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Foreign Affairs Professionals

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DACOR Elects New President for 2021-22

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WASHINGTON, D.C. A new President has assumed the leadership of DACOR, an organization of foreign affairs professionals **based in the nation's capital** and founded in 1952.

DACOR's 1,500 members, both active duty and retired, work to support diplomacy, the Foreign Service, to advance public understanding of diplomacy, and to preserve the historic DACOR Bacon House, **one of the Capital's premier** settings for discussion and debate of international issues. DACOR and its sister non-profit organization DACOR Bacon House Foundation (DBHF) host foreign affairs workshops for teachers, provide graduate and undergraduate scholarships, operate college mentoring programs, and host an annual foreign affairs conference and weekly speaker programs for its members and their guests.

James Dandridge II, a Senior Foreign Service officer (ret.), is the new president of DACOR and DBHF. Mr. Dandridge led a slate of officers elected at the May 27 meeting of the DACOR Board of Governors/Trustees convened at a newly reopened DACOR Bacon House. Mr. Dandridge, who previously served as vice president, succeeds Senior Foreign Service Officer (ret.) Paul Denig who served as DACOR president since 2019.

Mr. Dandridge joined DACOR in 1997 upon retirement as a career Senior Foreign Service Officer with the rank of Minister Counselor. His last Foreign **Service posting was Senior Advisor during the Department of State's** conversion of the Bureau of International Narcotics Matters to the Bureau of

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International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. He spent twenty years in retirement as a senior inspector and compliance officer in the Office of Inspector General. He also was active in the foreign affairs community and is the 2008 recipient of the Director **General's Cup** for the Foreign Service. Prior to his final Foreign Service assignment with the State Department, he spent 18 years with the U.S. Information Agency with postings to diplomatic missions in India, Brazil, Bolivia, and Chile with a mixture of assignments as Public Diplomacy Counselor and *charge d'affairs ad interim*.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Dandridge grew up in Selma and graduated from Central High School in Mobile. He received his BA from Howard University in Washington, D.C., followed by International Affairs Studies at American University and an MA in Government Studies at Georgetown University.

Since joining DACOR, he has served on the Board of Governors/Trustees, the Membership Committee and chaired the Strategic Plan Committee and the Friends of DACOR Task Force, and the Executive Committee.