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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

Fall 2019

Editor: Jim Schmotter

President's Message

Yes, you've read it or heard it correctly. And I'm sure we all share in expressing our joy, but also our relief. The 2019-2020 NCWA Lecture Program is finally returning to where we'd been comfortable and happy for so long, enjoying year after year our outstanding NCWA lecture programs. We're returning "home" to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and Kiney Hall.

We've been away two years, two long years. And it has not been easy. As Naples assessed the damage left behind by Hurricane Irma, so did St. John's Church—and so did NCWA. We knew we would not have St. John's Kiney Hall available to us again for some time. But was it possible we could return for the January 2018 lecture, that soon? No; there was far too much remodeling and reconstruction for us to be thinking about returning any time before the Fall of 2018.

And so our week-to-week exodus took us from one venue to another. With Mimi Gregory's devotion to duty and tireless effort we managed to secure each of those venues, often just weeks before the lecture date. Most all of those venues served our purposes well—or well enough, under the circumstances. And we so appreciate each of those organizations for opening their doors and their facilities to us.

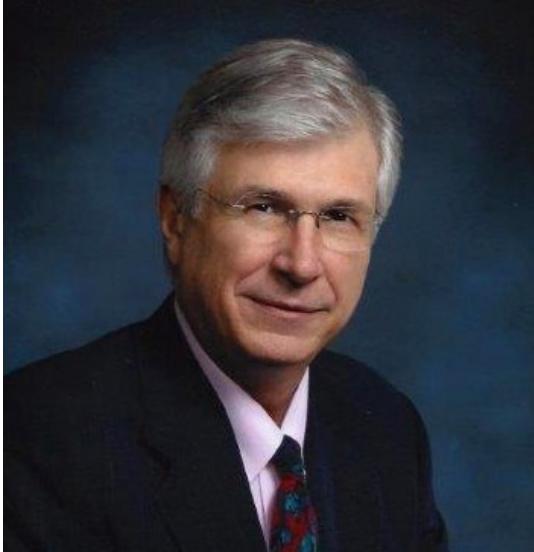
All we could do was make the best of each situation—and look forward to returning to St. John's for the Fall 2018-2019 season. Surely the restoration work at St. John's would be completed by then, wouldn't it? Again, and with a dispiriting sense of helplessness falling over us, we found the answer was still, no. This, from the NCWA Newsletter President's Message of the Fall 2018:

We thought the coast was clear. We expected reconstruction work at St. John's and Kiney Hall would by now be done. We expected that a newly renovated home at Kiney Hall would be welcoming us back for our 2018-2019 Lecture Series. But, no, not yet. Since Hurricane Irma, nothing about venues has been easy.

Regardless, we all persevered. And we sought to find one venue to serve us for the full 2018-2019 lecture season, one where we could at least settle in and find a comforting constancy and welcome from one lecture to the next. And Mimi again picked up the gauntlet and took the lead in our search. We found that welcoming and accommodating venue at Moorings Presbyterian Church, and we greatly appreciate their assistance and support throughout the 2018-2019 season.

And so, yes, we leave the Mooring's Presbyterian Church grateful—but grateful also for Mimi's tireless work over these two years, for the many other venues that also accommodated us in that most challenging first year after Irma, and most importantly, for our patient and supportive membership who joined us in this unavoidable travail, this challenge to our resolve, to our commitment, and to the future of the lecture program itself. Thank you, all.

But, in returning to St. John's we are not returning to the same old Kiney Hall. We are returning to a substantially remodeled, significantly improved venue in most every way. Please see Mimi Gregory's Program Report, below, and her listing of all the improvements that await us at Kiney Hall.



Gregory E. Hudson

President

OUR MISSION:

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

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From the Program Committee

August 30, 2019

Dear Member/s:

As I write, Hurricane Dorian is thinking of paying us a visit, and at 9:30 this morning we could not find bottled water in any of the stores. Why am I telling you this? Are we remembering Irma? Might St. John's be more than just a little nervous? Because, as I had intended to begin my letter with the amazingly good news that we will be returning to St. John the Evangelist for our 2019-2020 Lecture Season, I also felt a frisson of impending gloom, is there a repeat in our future?

