

# FROM THE ROOFTOP

The Newsletter of The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning

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## DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE TO SPEAK AS SESSION ENDS



In a recent interview in *Foreign Service Journal*, Ambassador W. Robert Pearson (left) noted “the job of the State Department and the Foreign Service in the world, as we see it today, is as challenging as it has been in quite sometime.” Stating the generally accepted belief that international terrorism has dramatically changed things all over the globe, he noted that for his organization, the U. S. Foreign Service, it only underscores “the need to develop a capability to anticipate and respond to crises.” It is in this modality of both preclusion and counteraction that he feels a ‘new diplomacy’ can be found and it is on that topic that our guest, the Director General of the Foreign Service, will dwell when he speaks to the members of the Fromm Institute on March 2.

W. Robert Pearson, of Tennessee, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister. A member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, he has a broad background in European and Security issues as well as wide management experience overseas and in Washington.

Most recently he was the United States Ambassador to Turkey in Ankara from September 2000 through July 2003. There he managed U.S. interests in Turkey through two severe domestic economic crises, a general election, the war in Afghanistan and the liberation of Iraq. Prior to his service as Ambassador to Turkey and Director General, Ambassador Pearson’s national service was both distinguished and multi-faceted.

Graduating from the University of Virginia Law School in 1968, he served in the US Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps for several years. From 1981 to 1983 he was stationed in Beijing, China as a political officer and was staff assistant in the East Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau. Shortly thereafter he would begin his Foreign Service career with a two-year assignment in Auckland, New Zealand. Later in the mid-eighties accepting his next assignment, he served as Deputy Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

He was posted twice at NATO, from 1987 to 1990 on the international staff as chair of NATO’s Political Committee, and from 1993 to 1997 as Deputy Permanent Representative to the U.S. Mission during the Balkan crisis and NATO’s enlargement. From 1991 to 1993, he was the Executive Secretary of the Department of State.

Following those assignments Ambassador Pearson was Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy to France from July 1997 to July 2000. In that capacity he closely followed the evolution of the European Union, and defense and security issues within the Atlantic Alliance and the EU. At the same time he actively promoted business ties between France and the U.S. and helped in the opening of five new American offices in France’s regions.

As you might expect of a Director General who encourages all Foreign Service personnel to be fluent in not just one but two foreign languages, Ambassador Pearson is well spoken in three. He speaks French, Chinese and Turkish.

**Director General Ambassador W. Robert Pearson will address the Fromm Institute on Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m. in McLaren 252.** All members of the Fromm Institute and their guests, as well as all interested members of the USF community of faculty, students and staff are welcomed to be present for this lecture on 'New Diplomacy' that will be followed by an opportunity for questions from the assembly. You are invited to join us for this exceptional opportunity to hear from the leader of our nation's diplomats as he speaks on the challenges and strategies that will be employed in Foreign Service as part of this strategy for the future.

## BEAUTIFUL EASTERN EUROPE

Martin Gumbel, a talented Fromm Institute student artist whose art is featured (page 5) in our Course Catalog along with others, would like to invite his peers to a slideshow of his paintings that will be held on Saturday, March 5 at 2 p.m. in the San Francisco Photo Center. For those of you who may not know his technique, Martin transforms photo images taken during his travels into stunning paintings of those subjects. For this show he will highlight the very distinct medieval architecture of Prague, its gothic cathedral, old synagogue and baroque buildings.



