

Comments Summaries

Terry Roberts

Expectations of Privacy

Sarasota - 1/11/17

148 evaluations received

33 included comments.

Non-substantive Comments:

- Speaker should use the words "right" or "ok" less in punctuating her remarks (5 comments)
- Speaker's mannerisms and speech patterns were distracting
- Speaker should have used more visual aids/slides (2)
- Speaker's dress and tone of voice very good
- Speaker's enunciation was good even for hearing impaired

Substantive Comments:

- Talk was too elementary for audience (9)
- Talk was too technical for this elderly audience
- Speaker was more of an entertainer than an expert in her field (2)
- Q&A's were better than her talk (6)
- Speaker Knowledgeable but presentation not effective (2)
- Wished speaker talked in more detail about current Russian hacking
- Interesting talk, but not necessary to have repeat performance (3)
- Talk was too short; needed more depth
- Excellent talk; very interesting: raised critical issue (2)

Benjamin Barber
Success and Failure in the Third World
Venice – 1/17/17

258 attended

60 evaluations received

16 included comments + 1 email comment

Positive Comments:

- Interesting-Effective
- Excellent program, knowledgeable speaker, very erudite
- Mr. Barber injects humor at just the right time. He presents context and perspective-the presentation is most meaningful
- Very informative-Thank you Mr. Barber-Important work
- His presentation was excellent
- I miss seeing these truthful photos-no Life Magazine anymore-Aid seems to be accomplishing a lot
- Please come back next year to update us and tweak our consciences
- On Jan 18th Ben Barber spoke at SILL. I thought that some people would be confused because he wasn't a polished presenter but his content, if you listened carefully, was extremely insightful and unique. Because he didn't draw simplistic, broad sweeping conclusions, the audience seemed lost. His anecdotes were nuanced but filled with unique observations. Yes, it took some work from the viewers but Ben's talk was rich with basic things like shoes for the people are a foundational start often overlooked. Cultural norms often hinder progress more than governments do. And the "Buffalo Paddle Wheel" was a great story and example of practical entrepreneurship that could make giant changes in productivity of 100% or more. I recommend you have him back. His approach is different than other SILL speakers but his content is important to put in front of this "Whiteopia" audience to broaden them and make them think. Pushing your audience, on occasion, intellectually is a good thing. (I'll be in Sarasota until the end of February if you'd like to talk more) Thanks and good luck.
- Terrific
- Good Photos
- Pictures were a nice addition

Suggestions for Improvement:

- Did not speak to the topic listed
- More In depth discussion; He had no message
- If the subject area is addressed in next year's series, Should deal with the present day evaluation
- Lecture was to include an in depth analysis of the complex reasons why some countries develop and others didn't. This was an interesting retrospective of Mr. Barber's career as a photo journalist. The actual subject was only briefly touched on
- Should have been better, clearer explanation of what would be presented-was more of a slide show than an educational program
- Lecture too long-speaker not aware of time constraints
- Topic handouts would be useful

Miscellaneous Comments:

- Two comments were made regarding "introduction too long"

Amb. Zalmay Khalilzad

Afghanistan: Condemned to Chaos or Prospects for Progress?

Sarasota - 1/24/17

124 evaluations received

66 included comments

By far, with 30 comments, were negative reactions to the dialogue format.

- 2 liked the format
- 11 stated that the program was not well focused, that the questions were vague
- 10 had difficulty hearing (understanding?)
- 9 mentioned difficulty understanding the Ambassador
- 6 found this year's first two programs disappointing
- 4 felt that the questions were too long
- 1 slides too hard to see
- 1 room too cool

Amberin Zaman
Turkey in Crisis
Sarasota - 1/31/17

186 evaluations received
33 included comments.

Non-substantive Comments

- Heavy accent made him (???) very difficult to follow
- Hearing aid issue--Difficult to comprehend speaker's words
- Power Point would have enhanced talk
- Lecture format much more effective than dialogue
- Talking point slides would have been helpful
- Could not understand speaker: dialect
- Her words were difficult to understand.

