



The Institute for Education's INFO Public Policy Roundtable

Celebrating Twenty Years of Civility and Common Ground

Hosted by IFE Diplomatic Steward, H.E. Jan Matthysen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium
and Mrs. Agnes Matthysen



For 20 years, Coach Kathy Kemper has attracted Washington's top office-holders to monthly INFO breakfasts—Supreme Court justices, White House chiefs of staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, Nobel laureates, ambassadors by the dozen, mayors, governors and presidential wannabes.

On Wednesday, December 7 at the Belgian ambassador's residence on Foxhall Road, more than 100 past INFO speakers and attendees—including 19 other ambassadors—helped Coach celebrate the institution's anniversary with dinner, a fundraising auction and Coach's recollection of INFO highlights.



Kathy Kemper, a former professional tennis player, is called "Coach" because she was that for five administrations in our nation's capital as well as head coach for Georgetown University women's team. She still remains a sought after instructor to Washington's political elites.

As Coach recalled during her remarks, INFO began when her husband, Jim Valentine, suggested she ask her powerful tennis pupils to speak to his colleagues about the issues facing America and the world.

(Clockwise from top) Ina Ginsburg and Coach Kemper; H.E. Jan Matthysen, Coach Kemper and the IFE interns; Trish and George Vradenberg; H.E. Gilles Noghès, Ambassador of Monaco and Mrs. Ellen Noghès, H.E. Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of Russia and Mrs. Natalia Kislyak, and H.E. Jan Matthysen and Mrs. Agnes Matthysen; Jim Valentine, Coach Kathy Kemper, General and Mrs. Michael Hayden.



Among the highlights of hundreds of breakfasts and salons since INFO's inception: eight State of the City addresses by DC Mayor Anthony Williams, former National Symphony Conductor Leonard Slatkin leading a throng in singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" to observe the return of baseball to DC, a West Wing tour by former White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten and talks with Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer, Antonin Scalia, Sandra Day O'Connor, Samuel Alito and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

This year, an evening INFO salon with Senator Tom Udall spontaneously morphed into explanations and personal insights by the Japanese and Egyptian ambassadors on the Fukushima nuclear disaster and the Arab Spring.

INFO is an educational happening—and it happens to be just one activity of Coach's Institute for Education. Others include Roundtable discussion series on information technology, emerging markets and "next generation" concerns; a Youth Global Citizen international education/study mission program for DC public and private school students and teachers, Learn/Serve Egypt for students and Discover China for journalists.

In these fractious times, Coach has been using IFE to foster political civility. She gives an award for it every year (and another for community leadership). And IFE formerly hosted the first-ever annual regional leaders summits between DC's mayor and the governors of Virginia and Maryland.

At last week's glittering anniversary dinner, Coach recalled one other past highlight—the occasion when Secretary of State (then-Senator) Hillary Clinton called in advance to inquire what Coach would be wearing at her breakfast speech, so that their outfits wouldn't clash. And asked the names of the interns who'd be greeting her.

But what Coach considered the highlight of the evening was a presentation by Belgian Ambassador Jan Matthyson of IFE's International Diplomacy Award to patroness-of-the-arts, international emissary and IFE friend Ina Ginsburg—who, as Coach recalled, she met arranging doubles matches with the likes of Secretary of State George Shultz, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, Justice Scalia and Senator Thad Cochran.

We thank you for joining us in all our endeavours, past and future. We are Looking Back and Looking Forward.

Happy New Year from the Institute of Education!



(Clockwise from top right) Justice Stephen Breyer, past INFO speaker, and Dr. Joanna Breyer; Marci Robinson and Sally Oren; Coach Kemper with IFE Fellow, R. David Edelman and the White House gang; H.E. Claudia Fritzsche, Ambassador of Lichtenstein, Louise Akerblom, and H.E. Jean Paul Senninger, Ambassador of Luxembourg; H.E. Matthysen, Senator and Mrs. Richard Shelby, and Coach Kemper.

For more on the event, visit:

<http://www.instituteforeducation.org/support-the-ife/20th-season-celebration/>

<http://washingtonscene.thehill.com/party-events-pictures/archive/13281-ifeinfo-20th-season-celebration>

<http://www.washingtonlife.com/2012/01/04/charity-spotlight-info-gathering/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQxoZVbVZ8c&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=2682665060104&saved>