

## **2010 Consolidated Comments – Date Sequence**

**CommentsS010610Pickering**

### **PROGRAM COMMENTS Sarasota – Wednesday, 06 January, 2010**

**Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering:  
One Year of President Obama's Foreign Policies**

#### **VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Great lead off speaker!

Fabulous!!

Pickering was fantastic.

Wonderful.

Excellent! Ask him back!!

Fabulous! Comprehensive. Handled questions well.

Excellent.

Mr. Pickering was so thorough it is not necessary to review the topic this season. After another year it would be most useful to know Mr. Pickering's updates and re-evaluation. His vast body of knowledge, his hands-on experience and his communication skills are excellent.

Topic exceeded foreign policy, but all elements were significant and well-addressed. Very well organized lecture. A bit of levity, super speaker. Spoke neither too academically nor too "dumbed down."

Huge scope of topic prevented depth of comment that would have been appreciated.

#### **VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Would like to see more use of visual aids in all presentations.

**CommentsV010810Pubantz**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS  
Venice – Friday, 08 January, 2010**

**Dr. Jerry Pubantz: Is The Atlantic Partnership Dead?**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Sometimes his answers went on too long. Audience questions led to more interesting discussion.

Superb address.

Jerry “connects to dots.”

Dr. P is always very interesting. He brings a fresh point of view on his subjects. Do invite him again and again.

Once again topic is too large to be covered in one hour. But talk was informative nevertheless.

Dr Pubantz is an excellent speaker with a wide range of knowledge. I look forward to hearing him.

Great speaker. Cogent, convincing, knowledgeable.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Sound system could be tweaked.

**CommentsS011310Parsi**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS**  
**Sarasota – Wednesday, 13 January, 2010**

**Dr. Trita Parsi**

**The Complex Issues Underlying Tensions Between Iran, the U.S., and Israel Today**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Excellent speaker! Very informative and well balanced presentation.

Superb presentation.

Excellent answers.

Super!

A one of a kind guy. Very interesting.

No move to establish Palestinian peace would remove pillar (sp?) of Iran.

Super! Absolutely bring him back.

Definitely bring him back.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

.Look for female presenters.

**CommentsV011510Milani**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS**  
**Venice – Friday, 15 January, 2010**

**Dr. Mohseen Milani: The Persian Gulf: U.S. and Iran Relations and Their Effects**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Fun and informative.

Conveyed message with humor.

A little long.

Like his humor. Correct – I am a professor in Wi(sp?)

V Good.

Excellent.

Best speaker we have had.

Unfortunately the speaker did not discuss “U.S. and Iran Relations” which was the subject (title) of the presentation in the catalog.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Need to have a board with leaders names of Iran.

**CommentsS012110Zelicoff**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS  
Sarasota – 21 January, 2010**

**Dr. Alan Zelicoff**

**If Universal Health Coverage in the U.S. is the Answer, What is the Question:  
A Status Report on the Obama Administration's Healthcare Plan**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Excellent presentation of facts and analytic medical info. Bring him back next year!

Excellent lecture. Be sure to continue next year.

What this country needs to do in order to make for healthier citizens and also to cut health expenses is to encourage people to take care of themselves --diet, exercise, stop smoking, etc. Our biggest health care problem is drugs!! Eliminating the use of cell phones while driving also would really help.

Give him more time - Let him slow down and keep the slides on more.

Covered too much too quickly (but good material). I would have liked smaller topic in more depth.

How can we send this lecture to all our senators and congressmen?!

Slides: graph numbers and identifying words are too small.

Letters on slides not readable.

His glib negativity was appalling.

Too technical for me.

Spoke too fast.

I thought Thursday Series was International. How come today's topic is "Health Care"?

Thursday is International. Why have health care? Please keep Thursday International.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Could not see full screen – podium in the way. Please adjust.

**CommentsS012710Goodby**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS  
Sarasota – 27 January, 2010**

**Ambassador James Goodby  
A World Without Nuclear Weapons – A Fantasy or a Necessity?**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Needs to project better.

Needs more direct and shorter answers.

Interesting, but requires more variation in speech.

Speaker's delivery – hard to hear even with hearing aids – kept dropping his voice, doesn't project.

Too soft spoken.

