassador Fahmy headed the Egyptian delegation to the Middle East Peace Process Steering Committee in 1993 and the Egyptian delegation to the Multilateral Working Group on Regional Security and Arms Control emanating from the Madrid Peace Conference from December 1991. He was elected Vice Chairman of the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security Affairs of the 44th Session of the UN General Assembly in 1986. And from 1999 until 2003, he was a member of the UN Secretary General’s Advisory Board of Disarmament Matters and served as its chairman in 2001.

Receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics/Mathematics and his Master of Arts in Management, both from the American University in Cairo, Ambassador Fahmy has written extensively on Middle East politics, peacemaking and regional security and disarmament.

His Excellency Ambassador Pierre Vimont

Embassy of France

Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Pierre Vimont was appointed Ambassador of France to the United States by President Nicolas Sarkozy on August 1, 2007. Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Vimont was chief of staff to the minister of foreign affairs, a position he had held since 2002. He was previously ambassador and permanent representative of France to the European Union from 1999 to 2002.

Pierre Vimont joined the Foreign Service in 1977. He was first posted to London where he was first secretary from 1978 to 1981. He then spent the next four years with the Press and Information Office at the Quai d’Orsay. From 1985-86, he was seconded to the Institute for East West Security in New York.

Returning to Europe, he served as second counselor with the Permanent Representation of France to the European Communities in Brussels (1986-1990), and was subsequently chief of staff to the minister delegate for European affairs from 1990-1993.

He went on to serve as director for development and scientific, technical and educational cooperation and then for cultural, scientific, and technical relations. He was deputy director general of the entire Cultural,

His Excellency Ambassador Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat has had a distinguished career in Indonesia’s Foreign Service. He has been with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia since 1981. Prior to his assignment as Ambassador to the United States, he was Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, 2002-2006. During his tenure as Secretary General, he was appointed as Senior Official Meeting (SOM) Leader for Asia Africa Summit; SOM Leader for ASEAN as well as Chairman of the Third Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

He was Ambassador to Australia and Vanuatu, from May 2001 to April 2002 and Director for International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs, 1999 – 2001;


He received his degree in International Relations from Gajah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia and attended a Master Program at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York, USA.

He is married to Nunung Kuncorowati and has three adult children and one grandchild.

Mr. Achilles Zaluar

Counselor

Embassy of Brazil

Washington, D.C.

Counselor Achilles Zaluar was born in Rio de Janeiro, in 1964 in the neighborhood of Botafogo. He earned a Bachelor in Mathematics at Rio Catholic University (PUC-RJ) in 1985, and graduated in Diplomacy from the Rio Branco Institute, Brazil’s diplomatic academy, in 1991. A Master in Public Administration / Mid Career (MPA/MC) was earned at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 2002.

In Brasilia, from 1991 to 1994, Mr. Zaluar worked on non-proliferation and export control, including Brazil’s relations with the MTCR and NSG control regimes, and US-Brazil issues. He has also acted as Secretary of the interagency group that drafted Brazil’s export control law, and was Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York from 1995-98. Mr. Zaluar worked on disarmament and non-proliferation (I Committee) and Security Council and UN reform issues. He was a member of team that drafted the position papers and presidential message for Brazil’s accession to the NPT. First Secretary at the Brazilian Embassy to Paraguay, Asuncion, 1998-2001. Head of the Economic Section, 1999-00, and Internal Politics Section, 2000-01. First Secretary (Argentina Desk) at the Division for Southern American Affairs – I (DAM-I), 2002-03. Assistant at the Theory of International Relations Chair of the Rio Branco
Institute, 2002-03. Counselor and Deputy Head of the Division for United Nations Affairs (DNU), 2003-06. He held the position of Counselor (Political Section) at the Brazilian Embassy to the United States, Washington, 2006 to present. Approved (cum laude) at the 50th Higher Studies Course (CAE), Rio Branco Institute, with the thesis “Nuclear non-proliferation and the Security Council”.

Dr. Thomas Bagger

Counselor and Deputy Head of Political Section

German Embassy

Washington, D.C.

Dr. Thomas Bagger currently serves as political counselor at the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. Thomas Bagger previously served at German missions in Ankara, Turkey (2002-06) and in Prague, Czech Republic (1996-98). From 1998-2002 he held the position of speechwriter for then-Foreign minister Joschka Fischer.

He joined the diplomatic service in 1992 after two years as a research associate at SWP, German's premier international affairs think tank. Dr. Bagger holds a Ph.D. in political science from Munich University and an M.A. in international relations from the University of Maryland at College Park, where he was a Fulbright student in 1989/1990.

Mr. Sibi George

Political Counselor

Embassy of India

Washington, D.C.

Sibi George, Political Counselor at the Embassy of India in Washington DC, is a career Diplomat. He was born on May 20, 1967. He did his graduation and post graduation in Political Science before joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1993. He has served in various capacities at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi and Indian Missions in Egypt, Qatar and Pakistan. During 1995-96, he took a Diploma in Arabic Language and Culture from the American University in Cairo.

