

John Edwin Mroz Global Leadership Institute



Annual Report 2023-2024



**COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON**
MROZ GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE



**COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON**
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES,
CULTURES, AND WORLD AFFAIRS

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been a year full of events at the Mroz Global Leadership Institute. We welcomed fantastic speakers for public talks and discussions on international security, diplomacy, identity, languages, and cultures. We hosted the Ambassador of Estonia Kristjan Prikk for a talk on Euro-Atlantic security and General Michael Moseley for a discussion on international and domestic security challenges. Through the partnership with the Department of Hispanic Studies we co-hosted the Consul General of Brazil Luís Cláudio Santos and Counselor for Education at the Embassy of Spain Dr. Jesús Fernández González.



Our featured event of the year was a two-day summit on "Conflict, Cooperation, and Diplomacy: Perspectives on the Middle East, Latin America, China, and Russia." We brought to campus a tremendous group of distinguished academics and practitioners who work on conflict resolution and cooperation. Our guests offered stimulating conversations on soft power and the possibility of conflict with China (Dr. Joseph Nye), cyber security (David Hickton), nuclear threats from Russia (Rose Gottemoeller), the conflict in the Middle East (Toni Verstandig), US foreign policy in Venezuela (Ambassador James Story), and the work of NGOs in conflict resolution (Dr. Jeff Helsing).

In January, we lost Karen Linehan Mroz, the biggest champion of the Mroz Institute. Karen was passionate about continuing the legacy of John Mroz and EWI. She became actively involved in the mentoring of CofC students to ensure that our students had the skills to be engaged global citizens. She played an active role in the Mroz Institute's EWI Oral History Project. As a member of the Mroz Institute Steering Committee, Karen was instrumental in the Institute's development. Karen meant a lot to our students and left a long-lasting legacy at the College. Her legacy will continue to live.

The spirit and values of EWI inspire the programs of the Mroz Institute as we transform today's students into tomorrow's global leaders. Our work and programming hinges on support from the EWI family, friends, and alumni and we appreciate your help, emails, visits, encouragement, and contributions.

We encourage you to participate through oral histories, joining us for future speakers in person or virtually, and as always we welcome your input.

Max Kovalov, Ph.D.
Instructor, International Studies Program
Bennett Director, Mroz Global Leadership Institute
College of Charleston



2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR AT A GLANCE

World Affairs Colloquium Series – 381 participants

- **Global Disruptions and National Security Challenges** – General Michael Moseley, the 18th Chief of Staff of the Air Force.
- **Identity and International Relations: A View from Brazil** – Ambassador Luís Cláudio Villafañe G. Santos, Consul General of Brazil in Atlanta.
- **The Future of Europe – should it still matter to America?** – Kristjan Prikk, Ambassador of Estonia to the US.
- **Foreign Policy through language and culture: the power of soft diplomacy** – Dr. Jesús Fernández González, Counselor for Education at the Embassy of Spain in the US.

Summit: “Conflict, Cooperation, and Diplomacy: Perspectives on the Middle East, Latin America, China, and Russia” – 611 participants

- **Confronting the Cyber Threat** – David Hickton, the founding director of the Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security at the University of Pittsburgh.
- **Are the US and China destined for war: cold or hot?** – fireside chat with Dr. Joseph Nye, Distinguished Professor of Government at Harvard University, former US Assistant Secretary of Defense, and EWI Board Member.
- **The Middle East: post-conflict diplomacy and the two-state solution** by Toni Verstandig, Executive Director of the Verstandig Family Foundation, served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Near Eastern Affairs at the US Department of State.
- **A new era for US foreign policy** – fireside chat with Ambassador James Story, career FSO, who served as US Ambassador to Venezuela, 2018-2023.
- **The role of NGOs in conflict resolution** – Dr. Jeff Helsing, Executive Director of the Better Evidence Project and Research Associate Professor in the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution.
- **Diplomacy and cooperation without trust: responding to Russia’s nuclear threats** – Rose Gottemoeller, former Assistant Deputy Secretary of NATO. Serves as a Research Fellow at Hoover Institute, Stanford.



