Hans Klemm, Stanford University (MA, International Development Policy) and Indiana University (BA, Economics and History) talked with students from the Economics Department, Friday March 25th. In his discussion he touched on his career experience rising from the ranks of the junior Foreign Service to his current position as the U.S. Ambassador to Romania. In addition to sharing his personal experience in the service Hans talked about the selection process for the Foreign Service, the five Career Tracks available to Foreign Service Officers (FSO’s), the relationship between the U.S. and other countries such as China and Russia, as well as the impact our current foreign policy may have on potential applicants.

In his career Hans has served as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and worked as Director of the Office of Career Development and Assignments in the Bureau of Human Resources of the Department of State in Washington, D.C. Although he chose the Economic Career Track his first assignment was as a Consular Officer, the career track responsible for tasks in immigration such as issuing visas to foreign nationals. Mr. Klemm has worked at U.S. embassies in Kabul, Bonn, Seoul and Port of Spain.

Foreign Service Officers represent U.S. interests abroad and may choose to specialize as a Consular, Economic, Management, Political, or Public Diplomacy Officer. Applicants are chosen from a highly selective pool and must take and pass the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT), submit Personal Narrative Questions (PNQ), pass both group and individual interviews, and pass security and medical clearances in order to be eligible.