During 2001-04, he served as Deputy Secretary at the East Asia Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, a Division dealing with India's relations with the East Asia region including China, Japan, and the Koreas. Prior to taking up his assignment in Washington DC in February 2007, he served as the Political Counselor in the High Commission of India in Islamabad dealing with India-Pakistan bilateral relations.

He attended various international meetings including the Community of Democracies Ministerial Meeting in Bamako in November of 2007, Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in Mongolia in September of 2003, G-15 Summit in Cairo in June 2000, and Middle East/North Africa Economic Conference in Cairo in November of 1996.
In the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C., Mr. George is the interlocutor with think-tanks, apart from dealing with the substantial bilateral and political issues ranging from counter-terrorism to climate change. He is married to Joice and the couple have three children.

Mr. B. Odonjil

Deputy Chief of Mission & Minister Counselor

Embassy of Mongolia

Washington, D.C.

Mr. Odonjil Banzragch is a career diplomat and senior Foreign Service officer, Mr. Odonjil is currently serving as the Minister counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Mongolia in Washington, D.C. Immediately prior to this assignment, he was Director of the Department for America, Middle East and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Mongolia. Before that he acted as Foreign Ministry's Deputy Director of Department for Europe. He previously served as ahead of Inter-parliamentary relations Department of the Secretariat of Mongolian Parliament.

Mr. Odonjil Banzragch is a constitutional and international lawyer, graduate of the Diplomatic academy of Vienna on European studies. He has a bachelor's degree in law from Irkutsk University, Russia and also studied a legislative law at the Columbia Law school during 1992-1993. He speaks fluent English, Russian and is married with one child.

Dr. Andy David

Deputy Consul General

Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest

Chicago, IL

Dr. Andy David began his appointment as Deputy Consul General of Israel to the Midwest in August 2004. Since beginning his diplomatic career in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998, Dr. David has held domestic positions including: Political Coordinator, the Euro-Asia Department, (1999); and Political Counselor, Head of the Euro-Asia section in The Center for International Cooperation. His overseas diplomatic appointments include assignments at the Embassy of Israel in Azerbaijan (1999-2001) and Consulate General of Israel in Hong Kong (2001-2002). Dr. David earned three degrees at Jerusalem's Hebrew University: Doctor of Dental Medicine; Master of Science; and Bachelor of Medical Science, magna cum laude. Dr. David spent three years in the Israel Air Force and in RAFAEL, the Ministry of Defense's Armament Development Authority. He is also a graduate of the 2007 Executive Combating Terrorism program of the National Defense University in Washington, DC. Dr. David was recently awarded Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Diplomat of the Year" award.

Mr. Kenan Ipek

Consul General

Turkish Consulate

Chicago, IL
Ugur Kenan Ipek is a career diplomat. Since he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Turkey in 1984, he has served in several Turkish Embassies such as, Moscow, Muscat, London and Washington DC. In addition to working at economic and political departments at the MFA, he has also served as the Director of External Relations of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (Parliament) (1998-2000) and Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the National Security Council (2004-2007).

He completed his degree at the Political Sciences Faculty of Ankara University, Mr. Ipek attended post graduate study on international relations at School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna Center of Johns Hopkins University.

U. Kenan Ipek was appointed as Consul General to Chicago on March 1st, 2007.

Dr. Joel J. Sokolsky

Royal Military College of Canada

Ontario, CANADA

Dr. Joel J. Sokolsky is Dean of Arts and a Professor of Political Science at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). He is also a Senior Fellow at the Queen's University Centre for International Relations, a member of the Research Board of the Institute for Research on Public Policy and a Research Affiliate at the Strategic Studies Program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He earned his Honors BA from the University of Toronto, and MA from the School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University, (SAIS), and a PhD in government from Harvard University.

Dr. Sokolsky has taught at the Canadian Studies Center at SAIS, Dalhousie University, Duke University and Bridgewater State College. His areas of interest and teaching include Canadian foreign and defense policy, contemporary maritime strategy, international security relations and American foreign and defense policy. He has been the recipient of several scholarships and awards including two NATO Fellowships and two Fulbright Scholarships. In 1995, he was named to the Teaching Excellence Honors List at RMC and in 2005 won the Research Excellence Award at RMC. In 2003 he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Dr. Robert Zischg

Consul General

Consulate of Austria

Chicago, IL

Dr. Robert Zischg is a career diplomat and was appointed Consul General of Austria in Chicago in April 2005. Since joining the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1990, Dr. Zischg has held domestic positions in the Press and Information Department, the Department of International Organizations and the Consular Division. His assignments abroad include the Austrian Embassy in Budapest (1992), the Austrian Embassy in Rome as First Secretary for Legal Affairs (1993-1996), and the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva as Counselor for Humanitarian Affairs (1996-1999). From 1999 until 2005 he served as Deputy Director of the Department for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.
Dr. Zischg attended both the University of Salzburg, where he earned a Ph.D. in Political Science / Communication Sciences and a Ph.D. in Law, and the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at the Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center in Italy. He has authored two books; one on Soviet foreign policy towards Angola and Mozambique and the other on the legality of the support of parties to a non-international conflict in international law.

He is married to Birgit and has three sons.