



Coach Kathy Kemper Acknowledged Among the Nation's Capital Tech 25 Innovators & Disruptors by *Washington Life Magazine*

A Tribute to Senator John McCain:
Exclusive Q&A with the Senator
from the 2008 Presidential Race

Find Out What the Belgian Ambassador
to the US has to Say About Brexit

A Look Inside "The Oscars of DC":
Rolling Out the Red Carpet for the
Nobel Notables

Career Advice from Nobel Prize Laureates
Dr. Frances Arnold and Dr. Paul Romer



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Dear IFE Friends,

Happy 2019! We are so happy to flip one more page and kick-off IFE's 28th season. And we are beyond thrilled to have you flip the pages of our 2nd issue of the *IFE Magazine*. We have so much to share with you and so much to look forward to this year.

What's left unsaid after almost three decades? First and foremost, we are proud to announce that IFE's work was featured by *Washington Life Magazine* in their 2019 Tech 25 Innovators and Disruptors issue. That's right. Our very own IFE Founder and CEO, Coach Kathy Kemper, shares this fabulous title with some of the most successful innovators, entrepreneurs, and forward-thinking individuals in Washington, D.C., such as Jeff Bezos. *Washington Life* has recognized Coach Kemper and IFE's cutting edge vision as a "true example of social entrepreneurship". "I have always loved tech and been fascinated by its promise. Everyone needs to understand technology to keep our democracies strong," says Coach Kemper. We owe this title to everyone who believes in our mission. Thank you for that!

Just like Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Paul Romer said in our exclusive Q&A on page 26, being given such a public role gives you "a sense of responsibility [...] to live up to the obligations of this role." Always being willing to learn from the best, we interviewed two of the 2018's Nobel Prize winners and science rock stars, Dr. Frances Arnold and Dr. Paul Romer. They share the key to their successful stories: "Do something you love to do every day," says Dr. Arnold. In this case, we will continue fearlessly and unapologetically being IFE.

We cherish our lifetime friendships and don't forget those who we have lost, and now continue their mission in a better place. Let's give a tribute to Senator John McCain and remember the Q&A by Coach K and Kelsey Kemper Valentine with the Senator from the 2008 presidential campaign. Be sure to read a full interview with IFE Diplomatic Steward, H.E. Dirk Wouters, Ambassador of Belgium to the United States on page 19.

Despite living in the digital age, we invite you to flip thorough our magazine for pictures and stories from our best salons and events in the second quarter of 2018. It is our own way to have "a look back at" or to #throwback to some of the memories we made together.

We are so looking forward to another amazing year at IFE. "The Future of work through AI" is in the books for this spring's panels as well as "Artificial Intelligence and Governments". Mark your calendars and please ask Alexa, Siri or Google not to be jealous. Our events are by invitation only. Until technology pushes us to start programming virtual IFE gatherings with your smart assistants, we cannot wait to have you at our events.



My very best,

Raluca Barbulescu
Editor-in-Chief
IFE Magazine

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– Senator John McCain



Digital Leaders

Hundreds gathered to celebrate
the Tech Innovation in Government community

Hundreds of digital leaders gathered on August 5th, at the historic Congressional Country Club to celebrate the Tech in Gov community at the 5th Annual IFE Innovation Cookout. Four years ago, the event had about thirty attendees and was hosted on the Great Lawn. For the 5th anniversary, the iconic club's Ballroom was the perfect venue to host over 300 guests. Leaders from the White House, Capitol Hill, United States Digital Service, Presidential Innovation Fellows, Defense Innovation Unit, USPTO, entrepreneurs, and also friends, family, children, and grandparents were all in the room.

Photo: Graduating Class of The White House Presidential Innovation Fellows, J. Alex Dalessio, Stephen Winchell, PIF Executive Director, Joshua Di Frances, Acting Administrator of US Digital Service, Matt Cutts, IFE Innovation Steward, Dr. Amy Geng, IFE Digital Innovation Ambassador, Devika Patil, PIFs Clara Tsao, Mike Rossetti, Gil Alterovitz, Zach Goldfine and 2nd US CTO, Todd Park

As guests started to arrive, the hosts of the evening, Todd Park, Dr. Amy Geng, Matt Cutts, and Coach Kathy Kemper, together with Team IFE, gave them a warm welcome. They invited the guests to try Congressional Country Club's signature drink, the Sea Breeze cocktail, while enjoying the verdant view from the Ballroom terrace.

Because the evening's highlight was the Presidential Innovation Fellows Graduation, a tradition of the Innovation Cookout, guests were seated at tables festively decorated with American flags and red and blue Tech in Gov cups, emblazoned with Todd Park's popular slogan: "Compounded Awesomeness." Also on the tables were exclusive copies of the first issue of IFE Magazine, which encapsulates IFE's activity for the first half of this year.

The ceremony kicked off with Coach Kathy Kemper's remarks, introducing the hosts: "Welcome to the 5th, yes 5th, Annual Institute for Education Tech in Gov Cookout at this gorgeous historic Congressional Country Club. Let's give a big round of applause for our hosts: founder of the White House Presidential Innovation Fellows and 2nd USCTO, Todd Park; IFE Innovation Steward, Dr. Amy Geng; and Director of the US Digital Service, Matt Cutts. IFE's mission is to harness the power of data, innovation, soft diplomacy, and technology. And look at all of you bad asses, the poster

children of the Tech in Gov mission! Thank you all for your service.”

Dr. Amy Geng thanked IFE for leading the way in Tech in Gov by reminding the audience of the first PIF ceremony with around 30 people and contrasting it with four years later: ten times more people! Special guests introduced included 3rd USCTO, Megan Smith, Special Assistant to the President for Innovation Policy and Initiatives, Matt Lira, Deputy USCTO, Michael Kratsios, and Director of USPTO, Andrei Iancu. IFE Digital Ambassador, Devika Patil, then introduced the diplomats in attendance: H.E Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Ambassador of Singapore, together with his

wife Gouri, H.E. Grigor Hovhannisian, Ambassador of Armenia, and his wife Victoria, and H.E. László Szabó, Ambassador of Hungary, with his spouse Ivonn.

Todd Park, 2nd USCTO and Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of Devoted Health, shared these remarks on IFE’s achievements in the Tech in Gov movement: “IFE is uniquely positioned to convene this kind of event because of Coach Kathy Kemper. She is IFE, incarnated. She has this incredible force for good, for love, that brings everyone together and infuses so much energy in everyone. She is the honorary mayor of the Tech-In-Government movement. I cannot imagine anyone

else who would be better at bringing the whole family together.”

As Co-Founder of the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program in 2012, Todd pledged for everyone in the room: “I think what is truly magical about this community is that we are family, and we are united by the love of humanity and by the belief that the power of innovation can do good. We are family and will help each other and support each other and give each other energy and love...And with that love, this is something that cannot be stopped. So, as an American, to all of you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Director of US Digital Service Matt Cutts was then introduced by Todd with the words, “[he is] a man that I love so desperately. Words cannot describe how much.” The crowd witnessed a heartwarming hug between the two Tech in Gov leaders. Matt encouraged everyone to enjoy the cookout and take the special opportunity to meet each other and create more good: “[Today is] a chance to have new connections in the global mind of the digital community and the digital family. It’s really nice to see that cross-pollination happening. You see people talking across all kinds of different dimensions. That really makes a big difference, to be able to say—you’re not just going to have fun, you’re also going to come out with some new ideas as a result.”

Joshua Di Frances, Director of the White House Presidential Innovation Fellows, joined the stage and announced the White House Presidential Fellows Round 5 graduates: J. Alex Dalessio, Zach Goldfine, Gil Alterovitz, Clara Tsao, Mike Rossetti, and Stephen Winchell. All former PIFs stood and were given a round of applause. Coach Kathy Kemper then invited four people to come up and receive special awards in honor of their service: Gil Alterovitz, IFE Award for Outstanding Diplomatic Engagement,



Top Left: IFE COO and Editor in Chief of IFE Magazine, Raluca Barbulescu and former US CTO’s Todd Park and Megan Smith. **Top Right:** Maurice Turner, Cybersecurity Policy Expert and Experienced Government Manager and Deputy US CTO, Michael Kratsios. **Bottom:** 2nd US CTO, Todd Park introduces Acting Administrator of USDS, Matt Cutts with a warm welcome.

