

#### With Thanks To Will Rapp For His Insightful Perspective And Authorship

The genesis of the Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations was the establishment by Governor Raul H. Castro in 1975 of the Arizona Commission on National and International Commerce (ACNIC). Designed to focus CEO and other senior-level attention on economic development opportunities, ACNIC introduced a series of initiatives that broadened Arizona's approach to the international arena.

Under the leadership of Dick Mallery, the international side of ACNIC quickly sponsored a series of trade missions and senior level business and government contacts from countries around the world. One of the early goals was to create a sense of the role for Greater Phoenix in the world community. The perceived need for greater awareness of economic, political and social issues led to a proposal from Mallery and Dino DeConcini, Chief of Staff to Governor Castro, of pursuing the establishment in Phoenix of a Committee of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The prestigious Council on Foreign Relations, located in New York City, administered an outreach program around the country. By providing knowledgeable speakers such as ambassadors, current and former government officials, academics and senior business executives, the Council mirrored in local communities the format which had become its hallmark in New York City: expert commentary by the speaker followed by a not-for-attribution discussion with by-invitation-only participants.

This sounded like the perfect vehicle to move Phoenix leaders to a higher level of international involvement and Mallery and DeConcini urged Governor Castro to convene a meeting of senior government, business and academic leaders to explore the founding of a Committee on Foreign Relations in Phoenix. Castro, a former US Ambassador to both El Salvador and Bolivia before his arrival to the Governor's office, was a natural ally for this endeavor.

While still in the exploration stage, the Committee idea almost got derailed. The Council in New York had a moratorium on adding new committees because it had reached the limit of its ability to support the effort with the resources then available. Fortunately, Mallery's former law school dean at Stanford University, Bayless Manning,



was the then Chairman of the Council and Dick's access and persuasiveness soon had the door open for Phoenix.

All that was left was to get the buy-in of the local community. In November of 1975 Governor Castro invited a large group, well over 100, to a luncheon meeting at the Arizona Club to address the issue of whether or not Phoenix should formally apply to the Council to establish a committee. The group consisted of civic leaders and persons actively involved in international business, education, finance, law and related activities.

Both Arizona State University and Thunderbird were well represented and the response from the academic community was overwhelming favorable. Since the leaders in the business community had already signed on to the need for increasing international activities, they quickly saw the affiliation with the Council on Foreign Relations as a very positive step toward that goal. It wasn't long before someone made a motion to pursue the idea which was quickly passed and the Council was advised of our decision.

Will Rapp was then a loaned executive from Valley National Bank to the Governor's Office with the charge of increasing the international services of the State. In that role he had become the Executive Director of ACNIC at its formation and now took on the additional role of Executive Director of the newly-formed Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations (PCFR). Bill Voris, then President of Thunderbird, was tapped as the Chairman of the Committee.

Because so much work had been done on the front end with the Council, the PCFR was quickly operating. The first program was offered a few days later on December 7, 1976 at a dinner meeting held at the Arizona Club. The inaugural speaker was Dr Grace Ibingira, the former Ambassador to the United Nations from the Sudan. Then in exile from the despotic Idi Amin government, it was not until Amin's overthrow in 1979 that he could safely go back to his home country.

It was a great beginning. While the Council added no other Committee for ten years, in many ways Phoenix became a model program based on the number and quality of programs offered as well as the level of participation of its active membership, more than justifying the Council's confidence.



## ORIGINAL FOUNDERS OF PCFR

Grace Barbey Dino DeConcini Don Fry Eleanore Herring Gerald Kleinfeld Jim Lienenkugel Richard Mallery Fritz Marquardt Pat Murphy Jack Pfister Ambassador John Pritzlaff Will Rapp Philip Robbins Sheldon Simon Alan Solheim Beverly Springer Robert Tancer Shoshana Tancer Bill Voris Steve Walker Guido Weidgend Ambassador Cliff Wharton Bob Youngblood