Should invite speaker who is as knowledgeable, but a clearer, more forceful speaker.

Soft spoken, almost monotone, somewhat difficult.

Speaks in monotone – hard to listen to.

Very knowledgeable, but not a dynamic speaker.

Difficulty hearing – mumbles.

He mumbled & rambled.

Should speak more clearly or use better microphone.

Goldby spoke for only 30 minutes. He did not address in any organized way a very important topic.

He should be required to wear or use a microphone. He muttered and lowered his voice and it was hard to hear or understand.

The speaker was/is a monotone mumbler. A nightmare for anyone who wears, or needs, hearing aides. I wonder what he said!

Where is the creb (sp?) He spoke for 20 minutes – primarily about his book.

Difficult to understand much of what speaker said, due to voice falling off at end of sentence. This has not been so with previous speakers in lecture series.

Speaker had so much information but the delivery was so poor it was unintelligible.

Voice projection could be improved. His voice tended to drop, particularly at the end of sentence or thought. Hard to hear as a result.

Marshall Goodby was terrible and should not be used in the future. Goldby spoke for only 30 minutes. He did not address in any organized way a very important topic.

### **VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Couldn't hear the speaker.

Mike must be turned louder. Very difficult to hear.

Invite back, but louder. Difficult to hear.

Too hard to hear. Invite back only if he can speak louder.

Could not hear him.

Sound bad – not loud enough – hard to understand his words.

Couldn't hear him.

This man is an excellent resource, but not intelligible. He mumbled. Someone from your staff should have made him aware or increase the volume.

Why are speakers told to limit time of talk to less than 30 minutes? Improve the sound system or have moderator make sure everyone can hear. Suggest that moderator actually gives title of talk.

**CommentsS020310Dachi**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS  
Sarasota – 03 February, 2010**

**Steven F. Dachi  
China's Global Pursuit of Oil and Gas**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Great! Informative.

Excellent speaker – Interesting, current and with humor.

Excellent. (2)

Great. Super speaker. So informative, come back in 2011.

SILL's best speaker.

One of the best. He is both interesting and charismatic.

Charming, intelligent. Good delivery. Excellent speaker.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Need more visuals like “power point” etc. NOT a straight lecture.

Would like visual aid, e.g., large map of areas talked about used during presentations.

To have more Emails opened – include a good joke in each!

Lecture was improved by the portable mike.

Why not give the speaker a break before questions?

**CommentsV011510Milani**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS**  
**Venice – Friday, 15 January, 2010**

**Dr. Mohseen Milani: The Persian Gulf: U.S. and Iran Relations and Their Effects**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Fun and informative.

Conveyed message with humor.

A little long.

Like his humor. Correct – I am a professor in Wi(sp?)

V Good.

Excellent.

Best speaker we have had.

Unfortunately the speaker did not discuss “U.S. and Iran Relations” which was the subject (title) of the presentation in the catalog.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Need to have a board with leaders names of Iran.

**CommentsV021610Sklar**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS  
Venice – 16 February, 2010**

**Scott Sklar  
The Potential of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
To Meet All E.S. Energy Needs**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Wonderful lecture.

Excellent presentation! The visuals were most helpful.

Excellent!!

Excellent! Leaves me with hope.

Slides too dense.

Great speaker.

Poor visuals, too long

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

He used graphics; try to get others to do the same.

I also love the music series.

Popping; poor acoustics; difficult to understand.

**CommentsS021710Sklar**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS  
Sarasota – 17 February, 2010**

**Scott Sklar  
Commercially Available On-Site Renewable Energy  
Technologies and Zero Energy Buildings**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Today's lecture 1/17/10 was effectively the same as yesterday's 2/16/10.

Thank you, Scott Sklar for beginning to educate me in saving energy. I learned a lot.

Fantastic!

Very poor presentation, i.e., slides!

Mr. Skylar's slides were not big enough. Much of them could not be easily read. Bullet points might be easier to see. Many were too wordy.

Poor slides – too much detail. Hard to read.

Should be addressed in a different format. Too much commercialism.

The speaker needs a course in how to prepare effective slides and overheads. His are some of the worst examples of effective visuals I have ever seen.

Mr. Sklar's slides were disgraceful – absolutely unreadable and therefore useless.