In CS@SC's fourth season, IFE is proud to announce that we have reached the huge milestone of educating over 2,500 students in computer science

Clara Tsao, High Impact PIF Award, and Distinguished Service Award to J. Alex Dalessio. Finally, Coach Kemper and Todd Park presented Matt Lira with the Change Agent Award amid emotional hugs and congratulations.

A game-changing moment came in the evening when Coach Kemper announced that every donation for CS@SC, the computer science coding camp co-founded by IFE in collaboration with the University of Southern California's Viterbi School of Engineering, would be double-matched, by Todd Park and Amy Geng, and by Matt Cutts. Hands were raised throughout the ballroom by people eager to support a summer camp for underprivileged children.

This year, in CS@SC's fourth season, IFE is proud to announce that we have reached the huge milestone of educating over 2000 students in computer science. With the additional funds raised, summer camp attendees will be able to advance their computer science skills during the school year by participating in a weekly program to be held on USC's campus. And with IFE's leadership, CS@SC will expand both the number of students served, as well as course offerings to include robotics, web programming, and more levels of the existing programming classes.

Thanks to DJ and Devika Patil, R. David and Joanne Ke Edelman, and John Paul and Brittany Farmer for their leadership donations, to Todd, Amy,

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DJ Patil; Megan Smith; Jennifer Anastasoff; Andrei Iancu; Dr. R. David Edelman; Ross Dakin; Devika Patil; Joshua Marcuse; Kristen Honey; Count and Countess Bernard de Hemptinne, Ambassadors from Singapore, Armenia, and Hungary; Angela Colter; Haley van Dyck; Geoff Mulligan; Jackie Kazil; Erren Lester; Kate McCall-Kiley; Nayan Jain; Michael Kratsios; Stephanie J. Neill; Kristina Kelly.

and Matt for matching funds, and to the many others who gave so incredibly generously, IFE raised over \$100,000, making it possible to scale CS@SC. These are record-setting donations and a watershed moment in IFE's history. Thank you to all who gave!

After enjoying the delicious cookout buffet, guests and children alike had fun playing Corn Hole on the terrace outside the Ballroom, with a magical sunset-lit landscape as a stunning backdrop. Tech in Gov is embraced by all, and Congressional Country Club and the 5th Annual IFE Innovation Cookout was the place to celebrate this movement.

Contributed by Raluca Barbulescu

[@ralu_barbulescu](https://twitter.com/ralu_barbulescu)

Raluca Barbulescu serves as the Chief Operations Officer of the Institute for Education and as the Editor in Chief of IFE Magazine. Previously, Raluca served as a Washington DC news correspondent, reporting for an international press agency headquartered in Bucharest, Romania. She is a seasoned journalist and covered Education and Healthcare for Romanian national media for seven years. She was also part of the Marketing team of a DC based company, working with broadcasters around the world, like BBC, RFI, Deutsche Welle, ESPN, Voice of America, United Nations, Red Cross and many others. Raluca has a master degree in Management in Media Institutions from University of Bucharest. She enjoys traveling, hiking, eating seafood and running.



Left: PIF Eric DaDaimler, 1st Chief Data Scientist DJ Patil, IFE Senior Fellow Joanne Ke Edelman, Deputy Administrator USDS, Haley Van Dyke, IFE Steward Dr. R. David Edelman. **Right:** (from left) Acting Administrator of US Digital Service, Matt Cutts, IFE Digital Innovation Ambassador, Devika Patil, IFE Innovation Steward, Dr. Amy Geng, IFE Founder and CEO Coach Kathy Kemper and Matt Lira, White House Special Assistant to the President.



Icons of the IFE Women in Power Program

Fox News' Shannon Bream and Jennifer Griffin

The Institute for Education's Women in Power roundtable hosted Shannon Bream, Anchor of FoxNews@Night. Jennifer Griffin, National Security correspondent for FoxNews, introduced Ms. Bream. The intimate lunch conversation included an insider's off-the-record view on "Americans, Politics, and Social Media," and the influence on the current SCOTUS nomination. The lunch was held at Café Milano, and while dining on risotto alle zucchini and pollo alla griglia, attendees discussed issues ranging from the historical role of the Supreme Court, to the current chaotic Kavanaugh nomination, to the future of regulating technology.

Photo: (from left) Jennifer Griffin, Fox News National Security Correspondent, Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE Founder and CEO and Shannon Bream, Fox News Anchor and Supreme Court Correspondent

In organizing this event, Coach Kathy Kemper had asked Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Justice Stephen Breyer which Supreme Court reporters they admired the most, and Shannon Bream was one of the first names that came to mind. It is only fitting that when the room of attendees considered who they thought were the most recognizable Justices in the public eye, Justice Ginsburg, the "Notorious R.B.G.," immediately came to mind as well.

The topic at the forefront of everyone's mind was discussed: the rapidly unfolding timeline of Brett Kavanaugh's situation, from the energy and chaos of the day Justice Kennedy announced his retirement, to the disruptions and protests during the hearings, considered the most raucous Supreme Court confirmation hearing process in memory.

Looking at the intersection of politics and social media, the room noted that for voters in 2016, one of the top issues was filling the Supreme Court, and the White House is aware this is still a hot topic for the American public. The room also noted that the public is clearly divided on social media. As a journalist, Ms. Bream strives to remain neutral and does not offer her own opinions on social media, but



Left: (from left) Shannon Bream, Fox News Anchor and Supreme Court Correspondent, David Fenstermaker, Raymond James & Associates, Abderrahim Foukara, Al Jazeera and H.E. Dirk Wouters, Ambassador of Belgium to the United States and IFE Diplomatic Steward. **Right:** (from left) Kristen Honey, HHS, Jennifer Griffin, Fox News National Security Correspondent and Ambassador of Kosovo Vlora Citaku

the majority of users seem to be different, offering extreme sides of the issue. With such heavy politicization, people rely on institutions like the Supreme Court to decide, which in turn politicizes Supreme Court decisions and the nomination process.

This idea inspired a discussion on the historical role of the Supreme Court, and the differences between the American system and institutions abroad. Attendees noted that originally the Founders didn't intend the court to have as large of a role, and the initial allotment of judges was equal, but this has expanded over the years into a more politicized role. The Bush v. Gore decision in 2000 was noted as a possible turning point in politicization.

Ambassadors in the room noted how different the media coverage and focus on the nomination process for Brett Kavanaugh and Merrick Garland is from their countries, where Supreme Court nominations and Justices are less at the forefront of the public's mind. The Ambassador of Ireland wondered how this process could be de-politicized, as this could be important to stabilizing American politics and society as a whole. As it stands now, the hearings offered little more than a circus to watch for viewers, with barely any enlightenment as to the merits or qualifications of the nominee. Term limits have been contemplated as one method, and there is the fact that a Justice can be impeached, but the key to the situation is the Justices themselves. In speaking with the Justices, they want to be seen as judiciously independent from the President who nominated them, and desire to uphold an apolitical reputation.

In terms of moving forward in social media and politics, the Ambassadors of Kosovo, Jordan, and Estonia brought up different issues on mob culture in social media and regulating technology. It was agreed that social media should be used to raise awareness, but users should not give into mob

culture. Ambassadors toe a fine line between posting what people want to hear and what needs to be said. What is most worrisome about mob culture on social media is attempting to silence or shut down other sides, especially as the First Amendment is seen as an American treasure, one which the Supreme Court has defended before in the Westboro Baptist Church's case. In terms of regulation, it was agreed that the next big conversation will be on the regulation of technology and social media, especially as various technological services are being considered utilities, and authenticity of information is an issue, such as with deep fakes.