#### PAST SPEAKERS Inaugural Speaker - Dr. Grace Ibingira, Former Ambassador to the UN 1976 from the Sudan General Alexander Haig – NATO Supreme Commander 1979 1980s Susan Kaufmann Purcell - Latin American Expert on the NY FR Council Clyde Prestowitz - Author of Trading Places, Economic Strategy Institute/ from NY FR Council Jack Thompson - Vice Chairman of Barrett Gold Shika Lubna - First Foreign Policy Cabinet Member in Dubai Eiji Toyoda - Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation 1989 Ambassador Donald Gregg - The Future of Two Koreas 1996 The Honorable George Shultz - U.S. Foreign Policy for the Millennium The Honorable Jeffrey Davidow - The Clinton Administration's Approach to 1997 Latin America The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor - Global Judicial Policies Michael Gallagher - The Euro and U.S. Trade with Europe 1998 Peter Brimelow - Common Sense About America's Immigration Disaster Craig Weatherup - Business Perspective on the Rise of Pepsi-Cola Joseph P. Manguno, Jr. - The CNN Effect - The Media and Foreign Policy Ambassador Baki Ilkin, Turkish Ambassador to U.S. -1999 The European/Asian Link Admiral Bobby R. Inman - A Perspective of a Rapidly Changing World-Challenges & Opportunities in Front of Us Ambassador Harriett C. Babbitt - The National Security Role of Development 2000 and Humanitarian Assistance Richard Threlkeld - Moscow Nightmare - Russia and America in the New Millennium Ambassador Richard Butler - Dealing with Rogue States: The Iraq Case General Barry R. McCaffrey - National Drug Policy Director - Domestic & Intl. **Drug Control Challenges** Ambassador L. Paul Bremer - III - Jihad - Terrorism: The New Threat to 2001 American Society Security Stephen S. Chen - China's New Environment - Implications for Business and Foreign Policy Panel - Toru Hasimoto, Prof. Koji Murata, Prof. Naoto Yamauchi - Contemporary US - Japan Relationships - Is Reform a Reality?

Ambassador Roscoe S. Suddarth - Is It Too Late For Peace In The Middle East

**The Honorable Toni G. Verstandig** - What Happened to the Middle East Peace Process

- 2002 Rebecca MacKinnon 9/11 and North Asia: Security Implications
  Secretary Steven P. Bucci U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan
  Stephen E. Flynn America the Vulnerable: Rethinking Border Control in the Wake of 9-11
- **2003** Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi The Future of Democracy and Capitalism in the Middle East

Senator Jon Kyl - War, Terrorism and Politics Hugh Downs - Press Challenges and Responsibilities in Wartime

**2004** The Honorable Jim Kolbe - Positioning US Foreign Policy for Greater Success Through Trade & Aid

James Bradley - The Legacy of Japan's WWII Policy Lee Cullum - American Hedemony: How Long Will It Last?

- )— Governor Janet Napolitano Inaugural International State of the State Address
- **2005** Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt The Global War on Terror Military Operations in the Middle East

Undersecretary Geronimo Gutierrez-Fernandez - US Relations with Mexico

Governor Janet Napolitano – 2nd Annual International State of the State

# **2006** Dr. George Poste - Biosecurity: A Crucial But Neglected Strategic Component of National Security Policy

General Vernon Clark - Perspectives on the Middle East and Asian Hot Spots His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal - Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to The United States of America

Immigration & Security Panel of Agency Directors - Paul K. Charlton, US Attorney for District of AZ, Jana D. Monroe, Special Agent in Charge, Phx, Division, FBI; Michel Nicley, Chief Patrol Agent, US Government Border Patrol; Moderated by PCFR Member Dr. Mervyn Lakin

**Governor Janet Napolitano** – 3rd Annual International State of the State

**2007** Ambassador Tony Hall - The Landscape of Global Poverty: Exploring Sustainable Solutions

Admiral James Stavridis, NATO Commander - Latin America and the

Caribbean: Linkages, Challenges, Promises

 ${\bf Lawrence\ Korb}$  - National Security in an Age of Tyrants, Terrorists, and Weapons of Mass Destruction

