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State Department Director General Arnold Chacon speaks about the changing Foreign Service at the Wilson Center; U.S. Diplomacy Center Director Kathy Johnson addresses a Sister Cities luncheon; Education Specialist Lauren Fischer conducts a simulation on refugees for students in LA; Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy signs the Diplomacy Center Pavilion's top-off beam

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a year! The U.S. Diplomacy Center staff has been hard at work moving forward on a number of important initiatives. I'm very proud to share with you the highlights of what we've accomplished in 2015. First and in some respects foremost, I am happy to report that the construction of the Center's magnificent glass pavilion has just passed the 70% mark to substantial completion. As I enter the main State Department building each day, I enjoy pausing in the walkway next to the construction site and listening to employees and visitors express their growing excitement for the Center.

We took our education and outreach programs national this year! Diplomacy Center team members and I had the privilege of traveling across the United States to share our vision of the Diplomacy Center with local communities and student groups, and the response has been amazing. There is so much interest and anticipation for the day that we are open and ready to welcome the public. Nearly every day, we hear from teachers who are enthusiastic about what the Center will offer for students and how pleased they are to have the opportunity now for their students to participate in our diplomatic simulations program.

Building on what we've accomplished, we look forward to your continued support in 2016 as we continue with the planning and design of our exhibits, with the expansion of our education outreach and programs and the construction of the Diplomacy Center itself. A big thank you from our team for your support this past year!

Kathy Johnson, U.S. Diplomacy Center Director

# BUILDING THE DIPLOMACY CENTER

## CURATOR'S CORNER

2015 was a very fruitful year for collecting and preserving American diplomatic history.

The reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Havana provided an extraordinary opportunity to augment our collection. In collaboration with the Cuban Affairs office in Washington, D.C., and the then-U.S. Interests Section in Havana, we gathered artifacts spanning decades of U.S.-Cuba relations. Among our highlights are a "U.S. Interests Sections Havana" podium seal



Chlorine Dispenser (USDC Collection)

Council chamber and attacked vanden Heuvel and Soviet Ambassador Oleg Troyanovski with red paint in 1980.

In total, we added 38 different accessions — groups of artifacts from a single source — to the USDC's collection, the most since 2006! We have many more artifacts we wish to share. Watch our social media accounts for a forthcoming 2015 highlights slideshow.

Learn more about how you can contribute to USDC's artifact collection at: <http://diplomacy.state.gov/>



Artifacts from the former U.S. Interest Sections Cuba (USDC Collection)

from the Interest Section's briefing room, a letter handwritten on a handkerchief to President Obama from a jailed Cuban human rights activist, and stamps from the Consular Section, including two featuring the seal of the Swiss Embassy, under whose diplomatic auspices the Interests Section operated.

Other 2015 highlights include a USAID drinking water purifier, and the suit William J. vanden Heuvel (then Deputy U.S. Ambassador) was wearing when two protestors with Communist sympathies burst into the U.N. Security



Suit worn by Ambassador William vanden Heuvel

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The U.S. Diplomacy Center pavilion is progressing. As this picture shows, the glass curtain walls are starting to fully enclose the building.



A recent screenshot from the U.S. Diplomacy Center Construction Webcam

With the glass walls being put in place, work teams can now begin installing interior finishes such as skim coating and painting beams, and glass rail systems. Electrical and plumbing work continues on the interior. Already crates of the Tennessee pink marble have arrived and workers have begun to lay out them out on the lower level. We are excited that progress on construction of the beautiful glass pavilion has now passed the 70% mark.



Photo from the lower level showing the marble being installed and the drywall being prepared for paint

# BUILDING THE DIPLOMACY CENTER

## EDUCATION UPDATE



An example of an interactive exhibit which will allow visitors to explore thematic and regional issues

## EXHIBITS UPDATE

As part of a gift from Microsoft, we are collaborating closely with nSquared to develop a feature exhibit in Hall I. Using a large interactive map, visitors will see where and how the U.S. works with multilateral organizations (e.g., APEC, NATO, and the UN) to maintain peace and enhance security and prosperity. With a click of a button, the map will display the many bilateral initiatives (e.g., global health and rule of law development) that further our diplomatic priorities.

