



# FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

FSRA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

<http://www.foreignserviceretireeassociation.org>

## **FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019 – HILTON GARDEN INN – PALM COAST**

Please join us for the FSRA lunch on Friday, May 10 at 12pm in the Ballroom of the **Hilton Garden Inn**, located at 55 Town Center Blvd in Palm Coast FL. There will be a social hour at 11am with a cash bar. We would like to extend a special thank you to Robert Kegley for organizing this event.

**OUR SPEAKER** is J. PHILIP CRAIGER, Ph.D., CISSP, Associate Professor of Cybersecurity from Emory Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. Dr. Craiger's topic is "Cybersecurity: Nation State Threat Actors (China, Iran) and Threats to Business."



Dr. J. Philip Craiger is an Associate Professor of Cybersecurity in the Department of Security Studies and International Affairs. Dr. Craiger served as Professor in the School of Engineering Technology at Daytona State College, where he was the Principal Investigator of the \$1.8 million NSF-funded Advanced Cyberforensics Education Consortium. From 2004-2010 he served both at the University of Central Florida as the Assistant Director for Digital Evidence at the National Center for Forensic Science and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of

Engineering Technology. At UCF, Dr. Craiger was instrumental in developing the first online Master of Science in Digital Forensics in the U.S.

Dr. Craiger started his career as an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and holds numerous professional certifications, including Certified Information Systems Security Practitioner (CISSP), and a Certified Cyber Forensics Practitioner (CCFP) from (ISC)2, SANS GIAC Computer Forensics Analyst, and an EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker. His research and teaching interests includes UAS cybersecurity and general aviation cybersecurity.



**HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS** The Hilton Garden Inn has confirmed a special rate for FSRA members for Thurs. May 9 and Fri. May 10 at \$104/night plus 12% (taxes and fees) for a king or queen room (2 queen beds). Breakfast is included in the rate. For reservations: call Hilton Hotels central reservation number at 800/445-8667 and request the GROUP CODE RKM rate. Rooms must be booked no later than **APRIL 18, 2019** to secure this special rate.

*Note:* Room cancellation must be made 48 hours prior to arrival or a no show payment policy will be enforced. You can also book online at:

[https://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/D/DABTCGL-RKM-20190509/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/D/DABTCGL-RKM-20190509/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

### **FSRA Board of Directors 2018-2019**

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### **The Foreign Service Retirees Association** is a non-profit

organization, formalized in 1982, designed to enhance the camaraderie and friendship of members and guests. Anyone who has served overseas as a representative of a U.S. government agency, including a branch of the Armed Services or Peace Corps, is welcome to join.

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**AFSA** – AFSA encourages retired FS personnel to let your Congressional Representatives know what you think about the proposed cuts to the State Department and USAID budgets, and to thank them for the things they do support. <http://afsa.org/>

**DIRECTIONS** If driving *from the South* on I-95, take exit 284 (SR100) and go LEFT at end of ramp; go to the second traffic signal. If driving *from the North* on I-95, take exit 284 (SR100) and go RIGHT at end of ramp: go to the second traffic signal. The hotel will be off to your right on Town Center Blvd. behind Panera Bread. Parking is complimentary self-parking.

### OTHER LODGING OPTIONS IN THE AREA

- Hampton Inn & Suites, 150 Flagler Plaza Dr – (386) 439-8999 (½ mile from the Hilton)
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 200 Flagler Plaza Dr – (386) 439-3938 (½ mile from the Hilton)
- Fairfield Inn & Suites – Marriott, 400 Old Kings Rd – (386) 445-3450 (10 miles via I-95 to exit 289)

**WELCOME RECEPTION** Please join us for a welcome reception in the Hilton Garden Inn bar/lobby area from 5 – 7pm on Thursday, May 9. There will be a cash bar (which will remain open until 10pm).

**FSRA BOARD MEETING** The FSRA Officers and Board of Advisors will meet Friday, May 10 from 10am – 11am in the Hilton Garden Inn Executive Board Room. Water and coffee will be available.

**SOCIAL HOUR** Join us on Friday, May 10 from 11am – 12pm (prior to lunch) in the bar/ballroom of the Hilton Garden Inn. There will be a cash bar.

**LUNCH MENU OPTIONS** The Hilton Garden Inn is offering a choice of three entrees. All Lunch Entrees are served with garden salad, warm bread and butter, and iced tea or water with meal. Dessert and coffee are included.