Substantive Comments

- Excellent presentation!
- Excellent speaker--Truly!
- Started out strong but got a little confusing
- Tried to include too much
- Excellent informative speaker, raised questions about US role
- Outstanding speaker...
- Brilliant! Bring her back
- Best speaker to date
- Best speaker of the year
- Fascinating presentation
- Absolutely fabulous--bring her back next year
- One of best speakers..
- Lecture started strong, but became a little confusing
- Terrific speaker! Maps, pictures would be helpful

Laurel Bellows

Modern Day Slavery in the United States and Throughout the World Sarasota - 2/9/17

106 evaluations received

26 included comments

Non-Substantive Comments:

- Had trouble understanding speaker--spoke too fast with constant change of volume
- Sound not clear
- Delivery style made it difficult hear all the info....
- Speaker tended to drop the voice at the end of sentences...That made them nearly or totally inaudible and I have normal hearing
- I find the voices of the speakers not as clear as they should be
- I couldn't hear voice
- Occasionally speaker was a little difficult to understand...

Substantive Comments:

- Florida specific examples would have engaged audience more
- Her message was delivered successfully
- Speaker should have addressed penalties for those found guilty of slave crimes
- All previous lectures in this series were excellent
- Entertaining but not informative (!!!!-my editorial comment)
- Very repetitious
- Don't think subject will change enough in a year to merit a repeat lecture
- A powerful & informative presentation!
- The pace of the talk could have been faster

Dr. Michael Adler
HIV/AIDS: Lessons For Other Epidemics?
Venice - 2/14/17

38 evaluations received
7 included comments + 1 emailed comment

Positive Comments:

- I look forward to hearing another talk next year
- Excellent speaker on a different topic
- Certainly held my interest
- Gave a non-technical delivery

Audiovisual Comments

- Needs better audiovisual
- This venue should have ensured the slides be full screen, and sound enabled
- Slides that display more recent data would be more interesting
- Visuals should be prepared by speaker in large-enough form to be full seen by audience
- Videos should be pre-played to be sure they work
- SILL should have made sure sound worked on slides and had someone to assist when sound didn't work

Comments for Improvement

- Lecture before Q & A should be 45-50 min. This one was only 30 min
- We didn't have time to fill out the form yesterday but wanted you to know that we were disappointed by the speaker about AIDS. He didn't tell us much that we didn't already know. Compared to other speakers this year, he was the worst we heard. It's too bad as this is an important topic. Why didn't he have current info about ZIKA?

Miscellaneous Comments

- SILL person who introduced presenter, her phone or device keep talking at times during talk
- The questionnaire should be for all speakers. The series this year has been very poor on content ability to hear and effectiveness

Bernard Haykel

Saudi Arabia in a Time of Social, Political, Economic, and Religious Change

Lakewood Ranch - 2/23/17

54 evaluations received

3 included comments

- Outstanding
- Would like a few talks with conservative slants
- The sound system is in need of some improvement--a little more volume

5 Evaluations received from Sarasota 2/23/17

2 included comments

- He is a little difficult to understand. He should not assume the audience knows nothing about Saudi Arabia
- The sound system in the foyer is better than in the church. The words are not as crisp...

Amb. James Collins
Russia and Euro-Atlantic Security
Venice - 2/28/17

57 Evaluations received
3 included comments

- Articulate, easy to follow and understood. Bring him back
- Excellent Speaker
- I wish Amb. Collins would have shared his insight regarding Russian involvement in 2016 elections & Russian interference in European elections.”

Mark Weston

Electoral Votes: What Were The Founders Thinking? And What Would They Do Today?

Venice - 3/3/17

102 evaluations received

22 included comments: *one comment not recorded due to its vulgarity*

- Bring him back
- Great Material
- Very knowledgeable on topic
- A shame we missed his slides
- Nice sense of humor
- Thoroughly enjoyed it
- Timely
- Excellent
- Very interesting but talk just a little slower for audience comprehension
- Speak more slowly, wish we could have had slides but still great
- The speaker was very good but he spoke a little too quickly
- Mr. Weston to his credit took a dry, dull topic and made it quite interesting and thought provoking

John Mecklin
Doomsday Clock
Sarasota 3/9/17

71 evaluations received
24 included comments (6 hearing problems)
High percentage of low numerical evaluations

Typical Negative Comments

- Horrible Lecture
- Worst lecture I've been to in years
- Could have gotten info on Google in 2 minutes
- Too slow--not engaging
- Terrible speaker; sloppy dresser
- Speaker was very 1980
- Speaker drops his voice--hard to understand
- Material doesn't merit a return visit for sometime(sic)
- The lecture was disappointing

Few Positive Comments:

- Topic is extremely important today
- Topic so important that speaker's speaking skills are OK

Bing West

We Remain at War in Afghanistan, Sort of...

