



The staff welcomes you to the RSC

THE RSC IN 2015

n 2015 the RSC was again able to serve as a vibrant European research, conference and deducational center on modern U.S. history and U.S.-European relations. The RSC staff taught courses at universities in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy and participated in a Human Rights Education Conference. This year's PhD seminar attracted young scholars from the universities of Cambridge, Heidelberg, Amsterdam, and Warsaw and another young scholar won the prestigious Theodore Roosevelt American History Award. This summer the RSC hosted the 2015 conference of the Transatlantic Studies Association which was attended by over a hundred scholars, and a conference on American Evangelical Missions in Europe. The RSC also partnered with the Salzburg Global Seminar in the organization of the seminar "The Search for a Global Balance: America's Changing Role in the World" which took place at the beautiful Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, and was attended by over fifty scholars and professionals from all over the world. The RSC was again fortunate to host an American Fulbright scholar and as the RSC is the depository of the archives of the Fulbright Center in the Netherlands, we were also involved in the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the Fulbright Program in the Netherlands. To reach out to the general public, we organized two public events as part of the RSC series Lectures on Transatlantic Relations. We are grateful for two impressive collections we received from private donors: a John F. Kennedy collection of books and memorabilia, and a unique collection of books and other publications by the Dutch-American author Hendrik Willem van Loon. Our upcoming activities in 2016 include a Roosevelt Lecture on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms Speech, and we will host the annual conferences of two organizations: the Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States and of the Netherlands American Studies Association. We look forward to a special program on the occasion of the RSC's 30th anniversary in September 2016. Join us for these events and visit our website for regular updates.

RSC Board of Trustees

The current members of the RSC Board of Trustees are Wim van den Doel (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Leiden), President; Buford Alexander (Director Emeritus of McKinsey & Company), Treasurer; Arendo Joustra (Editor-in-Chief of *Elsevier*), Secretary; Renée Jones-Bos (Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Member; and Gerard van Harten (former CEO of Dow Benelux and President of the Board of Trustees of University College Roosevelt), Member.

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TRAHA Award-winner Caramay Schmelzer in the Badlands of North Dakota

very year the RSC presents the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award (TRAHA) for the best master thesis written by a graduate student at a Dutch university on an American history topic. The award is designed to stimulate the study of United States history and culture and to encourage students to use the unique American history archival collections at the RSC.

Since the establishment of the award in 1987, the Dutch universities with American Studies programs (Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, Nijmegen, and Utrecht) have selected and nominated more than 200 master theses for this award. Eight theses competed for this year's prize and the topics showed a particular interest in military policy. On April 17, 2015, the TRAHA was awarded to Caramay Schmelzer, a graduate student of Utrecht University, for her thesis "Ambivalent Multilateralism: The United States and the Biological Weapons Convention Protocol."

This year's jury consisted of Dr. Joanne van der Woude (University of Groningen) and Dr. George Blaustein (University of Amsterdam). The jury enthusiastically praised Caramay Schmelzer's thesis as "immediately appealing by offering a good story, based on a clear and compelling research question and impeccable research" which made this the best MA thesis in American history of the past academic year.

Caramay Schmelzer won a trip to North Dakota where she was hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University this summer. This trip was co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in The Hague. During that busy week Caramay visited North Dakota's capital city of Bismarck, a coal mine, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, the North Dakota Heritage Center, Medora, TR's Maltese Cross Cabin and his Elkhorn Ranch in the Badlands, and participated in the Tenth TR Symposium at the TR Center of Dickinson State University. In her report on the trip she wrote, "I had never expected the 'least-visited state' to be so much fun! I would like to take this opportunity to thank my hosts Randy and Laurie Hatzenbuhler for all the time and effort they took to show me around and making me feel so welcome! I am also very grateful to the Roosevelt Study Center, the American Embassy in The Hague, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, and the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University for offering me the chance to discover the beauty of North Dakota."