Instead, I will be optimistic and we will greet each other on November 4th on the amazing new campus at St. John's and enjoy the beautiful ballroom, comfortable chairs, a great Audio-Visual System and some wonderful speakers who will address "A World of New Realities" as we begin our season.

Clinton Watts, our first speaker has chosen the title, "There's No Going Back! The Shape of the World to Come" and I think it reinforces the theme the Program Committee chose for our series this year. As we will be closing the gap of time until the 2020 election, the challenges we face are critical and truth will be a hugely important component in the choices we make for our futures. It should be a provocative season ahead!

It is with infinite gratitude that we thank the Moorings Presbyterian Church for their kind welcome of our Council these past 16 months, we surely couldn't have managed without their hospitality.

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer and we look forward to your return and the start of "A World of New Realities".

Mimi C. Gregory

Vice President, Programs



“A World of New Realities” Naples Council on World Affairs: 2019-2020 Lecture Season

November 4th: **“There’s No Going Back! The Shape of the World to Come”**.
Clinton Watts, Distinguished Research Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute.

November 18th: U.S. –Mexico Relations, Speaker TBD

December 9th: **“Territorial Claims and Tensions in the Arctic”**.
Mead Treadwell, Woodrow Wilson Polar Institute and Hoover Institute Arctic Security Program

January 6th: Iran, Speaker TBD

January 21st: **“The Korean Peninsula, Nuclear Weapons and the Future of Asia”**

Dr. Michael Green, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, CSIS. [Note this is Tuesday 1/21]

February 3rd: India, Speaker TBD

February 18th: **“The Media and Politics”**

Mara Liasson, National Political Correspondent for National Public Radio and contributor to Fox News. [Note this is Tuesday 2/18]

March 16th: **“In Deep: The FBI, the CIA and the Truth about America’s Deep State.”**

David Rohde, Executive Editor for News of NewYorker.com and Global Analyst for CNN

March 30th: **“The Rise of Authoritarian Leadership in the World”.**

Dean Eliot A. Cohen, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies.

April 6th: **“A Dangerous World: The Key National Security Threats and Challenges Facing the United States.”** **Michael J. Morrell**, Former Acting Director and Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Great Decisions 2020

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young”. Henry Ford

“Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears and never regrets”. Leonardo Da Vinci

As we begin our 2020 season, we find over 815 individuals registered for our eight-week program of discussions on current issues, both national and international. There are 28 groups meeting in seven different locations between Naples and Estero. We begin the program having lost two outstanding, long serving group leaders, Dan Bumstead and Bob McGinn but

have interviewed and engaged two meritorious Great Decision members, Steve Feldhaus and Mark Walchak, who will lead their respective groups. This facilitates a seamless transition since both Steve and Mark have been members of the groups they now lead.

Our two new leaders bring impressive backgrounds to their role. Steve Feldhaus is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Stanford Law School and clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Steve retired in 2005 as a Senior Partner after thirty-three years with the international law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski, where he led practices in the areas of tax, corporate, and high net worth, working in the firm's Houston, London, and Washington, D.C. offices, responsible for negotiating, structuring, and implementing complex transactions representing individual and corporate clients in Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, China, the Middle East, Africa, India, Australia, and South and North America. He continues to represent clients around the world as a solo practitioner. Previously Secretary of the Pelican Bay Foundation and a leader on its legal committee, he has been involved in Great Decisions for nine years.

Mark Walchak received a B.S. from Michigan State University and an MBA from Xavier University. He also did graduate studies in Mechanics and Material Science at Rutgers University. Mark worked as an engineer in the consumer products and pharmaceuticals Industry. He focused on Anti-Counterfeiting and led a multi-national team to establish an international standard for bar coding pharmaceuticals and medical devices. He is the past president of Speakers Assembly of Southwest Florida and an avid biker, having just completed an around the world trip with National Geographic. He joined Great Decisions in 2016.