As discussions concluded, the room decided no matter the outcome of the Kavanaugh nomination process, what matters at the end of the day is public opinion about the Supreme Court and its reputation as an apolitical, independent institution. This reputation is strengthened when a Justice votes against the President that nominated them, something attendees agreed is heartening to see and look forward to seeing in future cases, which attendees were told might involve the travel ban, abortion rights, and overall questions of limits on and challenges to executive power.

Contributed by Kathleen Connolly
 @katey_conn



The Civic Tech Community is Thriving

Matt Lira, White House Special Assistant to the President

On Thursday, December 6th, the Institute for Education's Tech Innovation in Gov program hosted White House Special Assistant Special Assistant to the President for Innovation Policy and Initiatives at the Office of American Innovation, Matt Lira at the Embassy of Estonia with Ambassador Jonatan Vsevirov. Guests were greeted with Estonian wine and a Tallinn liqueur before the launch of festivities. IFE leadership and influencers gathered to fête the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF), recognize contributions from PIF leadership, and discuss IT modernization and organizational change management within the federal government.

Photo: Matt Lira of the White House, Coach Kathy Kemper, H.E. Jonatan Vsevirov of Estonia, H.E. Kirsti Kauppi of Finland, H.E. Varuzhan Nersesyan of Armenia, DCM Boosara Kanchanalai of Thailand, and H.E. Wafa Bugaighis of Libya. Photo Credit: Jenny Lehman

“It’s a great tradition in this country, especially in our nation’s capital to have forums that can bring people together...to build that fellowship, so this has always been a very unique venue for that.”

– Matt Lira –

The salon commenced with remarks from IFE CEO Coach Kathy Kemper and Microsoft’s John Paul Farmer. Both Farmer and Kemper recognized the significant bipartisan contributions that led to the passage and signing of the TALENT Act to enshrine the Presidential Innovation Fellows into law.

Farmer then transitioned to a message from Former U.S. Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Todd Park. Park, co-founder of the Presidential Inno-

vation Fellows Program, who stated that: “Matt Lira is an incredibly passionate, unstoppable, brilliant champion of tech, innovation, and awesomeness in the government and across the country as a whole. We as a country are so lucky to have him.”

Following Park’s remarks, Lira took the podium to speak on the future of innovation and change within the structure of the U.S. economy and government. Sustaining the efforts of

past administrations and running your leg of the “relay race” while recognizing the necessity for adaptation and change will remain integral for the future of smart governance. “It’s a great tradition in this country, especially in our nation’s capital to have forums that can bring people together...to build that fellowship, so this has always been a very unique venue for that.”, said Lira.

Lira also noted that re-training of existing workers to allow for economic mobility and lifelong learning will be essential in the 21st century. The traditional linear path of education must be more adaptable given the pace of automation and developments in artificial intelligence.

Ultimately, having a forum to bring individuals together, to discuss ideas, and to develop opportunities for bipartisanship and collaboration remains integral to long-term national prosperity. As further alluded to by Lira, “the civic tech community is thriving, this sense of unity, of purpose, working across the aisle, of working in a non-political way to achieve outcomes” underscores the importance that venues like the IFE Tech Innovation in Gov forum play in Washington.



The room was packed for IFE’s Tech Innovation in Gov Salon. Spotted in the audience: Finnish Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi, Libyan Ambassador Wafa Bugaighis, Armenia Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan, Chris Caine, Coco Pannell, David Fenstermaker, Joanne Ke Edelman, Megan Byrne, Marci Robinson, Sokwoo Rhee, Gerrit Lansing. Photo Credit: Jenny Lehman

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Finnish Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi, Libyan Ambassador Wafa Bugaighis, Armenia Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan, Jim Valentine, Chris Caine, John Paul Farmer, Coco Pannell, David Fenstermaker, Joanne Ke Edelman, Shahin Mafi, Megan Byrne, Marci Robinson, Sokwoo Rhee, Gerrit Lansing, Laurent Crenshaw, Sita Sonty, and Joshua Di Frances.



H.E. Varuzhan Nersesyan of Armenia meeting H.E. Wafa Bugaighis of Libya. Photo Credit: Jenny Lehman

Contributed by Zachary Smith

Zachary Smith serves as IFE Tech Innovation in Gov Program Director. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Southern California. He previously worked in cybersecurity with E&Y, in international trade and finance at the Taipei World Trade Center, for the Governor of California, California State Assembly, and Los Angeles County District Attorney. He enjoys travel, dancing, quality food, and spending time with friends. He is based in Washington, D.C.



About Our Host

Jonatan Vsevirov serves as Estonia's Ambassador to the United States since August 2018. This is his third diplomatic posting in Washington, DC. Before assuming his current duties, Vsevirov worked at the Estonian Ministry of Defense for 10 years, rising to the post of Permanent Secretary. Until his appointment as Permanent Secretary in January 2016, Mr. Vsevirov served as the Undersecretary for Defense Planning, the Acting Undersecretary for Defense Policy, and Director of Policy Planning. During his tenure at the Defense Ministry, Vsevirov had a leading role in shaping Estonia's defense policy both domestically as well as internationally. He is the author of the Concept for Comprehensive Approach to Defense (2009) and the National Defense Strategy of 2010 – documents that led to significant conceptual change in organizing defense in Estonia.



About Our Speaker

Matt Lira currently at the White House Office of American Innovation, where he works to coordinate priority policy initiatives for the office. For the past decade, Matt's work has placed him at the cross-section of politics, government and the emerging digital economy. With a unique mixture of experiences in Congressional Leadership and national campaigns, he has gained first-hand insight into our nation's political and governing institutions. Previously, Matt has served as Senior Advisor to House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Digital Director for then-VP Nominee Paul Ryan and a Senior Advisor to House Majority Leader Eric Cantor.



Coach Kemper Acknowledged Among the Nation's Capital Tech 25 Innovators & Disruptors by *Washington Life Magazine*

February 2019 marks a big accomplishment for IFE's mission. For the past six years IFE's cutting edge vision made us move forward and approach topics like IoT, AI, blockchain, drones, robotics, wearable tech and many others. One of DC's most respected publications, *Washington Life Magazine*, has acknowledged CEO and Founder of IFE, Coach Kemper, as among 2019's Tech 25 Innovators & Disruptors of the nation's capital. "All of the unique individuals and businesses we feature on this Tech 25 list, are true examples of social entrepreneurship. They are making an impact on the world as a whole and it all begins right here in our hometown" – *Washington Life Magazine*. Coach Kemper shares this honors with top tech influencers, such as Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Salesforce's Niki Christoff, and Halcyon's Ryan Ross, just to name a few. We invite you to read Coach Kathy Kemper's inspiring story featured by *Washington Life Magazine*.

Coach Kemper, as she prefers to be called, is a former Georgetown University tennis coach and instructor to the city's elite. It was out her connections with high-ranking clients in politics that her Institute for Education(IFE) was born. Part nonprofit, part thought salon, the organization celebrates political common ground and the use of technology in government and diplomacy. "We believe everyone needs to understand technology to keep our democracies strong," Kemper says. Since informally launching 27 years ago, when early salons were merely breakfast meetings between her tennis students, like Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, and some of her husband James Valentine's business colleagues, the group has hosted over 400 speakers, including supreme Court justices and Nobel laureates. When President Obama's chief technology officer, Todd Park, became involved in IFE in 2006,

"It is IFE's DNA to be forward thinking.
Everyone needs to understand technology
to keep our democracies strong."

– Coach Kemper –

the organization took a technological turn and began hosting panel discussions at partnering embassies on topics such as drones, cryptocurrency, robotics and artificial intelligence.

Explain in layman's terms what you and the Institute for Education do in one to three sentences

CK We celebrate common ground, technology, and support computer science for all. We believe everyone needs to understand technology to keep our democracies strong. We shine a light on collaboration by bringing the best of Washington to the table.