Cooperation with TR Center in North Dakota

T n 2015 the RSC started a cooperation with the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University in North Dakota which is located close to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Unlike modern presidents, Theodore Roosevelt does not have a presidential library. Instead, his personal and presidential papers are scattered in libraries and other sites across the United States with key collections at Harvard University and at the Library of Congress.

The mission of the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University is to gather together and digitize copies of all Roosevelt-related items, to make his legacy more readily accessible to scholars and school children, enthusiasts and interested citizens. Items in the digital library include correspondence to and from Roosevelt, diary entries, notes, political cartoons, scrapbooks, newspaper columns and magazine articles by and about Roosevelt, speeches, and photographs. Users can also view film clips and listen to audio recordings.

With the help of interns, the RSC contributes to this TR Center project. The first intern, University College Roosevelt student Inge Zwart, observed about her work, "Together with volunteers I catalog work for the digital library. I read primary sources and process 'metadata' about the documents. These metadata consist of the exact name of author and addressee of the document, geographical and historical subjects and a title for the document. In addition, I write a short description to introduce the contents of the document. The size of the documents vary, but on average it takes about 30 minutes to catalog one letter. Many of the documents I have worked on are written by Theodore Roosevelt after his presidency. I am also recruiting students at UCR to serve as volunteers for this project in the coming years."



RSC intern Inge Zwart at work on the TR project

University Courses by RSC Staff

In 2015 the RSC staff offered courses at five different universities in three countries: in the Netherlands at Utrecht University, Leiden University, and University College Roosevelt, in Belgium at Ghent University, and in Italy at the University of Eastern Piedmont in Vercelli.



Professor Cornelis A. van Minnen taught an American history survey course "From Columbus to Obama" in the spring semester for MA students from the departments of history, languages, culture studies, art, and philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy at Ghent University, Belgium.

The course covered the main geographical, political, social and cultural developments in the U.S. from colonial times to the present and introduced the students to a number of primary sources.

Dr. Hans Krabbendam taught a course on American immigration in the MA program of Utrecht University in the spring and fall semester. The course analyzed the transnational connections of immigrants to North America. In eight sessions of four hours a week, the students investigated core texts, explored the main trends, reenacted a hearing and wrote a term paper on the intensity of immigrant connections with their country of origin (or the lack thereof).

Professor Giles Scott-Smith taught an MA research seminar on "The Rise and Decline of American Empire" in the spring semes-

The 8th International PhD Seminar

On May 27-29, 2015, the Roosevelt Study Center hosted its Eighth International Ph.D. Seminar for doctoral students in U.S. history and culture from leading academic institutions in Europe. This year, seven PhD candidates from Cambridge University, Heidelberg University, the University of Amsterdam, and the University of Warsaw presented their research project and preliminary findings, and discussed them with their peers, established professors from the U.S., Sorbonne Nouvelle and Warsaw, as well as the RSC academic staff.

Since 2003, the RSC has organized an international seminar for European Ph.D. students, all of whom have praised this experience as very beneficial to their research and as a stimulus to build their network of contacts. The informal atmosphere contributes to fruitful discussions on historical methodologies, primary sources, and various interpretations. Furthermore, the Ph.D. seminar ter at Leiden University. This course critically explored several dimensions of the American empire phenomenon, it traced the ideological and material foundations for the rise of the United States, beginning with the U.S. experience in the late 19th century of European style imperialism, the transition from British to American hegemony, and the expansion of U.S. political, economic, and cultural influence throughout the 20th century. The course also addressed the challenges to and (relative) decline of U.S. power in the changing global environment of the 21st century.

Dr. Dario Fazzi taught a course on U.S. Government and Politics for BA students at University College Roosevelt in the spring semester and a course on "The Rooseveltian Century" for MA students at the University of Eastern Piedmont, in Vercelli, Italy, in the fall semester. This course aimed to provide students with an alternative perspective on the history of the U.S. and its rise as a global power in the twentieth century by scrutinizing both the transformation of the American democracy at home and the progressive consolidation of the American hegemony abroad through the lenses of Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

epitomizes the mission of the RSC, which aims to train future historians and to foster the study of American history and culture all over Europe. The next PhD seminar is scheduled for May 11-13, 2016.



