

CommentsV012414Brennan

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Venice - 24 January 2014**

**Dr. Troyan Brennan
Prospects for the Next Health Care Reform 2030**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Needs more time. I spent time reading slides and didn't have time to listen. But, excellent! Topic well covered.

Too much detail too quickly. Linkages between data and health care costs were more than I could grasp. He assumes the lower income people will not have an increase in income in the future.

The presentation was over the head of the audience, too detailed, and was geared toward professionals.

Not easy to understand his speech.

Data detail was good, but too much to digest in the short amount of time. He was on the next point before I absorbed all the information in the previous one. He could have summarized the data without all the detail.

In future, consumer action in dealing with reform. He spoke so fast.

Address by a non-partisan person next time. SILL should not foster CFS's position. The speaker mentioned the pharmacy role in rising healthcare! CVS is making \$ by having him speak to us. SILL should not be complicit in this! This is the first time I've seen SILL supporting something like this. And I paid # to hear this!

Great!

Good information!

Well done.

Excellent.

This man was excellent!

CommentsS011614Savage

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 16 January 2014**

**Ms. Terry Savage
The Economics of an Aging Population**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

I loved the video presentation.

Excellent presenter, but disagreed with a lot of what she said. Suggest a presenter with different perspective.

This was a right wing rant, but she presented as if there was no political slant.

Showed she is vs. raising taxes on rich to raise money. Too conservative.

Not relevant to Canadians. Feels straight Republican – and her statistics do not agree with what I read in Toronto. Some of her concepts she tells as “facts” are only opinions., i.e., young people not insuring because they are subsidizing the old. Do we only insure for the less likely? We insure against catastrophe – and so must the young. Debt limit? Government has been diluting money for always. Warren Buffet said a dollar when he was born was equivalent to 3 cents.

Too shrill.

Presentation too basic.

She told me things I already know. I would have preferred her to talk about how to survive in this changing money environment.

For all her protestations to the contrary, this was the most political speech I’ve heard at SILL. Her topic and views would be better in a debate format.

Although the speaker felt she was not political, her presentation was very politically slanted. She is a good speaker.

This type of program is not working. You are going to lose subscribers. We want academics, ambassadors, foreign affairs. We know all these arguments made today. Some of us know it better than the speaker.

Lacked focus (too many canned slides with too much detail). Too political. Did not acknowledge current situation is recovering from Great Recession.

A Tea Party rep.

Today's lecture was terrible though. I had to leave at one point. This lady was making me so upset. Worse than Fox News or Sarah Palin. I understand that every point of view needs to be exposed, but when one distorts the facts, French Universal Health care system on which she probably does not (know) anything. Good thing also that the Canadians in the audience booed her. She deserved it. Regards, Christine

Follow-up Email to SILL Board of Directors. We are writing to voice our opposition to having Terry Savage back as a speaker. It's good to have speakers with a point of view which is not in agreement with many in the audience. However, we do not expect to hear a propagandists. Ms. Savage represented herself as unbiased, which was clearly not true. She stated her opinion as absolute truth, made glaring misstatements, and created a feeling of doubt about her whole presentation. At the Q & A she tried to avoid answering a legitimate question by reciting a contrived anecdote. When the questioner, speaking from personal knowledge contradicted her, the entire audience became agitated and she "ran for the door". Terry Savage is not the kind of speaker that will hold up SILL's reputation.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Disrespectful audience during Q and A.

Thursday is for International. She should be listed on a Tuesday.

The heckler in the audience should have been escorted out. There was no rationale for suddenly curtailing the Q and A session. It denied the rest of the audience what might have been the best part of the session. There should be a protocol established for such situations. In no way should the Q and A segment be sacrificed for one or two "loudmouths."

Facilitator should not have cut off questions. Speaker was excellent. Questioner was disrespectful and he should have been effected! Rude audience is not acceptable!

The subject matter was relevant, but not a global issue.

CommentsV011714Savage

PROGRAM COMMENTS
Venice – 17 January 2014

Ms. Terry Savage
The Economics of an Aging Population

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Excellent!

Much too one-sided.

Fox news! One-sided.

Address again if non-partisan.

She spoke what she believed.

Strongly partisan speaker!!!

Far right economist.

Fear mongering, right wing, wealth bias.

She was the most disappointing speaker. I would never attend her lecture again.

She was a Tea Party propagandist that distorted the truth.

Partisan – Horrible demagogue.

Tea Party.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

.Represent opposite views other than Tea Party.

Please cover political term limits in the future.

Please cover the viability of independent 3rd parties funded by the government.

Cover defense budgets to be funded by corporations who pay no tax, but whose economic interests are underwritten by our Armed Forces.