Our membership includes both all year- round residents as well as those who come to escape the harsh winter weather. Abigail Adams once said that "learning is not attained by chance but must be sought with ardor and diligence". Two of our members personify her statement. Nancy and Owen Cylke, after living in Washington DC for 25 years, moved to Florida. To be

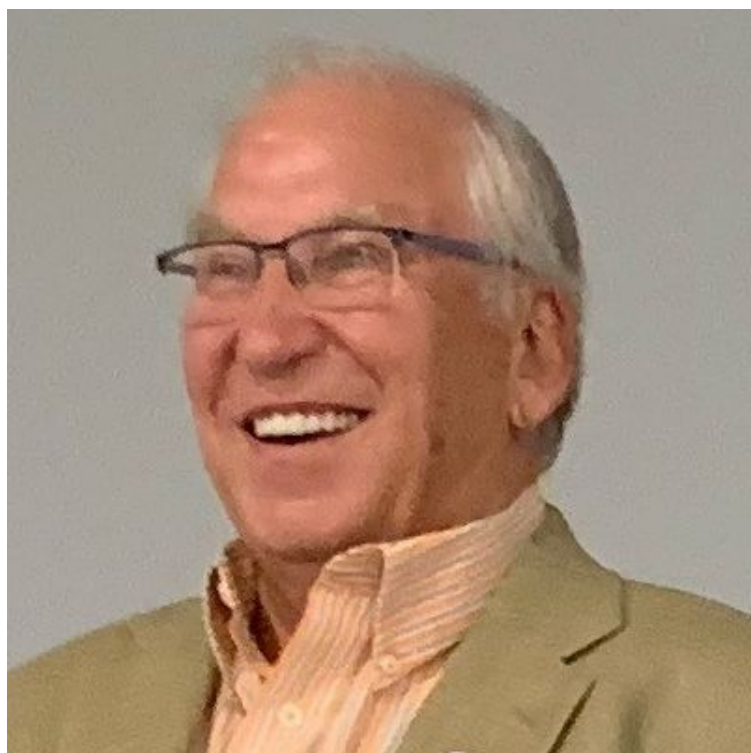
specific... the east coast of Florida. Having heard about our Great Decision program they joined and travel to attend our sessions. They are members of the Tuesday group led by Joyce Fletcher at the Norris Center.

The Foreign Policy Association annually determine the topics which are the basis for the eight weekly discussions and engages experts in their respective fields to write the articles which are then published in the briefing book participants use. The writers come from varied backgrounds including but not limited to government, military, universities, industry and the diplomatic corps.

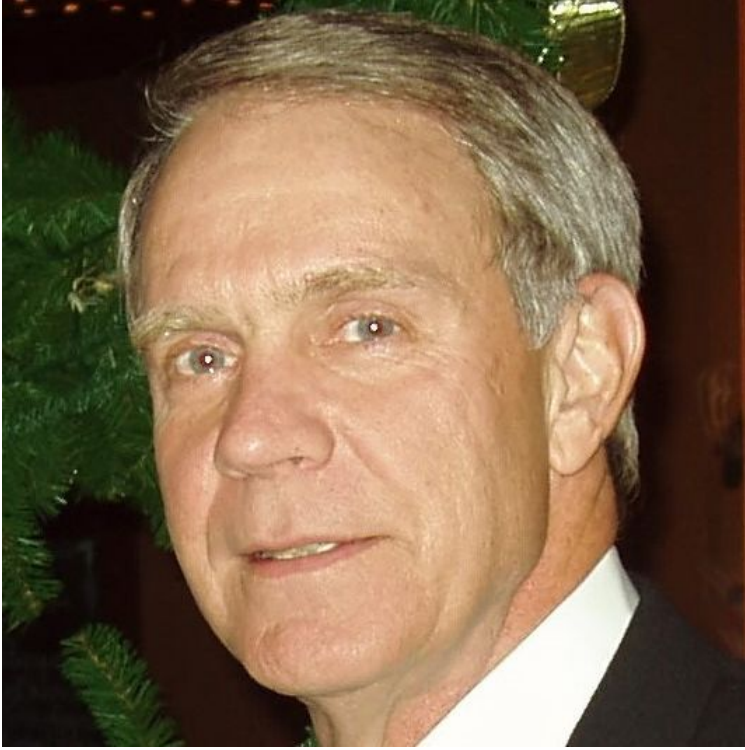
The topics selected for the 2020 program are: Climate Change, India and Pakistan, the Red Sea Region, Slavery and Human Trafficking, the Northern Triangle, China in Latin America, The Philippines and AI and the Future of Work.