Participants of the PhD Seminar in Middelburg's Abbey garden

Transatlantic Studies Association Conference

O n July 6-8, 2015, over a hundred scholars from across Europe and North America gathered at the RSC for the 14th Annual Conference of the Transatlantic Studies Association. It was for the second year in a row that the TSA, chaired by RSC scholar Giles Scott-Smith, held its conference outside of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and as a result the TSA benefitted from the involvement of a greater diversity of both nationalities and subject areas. There were several panels on global and transnational history to indicate that the "transatlantic" is a flexible theme for participants to engage with.

The two keynotes at this year's TSA conference also reflected the broad approach to transatlantic studies that the Association wants to encourage. On the first day of the conference Jessica Gienow-Hecht, Professor of North American History at the John F. Kennedy Institute of the Free University in Berlin, one of the foremost scholars of international cultural history, spoke on "Transatlantic Nation Branding: Culture and Economics in International History." Jessica Gienow-Hecht published many works on culture, diplomacy, and international history and is the author of *Sound Diplomacy. Music, Emotions, and Politics in Transatlantic Relations since 1850* (Chicago, 2009). On the last day of the conference, the second keynote was presented by Inderjeet Parmar, Professor of International Politics at City University London. He spoke on



TSA Chair Giles Scott-Smith (m) with keynote speakers Jessica Gienow-Hecht and Inderjeet Parmar

"Race and Empire in Anglo-American Wars: Truman, Attlee and the Korean War." Inderjeet Parmar is the author of *Foundations of the American Century* (New York, 2012) and several edited works on philanthropy, think tanks, and U.S. foreign policy. In addition to the keynote addresses, the conference program featured thirty-two panel sessions on a great variety of topics dealing with transatlantic studies. As TSA Chair Giles Scott-Smith observed, "Now well into its second decade, the Association plays an increasingly important role as a meeting point for scholars, a generator of fruitful projects and partnerships, and an outlet for transatlantic-focused research across the disciplines."

American Evangelicals in Europe: Workshop and Conference

O n July 13 and 14, 2015, the RSC hosted a workshop on "Global History of American Evangelicalism." Organized by RSC's scholar Hans Krabbendam and Stefan Paas of the Free University in Amsterdam, ten leading scholars from the United States, the UK and the European Continent met in Middelburg's Abbey to prepare a special issue for the *Journal of American Studies*.



Participants of the Conference on American Evangelicals in Europe

Their ambition was to draft a new definition of the global history of American evangelicalism. Ten case studies showed how American evangelicalism negotiated shifts in the international environment and how these engagements reflected the changing characteristics of evangelicalism itself, within the United States and across the world. The workshop was a result of the cooperation between the RSC, the Centre for Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies, the University of Southampton, the David Bruce Centre for American Studies at Keele University, and the Institute of North American Studies at King's College in London and was sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation.

The workshop was immediately followed on July 15 by the one-day conference "Return to Sender: American Evangelicals in Europe, 1830-2010." After a full day of scholarly presentations the conference reached a clear conclusion: American Protestant missionaries that returned to Europe to preach the Christian gospel, did not so much reconvert the Europeans, but increased religious pluralism, gave traditionalist believers a new and stronger voice, encouraged religious participation, and empowered Protestants with new cultural forms and models. The conference participants came from all corners of the European Continent and addressed the engagement of American evangelicals with their own and European culture. Evangelicals far from locked themselves up in a church building as they introduced new types of education, entertainment, humanitarian help, technology, and politics. During this process they cemented strong ties between American and European believers.

