



Donna L. Suddeth
President

President's Message

What goes on behind the scenes during the summer at the Naples Council on World Affairs (NCWA)? We know you are busy enjoying your other homes, vacations and time with children and grandchildren and would have little reason to think about the NCWA during the "off season," and, we would not expect you to give it much thought.

However, what goes on during that time determines much of the success of the upcoming year's programs.

What is the most obvious activity during the summer? Most of you would assume, and correctly, that it is the lining up of the speakers for the upcoming season. Mimi Gregory and the Program Committee start the minute the current season ends, but, the thinking has started before then. With a crystal ball, all the issues of the upcoming year might be revealed. However, the committee has no crystal ball and has to rely on their best judgment when they decide on a theme for the upcoming year and then go about getting the speakers. With the thinking done, the next step is to start contacting potential speakers. As you might guess, it is not one call to a speaker, fill in the blank and go on to the next blank. It is lots of back and forth, juggling until the dates

and speakers are coordinated.

But what happens even before the speakers can be contacted? Most years it has been more a matter of confirming the dates of the lecture hall at St. John's rather than wondering if the hall will be available. This year St. John's will be involved in construction/renovation projects, so, we had to be sure the hall was available to us. Please refer to more information included in this newsletter.

As we go into early fall, the printing of the membership cards and directories and subsequent mailing becomes paramount in the behind-the-scenes activities. With the change in timing of registration instituted last year, most of the information for the directory was available to us much earlier than it has been in the past. That meant that as soon as we had the speakers confirmed, we could go to print and get the information to you. I will point out that your directories and cards were sent out in early October (the first lecture is October 31), while last year we were starting on the directory in early November. So, lots has been going on behind the scenes in this area, and, Bob Erbstein has been a major instigator in the process to make us more efficient and still stay in tune with our member needs.

Continued inside

OUR MISSION:

To educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues.

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Program Committee Report

The Program Committee has lined up a great series of speakers for this coming season; and as you will see, many of the subjects will be “flavored” by the outcome of the Presidential Election. We look forward to seeing all of you beginning October 31st, when Dr. Tim Boersma will discuss the Geopolitics of Climate Change.

Foreign Policy Strategies for America and the World 2016-2017 Lecture Series

October 31st: Dr. Tim Boersma: “The Geopolitics of Climate Change”. The Paris Agreement began the process, but what tough questions remain to actually translate this into a meaningful and pragmatic policy framework? Dr. Boersma, Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University, will discuss how politics, power and vested interests will influence the outcome of the Paris and G20 talks in China.

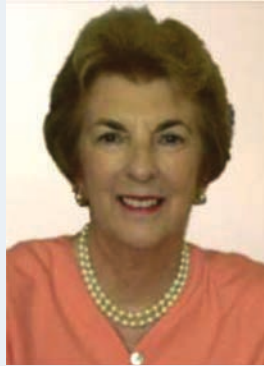
November 14th: Prof. Jeremy Haft: “China on the Global Stage”. China remains an enigma in its foreign policy, economics and politics. Yet getting China “right” is more important today than ever as the threat level on all fronts seems to be so high. Prof. Haft’s remarks will assess the basis of China’s “superpower-status”, its economy and relationship with the U.S.

December 5th: Dr. Steven Cook: “Turkey’s Lost Democracy”. In 2005, Turkey began formal negotiations to join the European Union, but a little more than a decade later it looks less like a liberal democracy than a one-man electoral autocracy. What went wrong? What are the implications for the U.S. approach to Turkey and the future of its alliance with the West.

January 9th: General John R. Allen and Dr. Michael O’Hanlon: “Challenges For the New Administration”. Co-Directors of the Brookings Institutes’ Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence, we will ask them what the newly elected President and his/her Cabinet face in perhaps the most troubling times in our foreign policy since the end of the Second World War.

January 23rd: Thomas R. Wright: “The European Union and the Euro: Implications for the United States”. As Director of the Project on International Order and Strategy at Brookings, Mr. Wright will comment on the change brought about by Brexit, transnational challenges and economic stagnation and how those issues affect the stability of the European Union and the preservation of the Euro.

February 6th: Danielle Pletka: “An Overview of Today’s Middle East: Are we doomed to an endless cycle of violence in the Middle East? Is the Sunni-Shii divide real? Are there solutions to problems like Syria? Danielle Pletka will survey the many conflicts raging throughout the Middle East today.



Mimi C. Gregory
Vice President for Programs

February 20th: David S. Rohde: “Inside the Strained U.S.-Saudi Alliance”: The vote in Congress allowing U.S. citizens to sue Saudi Arabia as a supporter of terror, Obama’s détente with Iran, and America’s energy independence are causing both sides to question whether a 60 year alliance that is a cornerstone of U.S.-Mideast policy has run its course.

