

CommentsS031313Chishti

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 13 March 2013**

Muzaffar Chishti

The Power to Regulate: States vs. Federal Roles in Immigration Policy

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Excellent. Well prepared and organized. Good visuals. Spoke clearly and good rate.

One of the best. Informative, intelligent discussion on immigration I have yet heard.

Like Dr. Cagaptay who preceded him last week, Mr. Chisti's lecture was extraordinarily effective. Following a well-developed structure – this time with visual aids – he made a difficult topic understandable. He is an excellent teacher!

Immigration. Always an excellent talk!

Excellent.

Re Mr Chishti's presentation, I criticize an otherwise excellent presentation: He raced through his statistics too quickly. I would like to have access to them.

Difficult to understand because of accent.

Boring!

Did not speak to problems – too rosy.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Thank you for all you do. All the speakers have been knowledgeable, informative and necessary!

Wonderful speakers. Timely topics. Thank you!

State vs. federal powers on immigration was a very narrow subject. A broader topic on immigration – legal and illegal policy – would be more informative.

CommentsS011713Honigman

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 17 January 2013**

**Dr. Irene Finel-Honigman
Markets, Monsters, & Black Swans: The European Union and the Euro**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

She obviously knows her subject well, but I couldn't follow her. Also, she lets her voice drop at the end of a sentence (not always), so I often did not know what she had said.

Too much theory and reading from the notes all the time is not a good idea.

I do not like being read to. A talk full of quotes read to me.

Too much information too quickly.

Difficult to hear. Dropped her voice to look down.

Personable, interesting, well spoken – humorous.

Dynamic deliverer. Can pack more info in one hour than reading ten books on the topic.

Outstanding program! Outstanding speaker!

Speaker was excellent.

Superb!

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Intro too long – last week.

Please Global issues. Foreign policy. Why poverty next week? Political dysfunction?

The sound on the microphone was poor, loud enough but not sharp. It was difficult to listen to.

We come to hear the speaker. Sometimes the introductions are more about the introducer and are boring and too long.

PA system needs work. There's an echo and a lack of clarity. Hope it can be fixed.

PROGRAM COMMENTS

Sarasota – 27 March 2013

Dr. Tom Gouttierre
Afghanistan and Pakistan

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Great!!

Best speaker we ever had.

Bring him back. Outstanding.

Great speaker with fire in his heart.

Very well spoken, excellent subject.

Excellent!!

All the speakers were very good, but he was the best. Also liked Elliot Miller.

Great info. Needs to be more succinct.

Too much “me me me”

The speaker should not be asked back.

Pompous, self-important windbag!

The speaker spoke for two hours about mainly trivial reminiscences of his time there. The Taliban was mentioned only in passing and yet, it is a major (if not the major) factor in that nation’s future. Afghanistan is the source of 90% of the world’s heroin. Opium is the main cash crop. Our speaker spoke of pomegranates! Next time be more careful.

Do not invite this man back!!!

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

All speakers, except Don Gregg, were excellent and should return.

CommentsV032613Gouttierre

PROGRAM COMMENTS

Venice – 26 March 2013

Dr. Tom Gouttierre

Afghanistan and Pakistan: Why They Demand America's Involvement

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Talked too long.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

All speakers are well-informed, interesting.

Way too much personal background.

CommentsV012513Haskins

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Venice – 25 January 2013**

**Dr. Ron Haskins
Fighting Poverty and Increasing Economic Opportunity**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

He is well informed, but poor speaker. He spoke too quickly and swallowed his words.

What a disgrace to SILL. Do not bring this guy back. No one with his views should be allowed to present without someone right there to refute his tripe.

Haskins statistics are excellent. Problem arises when a cause and effect relationship is assumed. Societal issues are big with Haskins, but voters did not accept Santorum's sanctimonious platforms on women's rights. Increased ability of women to control their fertility through birth control and, if needed, abortion, was not discussed. Real world solutions are needed.

Sometimes talked too fast.

Talked too fast but very good slides.

Talks way too fast, only half understood as he went faster, words slur too much. I do not have any hearing problem.

I wish I could have had more time to understand the slides. It was too much information for me to process – sadly. The information was excellent and worth knowing. He tried to get too much across in a short time.

It was difficult to understand some of his speech. He seemed to jumble the end of his sentences. It may be partially the sound system.

Speaker made a "dull" subject fascinating. Good speaker. Invite him back for follow-up.

Very good. Finally someone uses visual aids.

Have him back!

Excellent maximum relevant information. No fluff.

Too bad visuals broke down.

Negative. Spoke too quickly and dropped his voice. Had trouble hearing him.

A message of tremendous importance for our country's future!

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Sound system was poor. Garbled and muffled sound.

Sound system is terrible. Muddled, can't hear speaker's points. Too loud...too soft... too loud, etc. Has been this way for at least three years. SILL should demand that community center improve the sound system.

Promote church, community, youth, parents.

Water for the speaker!

Speaker system needs work.

CommentsS031913Miller

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 19 March 2013**

**Dr. Steven Miller
The Iran Crisis and Nuclear Security**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Excellent – Hope to hear him again next year.

Great talk.

An excellent lecture – Have him back again!

A different point of view with refreshing cast of factual info.

How about a map relating to the countries he discussed.

Excellent talk.