Why did you start the Institute?

CK My husband came up with the idea! Twenty seven years ago he encouraged me to invite some of my big-shot-tennis-students to have breakfast with a few of his colleagues. We thought they would learn from each other and collaborate. Secretary of Defense Les Aspen and US National Security Advisor Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski were the first two tennis players to be our special breakfast guests. We have had over 400 speakers, including: five Supreme Court Justices, several more than once, CEO's of Fortune 50 companies, countless Mayors, presidential Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, US Chief Technology Officers, White House Chief of Staff, heads of the FBI, CIA, NSC, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, a Miss America, a maestro, Nobel Laureates, pro athletes and on and on.

How did IFE come to focus on the intersection of government, diplomacy, and tech?

CK Very organically. Six years ago, Todd Park, USCTO, and his wife, Dr. Amy Geng, became friends and supporters of IFE. They suggested programming with a tech lean. All cutting edge. It is IFE's DNA to be forward-thinking, and we have hosted panels on IoT, wearable tech, drones, block chain, civic tech, robotics, and AI, all before they were a part of the conversation. I have always loved tech and been fascinated by its promise. Big data, social media, the power for anyone to be a disruptor or have a platform, these things resonate with me because, in many ways — that's been my story. A Midwestern girl who played tennis and now I'm here with you doing this interview, or I'm at the Supreme Court for an event, or writing a thought piece for various publications, and leading my own non-profit. More practically, because the Institute for Education is nonpartisan, and there is a high level of bipartisan support for Tech-in-Gov and modernizing our systems from both sides of aisle, it's been a great area for collaboration.



IFE Innovation Steward, Dr. Amy Geng, John Paul Farmer, IFE ETR and PIF co-founder, Coach Kathy Kemper IFE Founder & CEO, first USCTO Aneesh Chopra, USCTO Megan Smith, Todd Park PIF co-founder and former USCTO at Congressional Country Club Innovation cook out in August 2015

Any big news or professional highlights in the last year or so you'd like to make sure we know about?

CK I'm most proud of a recent initiative started with the help of former U.S. Chief Technology Officers Todd Park and Megan Smith. IFE partnered with the University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering to offer a free coding camp for underrepresented school children. We offer computer science training to low-income kids of all backgrounds — an increasingly critical skill to compete in the Digital Age. I like to say there were always the “3 Rs — reading, writing, arithmetic” and now there's a 4th — Algorithms! We have graduated over 2000 kids, underrepresented kids, that now know Python, Scratch, Java — they are little coders. This changes families' hopes and opportunities. It is really something. Last fall we expanded to weekends with Robotics and Web design and we had a waiting list the first day.

Favorite/most-used apps on your phone?

CK Apple health, ride sharing and twitter.

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Four Years of CS@SC

IFE celebrates its 2500th student with coding skills

Last summer, Team IFE, including Founder & CEO Coach Kemper, IFE Fellow Kelsey Valentine and IFE Senior Advisor Kaivan Shroff headed out west to visit our free summer coding camp CS@SC. We are thrilled to update you on the success of this program, which is still just four years old. Most excitingly, this summer we have reached a huge milestone – educating our 2500th student in computer science! The energy and excitement around the camp was palpable and it was a treat to hear from both the students and their instructors.

First, some background. Our mission in founding CS@SC was manifold. At the time, Coach Kemper – an unabashed tech evangelist – saw that while “reading, writing and arithmetic” (the so-called three Rs) may have been foundational to any education decades ago, in the 21st century, kids need to learn a fourth “R” to compete – algorithms. While there were many targeted programs to young girls, or specific demographics, we realized all students needed access to coding lessons, especially those from low-income backgrounds. Additionally, for many of the young students in our program,

Photo: For four years CS@SC has been a game changer in the lives of the K-12 students

this is their first chance to visit a college campus (or at least one as stunning as USC) and we have found they leave the program inspired by the educational opportunities that await them if they work and study hard.

Enter Professor Jeff Miller – a USC alumnus leading CS professor, and the heart of our summer camp. Miller has been running the program for all four years and to watch him work was edifying. To start the session, Professor Miller asks the students, K-9 aged campers, how many of them play an instrument. Roughly 85% of the room raises their hands. Next, Miller asks how many of the kids want to actually become professional musicians. Only a handful. He makes the point that just like music is a great skill to learn, understand, and enjoy, even if you don't plan to be a composer – CS is an important foundational skill set and interest to nurture – even if it is not a career goal. Again, our camp is committed to exposing kids to something new – not forcing them into a specific area of

study. “What I’m trying to do here is to expose you all to CS, not make you all professional programmers. Just like you play an instrument and don’t want to be a professional musician. Some of you will become excellent programmers, but our goal is show all of you that you can succeed at programming regardless of your ethnicity, whether boy/girl, or your background,” Miller says to students.

After introductory remarks and a highly anticipated daily “brain-teaser” from Prof. Miller, students break off into their groups, each with a different level and programming focus. The youngest students use a program called Scratch that introduces basic coding concepts, while older students choose from either Python or Java. It was a delight to see how excited the children were to run off and get to coding!

Our camps have a 50/50 gender split and students of all ethnic backgrounds and income levels. This is critical to our mission of demonstrating CS as accessible and open to everyone. Prof.

Miller is intentional in making this point clear to those who may face social biases or obstacles by explicitly communicating to students that race, gender, and background should never be a deterrent and that everyone has equal capacity to learn coding.

Students learn to code, but also enjoy the USC campus – taking tours, visiting the bookstore, enjoying daily lunches in the campus plaza or cafeteria, and learning from Professor Miller’s college-aged TAs. Meeting with the parents as they came to pick up their students, you could see the pride they had that their child was learning such a critical skill and having fun while doing it! We could not run this camp without the energy and support of parents. CS@SC camp is changing hopes and opportunities for underserved kids and families.

We are proud to announce that in the coming school year we will be rolling out a year-round curriculum that allows our students to build on the gains they make each summer. We are so thankful to our supporters and donors who make this possible. If you can support our mission in any way we love and need the help!

To donate visit InstituteForEducation.org or Venmo @InstituteFor Edu



Left: Professor Jeff Miller, Director of CS@SC Summer Camps, IFE Founder and CEO, Coach Kathy Kemper and two students. **Top Right:** CS@SC Students learning how to code. **Bottom Right:** Special thanks to USC Viterbi School of Engineering Team for helping us make CS@SC happen

Contributed by Kaivan Shroff

[@KaivanShroff](https://twitter.com/KaivanShroff)

Kaivan Shroff serves as a Senior Advisor for the Institute of Education. Before joining the team at IFE, Shroff worked at Microsoft New York on their Technology and Civic Engagement team, partnering with the NYC government and non-profits to offer data-driven solutions to big social problems. Shroff also worked on the Digital Team at Hillary for America. He holds an M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management and a B.A. in Political Science from Brown University. Currently, he is pursuing his MPP at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.



Bringing Together Innovative Minds

A look inside the 5th Annual West Coast Innovation Brunch

On Sunday January 6, 2019, IFE kicked off the new year with its Fifth Annual IFE Tech Innovation Brunch in Silicon Valley. This year, the brunch was graciously hosted by Todd Park, Former Chief Technology Officer of the United States and Co-Founder of the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program, and his wife, Amy Geng, IFE Innovation Steward, at their stunning Los Altos Hills residence.

Photo: (from left) DJ Patil, Bosco So, Scott Wu, Clara Tsao, Mike Brown, Rob Cook, John Paul Farmer, Chris Golden, Mary Anne Cook, Emily Lovell, Todd Park, Dr. Amy Geng, Devika Patil, Coach Kathy Kemper, Davar Ardalan and Josh Di Frances

The brunch attracted a record number of guests including technologists, civic leaders, current and former government officials, Presidential Innovation Fellows, members of USDS and 18F, and friends and supporters of the Institute for Education to celebrate tech innovation in government.