Then it's on to Regensburg, Passau and Nuremberg. To conclude, he'll take you down the Blue Danube and end up exploring his images of beautiful Budapest. As Mr. Gumbel explains, "There is no way to describe my pictures – you just have to see them." And you can, at the **Harvey Milk Center's San Francisco Photo Gallery on Scott Street near Duboce, March 5 at 2 p.m.**

## PROFESSOR RODETIS LEADS GREECE TOUR, MAY 28 – JUNE 13, 2005



*"The isles of Greece, the isles of Greece,  
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,  
Where grew the arts of war and peace,  
Where Delos rose and Phoebus sprung  
Eternal summer gilds them yet . . ."*

Professor George Rodetis is offering a 17-day tour of the Greek mainland and five islands, May 28 – June 13, 2005. The tour price of \$3,495 includes air, hotels, all breakfasts and some other meals, and entrances to sites and museums. Among the ancient and medieval sites you will visit are: Athens, Korinth, Nemea, Mykenae, Epidauros, Olympia, Delphi, Thessaloniki, the three cities of Alexander the Great, and the islands of Krete, Thera, Mykonos, Delos, and Aegina. There will be free time to see other sites, to shop, swim and enjoy musical performances. You have the option of staying on in Greece or taking a stop-over in London. A deposit of \$400 reserves your place on the tour. **For an itinerary/brochure or more information on how to join, please telephone Professor Rodetis at 415-330-0717.**

## "GISELLE" TICKETS AVAILABLE

Professor Roatcap's class "Dancing Divas and Danseurs" will be going as a group to the *San Francisco Ballet's* production of 'Giselle' on Saturday night, February 26, 8.p.m. If you would like to join them, there are a few orchestra seats still left for only \$40 each. Contact Robert Fordham at the Fromm Institute Office, UC 538, 415-422-6805 if you are interested.



FISA Treasurer,  
Dorothy Auerbach

## STUDENT ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT FROM DOROTHY AUERBACH

As required by the By-Laws of the Fromm Institute Student Association, I'm happy to be once again reporting on the state of our treasury. As I hope you are aware, your voluntary dues of \$5 per session helps us to stay solvent and allows your Student Association to continue to underwrite the social agenda of our organization — and most importantly the food and beverages that are served at our various events. I should also note that this year, as is our traditional custom, we gave holiday gifts (\$1,100) in your name to the staff of the Fromm Institute in appreciation for all they do throughout the year. As of October 26, 2004, after our banking expenses were deducted and before our expenses for our winter 'brown bags' are paid out, there is \$1,878.25 in our account. If you haven't yet presented them, dues are always accepted in the Fromm Institute Office or you can give them to me in class. I'm here every day of the week, Monday morning, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon and again Thursday morning. Thanks to everyone who has already paid their dues! Your support is important to us.

### A SECOND CHANCE TIMES TWO UPDATE

Thanks to the many of you who have already responded to our challenge match from a generous Bay Area foundation! As was announced just two weeks ago in this newsletter, they are double matching up to \$50,000 all contributions to our Annual Campaign from February 1 through June 30, 2005. That means a gift of \$25 becomes \$75, a donation of \$50 turns into \$150 and a contribution of \$100 triples in the Friends Fund to \$300!

**To date we have received 35 contributions that qualify, totaling \$6,490 and it's just the middle of February.** When that is double matched, it grows to \$19,470 which will be applied to the operating costs of the Fromm Institute not covered by the membership fees students pay. As mentioned, that remainder amount is more than half a million dollars a year!

Some have just made a donation to the Friends of the Fromm Institute, no strings attached. Many others have chosen this occasion to honor the staff for their hard work, a gesture that is deeply appreciated. It has also been heartwarming to see so many among you who have taken advantage of this incredible opportunity to thank our outgoing Program Director, Derek Leighnor, for his hard work and personal kindnesses these last nine years. In the opinion of this reporter, that is truly a fitting tribute to someone who's always put our members first.

Whatever your motivation — to honor a friend, remember a loved one, say 'Happy Birthday,' or just make the most out of this exceptional opportunity to triple the value of your contributions to the Fromm Institute — don't forget the power of giving to your school during this second chance times two. Giving forms are always on the information table in all classrooms. Thank you for your continuing support of the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of San Francisco. It does our heart good to know how much we are appreciated by the community that we serve.



### HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

Don't forget the second of two Monday holidays creeps up on us next Monday as we salute our heads of state on Presidents' Day. Remember, **Monday, February 21 is a Fromm Institute holiday. Accordingly, our office will be closed and there are no classes that day.**



## WONDERS OF SCIENCE SERIES

### 'DEEP TIME' ART ONE OF THE WONDERS

### IN THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE SERIES

Travel back into our human past this week as **Professor Margaret Conkey** from UC Berkeley lights her anthropological torch and takes us on a tour of “**Ice-Age Cave Art.**” Imagine the ‘deep time,’ as Professor Conkey calls the Paleolithic or late Ice Age, when humans made the first known images we consider art — bison and horses painted on cave walls the most famous of which is from the Lascaux caves in France. These paintings are traditionally explained as an attempt, by people believed to have a special connection to the spirit world, to symbolically subdue the animals counted on for food. Professor Conkey, however, sees it differently, “The images aren’t about people with magical powers staggering in [to a cave], painting something, and leaving.” In fact, she has spent decades trying to get archaeologists to rethink the possible meanings of these Paleolithic images. Her thesis? Join us this week on **Wednesday, February 16 at 10 a.m. in McLaren 252** and hear her conclusions and strikingly different interpretations.

Next week our lecture will be “**Human Evolution: Fact and Fancy**” and our lecturer will be UC Santa Cruz’s Professor of Anthropology, **Adrienne Zihlman**. As our last lecture in a series shortened to welcome **Ambassador Pearson** (see page 1), it will take place on **Wednesday, February 23, at 10 a.m. in McLaren 252**.

## TWO ‘BROWN BAGS’ START THE WEEK OFF RIGHT

On Monday and Tuesday this week there are ‘*Brown Bags*’ scheduled to keep you intellectually and socially busy during the lunch hour. On **Monday, February 14 at noon in McLaren 251** come and hear from the **Outreach Committee of the San Francisco Chapter of the California Grand Jurors Association** about the work of the Civil Grand Jury in our local community and how you can become a part of it. Then on **Tuesday, February 15 at noon in McLaren 250**, it’s **Tour & Travel Time** as Susan Kennelly hosts an informational meeting about upcoming tours to Ashland, Oregon this June for the Shakespeare Festival and New Orleans next November for a Cajun Holiday Tour. As with all our ‘Brown Bags’ remember to bring a lunch. Beverages and a dessert will be served compliments of the dues you pay to the Fromm Institute Student Association.

## ARCTIC ADVENTURES ANYONE?

All members of the Fromm Institute are invited to hear a special lecture given by renowned archivist and curator of the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge, **Robert Headland**, next week on **Tuesday, February 22** as a part of Dr. David Bisno’s class “The Race for the Poles.” The lecture will take place in **Cowell Hall, Room 113 at 10 a.m.**

Robert Headland’s principal interest involves historical geography. Specifically, his work concerns human effects on Polar Regions, especially the smaller islands and archipelagos. His work has allowed him to provide data for studies of long periods of climatic variation, glaciological and biological changes in Polar Regions. Dr. Headland is an advisor to several expeditionary organizations, departments of government and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1984, he was decorated with the Polar Medal and is a member of both the Arctic Club and Antarctic Club.

The Fromm Institute is honored to have him travel from London to speak to us and anyone who might like to hear him is welcome to join the class for this special event.



*It is foolish to think that there is any part of the globe that can escape the effects of Mother Nature on a bad hair day. Hurricanes, earthquakes, rockslides, avalanches, tornadoes, fires and floods are just some of the natural catastrophes that affect different parts of the globe. This week in our Student By-Lines, Dr. Sheldon Levin recalls a natural disaster that occurred almost sixty years ago but is eerily familiar today.*

## Catastrophe and Coincidence

*By Sheldon M. Levin*

The devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean Dec. 26, 2004, caused unprecedented havoc. More than 150,000 people were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Could they have been warned ahead of time of their danger? There is a tsunami early-warning system in the Hawaiian Islands that is very effective. When and why was it started?