Student leadership and professional development programs - high-impact interactions with diplomats, foreign service officers, and international leaders

- **General Michael Moseley**, the 18th Chief of Staff of the Air Force.
- **Ambassador Luís Cláudio Villafañe Santos**, Consul General of Brazil in Atlanta.
- **Ambassador Kristjan Prikk**, Ambassador of Estonia to the US.
- **Susan Knight**, Investigative Specialist at the Department of State
- **Special Agents Tommy King and Kevin Williams**, Diplomatic Security Service
- **Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason**, Ambassador of Ireland to the US
- **Mac McNeil**, Recruiter, US Peace Corps.
- **Dianne Price** (Civil Service), **Janelle Luna** (Foreign Service, Fulbright Programs), & **Maegen Smith** (Civil Service), Department of State.
- **Kelsi Ward Molowa**, US Department of State Study Abroad Office
- **Josh Miller**, Deputy Director for Andean Affairs at the State Department
- **Dr. Ryan Berg**, Director for the Americas Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- **Rebecca Middleton**, Chief Engagement Officer, UN Food Program-USA.
- **Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud**, Ambassador of Switzerland to the US.
- **Deniz Houston** (Digital Policy Officer) and **Vassilis Coutifaris** (Delegation Senior Office), European Union Delegation to the US.

Field trip to Washington, DC with Global Ambassadors – 7 students

- The Swiss Embassy
- The Delegation of the European Union to the US
- US Department of State
- Stimson Center
- Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Americas Program
- World Food Program-USA
- Tour at the US Capitol



ABOUT MROZ INSTITUTE: FOUNDING, MISSION & STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Founding

The John Edwin Mroz Global Leadership Institute (Mroz Institute) is a collaborative partnership between the College of Charleston's School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs (LCWA) and the EastWest Institute (EWI). Since 1980, EWI has facilitated candid discourse among world leaders to form sustainable solutions for major political, economic and security issues. After 40 years of work, the EWI transitioned its operations to several strategic partners, chief among them was the College of Charleston. The formation of the Mroz Institute came with a more than \$2 million gift from the EWI Board of Directors and a nearly \$500,000 gift from longtime EWI supporters, the late Marshall and Arlene Bennett through the Bennett Family Foundation.



John Edwin Mroz



LCWA has a special connection to EWI, as John Mroz was instrumental in the school's creation at the College of Charleston. One of the key initiators, local entrepreneur Hilton Smith, tapped the expertise of his friend, John Mroz, founder of the New York City-based EastWest Institute.

With the help of Mroz's international vision, LCWA opened its doors in 2006. Now, to preserve the legacy of EWI's visionary leader, who passed away in 2014, Mroz will be honored as the namesake of the new John Edwin Mroz Global Leadership Institute housed within LCWA.



The Mission

The mission of the John Edwin Mroz Global Leadership Institute is to promote essential skills of global fluency, educate students about diplomacy, and prepare them to become future global leaders through a comprehensive strategy of international education and experiential learning. We seek to preserve and continue the values and legacy of EWI and its founder, John Edwin Mroz, a fiercely independent champion of conflict prevention and resolution. Issues surrounding public health, the economy, the environment and sustainability, food security and migration affect everyone, everywhere, and are at the heart of our international security. The Mroz Institute cultivates the skills students need to engage with such challenges and, through an emphasis on mentoring, helps develop students who will become international agents of change and global leaders. The programming, colloquia, and archival projects at the heart of the Mroz Institute's mission ensure every College of Charleston degree is an asset in the international marketplace and every student is a potential leader in a tightly interconnected global world.



Strategic Partners

The College of Charleston inherited the EWI legacy alongside four prominent foreign policy organizations that adopted existing EWI programs: the Atlantic Council, the George H. W. Bush Foundation for US-China Relations, the Observer Research Foundation America, and the Stimson Center.



EWI's Balkan Dialogues initiative migrated to the Future Europe Initiative at the Atlantic Council, complementing the initiative's existing work on the Western Balkans, which seeks to build further Euro-Atlantic political and economic integration.



GEORGE H. W. BUSH FOUNDATION
FOR U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS
乔治布什美中关系基金会

EWI's US-China High-Level Political Party Leaders Dialogue is now hosted by the George H. W. Bush Foundation for US-China Relations, which has extensive experience organizing Track 2 diplomatic discussions between current and former government officials from the United States and China.



EWI's Middle East and North Africa work moved to the Stimson Center, an independent research center promoting international security, shared prosperity, and justice. Stimson has three decades of experience conducting Track 2 and Track 1.5 diplomacy. Its well-recognized work on water and energy issues will be enhanced by the addition of the hydro-diplomacy project. Stimson also took on both the US-China military-to-military dialogue and the US-Russia military-to-military dialogue.



