



News & Views

Spring 2015

Editor: Frank Kolhatkar

...Mission is to educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues.



Congratulations to Joel Davis, an alumnus of Port Charlotte High School and its Model United Nations program and recipient of the 2013 George Gotschall Memorial Scholarship, who was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize

Naples Council on World Affairs

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Visit us at www.ncwa-fl.org

President's Message

“Think globally, act locally” describes perfectly the activities of the Naples Council on World Affairs (“NCWA”). Consider any one of the programs of the NCWA, and, you will see local action truly creating international thinking.

The Council's mission “to educate, inspire and engage Americans in international affairs and the critical global issues of our times” starts locally with our lecture program. Mimi Gregory and the Program Committee gave us a season of outstanding speakers focusing on the critical issues of our times. While most of us are thinking in current of summer plans, Mimi and the Committee are already acting locally to organize next season's roster of speakers to engage, educate and inspire us to think internationally.

The Annual Dinner, organized by Stan Chauvin, highlighted local action with some very serious international thinking. On the local level, our Teacher-of-the-Year Award went to Jack Bovee at the Community School of Naples who has been a long-time supporter of our international programs in the Collier County Schools. Also, locally, the President's Award, decided by our outgoing President, Judith Lipnick, went to Theron Trimble. Terry has long been involved with the Outreach Committee truly acting locally and thinking globally in chairing the committee which selects local high school students to travel overseas as part of the Exchange in International Living and Student Diplomatic Corps.

To change channels, what could be more serious than our speaker, David Rohde, who was held captive by the Taliban for 7 months, who then “held us captive” with his narrative of his experience. We were definitely educated to thinking this was one international experience we never want to have.

As we go into our next season, we will continue to “think globally, act locally” with our programs highlighting the local actions that create global thinking.

It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected as the President of the NCWA and an even greater privilege to work with the engaging, inspiring and dedicated Board members and volunteers of the Council.



*Donna L. Suddeth
President*

...More to Come



Pine Ridge Middle School 2014 Academic World Winners

Program Committee Report

The season in review reminds us not only where we have been, but sadly shows us that not a great deal has changed and that we carry the burden of foreign policy issues into these coming summer months and beyond.

Our first lecture with Syrian expert Andrew Tabler was an eye opener in the sense that America cannot identify an assemblage of possible allies within that country to counter the horrors al Assad continues to force upon his populace. With the patronage of Russia and Iran continuing, what can the West do to remove Assad?

Journalist John Donvan spoke to the danger reporters face on the ground and the diminishment of news bureaus in the field today as kidnapping and deaths become more frequent. Those issues were reinforced by David Rohde's presentation at our Annual Dinner when he spoke of his months imprisoned by the Taliban in Pakistan. Not many are as fortunate as David who did make it home again.

Arturo Sarukhan's presentation on our relationship with Mexico opened many eyes to the huge amount of trade between our nations, the mutual share of anxiety over immigration, drugs, horrible crime, but an enduring and necessary friendship in the big North American picture. Touching on Latin America, he did signal the corruption that envelops Venezuela and the Petrobras scandal in Brazil.

As we entered the New Year we presented a trilogy of fabulous speakers whose presentations focused on the "Putin Problem"! Angela Stent of Georgetown University, Ian Brzezinski of the Atlantic Council and Admiral James Stavridis of the Fletcher School all covered the Putin "Anschluss" into Ukraine and Sochi, the need for NATO to flex muscles and protect the border of Poland and the Baltics and the need for training and equipment to help the depleted military of Ukraine. As I write this report, John Kerry is to meet with Putin in Sochi to discuss Syria; but there is so much more ahead in "Vlado" s portfolio that I am confident.

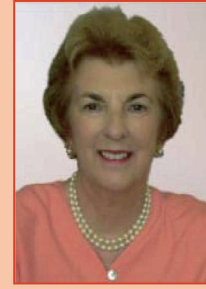
Professor Andrew Nathan of Columbia University spoke to us about China, with special emphasis on the new Chinese leadership. The politics of China remain an enigma for many of us but Prof. Nathan feels that the China is undergoing a great deal of change and has put special emphasis on corruption. He also addressed the Chinese activity in the South and East China Seas.

Ambassador Nicholas Burns of the Kennedy School, and a great fan of Southwest Florida and especially Captiva, took a few days away from the beach to give us a look at the use of diplomacy in the many issues that we face globally. He is a great believer in the use of this tool and believes that the discussions we have had with the Iranians is an important step in settling that decades old problem. He also remains optimistic for the future of our foreign policy issues.