1. **Slow Roasted Pork Loin** with a brandy sauce, mashed potatoes and veggies.
2. **Feta Herb Crusted Salmon** with a lemon cream sauce, mashed potatoes and veggies.
3. **Eggplant Parmesan** with marinara sauce and fettuccini.

**TO MAKE LUNCH RESERVATIONS** Please see the reservation form on page 4 of this newsletter to select lunch options and for payment and mail-in information. *Please indicate food allergies or special requirements.* The price is \$29 per person. The deadline for lunch reservations is **APRIL 26**.

### PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE PALM COAST AREA

**Flagler Beach** – is approximately 5 miles east of the hotel on SR100. Visit the Pier, walk on the beach, and visit the shops on Central Avenue, located one block from A1A. Also located in Flagler County is the Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park. <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/bulow-plantation-ruins-historic-state-park>



It is approximately five miles east of the Hilton Hotel on CR 2001, south of SR 100, and contains the ruins of an ante-bellum plantation and its

### **FSRA ANNUAL DUES**

**\$20 for singles**

**\$30 for couples**

**FSRA RENEWALS ARE PAYABLE JANUARY 31!**

### **FSRA Renewal Changes**

The Board has voted to have a new dues policy in effect starting January 2020 – dues are to be paid annually by January 31 in order for members to be included in the Directory and to continue membership. For those currently in arrears, dues are now owed by January 31, 2019 for 2019 and one prior year in order to be included in the FSRA Directory and not dropped from membership.

For your convenience, the New Member & Renewal Form is available on the home page of the FSRA website:

<http://www.foreignserviceretireeassociation.org/>

New member applications, member dues, member address and email changes to:  
**Chris Swenson** at 239-495-6739  
chswenson@embarqmail.com

Please send any comments or suggestions for the FSRA newsletter or website to:  
**Marian Walsh** at 941-483-0803  
mvanwalsh@gmail.com

### **USEFUL WEB LINKS**

Haven't read the latest Foreign Service Journal?

<http://afsa.org/afsa-publications-resources>

How about State Magazine?

<https://www.state.gov/m/dghr>

sugar mill, built of coquina sedimentary rock, made up of crushed shells. It was the largest plantation in East Florida. Address: 3345 Old Kings Rd S., Flagler Beach. (Go east under I-95 and take a RIGHT at the traffic signal).

**St Augustine** – is a city on the Atlantic coast of northeastern Florida. Founded in 1565 by Spanish explorers, it is the oldest continuously inhabited European established settlement within the borders of the continental US. St Augustine is approximately 30 miles northeast of Palm Coast via I-95 and US1. You can also travel the Scenic Highway A1A, which is a longer and slower route.

#### **FROM FSRA BOARD CHAIR, MICHAEL BOORSTEIN**

“The Tallahassee luncheon attracted 22 FSRA members, and we had a very good speaker – Dr. Carol Weissert from Florida State University who spoke to us on “Florida Politics.” You’ll find the speaker summary below. We are looking forward to the next FSRA lunch, which will be on May 10 (with a Happy Hour on May 9) in Palm Coast. Bob Kegley is working to make this last gathering of our *season* a success.”

#### **NOTES FROM THE SPEAKER -- TALLAHASSEE MARCH 8, 2019**

*For those unable to attend the Tallahassee lunch last week, the following is an overview of our speaker’s remarks, submitted by Sue Boorstein. Thanks Sue!*

Dr. Carol S. Weissert, Director of the LeRoy Collins Institute, LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar, Professor of Political Science at FSU on “Florida Politics”.

Dr. Weissert pointed out the political importance of Florida nationally. Florida, with a population of 22 million, is larger than 16 other states combined, and continues to grow (every day 865 people move to Florida, adding a city the size of Orlando each year). Florida with 29 Electoral College votes (exceeded only by Texas and California) is the ultimate battleground state. In the 2016 presidential election, 48% voted Republican and 47.8% voted Democratic. There were similar narrow margins in presidential elections dating back to 2000, when George W. Bush won over Al Gore by a scant 537 votes. At the state level, since 1990, the majority in the Florida House and Senate has been Republican.