Todd Park welcomed guests, thanked those who have served in government for completing their “tour of duty,” and encouraged those in attendance to do all they can to support those who are serving now in government. Additionally, Joshua Di Frances, Executive

Director of the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF) Program, Davar Ardalan, Deputy Director of the PIF Program, and Clara Tsao, President of the PIF Foundation, spoke about the importance of sharing the PIF and civic tech story, and encouraged all to use the hashtag, #CivicTechService.

As a special treat this year, the IFE Tech-in-Gov Brunch was honored to welcome special guest, Dr. Joanna Breyer, clinical psychologist, wife of Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, and author of the book, *When Your Child Is Sick*. Dr. Breyer spoke about the her work with children with serious illness at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and her mission to get copies of the book into the hands of parents who need to it in a moment of need. Proceeds from the book are used to support care for sick children internationally. Brunch participants purchased and donated copies to world-renowned Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital in Palo Alto, UCSF Benioff Children’s

Hospital, and other Bay Area clinics.

Guests were treated to a delicious brunch featuring seasonal ingredients including mushroom-leek and artichoke-sundried tomato frittatas, salmon cakes, pumpkin scones, and warm apple crepes in addition to a gourmet plate laden with local cheeses, seasonal fruit, and crackers.

Now in its fifth year, this brunch has become an annual reunion for those working at the intersection of government and technology, ahead of the internationally attended annual J.P Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco.

Attendees included Casper Klynge, Tech Ambassador of Denmark; John Paul Farmer, Microsoft and Co-Founder of the PIF Program; Michelle Lee, Former Director of the US Patent & Trademark Office; IFE Founder and CEO Coach Kathy Kemper; Tom Kalil, Chief Innovation Officer at Schmidt Futures; DJ Patil, First Chief Data Scientist of the United States and

Devika Patil, IFE Digital Ambassador; Michael Brown, Director of Defense Innovation Unit at DoD; Scott Wu, Christopher Kirchhoff, Ryan Panchadsaram.

Institute for Education Advisor Kaivan Shroff, IFE Deputy CTO Emily Lovell, IFE Digital Innovation Fellow Chris Golden, and IFE Innovation Fellow Christina Kemper Valentine also attended.

Contributed by Chris Golden

[@chrisgolden](#)

Chris Golden is the Institute for Education Digital Innovation Fellow. He is Director of Paid Advertising and Rapid Response at FWD.us, a bipartisan political advocacy organization focused on immigration and criminal justice reform. A graduate of American University, Chris worked in Washington, D.C. for former presidential campaign manager Joe Trippi before moving to San Francisco to work first at Next-Gen Climate and then at FWD.us. He enjoys travel, hiking, food and is a trained graduate of the San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT).



Left: Coach Kathy Kemper, Dr. Joanna Breyer, Devika Patil IFE Digital Ambassador and DJ Patil, First Chief Data Scientist of the United States. **Top Right:** Todd Park welcomed guests at IFE’s 5th Annual Innovation Brunch in Los Altos, California. **Bottom Right:** Davar Ardalan, Deputy Director of the PIF Program, Clara Tsao, President of the PIF Foundation and Joshua Di Frances, Executive Director of the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF) Program.

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Casper Klynge, Tech Ambassador of Denmark; John Paul Farmer, Director of Technology and Civic Innovation at Microsoft; Michelle Lee, Former Director of the US Patent & Trademark Office; IFE Founder and CEO Coach Kathy Kemper; Tom Kalil, Chief Innovation Officer at Schmidt Futures; DJ Patil, First Chief Data Scientist of the United States; Devika Patil, IFE Digital Ambassador; Michael Brown, Director of Defense Innovation Unit at DoD; Scott Wu, Christopher Kirchhoff, Ryan Panchadsaram; Kaivan Shroff, Institute for Education Senior Advisor; Emily Lovell, IFE Deputy CTO; Chris Golden IFE Digital Innovation Fellow and Christina Kemper Valentine, IFE Innovation Fellow



A Conversation With...

**IFE Diplomatic Steward, H.E. Dirk Wouters,
Ambassador of Belgium to the United States**

We had the pleasure of meeting with H.E. Dirk Wouters and discussing the beginnings of partnership with IFE and the ‘secret ingredient’ to maintaining good and mutual foreign relations. “Keep the channels of communications open and try to find common ground”, the ambassador said. We couldn’t agree more that the two missions, both of IFE and the Belgian Embassy, overlap in many ways. Read the full interview to find out his opinion on Brexit, how embassies adjust when administrations change and how technology can improve academic diplomacy.

“Go for the win-win on both sides, even if it’s difficult and build a bridge.”

– H.E. Dirk Wouters –

Photo credits: Kevin Allen

Interview by: Raluca Barbulescu

How did your collaboration with IFE start and what is your involvement with the IFE community?

DW Here's a fun story. Not that many people know that Coach Kathy Kemper got engaged in the Belgian residence here in Washington. So, there has always been a kind of connection with the Belgian ambassador, and there's now the fact that the Belgian ambassador is the diplomatic steward of IFE. When I arrived in September 2016 here in Washington, to serve, one of the first propositions I received, was to continue this diplomatic stewardship. As the missions, the two missions both of IFE and the Belgian Embassy, kind of overlap, there was no question of not accepting this honor. As far as my involvement is concerned, I look every year forward to hosting IFE events at my residence and to attending also the fabulous events that IFE organizes in other venues.

Are there any particular IFE events that are dear to your heart?

DW There are events that really left a mark on me, and I will keep them forever as a good souvenir. And as we were just discussing, there was certainly the one with the former White House Chiefs Of Staff. We called it a Belgian salon. But, it was a salon with very good remarks made in very good spirit! There was another event with Jerry Seib that I remember. I refer to the Washington Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal and then also with Monica Popp, who was the chief of staff of John Cornyn. And also lately there was another Belgian salon with the Belgian minister of development corporation and innovation, Mr. De Croo. We had a fantastic collaboration with IFE and International House. The Innovation Fellows who went into



From left: The Honorable Joshua Bolten, Coach Kathy Kemper, Institute for Education, The Honorable Denis McDonough, H.E. Dirk Wouters, Embassy of Belgium, Ms. Juliet Eilperin, The Washington Post and Ms. Andrea Mitchell, NBC News

a dialogue on innovation with this young minister of the Belgian government had a good time. That event went very well as well, I thought.

Given IFE's mission, to encourage soft diplomacy and bipartisanship, why do you think an organization such as this one may be important to fueling positive change?

DW I think that what is critical and really important is that IFE offers a model to the young people for leadership. And today if there is change, if there is positive change, wherever in the world, it's often linked to leadership, to new leadership, fresh leadership. Secondly, IFE provides an excellent venue and it has become also a critical bastion here in Washington for what I would say is a responsible and respectful dialogue. And we need a lot of that, there is a bit of polarization in many societies. And third, IFE brings in the voices of many different categories of people. I mean the business people, the politicians, diplomats, judges, technology people, academics, and so IFE offers a wider lens on society and I think that's a great offer.

What is the role of an embassy in interacting with schools and universities, as well as in promoting educational ties between our two countries?

DW That's a very good question regarding academic diplomacy, which I attach a lot of importance to. And I'd say that the objective of that kind of work for an embassy is to achieve in the first place more intense cooperation between knowledge centers, research centers, and innovation centers by having a special focus on the exchange of students, professors, researchers. Operationally, as an embassy, we go for projects such as increasing exchange programs, the mobility for students, increasing the number of academic chairs at universities in the United States, mapping out a presence of our students at so many universities and mapping out the presence of our professors in all these institutions. And also trying to promote our own research here at universities in the United States. A lot already exists, but there is still much more potential and of course there is also this new development in innovation and technology in the academic world.



Former President of the United States, Barack Obama and H.E. Dirk Wouters, Ambassador of Belgium to the United States

How can technology revolutionize academic diplomacy?