Robin Wright and Barbara Slavin addressed the Middle East in a forum that was simply outstanding. While they share many of the same concerns that blanket the Middle East at this time, their approaches are often different and thus the sparks flew at times and each presented convincing snapshots of possible solutions. The changing map of this region continues and if you consider the events that have happened just in these last 6 weeks it remains clear that history is in the making. They will have to return for an encore.

Shuja Nawaz of the Atlantic Council kindly returned to Naples to fill in a last minute cancellation. Covering Southeast Asia for us, he spoke to his recent trip to India and the promising talks between that country and Pakistan. He also addressed China's ambitious plans for a totally new "Silk Road" and the rail link through Central Asia. Meanwhile, China's ambitions in the South China Seas remain an aggravation for Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

We will return to China, the Koreas and Japan next season to address those concerns that were on the schedule for the last lecture.



Mimi Gregory
Vice President for
Programs

...Looking Forward to Future

Committee on Special Activities

Our three extra programs this past season were topics of great interest: “Google” and the Digital World which we shared with the Collier County School System, our own author Abdul Sharif and his first book on Afghanistan, “Sardar”, and Dr. Julie Fischer on Ebola and the spread of infectious diseases.

Looking ahead to next season, we will once again host the National War College all-day seminar.

The Google 2 part program, presented by Ben Blink, addressed not only existing programs that many of us use but the future of driverless cars! While we may have expected that to be in our distant future, cars and trucks are already on the roads, here and abroad, testing for safety issues and the impact this will have for transportation costs around the globe.

Secondly, we presented a program to the Collier County School System, grades 4-12, for the use of “Connected Classrooms”. We had 99 teachers who attended the seminar and Ben Blink showed them the way to take a class to the Coliseum in Rome or to sit in a school in Indonesia; the world is just a click away!

Abdul’s presentation was very personal as his earlier life in Kabul has been his inspiration to help the U.S. Government in its relationship with Afghanistan. “Sardar” is book one of two and we have no doubt that the Council will present the second book to our membership as well.

In the midst of the Ebola crisis, we were fortunate to have Dr. Julie Fischer present the problems of containment of the disease but to also describe the detection of their threats to the global health agenda. Dr. Fischer is the daughter of council members Steve and Jan Fischer.

Stay tuned for the return of the National War College Seminar next winter and our Annual Dinner in April.

Mimi Gregory



Dan Bumstead and Donald Smith with
Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent,
Collier country Public Schools



Great Decisions Program

Preparations for the 2016 program are underway. 2015 Great Decisions attendees have had the opportunity to register for the same group for 2016 or choose another group if space is available in that group. These pre-registrations exceeded each of the past two years.



Bob McGinn, *Chair*

There will be three General Registrations during the summer and fall for NCWA Members and Associate Members who either have not participated in Great Decisions before or did not pre-register. They will receive an e-mail or letter inviting them to join. They may either register online at our website www.ncwa-fl.org or by phone at (239) 649-3942. The registration fee is \$35 per person and a briefing book, which can be shared in a family, costs \$15.

Again in 2016 there will be 26 groups at 8 locations in Naples, Bonita Springs, Lely and Marco Island. Each group is limited to 30 participants.

Topics for discussion will be selected by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) and will be announced in late summer. The FPA briefing book will be available in January. Each group meets once a week for two hours and has a leader who facilitates the discussion.

The 2016 discussion sessions begin during the week of January 18, 2016 and end during the week of March 7, 2016.

I encourage you to visit the NCWA website www.ncwa-fl.org for more information on the Great Decisions Program.

Anyone willing to give this fun project a try on March 5 and 6, 2015, please contact Bob McGinn at (973) 626-0799 or email Bob at mcginnbarbara@hotmail.com

Our discussions simulate intellectual curiosity of Our participants

Membership Report

The Renewal Period for members ends on June 1st. After that we will determine the number of positions available for Associate Members. Every effort has been made to notify by E Mails members and all other members who don't have Emails or Web access by post cards that Renewals end on June 1st...



Bob Erbstein

Since next year Associate Members will only be able to see the Videos of Lectures, i.e. not attend lectures, our goal is to maximize the number of Associate Members invited to join in July. As always, the limitation in new members is determined by the seating capacity of our lecture hall at St. John the Evangelist.