Address again by someone with a different perspective

CommentsS020514Wimbush

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota - 05 February 2014**

**Dr. S. Enders Wimbush
Could Russia Fail?**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Very, very enjoyable. Good speaker. A little too much time spent on population topic. Would have liked to hear more about other areas where the Russians are being challenged, like industrial and scientific decline, or cybercrime.

Maps and graphs were very helpful!

Next year: "Where Is Russia One Year Later?"

No more AEI people.

The failure to respect questioner not excusable.

The speaker had some very interesting material, but it was repetitive and somewhat dry with statistics being overused! I would have liked more discussion with relation to Putin and Syria.

Needed more charts.

He would be good for a roundtable. Speaker was very knowledgeable, but boring. Invite back only if presentation is more enjoying. Better to invite a speaker who can better stimulate the audience with visuals and without relying on notes. Speaker should also address why topic is relevant to US.

Disappointing.

CommentsS021314Moon

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota - 13 February 2014**

**Dr. Marilyn Moon
The Promise and Prospects for reforming the Delivery of Health Care**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

No matter what the system, self-interest by consumers, absence of enthusiasm by government workers are all corrupting realitiive(?). How to create the ideal system and institute fairness for all is the human dilemma. Using single experiences to define this totally is the human problem.

No new info if one reads the paper.

The speaker is a propagandist in support of socialized health care.

Definitely ask back. We need an update on how ACA is working – or not.

Bravo!!!

Very knowledgeable, objective and effective.

Excellent. You might try to get a TV camcorder on who speaks to quality(?)

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Lecture preceding Dr. Moon's talk is a total annoyance – incomprehensible over the already existing chatter. Please discontinue.

Thursdays have always been focused on International themes. Why have the last three lectures on the subject might be better on Tuesday?

Disappointed that focus of series has shifted away from International Issues to Domestic.

Very distracting to hear tape. Want to talk to friends prior to lecture – Slides OK.

Don't play tape of lecture on China two weeks ago. No one can hear it in audience.

Why play a recording of the previous lecture beforehand? No one can follow with all the talking and it is annoying.

This is not a global issue, but it is entertainment to us.

Please! No voice before program – suggest music (i.e., soft type)

CommentsS022614McGee

PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota - 26 February 2014

Ambassador James D. McGee
Problems, the Promise and the Future of Sub-Saharan Africa

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Wonderful.

Needed a large map.

Should have had a map on the screen.

Excellent information!

It would be very helpful to project a map so that the geography of these countries can be related to the discussion!

No new information provided in this lecture.

Need a map. A lot of repeat from Tuesday. Both talks not well organized.

Need maps.

We need more visual aids.

Topic was too broad, lacked focus.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

The speaker kept walking around the podium and into the shadows. Your lighting should have put more light on him. He was hard to see.

Would you consider NOT having "background" music while we wait for the speaker? It's obnoxious and makes conversation difficult. It was so nice not to have it today.

We do not need long intros. We have the CVs in our brochures.

Every speaker should have a map of his/her area up on the screen. This very simple effort would enhance the presentation of every speaker and contribute to greater understanding by the audience.

Visual aids to orient audience as to geography.

This is the second speaker who was comfortable standing beside the podium. Unfortunately, the spotlight is focused toward the opposite side of the podium. He stood in semi-darkness the whole time.

Why not have the introduction of speaker begin at 10:25 instead of 10:30 to allow more time for Q & A?

Some topics would be better understood if maps could be displayed on the screen. i.e., Africa, Middle East, even Russia, Asia, maybe Europe.

CommentsS022714Payind

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota - 27 February 2014**

**Dr. Alam Payind
The Tortured Past and Present of Afghanistan, Often Aggravated by Super Powers**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Dr. Payind provided excellent historical background. He should have left home his Power Point slides (except the maps) and just talked to his audience. The Q & A was excellent.

Speaks too fast.

English difficult to understand. Seemed somewhat disorganized.

Speaker is knowledgeable, but does not pass his knowledge in a clear and organized way for the public to absorb the core of his points.

The problem here is somewhat clear English and what is the goal of his lecture. By this time, often 6 years of Afghanistan lectures, we must assume audience knows the history. Also, Power Point can be a technical problem here. The answers in the Q & A were much better. All this is unfortunate because he knows his subject very well. If the speaker is not told to short-shrift on history, he will not do so.

He needs to manage the technology more efficiently and not read his images. Very knowledgeable questions answered better than the lecture.

Power Point was far less effective than Dr. Payind's words.

Very hard to understand!

Poorly presented, disorganized.

Speaker was very hard to understand. Speech not particularly well-organized.

He seemed so disorganized. The Q & A was a more informative experience. His subsequent discussion and answers were more informative than his talk.

Extremely poor. Poorest speaker we have had. Presenter had information we should know.

Disorganized. Difficult to follow his thought processes.

Very hard to understand. Why did he have to read his notes on screen? We can read.

We do not need a Power Point lecture read out to us, or a geography lesson. A lecture in half sentences is very disorienting.