Gerry Melnick

Great Decisions Chair



Mark Walchak



Steve Feldhaus

NCWA remembers a friend and leader: Robert J. McGinn (1942-2019)

The Naples Council on World Affairs has lost one of its stalwart members with the passing on June 19 of Robert J. McGinn (Bob), resident of Short Hills, New Jersey and Naples. The son of the late Lawrence and Helen (née Kearns) McGinn of the Bronx, New York, Bob attended Fordham Preparatory School. He graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service where he completed ROTC training. Upon graduation from Georgetown, Bob served honorably in the U.S. Air Force and achieved the rank of Captain serving assignments in San Antonio, TX, Turkey and at the National Security Agency. After his time in the service, Bob began his lifelong career with J.P. Morgan & Co. Inc..

Early on at J.P. Morgan, Bob was responsible for credit and market risk to all North American-based financial institutions. He was a member of the bank's Credit Policy Committee and headed the Commodities Finance Department. Bob served clients in the Middle East and Africa and had an assignment in

Beirut, Lebanon in the early 1970's.

Immediately prior to his retirement in 2002, as a Managing Director, Bob was responsible for J.P. Morgan's relationships with Central Banks throughout the world. From 1995-2000 he was seconded to Saudi International Bank, a U.K. registered bank as Chief Executive Officer. The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency and J.P. Morgan were its main shareholders.

Bob was also a Director of the Gulf International Bank (Bahrain), the American Hospital of Istanbul, Inc., the Council of Management of the King Fahad Academy (London), the American-Turkish Society, and a member of the Board of Advisors to the Georgetown Wall Street Alliance. He was also a trustee of the Gregorian University Foundation.

While enjoying his retirement in Naples, FL, Bob was extremely active in the Naples Council on World Affairs. He served as its Director for six years, held the position of Secretary, and was a member and Chair of the Nominating Committee, a Great Decisions Group Leader and Chair, Finance Committee Member, and Chair of the Judges Committee for Model UN. He was also a member of the Moorings Country Club.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years Barbara (nee Sullivan) McGinn, his four children Elizabeth Robichaud (Michael), Patricia Farrell (Kevin), Anne Beabout (David), and Michael McGinn (Amy), and his five grandchildren of whom he was so very proud - Jack, Maura, Sarah, Kate, and Fiona. He is also survived by his brothers Lawrence McGinn Jr. (Kathleen) of St. James, NY and Kevin McGinn (Janet) of Upper Brookville, NY and his sister Geraldine McGinn R.S.H.M. of Tarrytown, NY. Bob also leaves behind many loved in-laws, nieces and nephews.

NCWA's 2019 Educator of the Year: Lisa Carraher

Lisa has been a teacher with Collier County Schools for twenty-seven years,

teaching both geography of the eastern hemisphere and world history. She has been recognized as the Sallie Mae Outstanding First Year Teacher for Collier County, Social Studies Teacher of the year and Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction. She has been involved with the Naples Council of World Affairs since 2007, when her son was awarded a scholarship to travel to Costa Rica. In 2011, she was chosen as one of the four educators who traveled Turkey with a delegation sponsored by the Council and the Turkish government. Ms. Carraher has been a coach for Pine Ridge Middle School's Academic World Quest team for more than a decade. With her team's first place finish this year, she became the event's winningest coach.