Dr. Weissert talked about what is *good* and *bad* about the state government:

#### What is good?

- Constitutional Revision – citizens can suggest revisions which are then added to the ballot
- Redistricting: fair districts now exist in Florida
- Education – adequate education for all children is enshrined in the Florida constitution
- Sunshine Law – a series of laws designed to guarantee that the public has access to the public records of governmental bodies in Florida

#### What is bad?

- Closed primaries – many young people who register to vote with party affiliation and are therefore excluded from voting in the primaries
- Not allowing runoffs when the first and second finishers in a primary are close (as was the case in 2018 between Andrew Gillum and Gwen Graham in the Democratic primary)

#### **NEW FSRA MEMBERS!**

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Joseph **HEMPFLING** and Diane **AGNESE** of Palm Coast (Peace Corps); served in Turkey w/ Rural Community Development.

Dorian **HURTADO** and Cecilia **MOLINA** of Cape Coral (STATE); served in Santo Domingo, San Jose and Guayaquil.

George and Marion **RUFFNER** of Naples (FCS); served in Mexico City, Santiago, Amsterdam, Singapore, Milan, Manila and Berlin.

**NEW GIFT IDEAS** Polo shirts with the FSRA seal can be ordered through Bob Kegley: RAWombat@msn.com (prices range from \$24 to \$27 with seal embroidery plus shipping; XL sizes add \$6). Men's shirts are available with or without a pocket; ladies are without pockets. Search for "Port Authority Polo Shirt" for product information/colors at: <http://www.unicodeitapparel.com/shop/>. You can also order through Bob at the Palm Coast lunch in May.

#### **DEATH OF AN ANNUITANT**

*Submitted by Judy Carson*

The following link to the AFSA website offers valuable information that all retirees should have in their estate and/or trust documents (and send onto the executors and successive trustees):

<http://www.afsa.org/death-annuitant>

Dr. Weissert mentioned some electoral improvements being considered:

- Same day voter registration, automatic registration and clarifying signature issues
- Requiring county supervisors of elections to be non-partisan
- Having county supervisors involved in election improvements

Dr. Weissert talked about perennial issues that come before the state legislature such as *Education*: common core standards, teacher salaries, charter schools, school safety, education vouchers and state funding of education; *Environment*: water issues; *Infrastructure*: more toll roads; *Health*: opioid crisis, lifting restrictions on new hospitals; *Criminal justice* reform; *Gun Laws*: allowing guns on campus and arming teachers in schools.

Other non-recurring issues are: Hurricane Michael recovery; Amendment 4 - implementing voting by former felons per the recently approved constitutional proposal in 2018; allowing medical marijuana; repealing parts of the 2018 gun bill after the Parkland shooting; banning sanctuary cities (although Florida currently has none); affordable housing; abortion - limiting allowed abortions to less than six weeks (fetal heartbeat as the standard); allowing prescription drugs from Canada; election reform - allowing paper ballots and printouts; and implementing election reform to allow Florida to pledge their electors in presidential elections to vote in accordance with the national popular vote.

*Dr Weissert followed her presentation with a question and answer period.*

**WONDERING WHERE FUTURE FSRA EVENTS WILL BE?**

The locations will depend on YOU! Are you thinking it would be great to have a FSRA lunch in your Florida hometown? We need members to suggest venues and speakers. As a local, you are the best person to suggest a location.

You're not alone. The FSRA Board will be happy to help with the details. A "Guide for Hosting" is available upon request.

Please contact Ellen Connor Engels, FSRA Board Vice-Chair at [engelsec@hotmail.com](mailto:engelsec@hotmail.com) or call 703-785-0614.

**Mail-back Coupon for Lunch on Friday, May 10, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn – Palm Coast**

Complete this form & send it **PRIOR TO FRI. APRIL 26, 2019** with a check payable to FSRA of Florida to: Ellen Connor Engels, 230 24th Avenue North, St. Petersburg FL 33704 (email: [engelsec@hotmail.com](mailto:engelsec@hotmail.com))

**\*\*\*YOUR ORDER & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRI. APRIL 26, 2019\*\*\***

**MEMBER or GUEST**

**LUNCHEON CHOICE (CIRCLE ONE)**

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Pork – Salmon – Eggplant**

FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

2. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Pork – Salmon – Eggplant**

FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

3. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Pork – Salmon – Eggplant**

FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

**Check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Luncheons @ \$29.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank You!**

I/We plan to gather at 5:00pm for the Welcome Reception in the **Hilton Garden Inn** bar/lobby area on Thursday, May 9 (located at 55 Town Center Blvd. Palm Coast). Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_