Difficulty understanding him. Afghanistan, perhaps, should be a subject in the future. He was boring and the accent was too bad.

Speaker did not address the real issue, “what do we do there other than creating enemies.”

I am disappointed in SILL this season. The new speakers gave topics not relevant to the audience age group. SILL is not as well organized as in the past. The speakers have not been up to SILL’s standards.

It was difficult to understand everything said by the speaker. His skill with the English language needs strengthening. His presentation was somewhat disorganized. A lot of the information he provided is available in our newspapers.

Speaker knew the material, but his speech pattern was difficult to understand. Thought the background material was informative and interesting.

He was difficult to understand due to his accent. His message could not be clearly followed. Also, his agenda was complex and not followed. He is knowledgeable, but not in this community.

Communication skills somewhat limited, but extremely knowledgeable about Afghanistan. Please invite him back.

Good to hear from an Afghan who has and is living history.

It would help if Prof. Payind could speak slower. It is a fascinating subject and he is obviously extremely bright and well informed.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

PROGRAM COMMENTS
Venice – 07 March 2014

Dr. Richard Samuels
Japan's Grand Strategy

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Speaker spoke too fast, dropped ends of sentences. I hung on every word, but often couldn't (?) to conclusion.

Excellent!

Cut back on the number of abbreviations on the visuals. Can be a distraction (at least to me) and while I'm trying to figure out the meaning of these "shortened terms" I'm drifting from the speaker's message.

Very informative speaker.

A little hard to hear.

Well organized, well articulated. A "best effort" approach to objectivity is much appreciated. A definite seminar appearance should also be investigated! Thanks!

Outstanding!

Speaks poorly. Ends of sentences fade. Visual aids difficult to follow.

Voice dropped. Hard to hear some of his remarks.

Dr. Samuels is knowledgeable and well-spoken. He has a tendency to drop his voice. Too inaudible when ending a statement. It's partly his cadence, but it would help greatly if he could maintain volume.

Effectiveness of message: Presented very logically.

We lost end of each of his sentences. Too much dependence on visual aids. Had trouble following with lecture and charts.

Too many acronyms on slides. Not sufficiently explained. (meaning should have been apparent on slides). I expected more economic information. Disappointed it wasn't included.

Speaker focused all his attention on visuals and not the audience. He should redesign his presentation and drop any visuals. Visuals were too detailed and hard to follow.

One of my least favorite speakers. Too disjunctive with his comments.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Please instruct speakers to consider the age and hearing of the SILL audience by:

- 1) speaking slowly and distinctly,
- 2) avoid asides and stage whispers, and
- 3) speaking clearly takes effort and planning.

T cell improved volume of speaker's voice, but did not comprehension in my hearing aid. Whose fault is this? T cue system or my hearing aid?

CommentsS031814Smith

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 18 March, 2014**

**Hedrick Smith
Who Stole the American Dream?**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

One of most outstanding speakers we've had.

Please have HS again – outstanding!

One of the (?) lectures in series. I enjoy the lectures more when speakers do come out from behind the lectern.

He was great.

Highlight of the series this year.

Best this year.

Excellent topic and presentation.

Organized and clear. Had specific back-up for facts. Great speaker.

He was the best!

Excellent speaker, but he didn't tell us anything most of us didn't know. I liked his call to action ideas. Would like to have an update on the topic every so often.

Excellent! Best series of speaker for 2014 in many regards!

SILL has always been wonderful, but this winter season has been especially good with many top-notch presenters. Hedrick Smith embodied many qualities we always look for: good, natural organization of the topic, ease and command of presentation, humor, etc., oh, and of course, a thorough background in the subject. We ordered the CD of the lecture so that we could share it with friends and family. Thanks for producing such a wonderful series! We're sorry it's over.

Best presentation this year.

Outstanding presentation! Skip the previous speaker from future lectures – poorly organized, inept slide presentation – boring!

Hedrick Smith was outstanding. Please encourage all speakers to be candid and provide opinions on their beliefs based on an analysis of knowledge and experience.

Wish all your speakers were as dynamic, smart and articulate.

Excellent! One of the best!!

Excellent topic, knowledgably and engagingly presented. Not just problems, but partial solutions.

Don't let SILL get political.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Rather than spot light, put speaker in light across the stage. Always show a slide with map(s) of place of subject for that day. Keep introductions very short – we can read program with speaker info.

CommentsS032014Edwards

**PROGRAM COMMENTS
Sarasota – 20 March, 2014**

**Mickey Edwards
The Parties Versus the People: How to Turn Republicans and Democrats
Into Americans**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Best lecture yet! We heard from a participant in the subject matter.

Outstanding!!!

Best speaker of the season.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL

Questions re new venue. Next year – How many bathrooms? Are they easy to get to?
Can you raise the podium so all can see the speaker?

