

**The Ties  
That Bind Us****SPCWA  
2025****FEBRUARY 11 - 13****TUESDAY 2/11/2025****5:00 PM KEYNOTE EVENT AT THE PALLADIUM****5:10 PM KEYNOTE WELCOME**

Board President Willi Rudowsky and officials from the City of St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida welcome honored guests and conference goers.

**5:30 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS:****Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat****WEDNESDAY 2/12/2025****7:30 AM COFFEE AND NETWORKING****8:10 AM CONFERENCE WELCOME**

Board President Willi Rudowsky, along with City and University of South Florida officials, extend a welcome to conference participants.

**8:30 AM ALLIES & ALLIANCES**

Experts discuss NATO and other international organizations and their effectiveness as forums for information-sharing, deterrence peacekeeping, and power projection.

**9:40 AM BREAK****10:00 AM AUTHOR TALK WITH AMB STUART EIZENSTAT**

"The Art of Diplomacy: How American Negotiators Reached Historic Agreements that Changed the World." Interviewed by Eduardo Cue, Amb Eizenstat will discuss the greatest diplomatic negotiations of the past 50 years. Based on interviews with more than 60 key figures in American diplomacy, including presidents, cabinet secretaries, and military leaders.

**11:00 AM BREAK****11:10 AM EXPERTISE: DATA, FACTS & POLICYMAKING**

With the surge in misinformation, disinformation, alternative facts, deepfakes and lies, are credibility and expertise dead? How do democratic governments make and evaluate policies to best serve their citizens?

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12:20 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:30 PM HOW INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS VIEW U.S.  
FOREIGN POLICY

Journalists working around the world share views of U.S. Foreign Policy

2:40 PM BREAK

2:50 PM FEATURED SPEAKER: NPR'S FRANK LANGFITT

As Roving National Correspondent, Langfitt covers lesser-known stories, including those about democracy, economics, politics, and culture, that illuminate a changing America.

3:50 PM BREAK

4:00 PM INTERNATIONAL TRADE, BUSINESS AND PROSPERITY

Experts share their observations and experiences in international trade, weighing issues of globalization, development, tariffs, and trade agreements.

5:30 PM NETWORKING COCKTAIL HOUR - TBA

**THURSDAY 2/13/2025**

7:30 AM COFFEE AND NETWORKING

8:30 AM ASIA: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Updates on political changes, shifting alliances, and issues affecting Japan, China, and other countries. Previews on the new administration's expected approach to diplomacy, security, and trade in the region.

9:40 AM BREAK

9:50 AM AFRICA: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES

The Sahel struggles with convulsive brutality and political upheaval, but other areas of this resource-rich continent, with its young, dynamic population, show promising signs of economic growth, business development, and investment.

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- 11:00 AM BREAK
- 11:10 AM **EUROPE: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES**  
With weakened governments in France and Germany, concerns about trade, immigration, and the rise of far-right parties, Russia's costly war with Ukraine grinds into its fourth year, straining the resources and resolve of European allies.
- 12:20 PM **LUNCH BREAK**  
**OLLI USF OPEN HOUSE LUNCH & LEARN**
- 1:30 PM **WESTERN HEMISPHERE: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES**  
Prospects of steep tariffs and prolonged trade disputes threaten the USMCA trade agreement. The new U.S. Administration promises mass deportations of illegal immigrants, many of whom fled Latin American and Caribbean countries traumatized by violence, corruption, and instability.
- 2:40 PM BREAK
- 2:50 PM **FUTURE STRATEGISTS: STUDENT PANEL HOSTED BY GNSI**  
Students from USF's Global and National Security Institute present their views on "The Ties that Bind" the U.S. internationally - the treaties, alliances, coalitions, and shared challenges that impact their futures and shape our world.
- 3:50 PM BREAK
- 4:00 PM **AUTHOR TALK WITH GENERAL FRANK MCKENZIE**  
"The Melting Point: High Command and War in the 21st Century"  
As Commander of U.S. Central Command, Gen. McKenzie oversaw some of the most important — and controversial operations in modern U.S. military history...The strikes on Soleimani and two successive leaders of ISIS, deterrence operations against Iran and its proxies, the methodical drawdown in Iraq, the noncombatant evacuation operation in Afghanistan, and our final withdrawal from that tortured country.
- 5:10 PM **CLOSING SOCIAL**