

Ronald K. McMullen

Department of Political Science
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Experience

Ambassador in Residence, University of Iowa, 2014 -

Visiting Associate Professor, University of Iowa, 2012 – 2014

Teaches courses on Southeast Asia, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, South Asia, Globalization, Diplomacy & Statecraft, and Southern Africa
Mentors students, advises Fulbright candidates
Serves on the Political Science Undergraduate Studies Committee
Participated in the Faculty Engagement Corps

State Department Diplomat in Residence, University of Texas at Austin, 2010 – 2012

Recruited Foreign Service Officers and others for the State Department
Helped select minority Priority Interns, Pickering Fellows, and Rangel Fellows
Taught graduate courses on diplomacy and the Middle East

U.S. Ambassador to the State of Eritrea, 2007- 2010

Served as Chief of Mission
Helped coordinate regional counter-terrorism policy
Fostered human rights and rule of law in a brutal dictatorship
Helped craft international sanctions against the Eritrean regime

Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, 2006 – 2007

Managed \$649 million portfolio for Afghanistan and Pakistan counter-narcotics, law enforcement, justice, and the rule of law
Traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan to oversee program implementation

Associate Dean, Foreign Service Institute, Washington, D.C., 2005 – 2006

Planned and led senior inter-agency workshops on global pandemics such as HIV/AIDS and avian influenza, democratization, human rights, and transformational diplomacy

Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Rangoon, Burma, 2002 – 2005

Managed most of busy embassy's day-to-day operations
Served as embassy's liaison with Aung San Suu Kyi and other pro-democracy leaders
Developed ethnic minority, UN, and NGO contacts
Assisted with WWII remains recovery program

Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy Suva, Fiji, 1999 – 2002

Served as Chargé d'Affaires (acting chief of mission) for over a year
Helped resolve Fiji Islands ethnic conflict (basis of FSI's "Kava Diplomacy")

Organized and led election monitoring teams
Led post during official inspection that resulted in “no formal recommendations”
Helped manage U.S. relations with Tonga, Nauru, and Tuvalu

Deputy Principal Officer, Consulate General, Cape Town, South Africa, 1996 – 1999

Helped host Presidential, Vice Presidential, Secretary of State, and Binational Commission visits
Served as post’s main reporting and program officer on democratization, minority politics, economic development, and human rights
Managed a substantial Self-Help program for underdeveloped communities

Afghanistan Desk Officer, 1993 – 1995

Served as the main analyst and reporting officer on Afghanistan, as Embassy Kabul was closed during this period
Coordinated closely with the United Nations on Afghanistan issues
Conducted field visits to review refugee camp administration

Visiting Professor, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1990 – 1993

Taught six different undergraduate courses
Traveled to Embassy Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea and to Embassy Honiara in Solomon Islands to assist posts and U.S. Battle Monuments Commission with WWII commemorations
Mentored and advised cadets

Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy Libreville, Gabon, 1988 – 1990

Led post’s economic and commercial programs, analysis, and reporting
Managed a \$500,000 USAID program in Sao Tome & Principe

Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1985 – 1987

Managed ethnic conflict portfolio and served as civilian liaison with Sri Lankan security and law enforcement forces
Ran post’s counter-narcotics portfolio, received \$50,000 grant to train mongooses to detect heroin
Helped manage post’s relations with Republic of Maldives

Vice Consul, U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1983 – 1985

Served as Vice Consul adjudicating immigrant and non-immigrant visas
Worked as Assistant General Services Officer for second year

Junior Officer, Foreign Service Institute, 1982 - 1983

Participated in A-100, language, consular, and admin courses

Department of State Intern, U.S. Embassy Khartoum, Sudan, 1979

Conducted a local wage survey, revamped position classifications
Worked for USAID on ethnic mapping for stock-route project

Honors/Awards

State Department Awards

Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009
Superior Honor Awards, 1988, 1995, 2001
Meritorious Honor Awards, 1990, 1997

Other Awards

University of Iowa Honors at Iowa Scholar Advocate Award
University of Iowa International Teaching Engagement Award 2019
University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award, 2017
University of Iowa Honors Program Teaching Award, 2015
U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Award, 1993
Phi Beta Kappa, 1978
High School Valedictorian, 1974
Iowa All State Football Honorable Mention, 1973
Eagle Scout, 1971

Education

Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1985 (Political Science)
MA, University of Iowa, 1982 (Political Science)
MA, University of Minnesota, 1980 (Public Affairs)
BA, Drake University, 1978 (Political Science)