The institute's Global Cooperation in Cyberspace programmatic work encouraging countries in the Global South to participate in international efforts to moderate the use of cyber weapons and research to improve the security of the technology supply chain transitioned to Observer Research Foundation America, the new Washington-based center of India's leading think tank, the Observer Research Foundation.



2023-24 PROGRAMMING

World Affairs Colloquium Series

The Mroz Institute World Affairs Colloquium brings to campus speakers with prominent international experience to address topics of global importance. In Fall 2023 we focused on international and domestic security concerns (General Michael Moseley) and issues of Brazilian identity and Brazil's role in Latin America and international relations (Ambassador Santos).



In Spring 2024 our speakers addressed the issues of Estonian, European, and Euro-Atlantic security challenges (Ambassador Kristjan Prikk) and the role of culture and languages in shaping diplomacy and foreign policy (Dr. Jesús Fernández González). We always invite our speakers for comprehensive visits that include public talks, class visits, and informal small-group discussions with students. The speakers used public talks to engage our students and faculty in substantive discussions about international issues. During small-group discussions, the speakers talked about their career paths, education experiences, professional challenges, and the skills that internationally-minded organizations seek when hiring staff.

"Global Disruptions and National Security Challenges" with General Michael Moseley, the 18th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, September 18, 2023.



General Michael Moseley

General Moseley retired after a distinguished 40-year military career as the 18th Chief of Staff of the US Air Force. He discussed global security challenges and explained that the existing set of accepted norms that have defined the post-Cold War global order is in transition. Russia's aggression against Ukraine threatens the security architecture in Europe. China is viewed as a competitor but also a threat to US economic and national security interests. Iran's nuclear program and North Korea's nuclear and missile programs challenge the stability and security in the Middle East and on the Korean Peninsula. General Moseley argued that US leadership is indispensable for the stability of the global order and for the international community to deal with global challenges.



"Identity and International Relations: A View from Brazil" with Ambassador Luís Cláudio Villafañe G. Santos, October 2, 2023.

Luís Cláudio Santos is a diplomat, historian, and biographer. He serves as Consul General of Brazil in Atlanta. As a diplomat, he served at several Brazilian Embassies including Mexico City, Washington, Montevideo, and Quito. He was Ambassador of Brazil to Nicaragua from 2017 to 2022. He is the author of several books about Brazil's foreign relations history. During the public talk, Ambassador Santos focused on the unique nature of Brazil's identity and its evolution over time. He discussed Brazil's global ambitions and how its membership in BRICS advances Brazil's interests. According to Ambassador Santos, today's Western-dominated global order is not working given the economic and political power exercised by non-western countries, like India, China, and Brazil.



Ambassador Santos with Mroz Institute Global Ambassadors

He was optimistic about the cooperative efforts of the BRICS alliance despite the divergence of interests within BRICS. He highlighted the importance of knowing the history and local context for successful diplomatic efforts of foreign service officers. This public talk was co-sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Studies and Mroz Global Leadership Institute.



Ambassador Santos during the small group discussion with students



"The Future of Europe - should it still matter to America?" with Kristjan Prikk, Ambassador of Estonia to the US, January 24, 2024.



Ambassador Prikk and Dean Arias

Kristjan Prikk is the Estonian Ambassador to the US. He served as the Permanent Secretary of the Estonian Ministry of Defense and Undersecretary for Defense Policy in the Ministry of Defense. Ambassador Prikk's talk focused on the biggest security challenge in Europe since World War 2. He argued that the Russian war was not only about Ukraine but also about the broader security architecture of Europe. He shared the belief that the defeat of Ukraine in the war will be Europe's defeat, which will ultimately weaken European security. Russian ultimatums to Ukraine and Western countries have clearly shown that Russia wants to weaken NATO and make it ineffective.

It is critical for the Euro-Atlantic alliance to continue supporting Ukraine to ensure that the Russian military is defeated in Ukraine. We appreciate the Zeitgeist Foundation and its president Klaus Becker for facilitating the Ambassador's visit to the College of Charleston.

"Foreign Policy through language and culture: the power of soft diplomacy" with Dr. Jesús Fernández González, March 14, 2024.

Dr. Fernández González serves as Counselor for Education at the Embassy of Spain in the US. As an educator, he teaches Spanish as a Second Language (SSL) at the Universidad de Salamanca and North American universities. As a researcher, he studies the influence of mother tongues on the process of second language acquisition.