Outlook for Model UN, 2020

Model United Nations has been a highly successful NCWA outreach program for 26 years, with obvious strengths including its exceptionally strong judges, substantial financial awards, our partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), and distinctly effective administration. Especially important are the volunteer NCWA judges that bring their experienced and critical eyes to the students' work. Model UN 2019's team of judges is pictured below.



These strengths notwithstanding, we maintain continuous efforts to improve and to accommodate changes in the environment in which we operate and the students we serve. Modifications for 2020 will include the following:

- The competition will be conducted on Monday and Tuesday, 2nd and 3rd March, of the FGCU Spring Break Week, rather than the traditional Thursday and Friday. Participating high school MUN coaches indicated that earlier in the week presented numerous advantages for their students.
- The FGCU MUN Club made a point of selecting Committee Topics for 2020 that are not likely to be used at other MUN events and posting them on the Southwest Florida Model United Nations (SWFLMUN) website noticeably earlier than in the past. <https://www.swflmun.org/committees--topics--and-guides>
- The 2020 Topic Background Guides, which are written by FGCU students, are likely to be stronger than in recent years because they will be done for academic credit under the supervision FGCU MUN Faculty Advisor Dr. Richard Coughlin rather than as a MUN Club project.

- To increase emphasis on written communications and provide context on topics, Position Papers written by the delegates will be made available to their committee judges prior to the competition, which has not been done in prior years.
- Finally, there will be an increase in the number and size of financial awards for teams.

Also, at the urging of Mimi Gregory, a WGPU film crew recorded part of the 2019 event and interviewed delegates, coaches, judges, and Dr Coughlin. The goal is to use that material to produce a short promotional video that will be available this fall.

For a live action view of what happened at Model UN 2019, check out the video linked here <https://youtu.be/zqrx8x1Rjds>. You'll be impressed. And with twelve timely topics and 87 countries available for representation- -excitement for SWFLMUN 2020 is already building!

If you are interested in serving as a judge during the March event, please contact Dennis Parass (dparass@questica.com). We also need additional evaluators for the Position Papers that most students write as part of the MUN competition. Jim Schmotter coordinates this effort and will be happy to provide information about this important task and welcome new readers. Contact him at schmotterj@wcsu.edu.

Edwin S. Leland, Chair
Southwest Florida Model United Nations

Model UN Partners Excel in International Competition

The Model UN Committee is pleased to report that the Model UN Club of Florida Gulf Coast University, the Council's partner in operating the annual Model UN Competition of SW Florida, has achieved a new level of excellence.

As the letter from FGCU club leader Hanna Nussair notes below, they traveled--with NCWA support--to New York last spring to participate in the National Model UN Conference. And they returned with accolades. Congratulations to them!



To the members of the Naples Council on World Affairs,

On behalf of the Florida Gulf Coast University Model United Nations team, we wanted to formally thank the Naples Council on World Affairs for their contribution to our trip to the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City this spring. Our trip was an incredible success, and our team all agree it was ultimately the most rewarding conference we have ever participated in. The National Model United Nations conference is the largest Model UN conference in the world with over 200 universities representing 180 countries internationally.

After five full days of rigorous debate, we are honored to announce that our team, representing the nation of Nepal, won the Honorable Delegation Award.

“Honorable Delegation” is an award given to school delegations that are equally excelling in all committees in which they participate. This award is only given to the top 20% of delegations at the conference. This is the first time Florida Gulf Coast MUN has won an award at the national level and one of the first delegation awards our club has won in its entirety.

We are ecstatic for the future of our team and we are so thankful for our partnership with the Naples Council! We could not have competed at this rigorous level without it. Attached you can find a few pictures from our trip as well.