Or, visitors can step into the shoes of diplomats to further America's strategic goals. In one simulation, visitors must use a range of diplomatic tools to combat wildlife trafficking. They will learn how the U.S. State Department collaborates with inter-agency partners, foreign governments and civil society groups to protect animals under threat around the world. In another interactive exhibit, visitors will try their hand at negotiating an Open Skies agreement. Visitors will learn how American diplomats promote lower international airfares, expand cargo options, and increase U.S. trade and tourism routes.

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An example from the wildlife trafficking interactive exhibit



Local children watch as a BYU student controls a camera that is attached to a drone

We expanded our education outreach in 2015, diversifying the programs we offer students and meeting with educators and civic groups at conferences around the country. The Diplomatic Simulations Program remains the crown jewel of the Diplomacy Center's education outreach. In addition to facilitating nearly 100 simulations in 2015 dealing with refugee issues, sustainable development and the Suez Canal Crisis, we recently unveiled a new hypothetical cross-border HIV/AIDS crisis scenario. During 2016, we plan to develop additional simulations on critical global issues, including climate change, non-proliferation, and trade.



BYU students interview Estonian service members for a story on how diplomacy has increased peace in that nation

Our "Diplomacy in Action" video project captures the dynamism of diplomatic work. Supported by a grant from the Hearst Foundations, the Center partnered with Brigham Young University's Laycock Center for Creative Collaboration to interview diplomats in five U.S. embassies promoting peace (Estonia), prosperity (Rwanda and Mauritius), democracy (Peru), and development (Cambodia). The BYU students also interviewed local partners about the impact of U.S. diplomatic work in each country. We will feature these stories and videos on the Diplomacy Center's *Discover Diplomacy* website and in later exhibits.

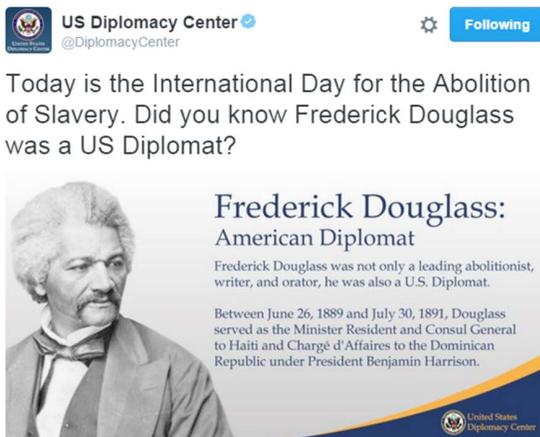
## EXHIBITS UPDATE CONTINUED

News headlines will periodically pop-up in relevant countries to indicate how the State Department's Operations Center keeps U.S. officials informed 24/7 of world events that could impact American citizens. With a click of a button, the U.S. portion of the map will detail how diplomacy benefits each state, highlighting hometown diplomats, cultural exchange partnerships, and trade agreements that create jobs and increase American exports.



## SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

2015 was a busy year for the U.S. Diplomacy Center on social media. Some of our most popular posts on social media highlighted the objects we recently acquired from the former U.S. Interests Section in Havana and the Berlin Wall *Signature Segment's* dramatic arrival and installation. In the new year we look forward to sharing stories about American diplomacy with an even wider global audience.



## UPCOMING IN FALL 2016: JOHN C. WHITEHEAD CONFERENCE

This fall the U.S. Diplomacy Center will host a conference for students from high schools and colleges at the Department of State. Funded in part by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the conference is named in honor of former Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead, a leader in the business, non-profit and diplomatic communities. Current and retired diplomats will talk with students about their work. At the conference plenary, panel discussions, break-out sessions, and diplomatic simulations, they will present diplomacy as both a concept and a practical set of 21st century skills for advancing American interests while addressing global issues multilaterally.



Solidarity leader Lech Walesa meets with Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead at the U.S. Charge d'Affaires' residence in Warsaw, Poland, 1988 (AP)

## 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.

Comments or questions? Email us at: [usdc@state.gov](mailto:usdc@state.gov)

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