In his talk, Dr. Fernández González explained the impact of globalization on minority languages, discussed the future of languages, and outlined best practices to protect indigenous languages. He viewed the language as a tool of soft power used by diplomats and policymakers. This public talk was co-sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Studies and Mroz Global Leadership Institute.



Dr. Fernandez Gonzalez with students



Summit “Conflict, Cooperation, and Diplomacy: Perspectives on the Middle East, Latin America, China, and Russia.”

Our featured event of the year was a two-day summit on “Conflict, Cooperation, and Diplomacy: Perspectives on the Middle East, Latin America, China, and Russia.” We brought to campus a tremendous group of distinguished academics and practitioners who work on conflict resolution and cooperation in various regions around the world. Our guests offered stimulating conversations on soft power and the possibility of conflict with China (Dr. Joseph Nye), cyber security (David Hickton), nuclear threats from Russia (Rose Gottemoeller), the conflict in the Middle East (Toni Verstandig), US foreign policy in Venezuela (Ambassador James Story), and the work of non-governmental organizations in conflict resolution (Dr. Jeff Helsing).

- **Confronting the Cyber Threat with David Hickton**, the founding director of the Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security at the University of Pittsburgh. David Hickton discussed the international efforts to address cyber crimes. He highlighted the role of the Chinese government and Russian non-state actors involved in illegal acts of hacking, stealing intellectual property, and committing other cyber crimes.
- **A new era for US foreign policy, fireside chat with Ambassador James Story**, career FSO, who served as US Ambassador to Venezuela, 2018-2023 at the embassy in exile in Bogota. Dr. Aimee Arias, Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs facilitated the fireside chat with Ambassador Story on regional democratic backsliding, the rise of “the rest,” migration challenges, and domestic problems in Venezuela. Ambassador Story explained that because of internal political polarization, the US is no longer viewed as a trusted partner in Latin America.
- **The Middle East: post-conflict diplomacy and the two-state solution with Toni Verstandig**, Executive Director of the Verstandig Family Foundation, served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Near Eastern Affairs at the US Department of State. Toni Verstandig tackled a challenging and politicized topic of the relationships in the Middle East and the important role of international actors required for regional stability.
- **Are the US and China destined for war: cold or hot? - fireside chat with Dr. Joseph Nye**, Distinguished Professor of Government at Harvard University, former US Assistant Secretary of Defense, and EWI Board Member. Dr. Max Kovalov, who facilitated the fireside chat, and Dr. Nye discussed the origins of the soft power concept and how it traveled from Dr. Nye’s conversations at the kitchen table in the early 1990s to the diplomatic and foreign policy world, the changes in the interdependent and globalized world, and the Chinese and American use of soft power.



- **The role of NGOs in conflict resolution with Dr. Jeff Helsing**, Executive Director of the Better Evidence Project and Research Associate Professor in the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution. Dr. Helsing focused on an underappreciated role played by non-diplomats in conflict resolution. He discussed local solutions offered by non-governmental organizations that facilitate community trust and interpersonal relationships needed in post-conflict societies.
- **Diplomacy and cooperation without trust: responding to Russia's nuclear threats with Rose Gottemoeller**, former Assistant Deputy Secretary of NATO. Currently Research Fellow at Hoover Institute, Stanford. Rose Gottemoeller focused the discussion on the escalation of nuclear threats by Russia, the importance of Western support to Ukraine, and the need for negotiations on nuclear non-proliferation without preconditions.



Ambassador Jimmy Story



Toni Verstandig



David Hickton with Global Ambassadors



Fireside chat with Dr. Joseph Nye, facilitated by Dr. Max Kovalov



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Left to right, front row first: Dr. Joseph Nye, Rose Gottemoeller, Dr. Jeff Helsing, Toni Verstandig, David Hickton, Ambassador Jimmy Story, Dr. Max Kovalov, Dean Aimee Arias, Chloe Hudgins, Griffin Wynn, Caroline Berg



Left to right: Dr. Max Kovalov, Chloe Hudgins, Rose Gottemoeller, and Caroline Berg



Dr. Joseph Nye with students



Dr. Jeff Helsing



Global Ambassadors Program

Global Ambassadors is a professional development program designed for students interested in careers with international service organizations, including the civil service and Foreign Service. This program creates opportunities for interactions between students and foreign service officers, civil servants, diplomats, and distinguished professionals in internationally oriented organizations working on global challenges.