March 6th: Dr. Cynthia Watson: “Latin America’s Failing Democracies”:

Dilma Rousseff in Brazil, former President Cristina de Kirchner in Argentina, Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela; what role did they play in the “stall” of their democracies? Are there indicators of other serious turbulence ahead or are these merely outlying cases?

Is the optimism of prior generations fading away?

March 20th: Dr. Stephen Sestanovich: “Putin’s Plans and U.S. Foreign Policy”:

Just how do Putin’s plans interact with the overall direction of US foreign policy? Dr. Sestanovich finds this an increasingly interesting question. Meanwhile Mr. Putin continues his quest for the return of the Russian Empire, building an ever larger military and practicing provocative maneuvers in Eastern Europe.

April 3rd: Admiral James Stavridis, USN: “Global Security and the Role of NATO”. Admiral Stavridis, a former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, will provide a sweeping overview of global security challenges — the Islamic State, Russia, Syria, Afghanistan, narcotics, piracy, and cyber threats — and discuss the ongoing role of NATO in meeting them as an ally of the United States.

Mimi Gregory

Committee on Special Activities

On February 27th, 2017 we will once again host author Stephen Kinzer, whose new book “The True Flag” recounts the history of Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of the American Empire.

Mimi Gregory

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

You may not even have noticed, but, our membership cards are different this year. Why? Again, there was lots of behind-the-scenes thinking and activity that went into that change. Our new cards are sturdy enough to last 10 lectures, and, we could attach them to the directories so that we only had one mailing. That leads me directly to the topic of mailings as we know we have “mailing challenges” as we have a seasonal membership. Unless we have an accurate address at a specific time and it is accurate long enough for the mail to arrive there, there is going to be some missed mail. That means some “never arrived” cards in addition to lost or misplaced cards. And, as much as we would like to replace those cards immediately, it is not cost effective to print on a one-by-one basis. Hence, we print on a batch basis, which means a longer turnaround time for replacements.

A major behind-the-scenes activity that took place this summer is the change of vendor for our administrative needs. We operate with software that is intended for non-profit organizations of our size, but, an understanding of that software is essential for the smooth functioning of our operations. It is one thing to have

a few hundred members; it becomes an entirely different type of operation when there are 2,200+ members with the complexity of seasonality and programs that we sponsor. We are operating with the same Call Center, but, we hope our other changes will result in your calls being handled well and efficiently.

And, with even all this going on behind the scenes, I have not mentioned the work done to orchestrate the Great Decisions program, the work of the Outreach Committee in facilitating the scholarships awarded in international living, Georgetown and the Vermont Governor's Institute, and the preparation well underway for the Model United Nations program in March.

The goal of the Board is for the season to flow seamlessly, and, we do our best to make that happen (mostly behind the scenes) as we know our membership is appreciative of a good season of speakers and programs. We thank you for your membership, your interest in foreign affairs and your support by means of your involvements and contributions.

Donna L. Suddeth, President

GREAT DECISIONS

713 Members and Associate Members of the Naples Council on World Affairs have enrolled for the 2017 Great Decisions program – up from 683 last season. The eight week program starts the week of January 16 and ends the week of March 6.

The Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org) has announced the eight topics for the 2017 season:

1. The Future of Europe
2. Trade and Politics
3. Conflict in the South China Sea
4. Saudi Arabia in Transition
5. U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum
6. Latin America's Political Pendulum
7. Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan
8. Nuclear Security.

The Foreign Policy Association website has a brief description of each topic.

In December participants will receive a postcard confirming the time and meeting place for their group as well as where they can collect the Great Decisions briefing book on January 7, 2017.

Again this year the topics are front and center in the global discourse and we look forward to stimulating discussions.



NCWA's Model UN Program

This message from the Model UN Committee is a “thank you” to some of the many people who make this such a special program. Mo Winograd, Vice-Chairman of the Model UN Committee has written much of the following narrative.

The Model UN Advisory Committee would like to give a big shout out to Johnathon Seese, former Chair of the SWFL/Model UN Club at FGCU. In addition to redesigning our SWFL Model UN website for NCWA, <<http://www.swflmun.org>>, this past summer, while attending Stetson Law School, he stepped up to the plate in getting the SWFL/Model UN Club to choose the topics and countries for our Model UN'17. His leadership and follow through with our partner, the SWFL/Model UN Club at FGCU, has been simply outstanding. We know Johnathon is destined for a brilliant career.

Last year (Model UN'16), just to spice up the competition a bit, we started a new contest for our delegates. Any school taking part in the Model UN session could participate in this new project.