Visuals very effective!

Very informative and well presented. Bring him back!

Outstanding. Get him every year!

**CommentsV021910Lampton**

**PROGRAM COMMENTS  
Venice – 19 February, 2010**

**Dr. David Lampton  
What Chinese Power Means For America**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Superb presentation!

Absolutely outstanding!

As always – great!

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs**

Speaker's introduction by SILL welcomer is endless. Please have announcements and introductions reduced. We don't need speeches by SILL welcomer.

Introduction was too long.

**CommentsS022510Bodine**

**Ambassador Barbara Bodine  
Yemen: Learning the Right Lessons and Avoiding the Mistake of  
Iraq and Afghanistan**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

She has a breadth of knowledge and information on many topics.

Very monotonous, but she had a cold. She read her talk which made it less interesting, but had lots of comments which made it better.

Too long.

Speaker's talk was marred because she read a large part of it. She seemed to swallow her words (perhaps due to her cold).

She is very interesting and knowledgeable. She read her talk. Sounded canned – Better off the cuff. Am not sure I understand Yemen situation and politics any better now even then before her talk.

Reading her talk – not well. When speaking sans notes – more effective.

Speaker very effective when she left prepared speech.

Excellent presenter. By all means invite her again!

Good for lecture.

Subject is small part of large problem. One of best ever.

Terrific. Bring her back.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL**

The introductions by many presenters are too long and detailed. I'd rather hear the speaker!!

**CommentsV022610Bodine**

**Ambassador Barbara Bodine  
Yemen: Learning the Right Lessons and Avoiding the Mistake of  
Iraq and Afghanistan**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

She tried very hard to not show her Republican Party bias, but was not always successful. I would have liked to hear more about solutions for Yemen including what they should do about the Somalis preventing Aden from returning to its former place as a major port.

Very engaging speaker! Good humor.

Highly qualified; good communication; stays focused; easy delivery.

Good to see a woman!

Outstandingly clear, well-taken humor and very informed.

Excellent.

Great speaker. Knowledgeable and funny with “on the ground” information.

Terrific.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL**

Do something about your introductions!

In the year 2010 SILL has done a remarkable job bringing in knowledgeable and excellent speakers. My hat is off to you. Ralph Hill

**CommentsS030210Rosenblum&al-Omari**

**Mark Rosenblum and Ghaith al-Omari  
Israel/Palestine Panel Discussion  
The Continuing Search for Palestinian-Israeli Peace**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenters**

There should be more discussion of the influence of religious extremism, particularly Islamic extremism on the problem of peace in the Middle East.

It seemed that another party needed to be represented to get full picture – US/UN?

Had trouble understanding Dr. al-Omari.

Al-Omari – Could not understand him.

Al-Omari had a good presentation, but it was difficult to understand him as English is not his primary language.

Sometimes al-Omari's voice dropped and it was difficult to hear some words.

Al-Omari's content effective, but speaks too quickly.

Have difficulty with Al-Omari accent at times.

Al-Omari's presentation was good. Unfortunately his speech pattern was not always clear.

I had difficulty understanding Dr. al-Omari's diction. I wish he had spoken more slowly.

Border issue or terms were unclear in both presentations.

Al-Omari speaks too quickly. Accent a problem.

Al-Omari was difficult to understand; made debate one sided.

Discussion answers were too long.

Difficult to understand al-Omari. Their viewpoints were too similar and too moderate.

Both speakers are gracious and cooperative in the back and forth discussions. Very sensible men.

It is clear from humanitarian, ethnic, moral and practical viewpoints that a one-state solution is necessary. Max Swanson.

I wish search was over and peace was reached within my lifetime. This would be the greatest satisfaction of life.

In the future, get panelists that have opposite opinions.

Excellent program!

Excellent on all counts.

Had difficulty understanding al-Omari with his accent.

Al-Omari. Although his general message was clear, he spoke so quickly that it was difficult for my older ears to take in what he said. It would be great if he could speak more slowly because he is worth listening to.

Excellent! Well none?

Informative discussion.

Superb!

I liked the panel discussion better than the audience questions as is usually done. The moderator asked excellent questions and the two speakers were very in effective in answering the questions. We did not know the lecture started at 10AM instead of 10:30 so we missed the beginning comments

Al-Omari spoke too fast. Hard to understand.