Best regards,

Hanna Nussair

Florida Gulf Coast University Model United Nations

An Example of Model UN’s impact on Four Southwest Florida Students

by

Noah Shively (Cypress Lake High School), Sophia Prendiville (Bishop Verot High School), Stephanie Bruno (Bishop Verot High School), and Zachary Kashman (Cape Coral High School).

Model United Nations is a program which allows high school students like us to expand our worldviews and debate issues of global significance. One of the great aspects of Model United Nations is creating a collaborative and comprehensive resolution. This is done to address aspects of an issue that our assigned member states feel passionate about. Early March of 2019, SWFLMUN, a competition hosted by the esteemed Naples Council on World Affairs, premiered the first ever UN Committee on Gender Equality & Women Empowerment. In this committee we discussed a wide range of issues and solutions to the Prominence of Sexual Violence in War-Torn Areas. The resolution paper available through the link below is an adaptation of the work we did in committee over the duration of the conference. Also attached in the

below link is our referential background guide, which may serve as a resource for further reading, information, and in-depth definitions.

To read the resolution paper [click here](#).

NWCA Board Member Bill Korstad's Humanitarian Work Wins Rotary Club Award

Besides hosting our Book Club and participating on the Program Committee, new NCWA board member Bill Korstad is involved in improving water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in Africa and India. His recent project in India —bringing toilets to a rural village where none had existed before—won him the 2019 George K. Davis Water and Sanitation Award.

India, like much of the developing world, suffers a scarcity of facilities for disposal of human waste, a population unaware of safe hygiene practices or the need for them and a lack of clean water. Insufficient water is a global issue which will eventually manifest itself in inter-state conflict. An important aspect of these efforts is to create conditions that encourage local communities to properly maintain these facilities and develop similar solutions on their own. The photo below shows Bill (far left with iPhone) and fellow Rotarians meeting with village residents.



The Davis award is presented to the team who successfully completes what is judged the best such Rotary project in the Colorado district of the organization. This is the third time in the past ten years Bill has won this award. His work exemplifies the spirit of the Naples Council on World Affairs.

School Outreach Committee Reports

Once again, we have received enthusiastic responses from Collier County high school students sponsored by NCWA on trips abroad or at Georgetown University's programs on international affairs and counterterrorism. Examples of this enthusiasm follow.

The Outreach Committee's important work of providing opportunities for local students will commence again in the fall. Some new members have joined the committee, but we always have room for Council members with additional insights, expertise and energy. If you are interested, contact Chair Bob Haffa at rehaffa@comcast.net

Bob Haffa, Chair, School Outreach Committee

Collier County High School Students Abroad, thanks to NCWA

The students the NCWA sponsored this summer for overseas placements with the Experiment in International Living and Student Diplomacy Corps have provided eloquent reflections on the impact of their experiences. Here are a few examples.

“When we started exploring the history and culture of China, I was quick to pick up on its societal standards adhering to the writings of Confucius. My urban host family, who lived in the city of Shijiazhuang, taught me the importance of culture and learning one's history. They took me to many local museums. One of particular interest was a military museum detailing China's that told stories of soldiers' lives and adaptation through thousands of years.

While exploring the Zhong Lu Village in the Tibetan Plateau I learned the importance and value of clean water. My group spent a day following the route and obstacles it takes to find, store and clean water. This experience allowed me to discover a passion for outreach and service. Since being back in Naples, I have implemented water conservation measures in my daily life.”

Lauren Crisci, Barron Collier High School. China



Lauren Crisci and Friends in China

“Thank you, Naples Council on World Affairs, for your generous contribution to this learning experience and the knowledge I have gained from it to be more grateful to be a United States citizen and, hopefully, as a foundation from which I can build when I enter the business (or politics) world in the near future.”

