

***The Simons Foundation Award for  
Distinguished Global Leadership in the  
Service of Peace and Disarmament***

***Dinner in Honour of Bruce G. Blair, Ph.D.***

**Welcome Remarks**

Rosewood Hotel Georgia  
Vancouver, BC  
September 27, 2018

***Jennifer Allen Simons, C.M., Ph.D., LL.D.  
President  
The Simons Foundation***

Good Evening,

My name is Jennifer Allen Simons and I am President of The Simons Foundation.

On behalf of the Foundation I want to welcome you, and thank you, for joining us this evening to celebrate Dr. Bruce G. Blair - an exceptional man, with a lifetime of global leadership on nuclear security - perhaps the most critical issue of our time - who will do us honor tonight and accept The Simons Foundation Award for Distinguished Global Leadership in Peace and Disarmament. He is – I believe – the foremost authority on nuclear security systems, a spearheading scholar, activist and author who is making an outstanding contribution in the service of peace and disarmament. I will tell you more about him later in the evening.

Here tonight from The Simons Foundation are Board Members, Tom Simons and Paul Lowry; Advisor Jon McKinney; Foundation Senior Fellows, Ernie Regehr who has developed and is responsible for the Foundation's programme in Arctic Security and Defence; and Paul Meyer who is responsible for the Foundation's Space and Cyber Security programme; Elaine Hynes, my Assistant and Programme Manager; and Berlinda Chan, the Foundation's Financial Officer.

My academic home is Simon Fraser University and I am very happy to welcome Professor Andrew Petter, President of Simon Fraser University.

Thirty-three years ago, when I was in Graduate School there, I was a nuclear disarmament activist and was concerned about the negative effects of technology - specifically, the effects of negative life-threatening technologies of which nuclear weapons was the greatest.

I established The Simons Foundation and our first grant was to Simon Fraser University for a doctoral fellowship in Physics for a woman, because I believed - perhaps naively - that a woman would be a Madame Curie undertaking atomic research for medical benefits, rather than an Edward Teller, the so-called father of the hydrogen bomb.

I have remained close to Simon Fraser University and contribute through The Simons Foundation to Chairs, Fellowships and programmes which focus on the Foundation's concerns and I appreciate being housed there.

We also contribute to the University of British Columbia and I welcome Professor R.V. Ramana, from UBC who holds Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security, the sole University Disarmament Chair in Canada.

The Simons Foundation is a working foundation. I chose as its Mission Statement a line from Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem Ulysses: Come My Friends, 'tis not too late to seek a Newer World. Our policy and practice is to initiate, develop, and fund projects and programmes; and to work with these initiatives.

We have active programmes in Nuclear Disarmament; Disarmament Education; International Law and Human Security, specifically related to Nuclear Disarmament and the Prevention of Genocide; in Arctic Security and Defence; and Space and Cyber Security. Our Space Security programme

began fifteen years ago when we joined with Ernie Regehr, founder of Project Ploughshares, and in partnership with Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs (now Global Affairs), initiated and hosted what has become the Outer Space Security Conference Series at the United Nations in Geneva. The Simons Foundation continues to partner with United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to sponsor these conferences and Paul Meyer works with UN Institute of Disarmament Research to develop the conference and the Agenda.

Our major programme is Global Zero. I am a Founding Partner and The Simons Foundation is the Principal Sponsor of this organization which has a plan to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2030. Our Award recipient, Dr. Bruce Blair is the co-Founder of Global Zero. Global Zero is focused on Nuclear Risk Reduction and the promotion of No First-Use of Nuclear Weapons as a global norm. Global Zero has just launched a counter plan, to the recent U.S. Nuclear Posture Review - researched and authored by our Award Recipient. Global Zero's Nuclear Crisis Group will track on a continuing basis, situations of potential nuclear conflict and produce real-time analysis of these situations and recommendations for de-escalation measures. Here tonight is Jon Wolfsthal, Director of Global Zero's Nuclear Crisis Group, with other Global Zero Leaders and members of the Nuclear Crisis Group.

Last night, we began a three-day conference on Repairing Relations Between the US and Russia, and Russia and NATO because "the risks of conflict remain unacceptably high" <sup>1</sup> with the danger of escalating to a nuclear exchange.

And in this room tonight – at every table - are experts - former military personnel, arms control negotiators, scholars and government officials - from Russia, the United States, NATO and from the government of Canada - seeking to resolve the tensions between the United States, Russia and NATO and for a return to the warmer relations of the early post Cold War era.

PAUSE

Before we proceed with dinner I want to say that this event would not have been the success it is without the hard work and total dedication of Elaine Hynes. my Assistant and Programme Manager. She has not only organized this evening, but has also been responsible for all the practical arrangements of the conference. She is quite amazing and has maintained her patience and good humour throughout. Elaine, I would like you to come up here so that I can thank you properly.

The Presentation of the Award will take place after dessert has been served; and following the presentation, Bruce Blair will speak to us.

Please enjoy your dinner.

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<sup>1</sup> Jon Wolfsthal, The Trump-Putin Summit's Potential Nuclear Fallout", *Foreign Policy*, July 10, 2018