

# The Briefing

*A Newsletter of The Alabama World Affairs Council / Fall 2009*

## **This Fall: Janet Guyon of Bloomberg, Amb. John Kelly from Georgia Tech, Amb. Ryan Crocker of Iraq and Pakistan**

**Janet Guyon** is coming to speak on the future of the news and news media, a timely topic, as in the words of a *Washington Post* visitor to Montgomery a few years ago, all conventional news is in doubt. Janet is managing editor at *Bloomberg News*, the leading edge in news media.



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In Europe, prior to *Bloomberg*, Ms Guyon was a world-wide financial personality on television. She was featured on CNN, BBC, and ITV (London) and was a weekly guest on London radio programs. She has been a regular moderator on panels at the famed World Economic Forums in Davos, Switzerland.

*Bloomberg* has become the world's leading news site for finance. In her tenure, *Bloomberg* has won four national journalism awards.

Prior to her time at *Bloomberg*, Janet spent nine years at *Fortune* and *Time* magazines. Working out of London, she reopened the European bureau and served as Europe Editor for *Fortune Magazine*. She filed stories from Central Asia, Asia, and Europe.

In 2000, Ms. Guyon won "Magazine Journalist of the Year" award in the United Kingdom.

Before her work with *Fortune* and *Time*, Ms. Guyon spent 18 years with *The Wall Street Journal*, with postings in Atlanta, New York, and London.

At the *Wall Street Journal*, Ms Guyon covered Europe and Eastern Europe. Her best-known work with the *WSJ* was the award-winning coverage of the break up of ATT and the future of telecommunications.

Janet Guyon graduated summa cum laude from Duke in English and Economics, with postgraduate work at Columbia. She now lives in New York City.

**Ambassador John Kelly** is one of our country's most experienced and widely respected public servants. At present, he is Ambassador-in-Residence at the Sam Nunn School of International Relations at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Prior to his current academic incarnation, he was four times a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in different important positions. During the first Gulf War, Ambassador Kelly was in a lead position as Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and South Asia. From 1994 to 2007, he was the Assistant Secretary charged with directing the Madrid Middle East Peace process. Ambassador Kelly was American Ambassador to Lebanon during the war years, and also Ambassador to Finland. Other posts include: as Principal Deputy for European and Canadian Affairs, as Principal Deputy for Policy Planning, as Senior Deputy for Public Affairs, and as Deputy Executive Secretary of the Department of State.

Ambassador Kelly is the author of five books and is widely published in research journals, *Foreign Affairs*, and the editorial pages of our nation's newspapers. A linguist with command of several European languages, Thai, and Finnish, he is a terrific speaker who can be startlingly blunt. His knowledge of the political morass in the Middle East and South Asia is of particular interest to World Affairs Council members.

A resident of Conyers, Georgia, Ambassador Kelly is a



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graduate of Emory University and the Armed Forces Staff College. He is married with two children.

**Ambassador Ryan Crocker** is a hero and national treasure. In 2009, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor. Along with General David Petraeus, Ambassador Crocker is widely credited as a central figure in turning around what had been a catastrophic situation in Iraq. President George W. Bush called him "America's Lawrence of Arabia."

As the son of an Air Force officer, Ambassador Crocker attended schools in Morocco, Canada, and Turkey. After joining the Foreign Service, he served in Egypt, Tunis, Beirut, Iraq, and Syria.



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In 1983, while in the Beirut Embassy, a massive bomb reduced the building to rubble. From his Syrian posting, he could witness mobs besieging his office.

He has served as Ambassador to Syria, Kuwait, and Lebanon. In January 2002, he was appointed interim envoy to Afghanistan, followed by assignment in 2004 as Ambassador to Pakistan.

In 2007, when Ambassador Crocker was sent to Iraq, the situation, to many observers, seemed lost. It wasn't. And much of the credit is shared between the brilliant commands led by Ambassador Crocker and General Petraeus.

