

Comments Summaries

Daniel Speckhard

Responding in a World in Permacrisis

Sarasota 01/09/24

Attendance: 190

evaluations received: 68 (35.7%)

including comments: 12

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

-Excellent!

-Excellent speaker

-Great presentation

-Excellent

-Ambassador Speckhard gave an informative and inspirational presentation. His talk was like an introductory class to a year long course. So many areas covered and each could be the basis for a separate presentation

-Coherent and well-organized presentation. This year was an overview. If back next year(s), maybe a narrow focus on 1-2 problems/solutions/nations

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

-Maybe some case studies for success or failures

-Mistake on one slide: Re: hunger. 118 billion children should be 118 million". (There are only 8 billion humans in the world today. Since the beginning of time, only 110 billion people have lived on this earth)

-Too General. Didn't learn anything new. No concrete ideas of how to affect change. Who should we support? Who is affecting non-political solutions?

-Need more opinion about where to go vs. canned talk. More depth if he comes back. Would like more specifics micro loans etc

Comments regarding SILL, technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc

-There should be more time allotted for questions. The interaction within that forum often brings the topical discussion to concrete local/US concerns and application. Often the Presenter stays another 15 minutes as individual participants ask questions and speaks on a 1:1 basis when the whole participant group could benefit

-Make these talks 1 hour and 15 or 20 minutes for extra time to ask questions

-I was surprised that there are still issues with the sound system. Please try to check this system prior to the start of the program

Eric Rubin

A fragile Balkan Region in the Vortex of War in the Ukraine Venice 01/26/24

Attendance: 192

evaluations received: 73 (38%)

with comments: 11

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Excellent Speaker (2 comments)
- Very good speaker-concise, clear, easy to listen to
- Excellent job of summarizing the history of the region without over dramatizing the current situation. Extremely knowledgeable
- Better than 5
- Well presented
- Knowledgeable and fantastic resource as a speaker
- How lucky we are to have a diplomat of this caliber
- Very knowledgeable with regional history

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Needs to focus on now
- Expected more discussion on Ukraine and less detail on history of the Balkins
- Too much information

Shelley Rigger

Taiwan: Economic Powerhouse, Security Flash Point Venice 1/30/24

Attendance: 180

evaluations received: 84 (47%)

with comments: 10

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Excellent (2 people)
- Speaker is excellent, very knowledgeable (2 people)
- She was excellent! Especially in CP&A
- Excellent Q &A (2 people)
- Good overview-much more to learn of the subject. Bring her back
- Very impressed with the speaker's depth, and breadth of the subject matter. She conveyed complex information quite effectively.

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Encourage speakers to use A/V in their talks" (2 people)

- Topic is huge-way too broad to cover in a short time follow-one might be focused on particular area
- No real talk on semi-conductors

Comments regarding SILL: technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc

- Keep improving the A/V Quality in Venice
- Most of the time; the volume on the speaker system was too loud-it hurt to listen. Is there a 'middle ground' with this system/room?

Other

- Important to have a woman speaker finally

Bob Bunting

The Changing Climate and our Changing World

Sarasota 2/8/24

Attendance: 229

evaluations received: 94(41%)

with comments: 7

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Fantastic! Best topic ever!!
- Thank you for providing a "local resource to connect with and get involved with concrete next step!
- The subject area should be addressed in next year's series and every year
- Excellent lecture and explanations
- Knows storms and conveys info exceedingly well

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Should have spoken more about what can be done to mitigate climate change and help the problem

Comments regarding SILL: technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc.

- Too bad the video didn't play

Bruce Hoffman

The War on Terror Twenty Years Later: Are We Safer Now

Sarasota 02/13/24

Attendance: 222

evaluations received: 73 (33%)

with comments: 20

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Great!
- Excellent presentation. Important subject – MORE!!
- Thank you so much for such a relevant current application
- His slides were very readable – great – couldn't read red on white, but letter size generally good
- Very pertinent
- He was informative. Depressing – Reality

Potential Area of Improvement:

- How about the issues facing major cities such as riots; lack of respect among young people, educators; law enforcement lack of respect. 1st Amendment issues are not frozen
- I thought this would be focused on domestic terrorism vs Gaza
- More was lectured about terrorism in general than the topic advertised, that being the October attack in Israel
- Too localized
- You need to mic speakers (3)
- Difficult hearing/irritating when speaker turned his head (4)
- We need to have a microphone that is worn by the speaker (2)
- Slides too complicated – too busy (3)
- Slides were distracting and visibility poor. Poor quality and out of date format
- Oral presentation excellent. Slides had far too much detail. Detail should be presented orally. Slides should contain only main strategic take-aways. All the detail on slides make your head swim and actually detract

Comments regarding SILL: technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc.