During the 2023–24 academic year the cohort of seven Global Ambassadors met weekly with the Mroz Institute’s director to learn about the Foreign Service and its challenges and opportunities, US national interests, and foreign policy priorities. The students participated in organizing the programming of the Mroz Institute by helping coordinate the visits of guest speakers, introducing the speakers, attending discussions sessions, and interacting closely with distinguished guests. They also worked on practical skills by preparing weekly memos on topics of regional and thematic interests, delivered presentations, and learned about diplomatic work.



2023–24 Global Ambassadors during the visit to the State Department (left to right):
Chloe Hudgins, Sam Hall, Emmy Joyce, Griffin Wynn, Haley Hawkins, Carson Suber, and Caroline Berg



Brief profiles of 2023-24 Global Ambassadors

- **Caroline Berg** is a junior majoring in political science with a concentration in politics, philosophy, and law with minors in Asian and International Studies. She is a member of the CofC equestrian team and is the Chairperson of the Honor Board. She has studied Mandarin Chinese since middle school and is interested in international relations with China. Interested in the structures, functions, and effectiveness of the UN, Caroline wants to work as an international lawyer and a representative at the UN.
- **Sam Hall** is a senior majoring in Political Science with a minor in International Studies. With an interest in International Human Rights and LGBTQ+ rights, Sam hopes to go to Law School and pursue a career in International Human Rights Law.
- **Haley Hawkins** is a junior in the Honors College majoring in Political Science with a minor in International Studies. She has taken an interest in the Middle East as well as the United Nations and plans to attend Law School before pursuing a career abroad in international law.
- **Chloe Hudgins** is a senior majoring in history and minoring in political science. She is a student-athlete on the sailing team and is interested in pursuing a career in international risk analysis, the Foreign Service, or national security consulting. After college she hopes to be involved in international affairs, helping to achieve peace and security around the globe.
- **Emmy Joyce** is a junior studying International Business and International Studies. She is interested in foreign policy and national security, justice, ethics, human rights, and international and comparative governance. She aspires to pursue a career as an international law attorney for a multinational corporation or the UN.
- **Carson Suber** is a senior majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Politics, Philosophy and Law and minoring in International Studies. He is active in the Student Government Association as a Senior Senator. He is interested in pursuing a career in the foreign service.
- **Griffin Winn** is a senior double majoring in Political Science and International Studies (concentration: Europe) and minoring in French. He studied in La Rochelle, France, where he improved his French speaking skills. He is interested in pursuing a career as a US foreign service officer or doing intelligence work for an organization like the CIA or Interpol.



Global Ambassadors during a discussion with Ambassadors Santos (left) and Dr. Fernandez Gonzalez (right)



High-impact interactions with guest speakers

- **General Michael Moseley**, the 18th Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Informal discussion about national security, global security and the role of the US in the world, September 19, 2023.
- **Ambassador Luís Cláudio Villafañe G. Santos**, Consul General of Brazil in Atlanta. Informal discussion about Brazil's foreign service, national interests, BRICS, and Latin America, October 2, 2023.
- **Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason**, Ambassador of Ireland to the US. Informal discussion about Ireland's domestic and foreign policy, interests in the US, diplomacy, and the future of reunification of Ireland, November 3, 2023.
- **Susan Knight** (Investigative Specialist at the Department of State), **Special Agents Tommy King and Kevin Williams** (Diplomatic Security Service). Informal discussion about careers at the State Department and the Diplomatic Security Service, November 28, 2023.
- **Dianne Price** (Civil Service Officer), Janelle Luna (Foreign Service Officer, Fulbright Programs), & Maegen Smith (Civil Service Officer). Discussion with State Department officers about career opportunities and career advice, March 5, 2024.
- **Kelsi Ward Molowa**, US Department of State Study Abroad Office, March 5, 2024.
- **Josh Miller**, Deputy Director for Andean Affairs at the State Department. Discussion about "focused foreign policy in Venezuela," March 5, 2024.
- **Mac McNeil** (Peace Corps Recruiter) and **Kossi Law** (Global Connections Liaison for Togo's Peace Corps). Webinar discussion about the Peace Corps and career advice, April 23, 2024.