DW There are new developments with technology that eventually will have a great impact. Last week, I was in Chicago at DePaul University and we were speaking to the students and the academics and we also had a session with the students in Europe, who were attending exactly the same course. And so, the students in Chicago and the students at that other university in Europe could compare notes in the form of televised conference, ask each other questions, ask questions to the two professors on both sides. But there's not just universities that are important for an embassy in Washington, schools are important as well. My embassy is involved in a school program

in the Washington area schools. For example, we participate in embassy adoption programs, which means that we adopt schools and we try to teach children a bit about European and Belgium's history, culture, foods - don't forget food - climate change, and what we do in our country, and compare with what's happening here.

In the nearly forty years of your service as an ambassador, what would you say is the secret ingredient to maintaining good and mutual foreign relations?

DW Oh yes, I had to keep the good relations with everybody even when it was difficult! I think that the secret, and I'm saying this more based on personal experience, is to keep talking to each other, even if the circumstances can be difficult, and even if there are issues on which you might disagree. Keeping the channels of communication open, I think that's a big lesson I have learned. Because when there is no dialogue, no communication, then everything stops and then you get stuck with problems that remain unsolved. As a diplomat involved in these conversations between countries, you have to give it your best shot, at trying to find the common ground. I mean, if you see common ground, give your best shot at it, and go for the win-win on both sides, even if it's difficult and build a bridge. Of course, it may be the case that on certain issues, when

you disagree, you have to push back. Today between Europe and the United States, there is a push back from Europe on trade issues. But, for example, in security and defense there's no push back by the Europeans. And of course, it's always important and probably even more so today to keep people to people contacts, as they are really important and as they can make up for policies that are not popular.

Shifts in political parties often mean a nation's aim might be going in different directions than previously anticipated. During your term as the Belgian ambassador to the US, you have undergone both the change in political party as well as two different administrations and two very different presidents. How has this impacted your job as Ambassador to the US?

DW So, in itself there is nothing abnormal. For us, it's an integral part of our diplomatic life, this kind of change. But, it is true, we have adjusted our working methods and we have adjusted ourselves. Because after eight years, for example, in investing in contacts and networks with Administration A which happened to be a Democratic administration and now switching to a Republican administration, it requires that you create new networks, new contacts. So, the new network is maybe the first part of my answer. The second is that, I've seen here in Washington that the diplomatic community brought its messages, always according to the country or the continent, more often to Congress, more often to the White House and the National Security Council, and even a bit more often to the Pentagon. I'm saying this because we have always been very fortunate here in Washington as embassies to reach out and deal

“Keeping the channels of communication open, I think that’s a big lesson I have learned.”

– H.E. Dirk Wouters –

with the State Department, to speak to our national or regional desk. And the State Department is unique in providing substantive knowledge and assistance. At a certain moment, this became a bit more difficult. That was another change. And the last thing that changed, and for me this is very important, is that the work outside Washington has become even more important. You have to become more and more an ambassador to the United States and not just the ambassador in Washington. And why I'm saying this is because you should go out, and especially these days, to discover what I often call a kind of new localism, an extraordinary positive local, regional, economic dynamism within communities, within cities, within states. Renovation projects and infrastructure projects, attracting new investments, redoing downtowns, you can name all these developments - it's worth going there as an ambassador and highlighting these strong developments to your home country and your government, so they can also help you in developing new alliances, new partnerships, with the communities, and these new interlocutors outside of Washington. It is a new strong development I think.

Since you joined the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980, you have covered a variety of crucial positions, including the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU, directly involved in several negotiations on revision of the European Treaties, then being one of the main architects of the successful Belgian EU-Presidency and key foreign policy decisions on Afghanistan and Libya. In your opinion, where is the EU headed?

DW Well on both issues, the European Union and Brexit, it's difficult to say where we are headed. Take Brexit. Brexit is a story that tells us a lot about trying to become independent, but not entirely becoming sovereign. What I mean by that is that the Brexit proves, for instance, that once the people had voted in June 2016 in the referendum, the whole project to extract yourself from the European Union became much more complex, because the interdependence was so strong. Economically, financially, politically. And that the idea to become independent and to regain full sovereignty, is much more difficult because we are so interwoven in the economies in our societies. So it's a telling story from that point of view, and of course the United Kingdom is entirely entitled to extract itself from the European Union. I mean, a member of the European Union has a constitutional right, which is recognized in the European Constitution, to withdraw. The only question one can ask is whether it was a wise or a smart move to use that prerogative that is recognized



In 2017, H.E. Dirk Wouters conquered Mount Kilimanjaro. Photo credit: Embassy of Belgium to the United States.

knowing that there would be economic costs, that there would be political costs, that there are risks for the unity of the United Kingdom. And knowing that this great country, the United Kingdom, had a really good deal with the European Union before they submitted the question of withdrawal to the people. They didn't have to participate in the single currency, they didn't have to participate in the free movement of people, they didn't have to do this or that; they had negotiated from their point of view a good deal. And now they're moving to a situation that may be not as good a deal from their point of view. There will be probably economic costs, more barriers to trade and so on.

Along those lines, what is your biggest concern?

DW They're trying to get there and I remain optimistic that we will have an agreement with the United Kingdom. But that eventually when it comes to the last stage of negotiating a future relationship between the European continent and the United Kingdom, which can be a trade agreement or something more, that it will take much more time than was initially planned for. And in the meantime, one has to work and hope that the disruption at the borders when trucks are moving, and when people are moving, and money is moving, and goods are moving, and researchers are moving, that there is the least disruption possible. And I think it's also very important for American business who have often invested both in the United Kingdom and on the continent and so they really need a seamless transition and seamless business without any obstacles. I can understand that concern which is also ours and we have to work towards that direction.

Who will be more affected?

DW According to the different economic models that have been developed and according to the scenario - which means that you have an agreement or you don't have an agreement - the country in Europe that will be the most affected is Ireland, since they have such a close relationship with the UK. And the loss for their economy in the worst case scenario of no agreement, can go up to 7% of the gross domestic product, the global value of their economy. And the second country that would be most affected is Belgium. Because we're also close and we have a good trade relationship with the United Kingdom. So, the challenge for us is not just developing a collective strategy, it's also developing our own strategy. On the one hand we have to respect, the choice of the British people. But on the other hand, we know it's a great amputation on both sides, economically and politically.

What do you like most about America?

DW Well, maybe you would be surprised, but one of the things I like most in the US, and I hope I can discover this further and work on it even more than I did until now, is nature. I find the offer of nature in the United States is a unique one. It's pure, especially when you think about the national parks which are really a great, great creation, the establishment of the national parks in the 19th century. It was really a great foresight, it was really well done. When I look at families visiting national parks with their children, I can recognize the great educational value of it. We are trying to achieve the same objective in Belgium, but we don't have national parks. But we would integrate this into the cur-

“Invest even more in lifelong learning and training because you're already living in a fast-moving world.”

– H.E. Dirk Wouters –

riculum, the programs in schools, visits to history museums. I love hiking. In July, with friends, we went hiking in Montana, Glacier Park, and then Yellowstone and we ended up three days in Grand Teton Park, and I had also my very close encounters with the bison and the bears and the moose and the elks and it was beautiful. Beautiful and heavenly, I would say.

IFE works with a lot of young people, providing Computer Science camps for underrepresented children, at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. Belgium is well known for its great educational system and school. What advice would you give to today's youth?

DW I think I would tell them to read things, first of all. Invest even more in lifelong learning and training because you're already living in a fast-moving world and you already know that you will face greater job mobility compared to previous generations. For example, my generation, the older generation, we witnessed probably in our professional life, one huge development, which was technology development. We were confronted with that, we tried to adjust, and are still trying to adjust to it. It was major, it was huge! And I think that the younger generation, in their professional lives, they will encounter several of these developments. I would certainly also advise

them to travel often. I think that's important. So the lifelong learning I would certainly encourage, because of the kind of world they will be facing and I would work on the skills - as many skills as they can - and I would travel around to see the world.