We asked students to imagine the UN had \$1 million dollars to spend on a new project directed at Syrian Refugee Relief. And they were hired as consultants to advise how best to use these funds to assist these people. The idea was to have students think about serious solutions to a current “real” global crisis.

Cape Coral was the winning school. They designed a system for providing bicycles to school-age children in the Syrian Refugee camps so they could attend school. Many children are unable to attend school because they are too far from the facilities and the walk across the desert in the heat is too arduous.



Earl Anderson
Chair

The first prize of \$500 was awarded to the Cape Coral High School Model UN Club. It was provided by Howard and Nancy Cohen. The second prize of \$350 was provided by Mickey and Mo Winograd and the Naples Council funded the third prize of \$200. The winners made a power point presentation at the Model UN awards ceremony, and it was a resounding success. Such a success, in fact, that several of the students who won the \$500 for their Model UN Club have now organized a bike-a-thon fundraiser this Fall to raise money for bikes to be delivered by a non-profit organization from Chicago that will send them to any location within the target area.

This year's contest (Model UN'17) will ask the students to design a project on how to raise awareness of sexual trafficking that goes on in Boko Haram, using social media to spread this awareness, and to do it in such a manner that young people will find a way to channel their outrage into action by the Security Council of the United Nations. This means recommending a solution that all five permanent members who have veto power will agree to.

Howard and Nancy Cohen have again agreed to sponsor the first prize of \$500; Mickey and Mo Winograd will sponsor the second prize of \$350 and we would like any interested NCWA members to donate the third prize of \$200. Anyone who is interested should contact Earl Anderson at <ehowea@gmavt.net>.

Again, thank you to the many volunteers who donate their time and money to make the Model UN so successful.

Earl Anderson, Chairman



Cape Coral students with their coach Mike Cook (far left) and NCWA members, Howard and Nancy Cohen, who sponsored the first prize.

The President's Club



Judy Rubinstein
Chair

We invite you to join the President's Club and have the opportunity to attend a few luncheons with the Speaker of the Day at our Lecture Series with just 25 hosts and guests in attendance.

Meet a few of the Board members, and other members of the President's Club as well.

Meet a few Board members, and members of the President's Club as well.

The cost is \$250 above the customary membership fee. If you would like

to be a member of the President's Club, please call the NCWA office at 239-649-3942 or go online at www.ncwa-fl.org.

The extra monies contributed help to sponsor many of our student activities.

Thank you,

Judy Rubinstein, Hospitality Chair

NCWA Student Outreach Programs

Among the requirements of NCWA sponsored student programs, including Summer Cultural Ambassadors, Governor's Institute Summer Scholarships and the Georgetown University Scholarships is that participants write an essay describing their experiences. These essays are posted on the web page corresponding to each of these programs providing members an opportunity to learn how these programs benefit our students.

Specific links to these essays are:

Summer Cultural Ambassador's - www.ncwa-fl.org/eil.html

Governor's Institute Summer Scholarships - www.ncwa-fl.org/GI.html

Georgetown University Scholarships - www.ncwa-fl.org/sogeorgetown.html

I hope you enjoy these essays as much as I did.

Regards,

Bob Erbstein, Webmaster

Membership Report



Bob Erbstein

Directories and Membership cards were shipped on October 4th in the same envelope. The membership card is attached with a glue dot to the directory cover. The membership card is produced with a synthetic material which has less bulk and is quicker to produce if additional cards are needed.

Our mailing list is based on information provided each year in your membership profile. In addition to your primary address it may include a secondary address and the dates when you expect to reside in these residences. If the data is incorrect mailings will go to the wrong address. The presort standard rate we use offers a dramatic savings in postal cost but doesn't

allow for mail to be returned or forwarded. Your profile can be updated at any time on the website www.ncwa-fl.org or by calling (239) 649-3942.

Starting renewals earlier in 2016 dramatically improved the process eliminating the need to deal with member renewals throughout the summer. We plan to start the renewal process for 2017-18 again around Feb 1st.

I welcome you to another great season and welcome any suggestions you have for improving our membership program.

Best regards,

Bob Erbstein, Membership Chair

NCWA's Georgetown University Scholarships

The Naples Council on World Affairs offers full scholarships to Collier County high school juniors for a one week program on International Relations or National Security at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Your contributions (beyond our regular membership dues) make this possible.

The program allows students to experience college campus life by living in a dormitory with other high school students from across the U.S.A. and foreign countries. It also allows them to become familiar with our nation's capital, Washington D.C. Most

important, it provides them an opportunity to experience lectures from prominent professors in these fields plus hear from key players in the respective fields. Visits will also be made to important institutions, such as Congress, Central Intelligence Agency, foreign embassies, etc.