# **— Governor Janet Napolitano** – 4th Annual International State of the State

The Honorable Michael Oxley - The Globalism of the Financial Markets 2008 David Low, former National Intelligence Council -Understanding Terrorism & What Could Be Next Mike Chinoy – Meltdown: The Inside Stories of the North Korean Nuclear Crisis and the Pakistan Challenge Governor Janet Napolitano – 5th Annual International State of the State **2009** Governor Eduardo Bours Castelo - Sonora: A Changing State in a Changing World Daisy Kahn - Muslims as Part of the Solution in a Time of Global Turmoil David A. Merkel - Foreign Policy Changes Faced by the New Administration Governor Jan Brewer – 6th Annual International State of the State **2010** Ambassador Peter Burleigh - South Asian Challenges - India, Pakistan & Afghanistan John Mroz, East West Institute - The US and the World in 2010: What We Need To Do Differently Dr. Zuhdi Jasser - Islam, Islamists and the Relationship with America Senator John McCain - Challenges Raised by Global Participation Dr. Gal Luft - Turning Oil into Salt: How to Strip Oil of Its Strategic Status Ambassador John Herbst - Afghanistan, Iraq and the National Security 2011 Dangers of Ungoverned Spaces Consul General David Siegel - A Regional and Global Security Assessment: The Israeli Perspective **Rebecca MacKinnon** - Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom - Panel with Moderator Angel Cabrera, Thunderbird President 7th Annual International State of the State Dr. Shibley Telhami - Taking Stock: The Arab Uprisings, Two Years Later 2012 Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf - How American Muslims Can Help Eradicate Fxtremism Admiral Thad Allen - Leading in Crises and Complex Events to Create Unity of Effort Dr. Yassin El-Ayouty - The Battle Between the Islamists and the Secularists Shall Define the Future of Peace In the Middle Fast - Panel with Moderator Angel Cabrera, Thunderbird President 8th Annual International State of the State

**2013** Ambassador Mark Gitenstein - Rule of Law and the Consolidation of Democracy in Romania

**General Victor E. Renuart** - The Challenges of Illicit Trade to the Partners of North America

Panel with Moderator Larry Penley, Ph.D., Thunderbird President - 9th Annual International State of the State, Arizona's Future in the Global Economy

2014 Senator Jeff Flake - Foreign Policy Update From the U.S. Senate Andrew Nagorski - Putin, His Record and What He's Up To Nicholas Chen - Managing China Risk in a Changed Business Ecosystem Ambassador Kurt Volker - Navigating U.S. Policy in a Troubled World

Panel with Moderator Larry Penley, Ph.D., Thunderbird President – 10th Annual International State of the State, Arizona's Place in International

2015 Cindy McCain with Senator Jon Kyl - A Conversation about Human Trafficking Here and Around the Globe Ambassador Robert Ford - Crisis in the Levant: from Lebanon to Iraq David Cohen - Global Hotspots, Terrorism and Intelligence Dirk Dijkerman – The Ebola Virus Disease: How the US Responded in West Africa and What's Next?

Governor Doug Ducey – 11th Annual International State of the State, Steering Arizona's Future in International Waters

**2016** PCFR 40th Anniversary Celebration – Peter Bergen, Marco Vicenzino, Ambassador Stapleton Roy, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

#### COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

- **2012** Admiral James Stavridas, NATO Commander Leading in Crisis and Complex Events to Create Unity of Efforts - A Collaborative Meeting with The O'Connor Institute
- **2013** David Ignatius A Conversation with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor A Collaborative Meeting with The O'Connor Institute
- **2014** Dr. Bernd Fischer How Germany & Europe Matter for Arizona A Collaborative Meeting with the American Council on Germany in Arizona
- 2015 Ambassador Sir Peter Westmacott The United Kingdom: Navigating Global Challenges - A Collaborative Meeting with The McCain Institute Ambassador Gary Doer – Canada-U.S. Partnership for Economic Prosperity and North American Security - A Collaborative Meeting with The Canada Arizona Business Council
- **2016** His Excellency, Ambassador Cui Tankai– The Future of China and U.S. Relations A Collaborative Meeting with The McCain Institute and O'Connor Institute









