

BUILDING THE DIPLOMACY CENTER

update

July 2015

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Rendering of the Global Classroom in Hall III

EDUCATION UPDATE

We are excited that our educational outreach program is now national. Even though the building itself will not open until 2017, the USDC has been successfully reaching out to high school and college students and educators for more than a decade. The USDC began hosting conferences and fora in 2006, and in 2011 we launched *Discover Diplomacy*, an educational website offering a primer on diplomacy, the work of the State Department, and how U.S. diplomats serve Americans overseas. The website receives over 125,000 hits per month. It is both a tool for our teacher programs and an after-program classroom resource.



Lauren Fischer (standing) gives a presentation to teachers from around the nation who traveled to D.C. through the Close-Up Foundation

We are particularly proud of the USDC's Diplomatic Simulations Program, an

- ▶ immersive group exercise that
- ▶ challenges participants to resolve critical global issues through
- ▶ [Education Update cont. on page 3](#)

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

With the addition of every concrete slab, steel beam, and glass panel, the U.S. Diplomacy Center (USDC) continues to take shape. The building is now 33% complete, with the beginning of the structure emerging into view. The USDC project is unprecedented – the nation's first education center and interactive museum dedicated to inspiring and educating the public about the history, practice, and challenges of American diplomacy. We've already begun our work with educational institutions, teachers, and students. During the last year, the USDC conducted over 60 programs for teachers and students in the D.C. area, across the country, and with international audiences online.

In addition to programs for teachers and students, the Center is planning for programs that will explore the world of diplomacy through tours, lectures, panel discussions, web-based activities, film series and performances, and other innovative outreach activities. On-site and virtual visitors will be able to discuss directly with foreign policy experts how diplomacy impacts U.S. national interests. The USDC's education staff will lead students, educators, and others through challenging and thought-provoking group exercises, including diplomatic simulations.

We are building partnerships with universities and community colleges around the country that will enable us to develop conferences, programs, and media tools tailored to a student audience. We will offer issue-based modules, that will be guided and facilitated by Foreign Service Officers. These modules will complement the Center's exhibits and demonstrate how the work of our diplomats and foreign affairs agency colleagues effectively promote U.S. interests in our changing world. We welcome your support and involvement in our educational programs.

Kathy A. Johnson, Director

<http://diplomacy.state.gov>

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USDC INTERNS

Last spring, Aviva Pollack joined our team and immediately began helping with our collection of 6,200 artifacts. Aviva completed a physical inventory of one-hundred randomly selected artifacts, an annual task that helps ensure the accuracy of our collections records. She was also able to use her foreign language skills to translate inscriptions on several artifacts.

This summer we welcomed intern Leslie Luna. In her first week she started work to help organize the John C. Whitehead conference that the USDC is hosting in the fall. She also volunteered to help with the events surrounding the U.S. China dialogs and other USDC related programs.

Summer intern Leslie Luna works with FSO Judith Bryan on exhibits



Spring intern Aviva Pollack listens to a video from our *Faces of Diplomacy* exhibit



A-100 CLASS DONATION

State Department Foreign Service Officers enter an A-100 orientation class when they begin their careers. Members often maintain contact with each other as their careers progress. Since 1980, when the modern system of nomenclature began, there have been 183 FSO classes. Officers of these classes collect personal contributions to cover their social events and other activities during their several weeks of orientation. At the end of A-100, classes decide whether to refund the remaining contributions to members of the class, host an event, or contribute to a worthy cause.

The 179th Foreign Service Officer class decided to donate their remaining funds to the Diplomacy Center Foundation, our private partner, in support of the U.S. Diplomacy Center! The 179th had the opportunity to join us for our historic groundbreaking ceremony in September 2014 which featured Secretary Kerry and five of his predecessors. The class was inspired by the event and the group decided to contribute to the capital campaign underway in support of our efforts.

We appreciate their philanthropic spirit and thank them for their support!



The 179th class is sworn into office by Secretary Kerry

NEWS FROM THE DCF

The USDC welcomes Ambassador Thomas McNamara who was recently appointed as President of the Diplomacy Center Foundation (DCF). Ambassador McNamara is a retired career Foreign Service Officer who brings to our project a wealth of experience gained from over 40 years at the State Department and other U.S. government agencies. He currently teaches at the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University. We look forward to working closely with Ambassador McNamara.

The American Foreign Service Association awarded the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award to Ambassador William Harrop. We congratulate him on this prestigious award and thank him for his decades of service to the Foreign Service and the United States. We also thank Ambassador Harrop for his years of dedication to the USDC project through his position as President and Chairman of the DCF. At a board meeting held last month, Ambassador McNamara presented Ambassador Harrop with one of the shovels from the USDC's September 2014 groundbreaking ceremony – a token of appreciation for his leadership and service.



Amb. McNamara (left) presents a commemorative shovel to Amb. Harrop in gratitude for his service to the DCF

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Education Update, cont. diplomatic negotiations and peaceful conflict resolution. In addition to running simulations in D.C. area schools, partner organizations such as the National Council for the Social Studies, IREX, Global Ties U.S., and The Close Up Foundation have helped us field-test the simulations in diverse areas of the country. Without fail, students come away from the experience awed, curious, and eager to get more involved. As one student from Detroit told us, "I never knew how hard diplomacy could be...or how cool it is."