Courses Taught

U.S. Diplomacy: Making and Implementing Foreign Policy
Comparative Politics
International Relations
The Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues
South Asia: Politics, Identity, and Conflict
The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy
Southeast Asia: Democracy, Identity, and Development
Politics of Southern Africa
Honors Seminar on Diplomacy, Statecraft, and Foreign Policy
Problems of Developing Nations
Honors Workshop on the Baltic States, the U.S., and Russia
Global@Iowa
Honors Teaching Practicum
World Politics

Academic Publications

“The American Diplomatic Service,” book chapter (accepted/in press) in *Modern Diplomacy in Practice*, Palgrave Macmillan, NY. Forthcoming December 2019.

“Dynamic Patronage Coalitions: A State-Society Framework for Interpreting African Politics” *Commonwealth: A Journal of Political Science* V.6 1992-1993 pp. 1–19.

“Ethnic Conflict in Russia: Implications for the United States” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* V. 16 1993 pp. 201-218.

“Lilliput Revisited: The Case for Free Association” *Journal of Public and International Relations* V. 4 No. 1 Fall 1983 pp. 50-60.

“Secession in Asia: The Emerging Criteria for International Acceptance” *Asian Thought and Society* V. 17 No. 50 August 1992 pp. 113-125.

“Somalia and Other Adventures for the 1990s” *Current History* V. 92 No. 573 April 1993 pp. 169-174 with Augustus Richard Norton.

“Somaliland: The Next Eritrea?” *Low Intensity Conflict & Law Enforcement* V. 2 No. 3 Winter 1993 pp. 421-433.

“The Mau Mau Experience and Prospects for Post-Insurgency Depolarization” *Sri Lanka Journal of Social Science* V. 8 No. 1&2 1985 pp. 47-60.

“Tuva: Russia’s Tibet or the Next Lithuania?” *European Security* V. 2 No. 3 Autumn 1993 pp. 451-460.

Book Review of African Economic Reform: The External Dimension by Carol Lancaster in *The Journal of Developing Areas* V. 25 No. 1 October 1992 pp. 95-96.

Book Review of Economic Restructuring and African Public Administration: Issues, Actions, and Future Choices Eds. M. Jide Balogun and Gelase Mutahaba in *The Journal of Developing Areas* V. 25 No. 4 July 1991 pp. 563-564.

Selected Other Publications and Activities

“Support Courageous Sudanese People with U.S. Diplomacy,” *Des Moines Register*, Guest Column, 24AUG19.

“The Regional Political Context of the Film ‘The Act of Killing’,” panelist, Iowa City FilmScene. 26FEB19.

“Using Simulations to Foster Active Learning in the Classroom” *Poligram*, Spring 2019.

“Sudanese People need U.S. Support.” *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids), Guest Column, 26AUG19.

“Cultural Exchange Opportunities - the Fulbright Program,” panelist UI Fulbright Committee workshop, 25JAN19.

“U.S. Foreign Policy, Geopolitical Realignment, and Global Stability,” WorldCanvass program panelist, 5DEC18.

“Trump Trade Policies a Serious Threat,” Press-Citizen, Guest Column, Iowa City, 28NOV18.

“Organizational Culture in the U.S. Military and Diplomatic Service,” Guest Lecture to the University of Iowa ROTC Cadets, Iowa City. 26NOV18.

“War and Peace (?) in the Horn of Africa,” Science on Tap presentation, Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa, 15NOV18.

“The Baltic States, NATO, and Russia,” Presentation to the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, 22AUG18.

“Making Foreign Policy: The Baltic States, the U.S., and Russia,” Univ. of Iowa Honors Prime Time Workshop 13-16AUG18.

“The Statecraft and Legacy of Nelson Mandela,” *Talk of Iowa* program, Iowa Public Radio, 30JUL18.

“Nelson Mandela’s Life of Public Service,” keynote address to the Washington Mandela Fellows, Iowa City, 18JUL18.

“Iowa Needs to Leave Out Welcome Mat for Refugees,” *Des Moines Register*, Guest Column, 4MAR18.

“South China Sea Crisis Negotiation Simulation,” Ambassadorial Mentor, Vietnam Team, Army War College and LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, 8-11FEB18.

“Kosovo, Sovereignty, and International Recognition,” presentation to The Club, Iowa City, 1FEB17.

“Post-Obama: America and the Middle East,” presentation to The Triangle Club, at the University Club, 19FEB17.