Contributed by Raluca Barbulescu and Doug Tusing

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Raluca Barbulescu serves as the Chief Operations Officer of the Institute for Education and as the Editor-in-Chief of IFE magazine. Previously, Raluca served as a Washington DC news correspondent, reporting for an international press agency headquartered in Bucharest, Romania. She is a seasoned journalist and covered Education and Healthcare for Romanian national media for seven years. She was also part of the Marketing team of a DC based company, working with broadcasters around the world, such as BBC, RFI, Deutsche Welle, ESPN, Voice of America, United Nations, Red Cross and many others. Raluca has a master degree in Management in Media Institutions from University of Bucharest. She enjoys traveling, hiking, eating seafood and running.

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The Oscars of DC

Rolling out the red carpet for the Nobel Notables

Our nation's capital had the honor of fêting the Nobel Laureates, in a preview of the December 10th festivities in Stockholm, at what is widely considered D.C.'s glitziest night of the year—D.C.'s Oscars! This year there were six American recipients of the Prize in a wide variety of disciplines, four of whom attended the celebration at the House of Sweden on November 13th: Paul Romer (Economics), George P. Smith (Chemistry), Frances Arnold (Chemistry), and James Allison (Physiology or Medicine). Ambassador of Sweden, Karin Olofsdotter, was the ever gracious host.

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Ambassador of Sweden, Karin Olofsdotter; USTR, Robert Leithauser; Senators Tom Udall and Jill Udall; Senator Chris Coons; Coach Kathy Kemper; Congressman Rick Larsen; Dep. USCTO Michael Kratsios; George Zaidan; ballerina Julie Kent; EU Ambassador David O'Sullivan; Ambassador Stuart Holliday and Gwen Holliday; Raluca Barbulescu; Doug Tusing

Photo: (from left) Mrs. Simonyi, Ambassador Andras Simonyi, Laureate Dr. George P. Smith, Marjorie Sable, Padmanee Sharma, Laureate Dr. James P. Allison, Coach Kathy Kemper, George Zaidan.

Photo credit: Tomas Enqvist, Embassy of Sweden to the US

Here's some of what the laureates had to say:

“I think that’s universal amongst all scientists. You make a hypothesis that can explain something and if you’re right every time, it means you’re not asking the right questions. It’s when you’re wrong that you know you’re making progress.”

– James Allison –

“Evolution teaches you that if you’re not diverse you go extinct.”

– Frances Arnold –

“I’ve always been at risk of being drummed out of the economics profession because I’m so optimistic. But I just can’t help it! It’s just what the facts tell me.”

– Paul Romer –



Left: Dr. Frances Arnold, Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry and Coach Kathy Kemper. **Top Right:** Michael Kratsios, Dep. USCTO; Coach Kathy Kemper; Ambassador David O’Sullivan, EU. **Bottom Right:** Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter. Photo credits: Tomas Enqvist, Embassy of Sweden to the US.

My favorite question was to Dr. Frances H. Arnold, the first female Nobel Laureate I have met in the past 10 years: “Dr. Arnold, who are you wearing?” She replied with a sparkling giggle: “Alexander McQueen!”

The elegant black tie evening continued with much toasting of “skål” accompanied by sunchoke soup, mushroom tart, seared salmon and a delicious dessert display by Swedish Ambassador’s Executive Chef, Frida Johansson.

**Contributed by
Coach Kathy Kemper**

[@CoachKemper](#)



Learning More from the Nobel Prize Laureates

Q&A with Dr. Frances Arnold and Dr. Paul Romer

Describe the feeling you had when you learned that you have been awarded a Nobel prize.

FA Well, I was sleepy at first and then I was exhilarated and terrified and couldn't wait to call home. It wasn't something I expected. I was sound asleep when the call came and I was nervous, that it was a problem at home.

PR The very first feeling was a sense of surprise, but also a sense of responsibility. It's like being given a role that is a very public role. One of the first thoughts are what do I need to do to live up to the obligations of this role. It has obvious personal benefits, but what I was initially focused on was the responsibilities and to the degree to which I was expected.

How would you sum up the work that you have been awarded for and its importance?

FA I read molecules like humans have been reading cats and dogs and corn and trees. But I do it freely. I do it in a test tube, and I can create for example enzyme catalysts to do chemistry that no human could ever do before. This allows biological systems to make the chemicals available we need in our daily lives.

PR So we have a well-developed economic supply and scarcity is a very important principle in economics. But we have not developed the parallel economics, and the recent value in sustaining the economic process - the economics of ideas. So the gist of my work was understanding

with precision, not just the way or not just putting a name on something, but understanding with precision, what drives that process, how could we as a society encourage that process.

Was there a specific experience or person that inspired you to follow this career path?

FA My career has been very zig zag, I tried lots of different things, starting with being a cab driver, to being an aerospace engineer, then I became a chemical engineer. So I would say that the person who started me off

with my technical career was my father. He always encouraged me to do what I was good at. Since I was very good at math, I became a technical engineer. Then my brother encouraged me to look at biochemistry, so I decided to become an engineer in the biological world. I've taken advice from a lot of family members. But the one that inspired me the most would definitely be my father.

PR I think, really, my mother, because she raised seven children and gets all the credits for these formative years that can leave someone with

a sense of optimism, sense of risk taking, and kind of exploration. The investments in a very young child are very important. So, I'd say that the prize is really for her.

If you wouldn't have chosen this career path, what other jobs would you do?

FA I wanted to be lots of different things. I thought I would be a good diplomat until I realized I wouldn't be a good diplomat - I talk too much! I wanted to be a CEO of a multinational company until I realized how much work that would be. I wanted to start companies. I wanted to become a researcher. The thing about being a professor is that you can do all of those things, a little bit at a time.

PR There are dozens of different careers, any of which I could consider. And frankly, I've done many of those. I started an educational tech start up after I left university, for about 6-7 years; I've worked on policy; I started a new institute at NYU; I've done research as an individual scholar, so I've tried many different things and there's still time! I could go try some new things!

What is your advice for young people/scientists?

FA Do something you love to do every day.

PR Don't just follow the crowd, because often the higher returns are in the paths that are less actively explored. Success and failure often depends on things that are outside of our control. Don't get discouraged if things are turning out badly for you, and don't get arrogant if things are turning out well.



Top: Dr. Frances Arnold answering questions from the audience at House of Sweden. **Bottom:** Dr. Paul Romer at the Nobel Symposium hosted at the House of Swede on November 13th. Photo credits: Tomas Enqvist, Embassy of Sweden to the US

Did you know that...

- The 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is being divided, one half awarded to Frances H. Arnold, the other half jointly to George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter. Frances H. Arnold's work in developing new enzymes otherwise not available in nature makes it possible to cut out the use of many toxins in the biofuel and pharmaceutical industries. George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter have developed a laboratory technique known as phage display which has proved valuable in the treatments of inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatoid arthritis.
- The 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded William D. Nordhaus for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis and to Paul M. Romer for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis. Romer's analysis laid the foundation of endogenous growth theory which explains how ideas are different to other goods and require specific conditions to thrive in a market. The theory has generated vast amounts of new research into the regulations and policies that encourage new ideas and long-term prosperity.
- Alfred Nobel was a Swedish scientist, inventor and entrepreneur who left much of his wealth to the establishment of the Nobel Prize. Since 1901, the price has honored men and women for their achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and working for peace.
- Sweden ranks among the 10 most competitive economies in the world in international studies including by the OECD and World Economic Forum.

