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Spring 2020

Editor: Jim Schmotter

President's Message - April 2020

We thought we had gotten the “all’s-clear” sign. We thought that having persevered through two challenging years working in the aftermath of Irma, things would go back to normal—and they did. Irma was subdued; it passed. Its extensive damage was finally repaired, and in some places, replaced. And with the necessary remodeling and repairs at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church now finally completed, we were pleased to be invited back to our long-term lecture venue, now more attractive and accommodating than ever. There was a sense that something more than normalcy was now ours; there was the possibility that renewal and reimagining could also be ours in this more promising time.

We had managed it all well, or as well as could be expected or hoped for. But there is a story to tell about that. For those two years following Irma’s landfall, our leadership team—inspired by Mimi Gregory’s work in securing temporary venues for our lectures all season long—worked hard to maintain the breadth and quality of our programs. That they did. And through it all, we enjoyed the

patience and support of our steady membership. We got through it together.

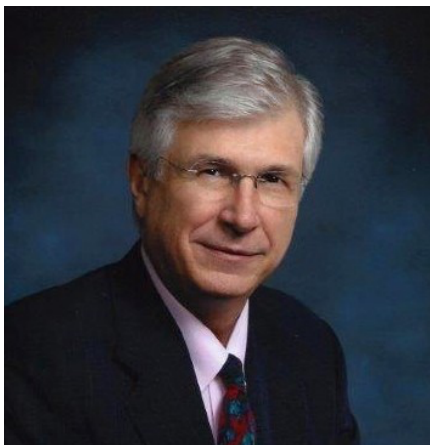
But then, just when we were getting comfortable with the renewed health and strength of all things in Southwest Florida, COVID-19 insidiously slipped into our lives here—and spread.

We had never heard of COVID-19, coronavirus. We had no idea, no insight into the nature, the breadth of the deadly threat this virus posed. But now it is here, and our lives are now so constrained, so disciplined, that only words like “self-quarantined”, “social distance” and “fatalities” capture the daily reality it has brought to us.

Our leadership team has joined others in our community observing the disciplines of social distancing and self-isolation. But even though the three lecturers remaining on the season schedule could not be held physically, we did not quit. Mimi enlisted the expertise of Tom James, our A/V pro, and Gunther Winkler our VP Operations and tech guru, to arrange for the three remaining 2020 speakers to make their lectures available on the NCWA website via Skype.

We likely have considerable time to go in battling back the COVID-19 threat.

But rest assured, the Council’s leadership will continue bring to bear their characteristic optimism, confidence, and hard work in bringing our lectures and other great programs to you wherever and however we can.



Gregory E. Hudson

President

OUR MISSION:

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

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James Schmotter, President
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Gunther Winkler, Vice President of Operations
Joyce Fletcher, Secretary
Bob Erbstein, Treasurer

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Program News

I was recently asked the following question: “So you thought Irma was a problem?” Alas, here we go again, many thumbs in dykes as we strive to wind the season up with solutions. By the time you all read this, we should have largely closed the door on the 2019-2020 season and will be looking ahead with some optimism.

I hope that you had the opportunity to “attend” the lecture by the noted journalist David Rohde on the “Deep State”. This was achieved with huge help from our A/V star, Tom James, and David’s willing participation to dress up at home, (Yes, The New Yorker was closed.) send the kids out to play (but only after I had a conversation with little daughter Julia about her new electric toothbrush), and take questions afterwards. Skype worked quite well, and the lecture will have been archived as you read this. I also want to add that Ella, David’s fourth grader, sat down with him to review his presentation. After five minutes she left him, stating that “you talk too much”. We are glad that he does!

Next on our Skype list was Jon Alterman, Director, Middle East Program at Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Jon was to be the speaker at our Annual Dinner. After we cancelled the dinner, we slipped Jon into the March 30th slot where he delivered the provocative lecture: "Sleeping with the Enemy." It, too, is archived.

Dean Eliot Cohen, of the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, has also agreed to Skype his presentation: "The Rise of Authoritarian Leadership in the World". Scheduled to be taped on April 6th, the lecture will be posted on April thirteenth. With that we will have concluded another season with "unexpected circumstances". I will say this was a first...the solution needed is good medical/pharmaceutical help! Waiting...

Have a great, healthy and safe summer!

Mimi Gregory

Chair, Program Committee



Great Decisions

Our Great Decisions program ended in early March with over 800 participants registered. Our 28 groups were engaged on topics which were current and remain contemporary today. At their option, members supplemented their

readings with videos produced by the Foreign Policy Association.

Presently we are registering members for the 2021 season. Preregistration began on March 18th exclusively for those members who participated in the 2020 program. Open registration for new members begins on April 22 and will continue until the first week in September when the briefing books are ordered. There are relatively few seats available during open registration due to the fact that most participants preregister for the ensuing year which leaves relatively few seats available. Open seats will be posted on the Naples Council on World Affairs website and registrants can either register online or by phone. Should a significant increase in demand for seating occur a new group will be formed to accommodate those interested in participating.

The Foreign Policy Association has already begun the process of identifying topics for next year. When topics are selected the FPA will engage writers with relevant area expertise to produce the articles which will be published in the briefing books. Authors will be sought from academia, government, military, media and other fields. Topics are announced in the fall of 2020, and briefing books are published and delivered in December. Participants will receive the briefing books in early January 2021.

Gerry Melnick, Great Decisions Chair

NCWA Elects Officers for 2020/2021 Season

At its organizational board meeting of March 30, the Naples Council on World Affairs elected officers for the year ahead.