Superb program!

An excellent "debate." An extremely informative and insightful discussion.

Informative, objective, interesting, comprehensive.

Outstanding in every way! Thank you.

### **COMMENTS: Re SILL**

Comment on lost or misplaced tickets – How about a short list of us, so that we can check in much easier. Barbara Hamilton.

Please remind folks to turn off cell phones. They ring weekly.

Prescreen speakers to be sure they can be understood and are slow oral speakers. Much of today's talk was too specific for anyone without good background knowledge.

Debate/panel is difficult to do effectively. Need three well-qualified presenters; difficult to duplicate today's fine presentations. Best not to call these debates.

Well behaved audience. On Thursdays, so many leave!

Suggest a shorter (15 minute) presentation and longer Q & A session.

I hope SILL will be able to identify future topics/issues that can be presented in a debate format. I noticed that this debate attracted a much larger audience than usually attend the Tuesday sessions. J R Smith.

**CommentsV030210Rosenblum&al-Omari**

**Mark Rosenblum and Ghaith al-Omari  
Israel/Palestine Panel Discussion  
The Continuing Search for Palestinian-Israeli Peace**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

As usual, a very worthwhile program – informative and well balanced. Al-Omari spoke too fast sometimes.

How did Hamas become so effective as a political organization as opposed to “military?”

Mr. Al-Omari – pronunciation or speech was not clear to me.

The map was not sufficient and the territory delineations were not explained.

Al-Omari was difficult to understand – spoke too fast.

Al-Omari was well informed, but spoke too fast and was hard to understand because of his accent. Debate panel is very interesting. Slide/map is very helpful.

I could not hear at least two or three words out of every sentence he stated> He spoke way too fast. The volume was excellent, but the speed of talking made the meaning of the sentence unintelligible. I have never experienced this with other SILL lecturers. I have very effective \$4,000 hearing aides which serve me well 95% of the time. Please advise your speakers to adjust their tempo to accommodate the ageing SILL audience. I clearly heard every word spoken by Dr. Rosenblum.

Al-Omari spoke very fast – hard to understand!!

Great presentation and good specific details.

Most informational two-sided discussion giving bipartisan objectives. Thank you very much!

Great discussion from both parties!

**CommentsS031010Solomon**

**Steven Solomon  
Water – The New Oil**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Very hard to listen to!

Speaker understood topic. Delivery was poor – almost as if it wasn't prepared and organized.

There were no questions.

Great info. – not a dynamic speaker.

Not a motivating speaker. Trouble following him.

The topic is interesting. But the speaker spent too much time on introductory issues and the speech was somewhat disorganized.

This lecture should have been more effective if the speaker spent more time relating to present day issues. Too much history.

I was surprised to see the speaker using bottled water!

**COMMENTS: Re SILL**

I'd like to have a discussion of water in the U.S.

Please let speakers finish – Give them one hour.

Make water an entire Global Series.

I attended both the Venice session and Sarasota – very timely and important topic to our nation's future and security and foreign policy. Purchased his book. Congratulations to SILL for an excellent choice of speakers (today & past speakers as well) Thank you!

Why don't your speakers use visual aids that assist them throughout their talks? It would be far more effective and interesting.

**CommentsV0316Starr**

**Dr. S. Frederick Starr  
Rediscovering Central Asia**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenters**

Definitely best of season !!!

Dr. Starr needs to preach his wake-up call forcefully in Washington, D.C. Where is USAID in the solution?

The speaker spent too much time defining the region and not enough time on specific problems and solutions. I would like to hear another speaker describe current conditions and even lifestyles in Central Asia.

Each speaker promotes his own area of expertise. His interest; history and culture.

**COMMENTS: Re SILL**

The waste of almost 15 minutes because of a rambling unorganized introduction should have started before 2:30 if it was going to be so lengthy.

Please note re introduction of speakers – They are way too long and not appreciated. Audience broke out in clapping when introducer finally indicated he was going to let the speaker speak.

Introduction – too long and wasted time.

Introduction was entirely too long. I came to hear Dr. Starr, not the introducer.