Somewhat rambling. Visual aids to reinforce certain points could help. Speaker appears very affable and personable, but substance of his lecture was lacking. Lots of criticism of US policy, but no ideas about how to correct or improve relationship.

I thought the presentation too one-sided against present US policy. Seemed not to take covert sights seriously and virtually no mention of overt threat to Israel. What about nuclear Israel even if we change our policy?

A fresh view.

CommentsS013113Pollack

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 31 January 2013**

**Dr. Jonathan Pollack
The United States and China: The Wary Partnership**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Excellent (3)

Best yet.

Surprisingly disorganized and unrevealing.

A rather boring lecture. He did not address important issues like monetary control, military growth, human rights, protests about corruption, democratic progress. His answers were too long-winded. He should avoid “ah,” um,” “if you will” in his delivery.

His presentation would be more effective if he was less chatty, more tightly organized and precise, in recognition of his time limits.

However the speaker did not address the US/China relations as advertised. Was good on China.

The ambassador’s talk was better – more focused on a few key points. Pollack’s lk wandered around through a variety of points.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Please ask the moderators to instruct questioners NOT to make speeches, but rather to ask a brief question.

CommentsS020613Mneimneh

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 06 February 2013**

**Hassan Mneimneh
Islam and Islamism in the 21st Century: Global Case Studies**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

A very interesting and provocative lecture!

Excellent speaker.

Excellent. Learned more from this man

Very good.

Excellent though accent made it difficult to understand.

Excellent! Organization clear, effective. Able to be succinct, but also repeat overview.
Bravo!

A few graphics (Powerpoint) would enhance the lecture, audience interest, and comprehension.

Speaker is very knowledgeable. I am concentrating very hard to understand a few words.
Very interesting!

Accent took a while to understand.

I had trouble understanding his words.

It was very difficult to understand his heavy dialect.

When speaker has strong accent, please ask them to speak more deliberately and don't drag voice at end of sentences.

I found the speaker very difficult to understand.

So hard to understand accent. AV could help.

Accent difficult to understand.

Delivery poor for me. Could not pick up 1/3 of words.

Very hard to understand.

Couldn't understand him.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Difficult to hear on right side of auditorium. Machinery running outside door. Very loud.

Technology in outer lobby DISGRACEFUL. Poor audio (back feed!) and pathetic video.

Update fee to overflow crowd to digital feed. Picture is useless!

Sitting in back and could not hear.

CommentsS012313Rishikof

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 23 January 2013**

**Harvey Rishikof
Cyber – The Last Frontier**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

He was fabulous! So much to think about. Please have him back again!

Excellent information. Wonderful sense of humor. Annoyance: Speaker was chewing gum while speaking!

Fantastic speaker and fascinating topic.

Important topic well presented.

The best!

Bring him back.

Great sense of humor!

Difficult to understand speech at times. Swallowed words. Had something in his mouth.

As a speech pathologist I suggest that you instruct all future speakers not to chew gum through their entire presentation. It is pathetic that you should have to do this to a professional.

The speaker chewed gum and at times speech was not clear!

This speaker was hard to understand either because he was chewing gum and/or the microphone made his speech unclear. What he said was important and interesting but because of the quality of the sound (personal or technical) it was frustrating.

One of the best we have had at SILL.

Perhaps clearer if not chewing gum during speech.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Please ask speakers not to drop their voices at critical moments. Speak slowly and clearly!

All three speakers to date this year have been superior!

The lecture should be longer.

CommentsV020813Williams

PROGRAM COMMENTS

Venice – 08 Feb 2013

Dr. John A Williams

Thinking & Responding To National Security Challenges

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Wonderful! It was a substitute and it was superb!

His presentation was done with humor!

Excellent and great delivery!

#5s, especially as he was a substitute.

An interesting talk. Not “in depth.” More of a global look at a lot of subjects. Liked comments on gerrymandering! How true.

Good sense of humor. Fun to listen to. Pretty general presentation.

Treated the subject too broadly as a result that no information was relevant. Too many “quips”. Not relevant to conveying information.

The speaker spoke in generalities. He provided opinions and no information. I strongly recommend you do not invite him back.

Too generalized. Not respecting the intelligence of audience.

Appreciate teaching important concepts in humor and links to other sources.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Whilst this replacement speaker was entertaining, since SILL has emails of attendees, why not advise people by email, if a replacement speaker will be used, and what replacement topic will be?

Like too many recent SILL speakers, this one is too general and too superficial.

CommentsS021913Hamilton

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 19 February 2013**

**Dr. Daniel Hamilton
Germany: Europe's Powerhouse?**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

I thought the early part of the talk was too general, but I am very familiar with the subject. The second part of the talk was excellent and most informative.

Needed slides.

Not annually.

Future subject?? Perhaps more info and analysis of the EU economic development and prospects for the future. "EU Structures" i.e., unskilled vs. skilled labor, employees as "resources." Q & A continues to be interesting.

Bring him back.

Excellent program.

As a German citizen, I missed information about the German health care system and also the taxation laws and the tax breaks for every citizen, which also provides German wealth.

Map of Germany/Europe would have been helpful.

Why would Jews go back? Euro not discussed. Jewish attitude not mentioned.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

I suggest you remind late comers to turn off cell phones before they enter the auditorium.

All lectures have been 5+.