“Immigration Then and Now,” panelist on the WorldCanvass program, 8MAR17.

“The Trump Presidency and U.S. Foreign Policy,” panelist at event sponsored by the Principal Center for Global Citizenship, Drake University, Des Moines 29MAR17.

“China, Iowa, & Diplomacy in the Trump Administration,” panelist for event hosted by the *Des Moines Register*, Iowa Public Radio, and the UI Public Policy Center 3MAY17.

“New Directions in U.S. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy,” presentation, Sunrise Optimist Club, Iowa City 11JUL17.

“Servant Leadership: the United States and the World,” presentation to the Washington Mandela Fellows 17JUL17.

“Diplomacy, Tom Sawyer, and Soft Power,” Univ. of Iowa Honors Prime Time Workshop 15-17AUG17.

“North Korea’s Nuclear Ambitions,” presentation to the UI Undergraduate Political Science Association 27SEP17.

“What Diplomats Really Do,” presentation at Mount Mercy University, Cedar Rapids 12OCT17.

“Simulations and Active Learning in International Relations/Studies Classes,” panelist, International Studies Association, Midwest Conference, St. Louis 17NOV17.

“The Mystery of the Grassley Republicans,” *Des Moines Register*, Guest Column, 8DEC16.

“Fight the ‘Ugly American’ Stereotype,” *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids), Guest Column, 12AUG16.

“Public Sector Leadership and the Entrepreneur,” Presentation to the Washington Mandela Fellows, UI Institute for International Business, 19JULY16.

“Soft Power, Human Rights, and 21st Century Diplomacy,” Presentation to the Spring School, Diplomatic Academy, Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kosovo, May16.

“Cheap, Deadly Heroin Headed to Iowa,” *Des Moines Register*, Guest Column, p. 15A, 13APR16.

“Iowa, Heroin, and Afghanistan,” *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids), Guest Column, 10APR16.

“Three Faces of Diplomacy,” Keynote Address, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities, Iowa City, 22FEB16.

“Kashmir Crisis Negotiation Simulation,” Ambassadorial Mentor, China Team, Army War College and LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, February 2016.

“Change is possible in Myanmar, but big political challenges ahead for Suu Kyi,” *Iowa City Press Citizen* Guest Opinion, p. 7A, 8DEC15.

“Rebuilding Burma,” *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids), Guest Opinion, p. 1C, 6DEC15.

“International Opportunities,” Presenter, The Principal Financial Group Center for Global Citizenship, Des Moines, Iowa, 2NOV15.

“The European Refugee Crisis,” Moderator, Panel of Young European Leaders, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC), 5OCT15.

“Chinese student enrollment surges at University of Iowa,” CNN.com interview, 2JUL15.

“30 Years of Diplomacy: Stories from an American Foreign Service Officer,” Iowa Public Radio Program *River to River* individual interview, 18JUN15.

Keynote Faculty Speaker, 2015 Spring Commendation Ceremony, University of Iowa Honors Program, Iowa City, 15MAY15

“Soft Power and the Ugly American,” Keynote Address, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC), Iowa City, 26JAN15.

“What Diplomats Do,” Special Presentation to the University Club, Iowa City, 10FEB15.

“Sudan-South Sudan Crisis Negotiation Simulation,” Mentor as UN Special Advisor, Army War College and LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, February 2015.

“Elephants, Ivory, and Yao Ming,” Presentation to the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, 3DEC14.

“How Middle East Turmoil Undermines Asian Rebalancing in U.S. Foreign Policy” Presentation sponsored by The Principal Financial Group Center for Global Citizenship, Des Moines, 12NOV14.

“Meeting the Renewable Energy Challenge,” Conference Panelist, University of Iowa Public Policy Center, 16OCT14.

“U.S. Department of State Internships – Adventure, Insights, Experience,” article in the Fall 2014 *Poligram*, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa.

“Iowans must expand, improve the renewables they have,” *Iowa City Press Citizen* Guest Opinion, p. 3, 15JUN14.

“Iowa and the “pivot to Asia,” *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, 5NOV13.

“Mandela’s Charm Recalled by Iowan,” *Des Moines Sunday Register*, 14JUL13.

“Foreign Affairs Oral History Project: Conversations with Ronald K. McMullen,” edited transcript 169 pages, copyright 2013, Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, Washington, D.C.

“Globalization: a world of opportunity for Iowa,” *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, 4DEC12.