

“NORTH AMERICA NEXT: REPORT TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ON BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SECURITY AND COMPETITIVENESS”

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Rick Van Schoik Director North American Center for Transborder Studies

As director of the North American Center for Transborder Studies (based at Arizona State University), Mr. Van Schoik develops, manages and interprets complex, multidisciplinary, trinational research and policy programs.

He received a bachelor's degree in oceanography and engineering from the U. S. Naval Academy and was a Navy SEAL until returning to school and acquiring a master's degree from San Diego State University in biology. Mr. Van Schoik conducted post-graduate studies in philanthropy at Harvard Graduate School of Education and insustainable development at Tufts University. He attended the first Natural Resources Leadership Institute in North Carolina. He teaches energy, ecological and environmental policy as well as science, law, economics and engineering. He was previously the managing director of the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy.

Mr. Van Schoik has served as a trustee or on the board of directors of several educational, environmental, transportation and energy organizations. He is invited to give 25 to 30 talks per year and publishes articles in the scientific, lay and professional press that inform the several perspectives on transboundary security, transportation, water, energy, environmental and related issues.

Roberta S. Jacobson U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Canada, Mexico and NAFTA

Roberta S. Jacobson became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Canada, Mexico and NAFTA issues in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the Department of State on June 4, 2007. She served as Director of the Office of Mexican Affairs from December 2002. From 2000-02, she was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru; and between 1996 and 2000, Ms. Jacobson was director of the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, covering issues such as civil-military relations, human rights, foreign assistance, Presidential travel and counternarcotics throughout the hemisphere. Ms. Jacobson has also served as Coordinator for Cuban Affairs within the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary (1993-94), special assistant to the Assistant Secretary (1989-92), and at the National Security Council (1988).

Ms. Jacobson holds a M.A. in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (1986), concentrating in U.S.-Latin American relations and political development. Her undergraduate degree is from Brown University. She also worked for the United Nations from 1982-1984 in the Center for Social Development and

Humanitarian Affairs. She is the author of articles on "The Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women" in *The United Nations and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press; 1990) and "Liberation Theology as a Revolutionary Ideology."

Antonio Ortiz-Mena
Head of Section for Economic Affairs
Embassy of Mexico

Antonio Ortiz-Mena is Head of Section for Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico in the United States and Professor of International Relations (on leave) from CIDE (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, A.C.) in Mexico City.

He has published widely on trade policy and regional integration. He has been an advisor at the Mexican Ministry of Programming and Budget, at the Mexican Ministry of Fisheries and was a member of the NAFTA Negotiation team. He holds an MA in Latin American Studies (Economics of Development) from the University of London and a PhD in Political Science (International Political Economy) from the University of California, San Diego.

Colin Robertson
Director, U.S.-Canada Project -- report:
"From Correct to Inspired: A Blueprint for US-Canada Engagement"
Distinguished Senior Fellow, Carleton University, Norman Paterson School
of International Affairs

Colin Robertson is a career diplomat, currently on loan from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs. In this capacity, he currently serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow and director of a project on Canada-US relations, involving the federal and provincial governments, private and non-profit sectors.

The project's major report, "*From Correct to Inspired: A Blueprint for US-Canada Engagement*," examines challenges and opportunities with the Obama Administration and the new US Congress, with a focus upon bilateral and global prosperity and security issues. It was personally presented to Prime Minister Stephen Harper on January 13, 2009 and released to the public on January 19.

<http://www.carleton.ca/ctpl/conferences/Canada-US-Project-2008.htm>

Robertson has served at the UN and Canadian Consulate in New York, in Hong Kong, as Consul General in Los Angeles, and the first head of the Advocacy Secretariat at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. He was part of the team that negotiated the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement and the NAFTA. He also held executive positions at Citizenship and Immigration and the Treasury Board Secretariat and with Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation. He served as president of the Historica Foundation from 2006-7.

A former president of the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers and editor of *bout de papier*, Canada's magazine of diplomacy and foreign service, he is co-author of *Decision at Midnight: an inside account of the Free Trade Negotiations*. A Fellow of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, he is a member of the Canadian International Council and the Pacific Council on International Policy.