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

The Search for a New Global Balance:

America's Changing Role in the World

F rom September 24 to 29, 2015, the Roosevelt Study Center joined hands with the Salzburg Global Seminar in the organization of the seminar "The Search for a New Global Balance: America's Changing Role in the World."

This seminar examined the United States' changing role in the world and the implications of changes in global, regional and national power for the future of the United States as a national state and as a global political, economic and cultural power in the 21st century and beyond. Fifty-eight academics and professionals from 27 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and the America's gathered at the beautiful Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, to participate in this seminar which featured sessions on American exceptionalism, the relationship between Russia, Europe and the U.S., the shifting role of the U.S. in Asia, the Middle East, North and South America, American national interests from the Clinton administration into the future, and discussion groups on the role of international reporting and the role of social media in the conduct of foreign affairs. Also discussed were two foreign policy books published in 2015: Joseph S. Nye, Is the American Century Over? and Ian Bremmer, Superpower: Three Choices for America's Role in the World. The lively discussions were chaired by Ron Clifton, retired counselor in the Senior Foreign Service of the U.S. and former

O n December 17-19, 2015, Middelburg was the site of the Sixth International Human Rights Education Conference which was attended by over 200 experts and scholars of human rights education from all over the world. The previous five interna-tional conferences on human rights education were held in

Australia, South Africa, Poland, Taiwan, and the United States. The sixth edition was held in Middelburg – also known as Roosevelt City. The Roosevelty Study Center, University College Roosevelt, and the Roosevelt Foundation co-sponsored the conference in cooperation with the Human Rights Education Associates. The appropriate theme of the conference was "Translating Roosevelt's Four Freedoms to Today's World."

The opening of the conference included a keynote speech by the Dutch Minister for Education, Culture and Science, Dr. Jet Bussemaker, and an introductory speech by Morten Kjaerum, Head of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University in Sweden. The next two days the program featured 28 panel sessions, for instance on themes like Global Perspectives on Human Rights and Human Rights Education, Human Rights Education in Primary and Secondary Schools, The Role of NGO's in Implementing Human Rights, Media and Human Rights Education, and Human Rights Education to



RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen (I) in a panel session with Bill and Hillary Clinton biographer James D. Boys

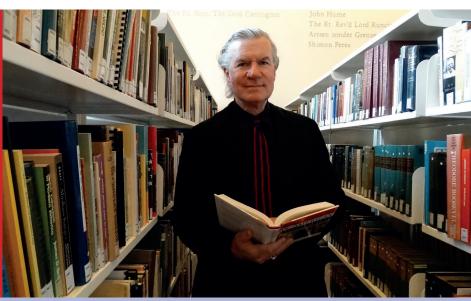
director of the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Center, and co-chaired by Alex Seago, Dean of the School of Communications, Arts and Social Sciences at Richmond University in London, and RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen. Faculty members included Irakli Alasania, former Minister of Defense of Georgia, Thomas Bender, Professor of Humanities and History at New York University, James D. Boys, Associate Professor of International Political Studies at Richmond University in London, Edith Chapin, Acting Executive Editor of National Public Radio News, and Ted Widmer, historian at Brown University and former foreign policy speechwriter and Special Assistant to President Bill Clinton and Advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. All participants expressed their gratitude to the organizers for this successful seminar.



Eleanor Roosevelt, Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, displaying a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948

Prevent Radicalization. There was also a panel on The Roosevelt Legacy and Human Rights which included presentations by RSC staff. The conference seeked to critically assess the way in which objectives in the field of human rights education can be translated into practices, for different groups, and in different educational contexts. The conference was preceded by a field trip to The Hague which included visits to the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia, the Peace Palace, and The Hague Institute for Global Justice.