Global Ties participants in Detroit discuss their positions during a USDC simulation

With the vital support of our partner the Diplomacy Center Foundation (DCF) and a generous grant from the Bechtel Foundation, we are now developing new modules as well as augmenting classroom and online tools. We plan to launch the Diplomatic Simulations Program nationally in the fall of 2016. Other DCF and USDC outreach activities include organizing a conference to be held at the Department of State on November 6, 2015, titled "Why Diplomacy?" The USDC is also working with Brigham Young University's Laycock Center for Creative Collaboration – and embassies on four continents – to produce an educational video series on several of the State Department's signature programs to promote peace, prosperity, democracy, and development.



Students in Los Angeles participate in a USDC simulation

BUILDING UPDATE



USDC staff stand in front of the construction site in early June

Celebrating a Milestone:

At the beginning of June, the construction phase of the project reached 33% completion. During this phase, the project team will pay intense attention to areas that are critical to staying on budget and schedule. Through daily coordination, the project managers for construction, management, and the Department of State map a schedule of tasks – such as underground and above ground work and critical city permits – that when pieced together produce the building.

Excellent teamwork has resulted in the completion of the lower level concrete perimeter walls, the rectangular pad for the bottom of the monumental stairs, and many of the critical support walls. Engineers and specialists completed the basic

electrical and plumbing systems on the lower level, which now allows the newly-installed 300 ton crane to begin hoisting steel beams into place. The steel shell will begin to take shape over July and August. The glass exterior – known as curtain wall and glazing – will arrive during the fall.



Recent snapshot from the USDC construction webcam

While work progresses on the exterior of the evolving structure, there will be a flurry of activity inside to fit out the interior. In particular, the monumental staircase will be installed – a beautifully designed dual stairway of stainless steel, glass, and marble. The staircase is a significant architectural detail that enhances the upper level as well as the lower level space.

In the meantime, the general contractor is busily completing small tasks on the lower level, such as backfilling open areas around walls, "closing up" duct banks, submitting quality control checklists, and working hard (as a team) to move forward and begin the next phase: the steel and glass.

Follow our progress via our [construction webcam](#).

Comments or questions? Email us at: usdc@state.gov

The U.S. Diplomacy Center is the only repository in the nation solely dedicated to diplomacy-related artifacts. Since 2000, the U.S. Diplomacy Center has collected over 6,200 artifacts.

In addition to going on display in exhibits or as online features, artifacts are also great research and educational tools. It is a little known fact that scholarly researchers are allowed to come visit and view objects in storage to further their research goals. A recent example involved two quilts from Liberia and a Ph.D. candidate from Indiana University. The student is working on a dissertation that looks at how women artists contribute to cultural diplomatic efforts between West Africa and the United States. Liberian envoys have used quilts in diplomatic gifting since 1893, when quilter Martha Ricks travelled to London for an audience with Queen Victoria. Ricks gave the British queen a quilt appliquéd with the



design of a coffee tree. An imported artistic tradition by American settlers in the nineteenth century, quilting practices have changed over time to reflect Liberian women's lives. Liberian diplomatic quilts visually express nearly two centuries of shared history between Liberia and the United States.

The USDC has two Liberian quilts — one was a gift to Secretary Rice in 2006 from Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; the other was a gift to Secretary Clinton in 2009, also from President Sirleaf.

The researcher physically examined and photographed each quilt, and shared her expertise in quilting techniques and materials. The benefit of such visits is that both the researcher and the USDC collections staff share knowledge and learn from each other.



Artifacts are excellent educational tools. In addition to the story behind the artifact (the people, places, events, and issues involved), the artifact itself offers the opportunity for study and learning (the type of manufacture, markings, design, intended and unintended uses). The USDC endeavors to utilize as many objects in its collection as possible in exhibits, online features, and for educational purposes. We are always on the lookout for additional artifacts to add to the collection that tell stories of the people, places, events and issues of diplomacy.

Please **contact us** if you have interesting or noteworthy objects you wish to donate or loan to the USDC.

SOCIAL MEDIA AT THE USDC

U.S. Diplomacy Center highlights diplomacy in the aftermath of WWII

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. While the nation rightly remembers the brave feats of our soldiers and their sacrifices, relatively little is known about the vital role that U.S. diplomacy played after the war. Starting June 26, the Diplomacy Center will feature a Twitter series that highlights some of the key diplomatic moments of the post-war period in Europe and as the war in the East drew to a close.



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ABOUT THE U.S. DIPLOMACY CENTER

The USDC is a privately-funded, non-partisan museum and education center dedicated to bringing the story of American diplomacy to life. Located at the Department of State's historic headquarters, the Harry S Truman Building, the Center will invite visitors to explore the history, practice, and challenges of American of diplomacy through interactive exhibits, artifacts, hands-on education programs, diplomatic simulations, and the expertise of foreign affairs specialists.