April Fool's Day, 1946, at Dutch Harbor Naval Air Station in the Aleutian Islands, was quiet, with little air traffic. Peter Boudoures had decoded the latest six-hourly weather reports from the teletypes and entered them on the weather map. His job as an aerographer's mate was essential for the weather officer to draw lines on a map, analyze data and make the forecast.

What a lousy duty station, he thought. The cold, the fog, and the darned earthquakes. Oh well, just a few more months and he'd be back at college and then onto medical school. At least the fighting was over, and he was still in one piece.

The chief petty officer told him to take the radio detail. Scotch Gap lighthouse was on the horn. They were U.S. Coast Guard but they called Dutch Harbor when they needed supplies. The lighthouse was nearby, facing the Pacific Ocean, perched on a granite cliff 100 feet above the sea. Peter picked up the phone and recognized the caller's voice. "Hello, Johnny, what's up?" he said.

Just then, a violent rocking shook the building, infinitely worse than the earlier tremors they had grown accustomed to. "Did you feel that Johnny?" he said.

The scream that erupted from the phone was so agonized that Peter would remember it the rest of his life. "Pete, Pete, a wave! Oh, no!" Then, silence on the line.

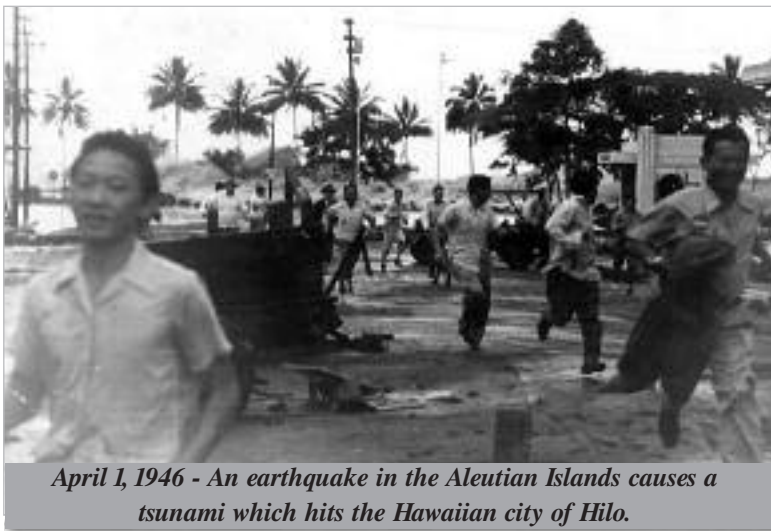
There was pandemonium at Dutch Harbor. Reports poured in and the horror of the situation began to unfold.

The epicenter of an enormous earthquake just south of Unalaska Island had been so powerful that it generated a wave more than 100 feet height. The wave sliced off the edge of the cliff at Scotch Gap, removing it and the lighthouse. There was no trace of it or of the men who had been inside. Dutch Harbor escaped damage from the wave because of its protected position. It took time for these facts to sink in.

When they did, emergency dispatches were sent to Pearl Harbor and other military bases bordering the Pacific Ocean. A shock wave was sweeping across the eastern Pacific Ocean at a speed of 300 miles an hour in an ever-widening circle. When it approached Hilo, Hawaii, hapless beach-lovers watched with fascination as the ocean suddenly seemed to be sucked away. The water receded half a mile and fish flopped about on the ocean floor. Some of the bathers ran to pick them up.

The bathers never knew what hit them. The shock wave had "felt bottom," slowed down, and then peaked rapidly, reaching a height of 60 feet. With a roar, a mountain of water smashed the beach and continued onshore for half a mile. More than 150 people drowned.