The students who have attended these programs over the past few years have nothing but the highest praise for the programs. The following is Zannos Grekos' excellent essay on his Georgetown experience this past summer:

Zannos Grekos My Georgetown Experience

After reading last year's reaction essays, I find it difficult to write about my experience without sounding trite. The essays all center on the fantastic professors, informative lectures, unique dining, and diverse students, or what I call the "Georgetown experience." As a means of avoiding reiterating the classic Georgetown experience, I intend to inform you of the particular people who made each lecture, seminar, dining experience, or random conversation so unbelievably memorable.

To begin, let us focus on the academic juggernauts that make up the professional roster. Sitting in a lecture hall surrounded by one hundred and fifty acquisitive students and focusing on a single speaker embodies a new and sometimes daunting task for me. A compelling topic does not inherently capture the room's attention; it takes more. I enjoyed imagining if I had the responsibility of teaching, and hopefully entertaining, these young minds and picturing which professors I would imitate; this practice helped me uncover the tactics and strategies they used.

Professors Arend and Arsenault hold the spot for the most successful in capturing their audiences' attention. The topics Arend covered may not have always held inherent

interest, but his upbeat demeanor and pronounced passion for the subjects traps even the most distractible student in a trance. Leaving the mundane basics of the international system to himself highlights how well they planned this program.

Another impressive professor, Dr. Arsenault, discussed terrorism in the international system. This topic readily lends itself to captivating its audience, but Arsenault did not attempt to simply captivate us: she succeeded in enthraling us. By constantly calling on the students and using her engaging personality, she illustrated the momentous issue of terrorism in all its different forms and the current remedies for this problem in a manner that still resonates with me.

Although I highlighted the most successful of the speakers, some lectures bored me to my bones. . . The wide range of professors and topics gifted me an invaluable insight into collegiate class structures and courses that I could have never gleaned elsewhere, and obviously the extensive knowledge I acquired helps me shape my ever-expanding worldview in a pivotal way.

I am a bit of a social butterfly and avid people watcher, so the opportunity to engulf myself in a petri dish of one



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hundred and fifty bright, social-science-minded individuals embodied a new and totally invigorating experience. My roommate and I came from the same city and vaguely knew each other. The value in having a unique roommate from an entirely different walk of life has its obvious benefits, but to have a roommate who hails from a very similar path allowed us to bond quickly and then work on making a versatile friend group. Of all the students, I spoke to almost everyone. I became acquainted with around a hundred of them and friends with about fifty kids; of that fifty, my main friend group consisted of 12 people, and of that 12, I constantly find myself thinking of two: Connor and Nina.

Connor has a debilitating illness that has rendered his legs useless. On the first day of classes, I noticed that he would make a friend but then lose them quickly, for they lacked the patience to walk with him at his frustratingly slow pace. This irked me. Accustomed to walking with my disabled grandpa, accompanying Connor on the walks across campus took very little from me but meant the world to him. And our friendship allowed him access to my friends who followed my lead and offered their patience to get to know this outstandingly sweet kid. Connor even told me that he had done the same program last year, but he found this year exponentially more enjoyable due to his new friends. That comment illustrated to me how a small act of kindness could snowball into a drastic beneficial change in someone else's experience.

Next, let us talk about Nina. Nina alternates from living in

Australia, where she was born, and California. Although her personality resembles that of no one I have ever meet before, my most memorable moment with her came on a night when a storm rolled through D.C. Due to her unique living pattern, she had avoided experiencing a rainy season and therefore had failed to ever witness a rainstorm. I deal with Florida showers every day, but what felt mundane to me absolutely amazed her. To watch someone dance in the rain for the first time and stare deeply into the clouds just to catch a glimpse of lightning created an unexplainable feeling that still resides inside of me.

I could write a short book about my Georgetown experience, but I chose to narrow it down and focus on just the people. Next year's students will eagerly look to our essays for what to expect, and my essay offers them very little on the field trip to the monuments or listening to congressmen. However, my essay's goal stems from a necessity to paint the picture of a unique Georgetown experience. Surely they will not meet Connor or Nina, but they will meet people who amaze them, challenge them, and enthrall them. Meeting new people from a pool as strong as those who go to this program embodies the most validating aspect of my trip. I could google the information from the lectures in my living room, but the stunning professors bring the topics to life in a way that very few websites and even institutions can. This experience taught me loads about the international system, college life, people, and myself. I am ridiculously thankful for this opportunity, and I will definitely use what I have learned in my future endeavors.



www.ncwa-fl.org

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Lectures on the Website

The NCWA lectures are also recorded and available on our web site.

Sign into the web site, click on **LECTURES** and then **FEATURED PRESENTATIONS** to select the lecture you would like to watch.