INTERVIEW WITH RSC FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR JOHN CORRIGAN



Fulbright Scholar John Corrigan at the RSC Library

Fulbright Program 65th Anniversary

O n June 13, 2015, the Dutch Fulbright Program celebrated its 65th anniversary. It was in 1950 that the first 26 Dutch scholars and students returned from their Fulbright research trip in the U.S. In the following years thousands of Dutch scholars and students traveled to the U.S. on a Fulbright grant and an equally number of Americans came to the Netherlands which helped fulfill Senator Fulbright's hope that this program would contribute to strengthening mutual relations and would serve as the basis of longtime transatlantic friendships.

To celebrate this anniversary, the Fulbright Center in Amsterdam in close cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in The Hague organized an attractive program with speeches, music and food at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Timothy Broas. It was a reunion of hundreds of Fulbright grantees from the 1950s to the present. The celebration was a big success and upon leaving all participants received a copy of a book in which a number of Fulbright grantees in the past 6 decades were interviewed about their experiences in the United States and what the Fulbright grant had meant for their further career and view of the Netherlands and the United States. The RSC was involved in the organization of this event and proudly houses the archives of the Dutch Fulbright Center.



The Fulbright Center Archives at the RSC

Professor John Corrigan, Lucius Moody Bristol Distinguished Professor of Religion and Professor of History at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, was the Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair at the Roosevelt Study Center from April through July 2015. During those months he worked on his book project "Religious Violence and American Foreign Policy." He was interviewed by RSC intern Laura Mudde.

What is your field of research or special interest at the moment?

"My current research is on American amnesia about religious intolerance in the American past and how that forgetting has affected U.S. foreign policy. Specifically, I am investigating how U.S. promotion of the principle of religious freedom globally is hindered by American unwillingness to remember that implementation of that principle has proven a difficult and ongoing project."

How does your Fulbright Chair at the RSC fit into this?

"I am lucky enough to have colleagues at the RSC whose specialties are diplomatic history and religious history, and who share an interest in understanding American relations with other nations, and with regard especially to the transatlantic aspect of that."

How are you experiencing life in The Netherlands?

"I am very happy that I can bike for four months instead of having to drive a car! I enjoy biking and the biking culture here is second to none. I do not speak Dutch and the fact that so many persons speak English has made it possible for me to have conversations that I otherwise would not have been able to enjoy. The friendliness and generosity of the people in Middelburg has made me feel most welcome."

What particularly "Dutch" thing would you like to introduce in the United States if you could?

"If I could bring something back from the Netherlands to the U.S., it would be the "long view" that many Dutch seem to take with regard to the pressing issues of the environment, social services, and the place of work in a life broadly considered. Many Americans embrace a short-term view of such things, oftentimes in conjunction with short-term understandings of economic and financial matters, and are slow to invest in long-term visions of change that promise to improve the quality of life for all Americans."

PUBLIC LECTURES

Opening of Etty Hillesum Center

O n October 1, 2015, the RSC hosted the opening of the new Etty Hillesum Onderzoekscentrum (EHOC), a research center focusing on the study of the letters and diaries of the Jewish Middelburg-born author Etty Hillesum who died as a Holocaust victim in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. The Etty Hillesum Center was established in 2006 by Professor Klaas Smelik at Ghent University but moved to Middelburg in 2015 where it is located in the Zeeuws Archief (Zeeland Archives). The Etty Hillesum Center's objectives are to coordinate international research on the work of Etty Hillesum, to explore the history of Jews in Zeeland, and to become an educational institute.

The academic pro-

gram to celebrate

Center at the RSC

public lectures: the

first was delivered

by EHOC Direc-

tor Klaas Smelik

who lectured on

the many aspects

the opening of the Etty Hillesum

featured three



Director of the Etty Hillesum Center Klaas Smelik

of Hillesum's work, the second was delivered by RSC's Dr. Hans Krabbendam who spoke on Etty Hillesum's relationship with the United States, and the third speaker was Dr. Ria van den Brandt of Nijmegen's Radboud University who focused on the analysis of several Etty Hilllesum letters in different translations. The RSC auditorium on this occasion was filled to capacity and the event was an excellent kick-off for the new Hillesum Center in Middelburg.