Additional emergency bulletins were sent out to warn those further away of the killer tsunami, Vice Admiral Charles A. Pownall, commander of the western Pacific forces, was among those receiving dispatches. Pownall



*April 1, 1946 - An earthquake in the Aleutian Islands causes a tsunami which hits the Hawaiian city of Hilo.*

was the senior officer between Admiral Nimitz in Hawaii and General MacArthur in Tokyo. His headquarters were on Commander Marianas Hill in Guam. When would the giant wave hit his area?

A fleet Weather Central had been established in Guam, and there was a specialist in oceanography who could advise him about the wave. He shouted the order to get that specialist to him – now.

I was the specialist. Friends and I were indulging in a pleasant noon-time volleyball

game. A Marine sergeant came up and asked for me, by name, saying that the admiral wanted me to report on the double. I thought it was a joke.

It was April Fool's Day, and there had been phony calls over the loudspeaker all morning. I told the sergeant to tell the admiral that I would see him when the game was over. The sergeant disappeared "You know, mister, I don't think I want to tell the admiral what you just said. He wouldn't be happy."

Just then, I saw the Jeep. On its bumper was a red flag with three stars. It wasn't an April Fool's joke. I moved smartly into the admiral's Jeep and it roared over to headquarters. A commodore hissed at me: "Where in hell have you been, mister?" and escorted me into the inner sanctum.

I met the admiral for the first time. He was pacing back and forth on a deep blue carpet in a large conference room, clutching a number of dispatches. It was a shock to learn what they disclosed.

I quickly digested what information we had on the tsunami and was able to calculate the needed forecast. The wave, I predicted, would arrive at Guam at 8 a.m. the next day but would be no more than 3 feet high. Fortunately, the long stretch of ocean through which the wave carried its energy was deep – in fact, the deepest part of the Pacific Ocean was between us and the quakes' epicenter. Guam, Saipan and Tinian were surrounded by coral reefs, which would further reduce the effects of the tsunami.

The admiral acted quickly. All ships in the harbor were ordered to leave their shallow moorings. He sent 20 search planes to look for the oncoming wave. I told him the pilots would not recognize the wave from the air because there would be no white cap. He sent the planes anyway.

My forecast was accurate – I was lucky. Almost no further damage occurred.

That wasn't the end of the story. In 1958, I was an attending surgeon at San Francisco General Hospital. A new chief resident surgeon, Peter Boudoures, and I worked together. When I asked about his background, he told me he had been in the Navy before going to medical school. He had been an aerographer's mate stationed at Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Then he related the tale of speaking with one of the doomed lighthouse keepers at the fateful moment of the tsunami's impact. The coincidence – our twinned paths and now chance meeting – was incredible and made me shudder.

The Hilo experience of April 1, 1946, served as the impetus to create an early-warning system in the Hawaiian Islands, which has been extended to include the Pacific coasts of North and South America and many Pacific Rim nations. It would have been no help for the men in the lighthouse, but it took five hours for the killer wave to arrive at Hilo. Now a warning system would give ample time to save lives. Warning systems would be able to save thousands of lives in the Indian Ocean if another tsunami would occur. Unfortunately, future killer tsunamis will occur. Hopefully, governments will provide the substantial funding for an early-warning system such as ours to be developed in far-flung oceans.

## COMMAND PERFORMANCES

This week my column will review the Command Performance material available in your classrooms on the information tables. While this information is more for the new students (all 114 of you!), it's also a refresher for everyone else.

First, there are the season brochures — *Opera, Symphony, Ballet, A.C.T.*, etc. — for the current season that started for most performing arts organizations last September. These are still useful to look over – to see what is now playing or what is coming up in the spring months ahead. They contain the prices and what the dates are for individual shows. Upcoming season brochures should be arriving throughout the next four months, so be on the lookout for them. I'll also let you know in my column when they have arrived.

Second, you'll find individual show programs for shows that I have seen. I am only able to bring a few copies for each classroom from each show, so we mark them "Office Copy: Please Do Not Take." These are for student review in the classroom. Please do not take them out of the classrooms and if you do by mistake, please return them to the tables. They include valuable and interesting information about individual shows that may help others to decide to go or not.