- Moderator should remind audience to turn off cellphones
- Speakers typically engage in verbose and long answers?

Roya Hakakian

The Changing Climate and our Changing World

Sarasota 2/20/24

Attendance: 217

evaluations received: 72(33%)

with comments: ?

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- The talk was compelling and timely
- Brilliant!
- Excellent! Thank you!
- Speaker absolutely should return.
- Answered questions well

Potential Area of Improvement:

- What I would have liked was a more conversational tone in the talk, and the speaker's thoughts re where hope is to be found in this situation
- Would like less reading of material if possible
- More other Iran topics
- A few more relevant graphics (timeline) would be helpful to following the women's movement in Iran
- Read speech. Could have had more substance
- She did not clearly discuss outcome of recent protests
- She was not clear on why movement failed
- Whether or not speaker returns should be based on the world situation
- Reading from computer was distracting
- I really objected to her manner of delivery (reading)
- Lecturer shouldn't read presentation

Comments regarding SILL: technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc.

- Sound system not good in the church. Very hard to understand all the speakers. Can hear them, but difficult to understand

Rod Adams

The Changing Climate and our Changing World

Lakewood Ranch 3/7/24

Attendance: 76

evaluations received: 52(68%)

with comments: 18

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- At first the subject was complicated for me, but as he went on, it became extremely interesting
- Suggest 2 or 3 year follow-up
- Very good speaker, but too technical for me. Needs to be simplified

Potential Area of Improvement:

- Suggest he start by asking audience questions. Then present subject based on audience interest. Thanks
- The presentation was too one sided. The speaker is very passionate about this form of energy
- Very important topic, but too many examples of reactors. Focus on less examples and explain their positive benefits
- Rushed too fast. Yes, should have topic again, but change the presentation and speaker
- What happened!
- Too many examples given of plants being built. Could have been more efficient in discussion to eliminate what seemed to be a salesman discussing why his cars are better than others and mentioning how many cars he sold
- He spoke too quickly

**Richard Morningstar
Russian, Ukraine and European Energy Security
Venice 3/12/24**

Attendance: 147
evaluations received: 61(42%)
with comments: 7

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials**Potential Area of Improvement**

- Need a larger area map
- He should turn away from mic to clear his throat

Comments regarding SILL: technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc.

- The sound system is poor; hard to understand
- Provide speakers with pointers and encourage them to use them
- Questions from audience were much better than in past due to better microphone
- Speakers voice was blurred-needs a better mic or more volume
- Extremely irritating clacking noise throughout talk distracted from understanding of talk

**John Mallott
A Message from Japan: Dear China, Asia Does Not Belong to You
Sarasota 3/26/24**

Attendance: 190
evaluations received: 66(35%)
with comments: 11

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Excellent presentation
- Better voice projection was helpful
- Super! Repeat!
- So Good!
- I felt this speaker was excellent. He gave an historical perspective which was important. I liked his clarity about Japan and its relationship to its neighbors
- Excellent presentation
- Excellent! Thank you! Wish I could take a whole class from the Ambassador – speaks so well
- Well organized and spoke clearly
- Very well prepared and informative background on Japan, China, etc. Seems to have a unique perspective on Asia. Assume he could talk on many related topics
- Excellent historical overview

Other

- How about Michael Morrel as a speaker. Ex CIA. His podcast was fascinating
- Need to bring in more younger speakers with more energy. Sound system needs an upgrade

Jill Dougherty

Putin's Russia, the Man, the People, the War

Lakewood Ranch 3/28/24

Attendance: 194

evaluations received: 88(45%)

with comments: 5

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Great!

Other

- I wanted to hear about Russia, the people: their economics, education. Too much about CNN and her history of reporting.
- Indicated in the questions that they did not want the current person to return in the next two years.
- Talk was not focused
- Questions were very good.
- Richest why not put out Gone Fishing sign. After Putin. (I believe these were notes for him to ask the speaker questions.)