Soundtrack of Liberation



Professor Frank Mehring performing a liberation song

O n November 4, 2015, Professor Frank Mehring who holds a chair in American Studies at Nijmegen's Radboud University, presented his new book, *Soundtrack van de bevrijding* (Soundtrack of Liberation) at the RSC in the series Lectures on Transatlantic Relations. At the end of World War II, popular music and jazz signa-



Book cover of Soundtrack van de bevrijding

war II, popular music and Jazz signaled a new beginning. The liberators from across the Atlantic brought new sounds with them and the Dutch embraced the American dances, songs, and musical arrangements. As Professor Mehring demonstrated in his lively and well-attended presentation, there are several hundreds of songs printed as sheet music celebrating the liberation from the Nazi tyranny and these sounds of liberation, the elaborate cover designs, the often multilingual lyrics, and the references to new dances offer an opportunity to relive the culture of liberation.

NEW COLLECTIONS

The RSC was very fortunate to receive two new collections from private donors in 2015. Mr. Paul Drabbe donated his extensive John F. Kennedy collection, consisting of hundreds of items, including books, newspaper and periodical articles, stamp collections, photos, mugs, decorative plates and tiles, buttons, postcards, and sculptures, to the RSC.

Likewise, Ms. Athena Meisheid donated her Hendrik Willem van Loon collection of some 140 items of van Loon books, pamphlets and some framed art pieces to the RSC. Hendrik Willem van Loon (1882-1944) was a Dutch-American best-selling author who made a name in America's cultural life in the 1920s through 40s as a popular historian, journalist, illustrator, and radio commentator. He was a close friend of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Both new collections will be catalogued and made available for research and exhibits and are valuable additions to the already existing Kennedy and van Loon collections at the RSC library.



Dutch-American author Hendrik Willem van Loon with Eleanor Roosevelt at Hyde Park, New York, in 1936

UPCOMING 2016



Roosevelt Lecture January 27, 2016

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To mark the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms Speech of January 6, 1941,

Dr. David B. Woolner, Senior Fellow and Hyde Park Resident Historian of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, New York, will deliver the lecture "The Four Freedoms and Global Security: A Legacy for Today and Tomorrow." The event will be hosted by RSC, University College Roosevelt, and Roosevelt Foundation.

TR American History Award April 8, 2016

The 2016 presentation of the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award for the best MA thesis on an American history topic written by a graduate student at a Dutch university.

The winner of the prize will visit North Dakota as guest of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and the TR Center at Dickinson State University and discover TR's ranch life in the Badlands.

COLOPHON

The Roosevelt Herald, December 2015 ISSN 2213-9559

Design: De Nieuwe Vorm, Vlissingen

Printer: LNO, Zierikzee Photography: Michael Benabib, Felice Buonadonna, Fredrica S. Goodman, Randy Hatzenbuhler, Stephan Löcke, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum, Roosevelt Study Center, Silco Saaman, Salzburg Global Seminar

Herman Seidl, University College Roosevelt, Universiteit Gent, Universiteit Leiden, Universiteit Utrecht, Johan de Voogd Editorial Committee: Director and Staff of the Roosevelt Study Center



The RSC will post periodically news updates, pictures of our activities and other facts related to the Roosevelt Legacy.

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The RSC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Provincie of Zeeland and the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science



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PhD Seminar and Conferences

The RSC has scheduled the following events: May 11-13, 2016: 9th International PhD Seminar.

July 6-8, 2016:

Conference of the Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States (HOTCUS).

September 14-16, 2016:

Conference of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA).

RSC 30th Anniversary

September 19, 2016 To mark the 30th anniversary of the RSC, which was opened to the public by an inaugural conference on September 19, 1986, a special program will be organized.



The American Founding Fathers of the RSC at the opening of the Center in September 1986 (left to right): Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., and Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel



ROOSEVELT STUDY CENTER