Alec Liberman, Gulf Coast High School. China



Collier County students Walker Brunner and Alec Liberman at the Great Wall

“In Jordan, one does not witness a homogenous, brainwashed, or radical group of Islamic individuals. Instead I observed the endless diversity of opinion and lifestyles that brought the culture to life. From Christian families that ate pork to Islamic families that ate lamb, from those who are religious to those who are secular, Jordanian culture has blasted and absolutely vaporized the stereotypical Middle Eastern characterization through the diversity and hospitality I witnessed and felt whilst on my trip. Logically, with this newly reinforced position I am better able to not only combat interpersonal prejudice, but also personal prejudice by filtering the fallacies presented in my everyday environment through this newfound lens or insights.

Christian Garcia, Palmetto Ridge High School. Jordan

“Overall, I wouldn’t exchange this trip and its memories for anything. This experience opened me up to a new culture and new ways of thinking that I will take with me everywhere. Whether it was the members of my group or the people we met along the way, each of them has impacted me in the most positive way possible. I am so grateful to have received this opportunity and it couldn’t have gone any more perfect. This past summer is one I will never forget. Mexico will always have a special place in my heart.”

Tori Guarino, Golden Gate High School. Mexico



Tori Guarino at work in Mexico

“During this trip, I was going to be totally immersed in a new world in which I had no choice but to go out of my comfort zone and do what I had hesitated for so long: speak in the language that I had accumulated in over a decade’s time. When I arrived in Chile, I was extremely nervous that I would maybe say the wrong word or say something grammatically incorrect and I would be a laughingstock. However, this wasn’t the case; when I began speaking to them in Spanish, I realized that I was able to talk about a wide array of topics without fear of judgment or mockery. I never would have thought that I would be able to connect to people from another culture, especially of another language, so incredibly well, and create relationships that will likely last a lifetime. When I got on the plane after taking my final step in Chile, an amazing journey had come to a close and I had learned so much about an often-overlooked country that

has so much to offer to not only the Latin American community, but the world at large.”

Connor Rainey, Barron Collier High School. Chile

This summer, I traveled to Costa Rica through the Experiment in International Living thanks to the Naples Council on World Affairs. My time there was unlike anything I've ever experienced here at home. The focus of the trip was ecology and sustainability, and those topics were what made me so drawn towards the program. Within our first few days in Costa Rica, we were already deeply immersed in their famous beaches and jungles. Our first nights were spent at Campanario, a coastal nature reserve void of electricity, hot water, or signal of any kind. We spent our days hiking in the dense jungle, swimming in waterfalls, and watching sunsets on the remote beach. Although it was difficult, the sights we saw there made it completely worth it.

Taite Miller, Lely High School, Costa Rica

Student Observations on the Georgetown Program, Summer 2019

“I was overcome with an elevation of appreciation for not only my country but each experience I was given as I walked the sidewalks of D.C. with my comrades. I formed life-long friendships with like-minded students who expanded my worldview and perspective immensely. I left Georgetown holding a more cultured and enlightened outlook and feeling more prepared for college. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity I was given and recognize just how substantial the experience was.”

Chloe Paquette

“I want to start off my thanking the Naples Council on World Affairs for allowing me to live this truly a once in a lifetime experience. I will forever remember, the phrase ***Hoya Saxa***, which was engraved on everything little thing possible at Georgetown. After doing further research about what the phrase meant I realized that it translates to “what rocks.” Those words themselves define

Georgetown and my experience about learning about international relations.”

Enrique Vizcaya

“I wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to attend Georgetown’s International Relations academy. It was truly an amazing experience. All of the lectures were informational and interactive. I loved how there were students from all over the world participating in this program. In my cohort there were kids from Asia and the Middle East which made the discussions very interesting hearing their opinions on International Relations. I wanted to say thank you so much for this experience of a lifetime.”

Sam Goodwich



A Reminder to Council Membership

The NCWA *Handbook* will be mailed out in October. Members and Associate Members should check their addresses on the ncwa-fl.org member roster and be sure we have the correct address for that time period. Thanks.

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