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Dr. Cynthia P. Schneider, Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, taught, organized exhibitions, and published in art history for twenty years (1984-2004) at Georgetown before changing direction to work in cultural diplomacy, and foreign and public policy. These interests arose from Dr. Schneider's tenure as U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands (1998-2001). In that capacity she managed the US Embassy in The Hague (200 employees, half American, half Dutch, five government agencies), and led initiatives in the fields of cultural and public diplomacy, science and technology, cyber security, education, and military affairs.

Ambassador Schneider teaches, publishes, and organizes initiatives in the field of cultural diplomacy, with a focus on relations with the global Muslim community. For the Brookings Institution she leads the Arts and Culture Initiative within the Saban Center for Middle East Policy. In that capacity she convenes the Arts and Cultural Leaders seminar for the annual US-Islamic Forum (www.thedohaforum.org), held annually in Doha, Qatar. Attendees have included Amy Tan, Michael Nozik (producer of *Syriana*), Robert Pinsky (former Poet Laureate), Hany Abu Assad (filmmaker *Paradise Now*), Salman Ahmed (Pakistani rock musician), and Dr. Benjamin Chavis (civil rights leader and President of the Hip Hop Summit and Action Network). With funding from the Doris Duke Foundation, Dr. Schneider is writing a White Paper on cultural diplomacy opportunities with the Islamic world, to be published by the Brookings press. In addition, she organizes outreach to the commercial culture community in Los Angeles on the subject of increasing understanding of the Muslim world and eliminating negative stereotypes. Dr. Schneider also develops events at Brookings and Georgetown focused on policy implications of the arts and popular culture. She is spearheading several cultural initiatives that have developed from the Doha and Los Angeles meetings, including a Second Life island for the Brookings Arts and Culture Initiative and an English-Arabic version of Robert Pinsky's *My Favorite Poem* project. Dr. Schneider teaches Diplomacy and Culture in Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, where she has pioneered use of the *Soliya* program, which links Georgetown students with peers in Europe and the Middle East for weekly online discussions.

Born in Pennsylvania on August 16, 1953, Ambassador Schneider earned a BA Magna cum Laude and a Ph.D. in Fine Arts from Harvard University. She received the Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Public Service Order (highest civilian award given by the Department of Defense) in 2001, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Professor

Schneider has published books and articles on seventeenth century Dutch art and Rembrandt, biotechnology, and cultural diplomacy. Dr. Schneider serves on the Advisory Board of StrawberryFrog, Inc., an international public relations firm, as well as various not-for-profit Boards, including that of Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C. Ambassador Schneider also served as a Commissioner on The Embassy of the Future Project, convened by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, 2006-2007). Dr. Schneider speaks French (fluent), Dutch, Italian, and some German. She is married with two children and lives in Sandy Spring, Md.