Ambassador Crocker speaks Arabic

## AWAC, Museum Seek Sound Improvements

In our continuing effort to improve the sound quality of AWAC presentations, we have joined with the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts staff to study and improve the auditorium sound reception. The comment we receive most on the presentation critique sheets refers to the sound problem. Some members have stated that their inability to hear clearly what is being said was the reason they didn't renew their membership.

A solution has several equipment, facility, audience and speaker aspects. One that will not be easily overcome, in lean budget years, is the age of the equipment. Room surface acoustical qualities are high on the list. With an older audience such as ours, some of us have hearing limitations. We have found that the complaints tend to disappear when the speaker projects well and enunciates clearly. We have briefed and will continue to brief our speakers on this issue, but frankly, some are better than others in this respect.

Our hosts at the Museum indicate they have not received comments from other groups on the sound problem, but since our discussion with them, they have been working to

and Persian. He left the Foreign Service early this year after leaving Iraq and with the region facing entirely better prospects.

In the constellation of our headline speakers, Ambassador Crocker shines brightly.



Dr. Larry Korb speaks with Huntingdon students at reception.

resolve our concerns. Gordon Welling, a member of the Board of Directors, has been our volunteer point man. The Museum has engaged an audio contractor, who discovered that speakers had been recessed too deeply, causing distortion, and some were misdirected. They corrected this along with some microphone changes and purchases. The contractor, the Museum and AWAC are studying the availability of individual ear devices that receive a wireless 'state of the art' transmission from the system direct to the ear piece rather than through the system speakers.

As guests at another group's presentation, we have tested the contractor work to date and feel that improvements have been made. We suggest that if you have had past problems hearing, go to the auditorium early enough to be seated in the center section. Most of the distortion seems to occur along the walls.

Please give us feedback, either positive or negative, on the sound improvement issue.

## Finances, Membership Steady, Deemed Satisfactory

The final financial figures for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 show that we remained in the black, with income of \$45,310 and expenses of \$44,895.67, with a "profit" of \$414.33. With a carryover from the previous year of \$12,380.25, we had \$12,794.58 in the bank (which is Regions) on June 30, 2009. However, \$4335 of that income was donated from some 45 very generous members over and above their dues so that we could get a running start at 2009-2010. In addition, with Auburn University Montgomery leading the way, \$6500 was raised from corporate sponsors. In this tough fund-raising environment, that has to be considered a successful year.

Thanks mostly to recruiting from current members to replace our losses and to members joining at a higher than minimum level, membership last year actually increased somewhat to over 450.

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**Want to join AWAC?  
Call 244-3337.**

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**Our web site is maintained by Prof.  
Jeremy Lewis at Huntingdon College.  
awac.US check us out!**

## Board Member Profile: Dan Morris

**D**an Morris, one of Montgomery's best known and most involved citizens, has been a member of the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council since 2002. He came to Montgomery from Birmingham in 1981 to work as an attorney for Blount, Inc., retiring in 1999 and going into private law practice. In 2003, Dan was asked to become Assistant Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation. In this position, he worked tirelessly and successfully to get the DOT released from a lawsuit restricting their hiring practices. He left DOT in 2008 when tapped by AG Troy King to be the Chief Deputy Attorney General, the position he now holds.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Dan graduated from Ramsay High School in Birmingham, Alabama, where he was awarded the first National Merit Scholarship given to a graduate of Ramsay. He received a Bachelor of Civil Engineering Degree from Auburn and a law degree from Georgetown University. He served five years as a Lieutenant in the Engineer Corps of the Army Reserves.

In 1970, Dan returned to Birmingham to work for Vulcan Materials. He left to become Senior Vice President/General Counsel of Brookwood Health Services. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital, and Secretary from 1978-1981. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Advent Episcopal Association, and President in 1978 and 1979. He was a member of the Board of Control of the Shades Valley

YMCA, where he was Financial Chairman and Board Chairman in 1978. He is still the Secretary of the C. Eugene Ireland Foundation.

After moving to Montgomery in 1981, he has been active in the community. He was appointed in 2005 by the Governor to fill an unexpired term as Public Member on the Medical Licensure Commission and reappointed in 2006 for a full term.