**CommentsS031710Starr**

**Dr. S. Frederick Starr  
Afghanistan and the Future of Asia and Europe**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Wonderfully informed and informative, but would have preferred a bit more organization.

Slides – excellent.

One of the very best this year – both Wednesday and Thursday series.

He never mentioned Iraq!

Get him for a seminar!

The best yet!

**COMMENTS: Re SILL**

The introduction is too long, 8 minutes – 2<sup>nd</sup> time he's done this.

The gentleman who makes the introduction speaks too long. He should be limited to three minutes.

Thanks for allowing lecturer to complete his talk and answers.

**CommentsS031810Korb**

**Dr. Lawrence J. Korb  
Obama's National Security Policy in the First Year: Wins and Losses**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Liberal bent; vague responses.

Terrible speaker. Jumped all over the place. Too many "you knows." Seems to know his subject, but not good at getting it across.

Let someone else try; he didn't.

Excellent!

Bring him back, or someone as well informed and articulate as he.

Starr was better.

Keep him coming to SILL!

Very knowledgeable – good.

**COMMENTS: Re SILL**

Please turn up the lights during the lecture so we can take notes. The TV camera can't rule. Also, the spot light seems to be preventing the speaker from looking at his/her notes. Mr. Dachi seemed to be rambling last week and never looked at his notes. Please stop the music before the talk. It is annoying.

The little orange tablecloth on the round table looks pretty bad. Too short, too shiny and too orange.

The introductions are too long and boring! We either are aware of the speakers' extensive backgrounds or can read about them. The name, topic and a complimentary comment should take less than one minute. Let's get on with the program. Please!!!  
Norm Foster

Introduction by SILL Board head was excellent – short, crisp, effective.

A lot of talking from the control room in the back of the theater. Quite a distraction.

Background music irritating. Hard to talk over it.

**CommentsV031810Korb**

**Dr. Lawrence J. Korb**  
**Obama's National Security Policy in the First Year: Wins and Losses**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

Korb's bio mentions his connections with several organizations, all with names that sound vaguely familiar but unspecific enough, at least for me, to help me know where he's coming from. Government agencies? Right or left wing think tanks? Lobbying organizations?

Would be a great person for a seminar.

Speaker needs to dress more civil. My problem was that because of my hearing aids I could not follow him because as he dropped his voice, I lost him and was disappointed. He needs to polish his presentations to be more effective. Too many hand movements! No sneakers! Too many gestures!! I hope the above comments will be helpful! He is a knowledgeable (sic) person and I wish him well!

The speaker had interesting material, but swallowed the ends of sentences. Loud/soft – fast/slow – difficult to follow. Also like watching a shadow boxer. Too many distracting things fighting each other. Hi decibel vs. whispers.

The title of this lecture should have been “Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.”

**COMMENTS: Re SILL**

Speaker was in shadow most of the time. Improve lighting!

The moderator let it go on too long!

The facilitator did not control the questions and the introduction was interminable.

**Please send your SILL booklet for 2011. Helen Bingo, 28 Circle Wood Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14625**

Please do something to adjust the lighting so that the speaker is comfortable – ASK THEM!! They avoid the spot and as a result the audience is distracted by the speaker moving in and out of the spot.

Is it possible to have Dr. Barylki speak again?

Kudos to SILL for a magnificent program this year. Ralph Hill

The sound was sporadic – could not hear speaker – sound loud and soft – up and down – off and on – not even – very hard to hear. (I am sitting in middle of hall ½ way back)

**CommentsS032510Schaffer**

**Amb. Teresita Schaffer  
Pakistan: Turning Around, or Headed for Disaster?**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

She is a “sleepy” undynamic speaker.

Please note how few people left at start of question time! (One of the best this year!)

Good info but not conveyed well. Very boring. Read too much!

She knew her subject, but read her talk – not interesting.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re S.I.L.L.**

Need more time for questions.

Why didn't someone help speaker with the mike?? Disaster for the ambassador!

**CommentsV032610Schaffer**

**Amb. Teresita Schaffer  
Pakistan: Turning Around, or Headed for Disaster?**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter**

It is reassuring to know that people like you are shaping our policy!

She was brilliant!

Was not impressed by the presentation. Too many words presented. Needs much more focus.