Third, there is a list of some of the different "Rush Ticket" day-of-performance policies for different performing arts organizations. This copy of an old column of mine can be found in the top row of the display racks. Please feel free to take one with you and keep at home for future reference.

Fourth, there are individual show postcards for current or immediately coming up shows usually in the front rows of the racks, or sometimes flat on the tables themselves. Finally, prominently displayed on the tables, you'll also find special deals offered to us on a one-time basis as Fromm Institute students. Hope that helps! More in two weeks.

*Bob Morgan*

*The "racks" filled with performing arts organization flyers and brochures.*



## TOURS AND TRAVELS

♥♥♥ WHERE TO FIND LOVE ♥♥♥

A Valentine's Week column should be all about love and we know where to find it - played out in its various forms and nuances: The Ashland Shakespeare Festival.

For four days in June we'll focus on romantic, foolish, witty, true and self-love in plots, characters and words by Shakespeare, Shaw and two playwrights named Boretz and Murray. Who? Their theatrical fame is tied to a 1938 production, a classic American farce, "Room Service." Imagine — an aspiring but broke playwright trying to raise the dough to put on a show, holed up in the hotel, avoiding eviction, trying to get the money and all the while, interviewing patrons including one who carries around a moose-head! No wonder the Marx Brothers had a field day with this! You too will be "rolling in the aisles."

There are other aspects of love, too — the beguiling lovers in "Twelfth Night" and the self-loving "Richard III." For sophisticated love and the battle of the genders, no one tops Shaw, this season represented by "The Philanderer." And for those who love comfort — prime seating with hearing devices available and complementary! The Ashland Tour includes: lecture, preface and discussion with members of the company: a Greens Show nightly and a noon Garden Talk. Our motor coach leaves from the Koret Parking Lot, passes beautiful Mt. Shasta, and on the way home stops at the Turtle Bay Discovery Museum and new Sundial Bridge. Elegant accommodations are offered at the Plaza Inn and Suites, walking distance of the Festival Grounds. Daily European breakfast, afternoon tea and a post-theatre midnight snack, too, and a welcoming cocktail and dinner at the charming Winchester Inn. Details on the reservation forms in all the classrooms. Come join us for a look at love in all its many guises from June 20-23.

Remember the 'Brown Bag' at noon **Tuesday, February 15 in McLaren 250 on Ashland and November's Cajun Holiday Tour to New Orleans.** We'll have some music and preview the best Louisiana offers. Hope to see you there! **Remember, if you have questions, I'm on campus each Monday. My direct line is (707) 257-1804.**

Happy Travels!

*Susan Kennelly*

## Fromm Institute Events & Reminders

**Monday, February 14**  
**Noon, McLaren 251**

**SF Civil Grand Jury ‘Brown Bag’**  
*Bring your lunch, beverages will be provided.*

**Tuesday, February 15**  
**Noon, McLaren 250**

**Tour and Travel ‘Brown Bag’**  
*Bring your lunch, beverages will be provided.*

**Wednesday, February 16**  
**10 a.m., McLaren 252**

**Wonders of Science Series with Margaret Conkey, UC Berkeley**  
**“Ice-Age Cave Art”**

**Tuesday, February 22**  
**10 a.m., Cowell 113**

**Special Lecture in Prof. Bisno’s class “The Race for the Poles” with Robert Headland, Curator - Scott Polar Research Institute**  
*All are welcomed!!!*

**Wednesday, February 23**  
**10 a.m., McLaren 252**

**Wonders of Science Series with Adrienne Zihlman, UC Santa Cruz**  
**“Human Evolution: Fact and Fancy”**

The Fromm Institute welcomes on **Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m. Ambassador W. Robert Pearson, Director General of the U.S. Foreign Service.** All members of the Fromm Institute and their guests, as well as the entire USF community are invited to hear him speak.



**The Fromm Institute**  
**For Lifelong Learning**

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