Sarasota 3/18/17

90 evaluations

19 included comments

- Best speaker ever!
- Best speaker of the 2017 season
- Best to-the-point speaker we have had
- To date this was best speaker of the year!
- Very good sincere speaker
- Very engaging. One of best speakers this year
- Refreshing and candid
- Excellent fielding of questions
- Ask Mr West to be less anecdotal and more structured
- Most definitely invite him back--talks the talk & has walked the walk
- Great speaker--realist
- Excellent ! Politicians should listen to this gentleman
- Great ! Too bad federal govt can't hear this
- Interesting views, but probably should not be invited back for a few years

Dr. Alice Rothchild

Condition Critical: Life and Death in Israel/Palestine

Lakewood Ranch 3/16/17

37 evaluations

14 included comments

- Fascinating
- You have to be totally unaware or insensitive to give this hater a forum to spread her malice...
- SILL should invite a pro-Israel speaker...
- I was offended by today's speaker. SILL has usually presented both sides of issues...
- This is important and I really appreciate hearing all sides of every issue...
- Her presentation was too filled with negative fact...
- It was unfortunate that some questioners were so argumentative. She handled that with grace...
- Outstanding Articulate Audience needs controlling...
- Extremely good learning presentation...

Amb. Robert Ford
Middle East Policy Options for the New Administration
Sarasota 3/24/17

361 attended
77 evaluations
23 included comments

Positive Comments

- Outstanding
- Excellent (3 people)
- Terrific (2 people)
- Loved Talk
- Very Informative
- Great Speaker (2 people)
- He should be invited back (3 People)
- One of the best speakers to appear at SILL
- The slides were excellent as was the humor
- Fabulous talk
- Fantastic
- This was great
- Best lecture this season
- He knows his stuff
- The best. I attended all Tuesday presentations and several Fridays and Sarasota as well. On any evaluation I have never scored the presenter high as I have for Mr. Ford. His insight that provided perspective to a long-term situation
- Amb Robert Ford was the best speaker of the SILL 2017 season. He is the most comprehensive, thorough, finer-on-the-pulse speaker. I've seen. It's pretty good when the information presented is dated March 17, 2017 and the lecture date is March 24, 2017. This lecture was very relevant and timely given the present day issues. Amb. Ford presents this in a very intelligent/easy to understand format given all the complexities of the Middle East. Normally I answer these questions with a 1 because in most cases the topics do not require such frequent updates however, just because Amb Ford is such an impressive Speaker, I hope SILL will keep him on the "please return annually list."

Miscellaneous Comments

- This presentation should have been videoed for PBS
- He should run for office. He clearly has an agenda

Miscellaneous Comments for SILL

- Evaluations should be completed for all speakers
- Some of your old speakers need to go
- The entire series is absolutely fantastic Bravo
- Mike system not doing its job. It didn't pick up the speaker's voice's ups and downs. Hard to understand him at times"

Dr. Elizabeth Economy
China Under Xi Jinping
Sarasota 3/29/17

35 evaluations

7 included comments

- Speaks too rapidly; swallows words
- Very good information
- Speaks too fast in a high pitched voice
- Smooth, well-organized, relevant presentation
- Excellent structure to presentation
- Message not always clear--speaks too rapidly
- Ask her to appear earlier next year

Dr. Aaron David Miller

Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President
Sarasota 3/30/17

105 evaluations

19 included comments

- Never saw so many people stay for the question period right after the speaker finished; a very captivating speaker
- Please have him back--one of our best speakers
- Best presentation yet...
- Maybe the best speaker we heard this year !
- Thought provoking; My favorite presentation this year
- A wonderful season; Thank you !
- Great speaker ! Maybe back next year on a different topic ?
- SUPERB !!!
- Bring him back
- Excellent speaker, but I didn't learn anything
- Sound system needs to be improved