Left to right: Griffin Wynn, Haley Hawkins, Ambassador of Ireland Geraldine Byrne Nason, Dean Arias, Dr. Kovalov, and Consul General of Ireland Caoimhe Ní Chonchúir



Field trip to Washington, March 7-11, 2024



Global Ambassadors at the Center for Strategic and International Studies



Discussion at the State Department



Cultural immersion at the Ethiopian Restaurant with Global Ambassadors and CofC Alumni

- **The Swiss Embassy to the US.** We met with Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud and his team for a discussion about Swiss foreign policy, interests, and neutrality at the Embassy of Switzerland.
- **The Delegation of the European Union to the US.** We met with Deniz Houston (Digital Policy Officer) and Vassilis Coutifaris (Delegation Senior Officer) for a discussion about US-EU relations, digital policy, & European representation in the US.
- **US Department of State.** We met with civil service and foreign service officers for conversations about foreign service, international careers, & professional development.
- **Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Americas Program.** We had an discussion about Latin America, foreign policy, and CSIS projects with Dr. Ryan Berg, Director for the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- **World Food Program-USA.** We met with Rebecca Middleton (Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer, UN Food Program-USA) and Randy Russell (President of The Russell Group) for a discussion of food and agriculture policy and global food challenges addressed by the UN Food Program.
- **Stimson Center.** We met with the Stimson team - Evan Cooper (Research Analyst), Caiti Goodman (Communications Director), and Annie Trentham (Research Assistant) for a discussion about career opportunities in Washington DC, the think tank environment, and the work done by the Stimson Center.



Discussion about EU-US relations at the EU Delegation to the US

Where are Global Ambassadors now?

Kate Coffee (Global Ambassador 2021-22) spent two years in Togo as a Peace Corps volunteer. She worked on health campaigns, taught middle school health classes, and participated in the latrine grant project.

Brandon Eichelberg (Global Ambassador 2022-23) completed a TEFL certification course through the Council on International Educational Exchange. He finished a year of teaching English as a foreign language in Madrid, Spain, and plans to return to Spain for another academic year.

Christina Ferrell (Global Ambassador 2020-21) moved to Washington DC to work as Program Coordinator at Pyxera Global, an NGO working on global challenges in local contexts by creating innovative partnerships across the public and private sectors and building local capacity.



Maddy Landa (Global Ambassador 2021-22) was selected as a 2024-2025 Fulbright Finalist for the English Teaching Assistant Award to Spain. She was also selected as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic but decided to join the Fulbright program.

Jack Watson (Global Ambassador 2021-22) was awarded the Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Amman, Jordan in the summer of 2024. He was also a Fulbright semi-finalist to teach English in Prague.

Claire Turner (Global Ambassador 2022-23) participated in a year-long virtual internship at the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. She worked on international disability rights and worked on research to identify opportunities to expand the rights of people with disabilities.

Meet the new cohort of Global Ambassadors, 2024-2025

In spring 2024, we recruited a new cohort of 9 students to join the Global Ambassadors Program in the 2024-25 academic year.

Nicole Bravo Guibao is a junior, majoring in Public Health with a double minor in Business in Spanish and Health Informatics. She is passionate about utilizing health-related technologies in the public health sector, particularly internationally. Her academic interests lie in global health and international work. After graduation, she aspires to work at a global health organization such as the World Health Organization or the Center for Disease Control, focusing on implementing innovative solutions to improve public health outcomes worldwide.

Cadence Gillaspie is a senior double majoring in Public Health with a concentration in Global Health and Political Science with a concentration in Public Policy and minoring in Communication. She is interested in pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health in global health policy after graduating from the College of Charleston and hopes to pursue a career with the World Health Organization.

Sydney Jackson is a rising senior majoring in Political Science and International Studies (Asia Concentration) with a focus on US-China, Southeast Asia, and intelligence/security affairs. She has a strong command of the Mandarin Chinese language and a firm cultural understanding. Most recently, Jackson participated in the Department of States Paid Internship Program in Washington DC. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a degree in International Law and continue working towards her long-term goal of becoming an ambassador.



Kirti Laxmi Reddy is a sophomore double majoring in International Studies and Political Science in the Honors College. Her interest in becoming a Global Ambassador stems from her travels to Bangalore, India, where she leveraged her Kannada speaking skills. She is interested in studying the dynamics of community interactions, specifically exploring diplomatic strategies to mitigate cultural conflicts. After graduation, she will continue her education by pursuing a master's or law degree.

Alexis Richter is a rising junior majoring in International Studies and Political Science with a minor in Spanish. She is interested in international human rights and hopes to pursue a career in foreign service or working for an NGO.