Contributed by Raluca Barbulescu and Doug Tusing

[@ralu_barbulescu](#)

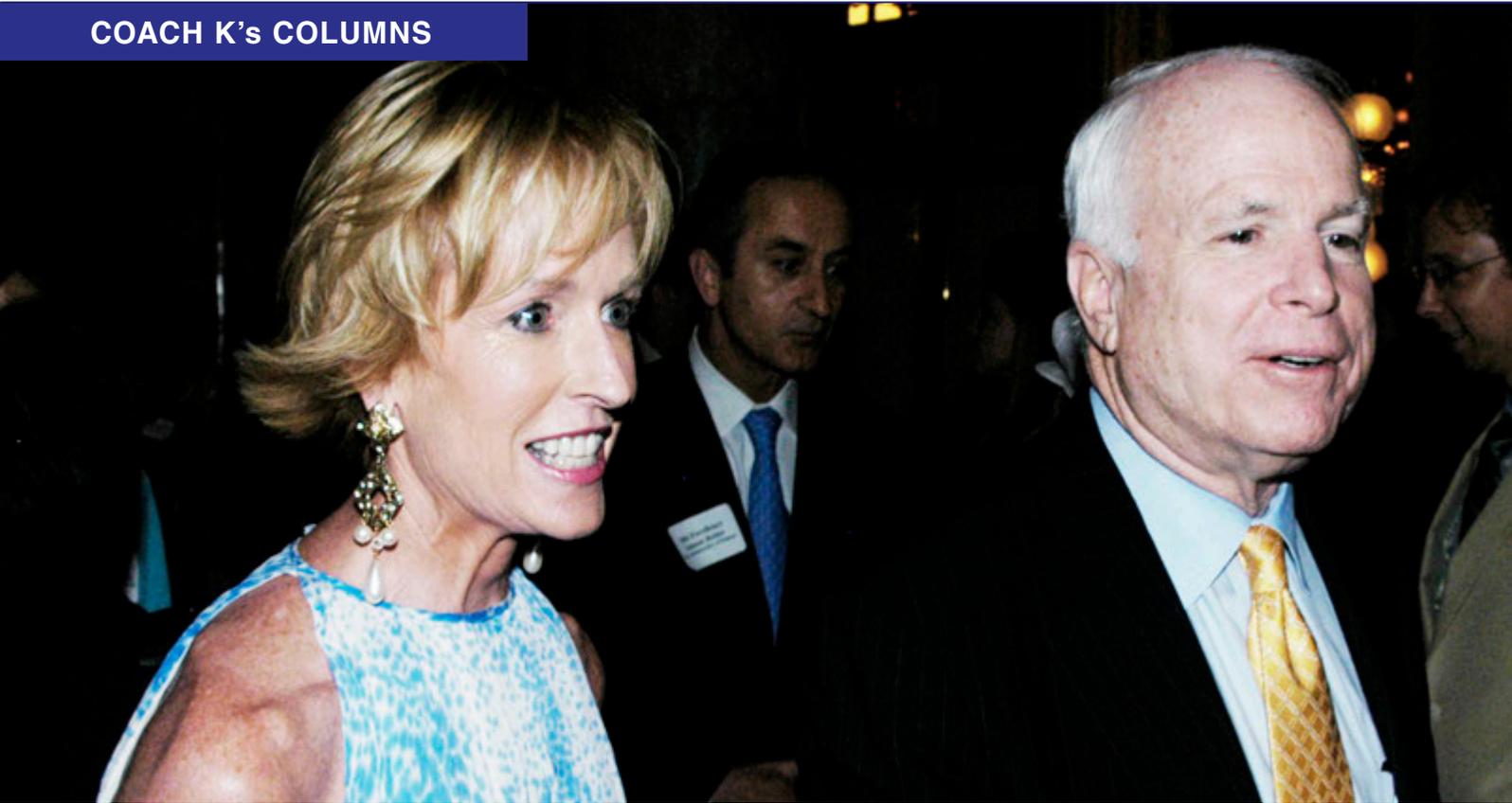
[@DougTusing](#)

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IFE COO Raluca Barbulescu and IFE Fellow Doug Tusing interviewing Nobel Prize laureate Dr. Frances Arnold at House of Sweden



A Tribute to Senator John McCain

Q & A with Coach K: The Presidential Candidates

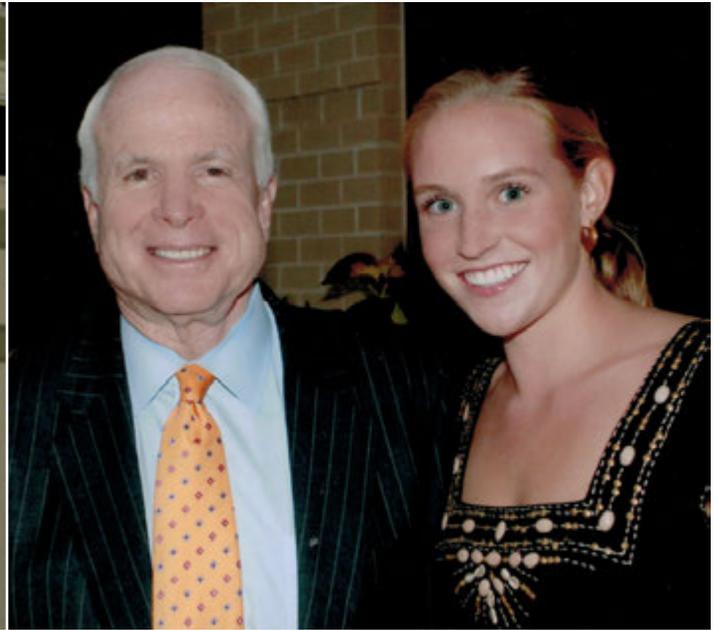
In 2008, Coach Kemper and Kelsey Kemper Valentine interviewed Senator John McCain and asked him who he was most proud of. McCain remarked: “My family’s dedication to service to our nation.” A great friend of IFE, McCain was an American hero. He was a lion of the United States Senate. He was an institution. Republishing this interview, originally featured by The Hill in April 2008, is a tribute to Senator John McCain. May he rest in peace.

Coach Kathy Kemper and Sen. McCain. In 2010, IFE hosted an INFO Salon with Senator McCain at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

- CK** **How has your professional background benefited your career as a politician?**
- JM** It provided me with the knowledge and background for a life of service.
- CK** **What are you most proud of?**
- JM** My family’s dedication to service to our nation.
- CK** **What is your greatest achievement?**
- JM** Going from the bottom of my class at the naval academy to living a life of service to our country for over 50 years.



Sen. John McCain at IFE INFO Salon, in 2010



Senator John McCain and IFE Innovation Fellow Kelsey Kemper Valentine

CK What do you bring to the table that the other two candidates do not?

JM I have respect for both Senator Clinton and Senator Obama, but my conservative record and service to our country makes me most qualified to lead as Commander-in-Chief.

CK What is the food like on the campaign, and do you stay fit?

JM I try to eat as healthy as possible, but that isn't to say I [do not] enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, and pizza on the trail.

CK How do you plan to attract young voters?

JM I frequent the Daily Show, Letterman, Leno, MTV Town Halls to communicate.

CK What will be your top three priorities as president?

JM National Security, Economic Security/prosperity, Global Warming

CK What music do you listen to while campaigning?

JM We keep a vigorous schedule but [I] do enjoy listening to Abba.

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Contributed by Coach Kathy Kemper**

[@CoachKemper](#)

Kathy Kemper, known as "Coach" to many, is the Founder and CEO of the Institute for Education, an American executive, tennis coach, writer, and philanthropist. Kemper rose to fame in the tennis scene, eventually heading the women's tennis team at Georgetown University and has spent 40 years coaching movie stars, kings and queens, professional athletes, Supreme Court Justices, Ambassadors, CIA and FBI directors, members of Congress and individuals from six White House administrations. Called Washington's "Networker in Chief" by US News and World Report, Coach Kemper founded in 1992 the Institute For Education (IFE), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., committed to engaging the global community to harness the power of soft diplomacy, innovation, data, and technology. In 2019, Washington Life Magazine acknowledged Coach Kathy Kemper among the 2019's Tech 25 Innovators and Disruptors in Washington, D.C. Read more online at instituteforeducation.org



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