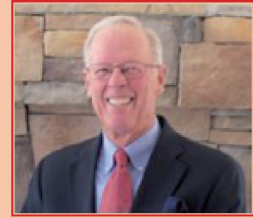
Typically membership in the NCWA requires a year on the waiting list but during this time participation in Great Decisions, invitations to CSA and full access to the website, which includes videos of the lectures, participation in Great Decisions and other NCWA sponsored programs. If you know persons interested in joining please encourage them to either check out our website, www.ncwa-fl.org to register or call (239) 649-3942.

Guests may be registered by calling Phase V at (239) 649-3942.

I hope and expect this season will be as successful as previous ones. Welcome back!

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee holds its last event on June 10, when past scholarship recipients attend a luncheon to swap stories and do a bit of networking among themselves. Many of them are now part of the university scene, and some will be joining them in the fall. Also attending this event will be this summer's scholarship students, who will be high school seniors next year and who will benefit from being able to pick the brains of the "veterans."



Daniel Bumstead,
Outgoing Chair,

This summer there will be 12 students going abroad for five-week periods, 5 students going to a very intensive academic week at Georgetown University to study either national security affairs or international affairs, and 5 students going to Brattleboro, Vt., for two weeks at the Governor's Institute, where they will mix with American and foreign Lout students in a broad cross-cultural program.

In late March there was the High School Academic World Quest competition, where over a hundred students gathered in a school gymnasium to fight their way through ten sets of ten questions ... each. The winning team came from Barron Collier High School, and in April the NCWA sent the team **Martinez Duneshka Cruz, Mayra Brioso, Colin McMillan, Emily and Konstanza Gorrin** to Washington, D.C., to compete against the best teams from all over the country.

Next fall, happy with what we accomplished this season and anxious to begin working with a new set of student talent, the Committee starts all over again. It just never gets old, and that's a tribute to the fine young people we are privileged to work with and to help expand their horizons, and ultimately to make them better citizens of the world.

Jan Guben will take over as Chairman of the Outreach Committee in the fall, and no one is better qualified to do it. I hope to still be active, but on the edges, as it were. One can never quite leave the Outreach business.

....We reach out to the next generation



Matrinez Duneshka Cruz, Mayra Brioso, Colin McMillan, Emily & Konstanza Gorin ready for study and cross-cultural activities at the Vermont Governor's Institute.



Barron Collier High School
Winners of the 2015 Academic World Quest,

SW Florida Model United Nations Program

The **2015 Model UTN session** was held on **March 5 and 6** in cooperation with the Florida Gulf Coast University and was held on their campus. Approximately 300 students/delegates from 14 high schools from Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties participated.

This year's scholarship award program was expanded from eight to seventeen scholarships and grants, ranging in amounts from \$3,000 to \$350. These awards are for one year.

A follow-up questionnaire was sent to each of the participating schools' delegations, requesting feedback re the session—what could be improved and what should remain the same? One comment best summarized the response: “You may tinker with the program, but don't make any major changes.”

For 2016 Model UN the following activities are either planned or are already under way:

Recruit more schools—increase the number from 14 to between 18 and 20. This process has begun.

Assist schools who are experiencing problems with recruiting Model UN Coaches. This process has begun.

Work with representatives from home school and virtual school programs to enable them to participate in this Model UN session for the first time.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the Model UN Program by conducting a follow-up study of past scholarship recipients—how did the Model UN experience influence their career goals? Also design and implement a system to evaluate the resolutions that are developed by each committee that addresses the assigned topics.

The NCWA can be justly proud of this program and each year approximately seventy highly qualified volunteers work together to make it a success



Earl Anderson with Oasis High School Model UN Team - Students at the 2015 SWF MUN Session winners of the NCWA 2015 Bronze Award for most-improved schools



Students participating in the NCWA 2015 MUN competition at Florida Gulf Coast University



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Village Assistance Program (“VAP”) — provides modest financial assistance to projects in economically distressed areas in foreign countries where NCWA members are directly involved.



Building School for Children in Ghana

NCWA is proud to support the Village Assistance Program (“VAP”)
Thank you, Stan Chauvin, Chair

Two Fresh Water Wells in Haiti

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Lectures on the Radio
Our lecture series is aired on Sunday nights at 8:00 p.m. following the Monday lectures,
thanks to our partnership with WGPU. FM and Public Media. Listen on:
WGPU (90.1 FM), Naples, and
WMKO (91.7 FM), Marco Island

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