Maeve Ridings is a senior double majoring in International Studies and Economics in the Honors College. She is interested in refugee displacement and conflict management, specifically regarding economic disparities in countries with significant diasporic populations. She hopes to work with a resettlement agency or the State Department to address these crises.

Caroline Smith is a rising sophomore in the Honors College triple majoring in Political Science, German Studies, and International Studies. She is interested in international relations pertaining to Europe and has been studying German for five years. With interests in the efficacy of the United Nations as well as environmentally-related issues, Caroline hopes to further study international relations and pursue a career in foreign service following graduation.

Piper Walrad is a junior in the Honors College double majoring in International Studies and Environmental Studies with a minor in Spanish. Piper is a member of the Bonner Leader Program and has led a community-based service trip abroad focused on the effects of tourism on environmental and cultural sustainability. She is interested in international work surrounding sustainable development and environmental conservation.



EWI Archives and Oral History Project

In partnership with the College of Charleston Libraries, we continue recording interviews for the EWI Oral History Project to tell the story of EWI's global efforts to develop sustainable solutions for today's political, economic, and security challenges. We interview our guest speakers in person and remotely about little known stories of EWI's work on conflict resolution and mediation. We update the project's page as we conduct and process the interviews. Here are some of the recent additions to the Oral History Collection:

- General Michael Moseley, 18th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, EWI Board Member.
- Allen Collinsworth, EWI Board Member, president and founder of Fara Group Inc., an Istanbul based consulting company
- Ambassador Cameron Munter, EWI CEO and President (2015-2019), US ambassador to Pakistan (2010-2012).
- The Honorable James Creighton, EWI Chief Operating Officer (2011-2015).
- Jeffrey Helsing, Executive Director of the Better Evidence Project and Research Associate Professor in the Carter School for Peacebuilding and Conflict.
- Dr. Jonathan Fanton, special adviser to the World Refugee & Migration Council (since 2017), president of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (2014-2019), president of the MacArthur Foundation (1999-2009).
- Dr. Joseph Nye, University Distinguished Service Professor, Emeritus and former Dean of the Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.
- Karen Linehan Mroz, EWI Board and Executive Committee Member, president of the Middle East Children's Institute (MECI) and founding director Friends of UNRWA USA.
- Dr. Karl Kaiser, Senior Associate, Project on Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship, JFK School of Government, Harvard University.
- Laurent Roux, EWI Board of Directors, Founder and CEO of Gallatin Wealth Management. Former EWI Board member.
- Ambassador Maria Pia Kothbauer, Her Serene Highness, Ambassador of Lichtenstein to Austria, Belgium and the European Union. Former EWI Board member.
- Vazil Hudak, Minister of Finance of Slovakia (2015-2016), Vice President, European Investment Bank (since 2016).
- Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) since 2008, Germany's Ambassador in London (2006-2008), Deputy Foreign Minister of Germany from (1998-2001). Former EWI Board member.
- Sasha Havlicek, Co-Founder/CEO, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, EWI Senior Director.
- Robert Campbell, founder & CEO, Campbell Global Services LLC, EWI Board Member.

The interviews and the transcripts are available for students, faculty, and researchers in the [Oral History Collection](#). We invite you to consider an oral history interview to tell the important stories of EWI. Contact Max Kovalov (kovalovm@cofc.edu) to schedule an interview.



Remembering Karen Linehan Mroz

By Darcie Goodwin, January 25, 2024

The College of Charleston community is feeling the loss of one of its greatest champions, Karen Linehan Mroz, who passed away Jan. 13, 2024. Mroz made an impact on many lives around the globe and shared her experiences and passions with the College of Charleston community. She worked in both the nonprofit and private sectors in business, education and philanthropy, with a focus on education and women's empowerment in the Middle East.

Mroz, together with her late husband, John Edwin Mroz, played an integral role in the creation and development of the EastWest Institute, an organization dedicated to conflict resolution by facilitating civil candid discourse among world leaders. Thanks to her unique vision and perspective, the College of Charleston was able to work with the EastWest Institute to establish the John Edwin Mroz Global Leadership Institute. Since the institute's launch in 2021, she made it her mission to ensure College of Charleston students have the tools and experiences to be globally curious and grow as leaders.

Mroz assumed positions on the institute's steering committee and the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs' advisory board. She also played an active role in the Mroz Institute's EWI oral history project run by the Addlestone Library. She was not only an interviewee of the oral history project: She was also prepping to be an interviewer and help expand the catalog.