He helped form CCPAC, (now FAME), serving as President for several years, and is Director Emeritus of that organization. He is a member of the Civil Engineering Industry Liaison Council at Auburn University, and a member of the Board of Directors of Tukabatchee Area Council of Boy Scouts, having been awarded the Silver Beaver. In 2007, he was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. He is a member of the Resurrection Catholic Missions of Montgomery Advisory Board, and was an Advisory Director for the Montgomery Ballet.

He is a life-long Episcopalian, attending the Church of the Ascension. He was presented the St. George Episcopal Award for distinguished service leading toward the spiritual, physical, mental, and moral development of youth.

Dan has been married to the former Melanie Monk of Brewton, Alabama, for 44 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. He is an aging but avid tennis player who is known for his competitive spirit. The Morrises make their home in McGehee Estates.

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## Executive Director's Corner: Dr. James Nathan

### The Flood of Afghan Heroin ... and American Alternatives

Richard Holbrooke, Special Ambassador for Afghanistan and Pakistan matters, concluded that eradication of opium had been “the single most ineffective program in the history of American foreign policy.” UNODC chief Costa de Silva was forced to concede that UN efforts had failed. He mused that the huge supply of Afghan opium and heroin might so saturate the rest of the world’s market that the price would fall in Afghanistan: “There will be so much opium inside Afghanistan unable to go out that the price will go down.”

American policy makers are not taking issue with this policy of resignation to the deluge of cheap heroin. In an important decision, Holbrooke announced recently that opium eradication programs are being phased out. Instead of attacking poppies, more drone attacks, more troops, and efforts to find and shut down Gulf sources of Taliban funds are in the works.

That’s not to say there were no alternatives to the hemorrhage of Afghan heroin, over ninety percent of the world’s supply.

In 2007, Senlis, a European NGO, proposed that Afghan rural locals be offered licenses to grow medical opium for sale or distribution in the Third World. But Senlis’s plan has met fierce State Department opposition. Even if some manufacturer

could be found, there would still be illegal planting, American and British counter narcotics officers leaders argued, and if Afghans were offered some permits, wouldn’t there be a thriving trade in permits, only encouraging more production and more corruption?

#### **A PLAN TO BUY IT ALL?**

But what if the United States, not Afghanistan, purchased the crops? And what if wheat, fruits, vegetables, and all other kinds of crops were actually supported with fertilizers, markets, credit, irrigation, and technical support at every level? The expense would be considerably cheaper than aging a “multigenerational war” currently.

A plan for the U.S. to buy the entire Afghan opium crop might work. The proposal was considered by the State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the start of 2008. The Department’s conclusion was that it would be “incredibly costly.”

Recent estimates put the cost of such a program at \$2.5 billion. Even if the cost were \$5 billion, it hardly seems an extravagance when one compares the cost of more than doubling up American forces in 2009, or for that matter, the entire cost of the war.

A systematic counter-narcotics program would drain much, if not

all, of the source of Taliban sustenance. A meaningful agrarian assistance program would need to be mounted at the same time. But purchasing the whole crop of a whole country, at whatever price, would take the crop away from the traffickers. A program to purchase opium crops would have to be invented. If a whole-crop opium purchase program were to succeed, it would likely need to be operated by uniformed officers of the United States or the United Kingdom. In all events, a program to purchase opium is too dangerous to be put to the private market. It is a job for armed, commissioned professionals and regular troops.

If opium crops were preemptively purchased, the traffickers and Afghanistan’s most corrosive corruption would be directly confronted. The huge supply could be stored in the United States, perhaps by Security Council resolution, assigned to the UN under American control for future medical emergencies. If opium gum were purchased before it fell into the hands of traffickers, much of the most baneful corruption in Afghanistan would lose its footing. An Afghan program would need concomitant and follow-on efforts to ensure that Mexico, Thailand, or some other fertile pocket of lawlessness does not take over the Afghan trade.

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