"Karen was committed to continuing the legacy of her husband, John Edwin Mroz, and the EastWest Institute here at the College of Charleston," says Aimee Arias, dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. "She was passionate about ensuring that students get the skills they need to be engaged global citizens; to be able to address global issues through critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving and a deep understanding of international affairs. Karen was so gracious and generous in sharing her time and knowledge with us, and while we will greatly miss her, we will honor her by continuing to grow and enhance the Mroz Global Leadership Institute and the opportunities it provides students to become truly globally fluent."

One of Mroz's greatest passions was mentoring students, particularly the International Scholars. She would regularly come to campus to meet one-on-one with students. She loved to hear their plans and share her experiences.





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"Karen was interested in the professional development of students, and she invested her time to ensure they had the tools to succeed," says Max Kovalov, an instructor of international studies and the Bennett Director of the Mroz Global Leadership Institute. "She was always open to chatting with students about their interests and career opportunities. Karen's own professional experiences in the education of children and women empowerment made her invested in the development of our students."

"Karen Mroz meant so much to this College community," adds Arias. "She was never more excited than when meeting with students. She really enjoyed hearing about their internships, other co-curricular activities and career aspirations, and she was one of the most requested mentors for our International Scholars."

One such scholar is Sara Solan, an international studies and political science double major.

"Karen saw me not just as a student, but as a potential change-maker in the world," says Solan. "Her warmth and hospitality were refreshing. She insisted on breaking formal barriers, asking me to call her Karen, not Mrs. Mroz because, she said, 'That's my mother-in-law's name.' While Karen is no longer physically with us, I am confident that her bright spirit and passion for helping others will continue to illuminate the path for the Mroz Institute and students at the School of Language, Cultures, and World Affairs here at the College. The mark that she leaves on us here truly shows how extraordinary she was. Karen made us feel valued, capable and important. We will strive to honor her memory by embodying the values that she exemplified."

In addition to serving as a mentor, Mroz frequently recommended speakers to come to campus as part of the Mroz Institute World Affairs Colloquium Series. She was highly involved in the inaugural convening of the Mroz Institute in March 2022 and was playing an instrumental role in the upcoming February Mroz Institute Summit on conflict, cooperation and diplomacy

"Karen Mroz was a transformational partner and philanthropist to the College of Charleston," says Andrew T. Hsu, president of the College of Charleston. "On a personal note, I think we have lost a truly wonderful person - someone whose intelligence, humor and passion represented the best ideals of our campus. She did more than just talk the talk about change and making the world a better place - she walked the walk. Karen will be sorely missed, but her legacy lives on through the Mroz Institute and all the students who take part in the program."

The **Karen Linehan Mroz Global Leaders Scholarship** is being established at the College of Charleston Foundation to recognize Mroz's extraordinary impact on the College and on the generations of future students who will become stronger global leaders because of her tireless work to weave global fluency into the fabric of the College of Charleston experience.

For more information or to make a contribution to the scholarship, please contact Brian Rowe, senior development officer, at rowebp@cofc.edu or 843.953.6270.



Did you miss any of our programs?

Visit our YouTube Channel for recordings of previous talks, summits, and convenings. www.youtube.com/@MrozInstitute



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How can you help?

We welcome your support at any level of engagement as we prepare our students for future global careers. There are multiple ways to engage with the Mroz Institute:

- Contribute to the Oral History Project. You can either visit us in Charleston or we can plan an interview remotely, depending on your schedule.
- Join us as a speaker or connect us to speakers who can be invited to present at our programs – World Affairs Colloquium Series and thematic summits.
- Join the EWI Society– a group of friends and colleagues from the EastWest Institute.
- Visit us in Charleston in person or join remotely for the talks and meet our speakers.
- Mentor our International Scholars and Global Ambassadors.
- Include the Mroz Institute in your annual philanthropy. LCWA's development representative Brian Rowe will be glad to speak with you about various giving opportunities. Brian can be reached at 843.991.4361 or rowebp@charleston.edu
- Contribute to the Mroz Institute general fund, the Global Ambassadors Program or Karen Linehan Mroz Global Leaders Scholarship fund.



All these engagement opportunities will be meaningful to our efforts, so please let us know what would be meaningful to you.

Find us online

- Our Website <https://mrozinstitute.charleston.edu>
- LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mrozinstitute>
- Join EWI Society <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13964411/>
- Contact Max Kovalov at kovalovm@charleston.edu about any programming questions.
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