Jim Schmotter, the board's secretary for the past two years, was elected President. Schmotter, whose academic career included leadership roles at Cornell, Lehigh, Western Michigan and Western Connecticut State University, has served as board secretary for the past two years. He has also edited the NCWA Newsletter, directed the High School Academic World Quest program and chaired the Model UN position paper competition. In addition, he has participated in Great Decisions and served for five years as a Model UN judge. Current officers Mimi Gregory and Gunther Winkler will continue, respectively,

as Vice President for Programs and Vice President for Operations. Bob Erbstein will also continue in his role as Treasurer, and Joyce Fletcher will serve as the board's Secretary.

Thanking Departing NCWA Board Members. . .and Welcoming New Ones

The NCWA Board extends its hearty appreciation to the three members who stepped down at the 2020 Annual Meeting: Donna Suddeth, Greg Hudson and Robert Pendergrass. Together, these three can count more than 35 years of Council membership and 22 years of board service. Their leadership has shaped NCWA's history. Both Greg and Donna have served as Council President and Treasurer, and Donna has also been a member of the World Affairs Council of America's Board of Directors. Rob has been a mainstay, chairing the Hospitality Committee and managing Middle School Academic World Quest. The Council is stronger because of their efforts, and we thank them. We also know they will continue to assist in NCWA initiatives.

Joining the board are three experienced, enthusiastic new directors: Jean Foster, Carol Green and Ron Gymer.

Southwest Florida Model United Nations

In partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University, NCWA conducted yet another highly successful Model UN competition on the second and third of March. Being completed just prior to the ramp up in COVID-19 concerns, the timing was very fortunate indeed!

Two hundred delegates from fourteen Southwest Florida high schools debated for two days on twelve current global issues that are very similar to those many of us discuss in our Great Decisions sessions. Preparations included a substantial amount of research, writing position papers, and numerous practice sessions. Among the participants were 35 freshmen, 47 sophomores, 55 juniors, and 62 seniors.

This year's Model UN featured a particularly inspirational speaker, Ambassador Barbara Stephenson (BELOW), at the Closing Ceremony. Ambassador Stephenson is a retired US Foreign Service Officer who was born, raised, and educated in the State of Florida. She shared highlights of her career journey with stops in Northern Ireland, London and Panama, where she served as United States Ambassador.



The event was actively supported by well over 100 NCWA members as well as the enthusiastic members of the FGCU Model UN Club, who served as chairs for all committee sessions. NCWA volunteers included the largest and overall best-qualified team of judges in recent memory; forty-seven in all. In addition, twenty experienced Council members evaluated 182 position paper and twelve registrars provided the critical first point of contact for the high school delegates. And most significantly, more than fifty member families donated

more than \$30,000 to cover expenses and support financial awards. Their generosity made the event possible.

The disproportionately large number of women and persons of color that came on the stage to accept the approximately \$40,000 in financial awards was especially notable and demonstrated that NCWA programs like Model UN reach all demographics of Southwest Florida's youth.



NCWA Judges for Lutgert Hall Committee Sessions



NCWA Judges for Merwin Hall Committee Sessions



Florida Gulf Coast University Model UN Club Committee Chairs



Model UN Catering Assistants Betty Badolato, Geraldine Keane, Denise Parass, and Chris Korkeian



Left to Right: Bishop Verlot High School Coach Lynn Knox with Model UN leaders Mo Winograd and Steve Vesce ready to register delegates.



Ralph Bunche Award Winner Jenia Browne accepts her award from former NCWA board director Richard Clemens



Mimi Gregory presents the Education Award bearing her name to Carson McNamara

Model UN Special Competition

The annual Special Contest is example of the quiet influence NCWA has among the youth of our community. As part of Model UN, we present a problem that every registered school can work on prior to Model UN's commencing. It encourages collaboration and negotiation, and has these students thinking about how they can affect change in the world. This activity is totally voluntary. Each school won a \$500 cash prize for their Model UN Club.

This year's problem is described at <https://www.swflmun.org/2020-special-competition>

We had three schools tie for the first- place award in 2020. If you take a few minutes to look at their solutions, you will come away with a greater appreciation for the small differences we are making with our NCWA outreach programs. The three winning high schools included Gulf Coast, Lely and Port Charlotte.

This year's winning submissions are at <https://www.ncwa-fl.org/Child-Soldier-Competition-2020/>



Mo Winograd presents the second-place Special Contest Award to Cypress Lake High School's Team

High School Academic World Quest

The 2020 High School Academic World Quest competition demonstrated once

again the diligence and knowledge of the region's high school scholars. On February 29th, nearly eighty students on nineteen teams from Barron Collier, Lely, Gulf Coast, Naples, Palmetto Ridge, the Community School of Naples, and Seacrest Country Day School battled it out for prizes and bragging rights in answering a set of tough questions supplied by the World Affairs Councils of America. Topics included "US-Russia Relations," "South Korea," and "Brexit and the EU." A team from Naples High School coached by Jason Gore won the competition, while teams from Gulf Coast coached by Sue Soulard finished second and third.

Traditionally, the Council sponsors the winning team to contend in the National Academic World Quest Competition in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, owing to the coronavirus pandemic, that competition was cancelled. But we still have plans to reward the winners accordingly, so keep checking back on our website for the award of the trophy.



High School Academic World Quest Scorers Watch the Action



First Place: Naples High School. Left to Right, HSAWQ Chair Jim Schmotter, James Biasoni, San Rachumalla, Hisam Setyawa, Logan Szital, Coach Jason Gore

About the Winners:

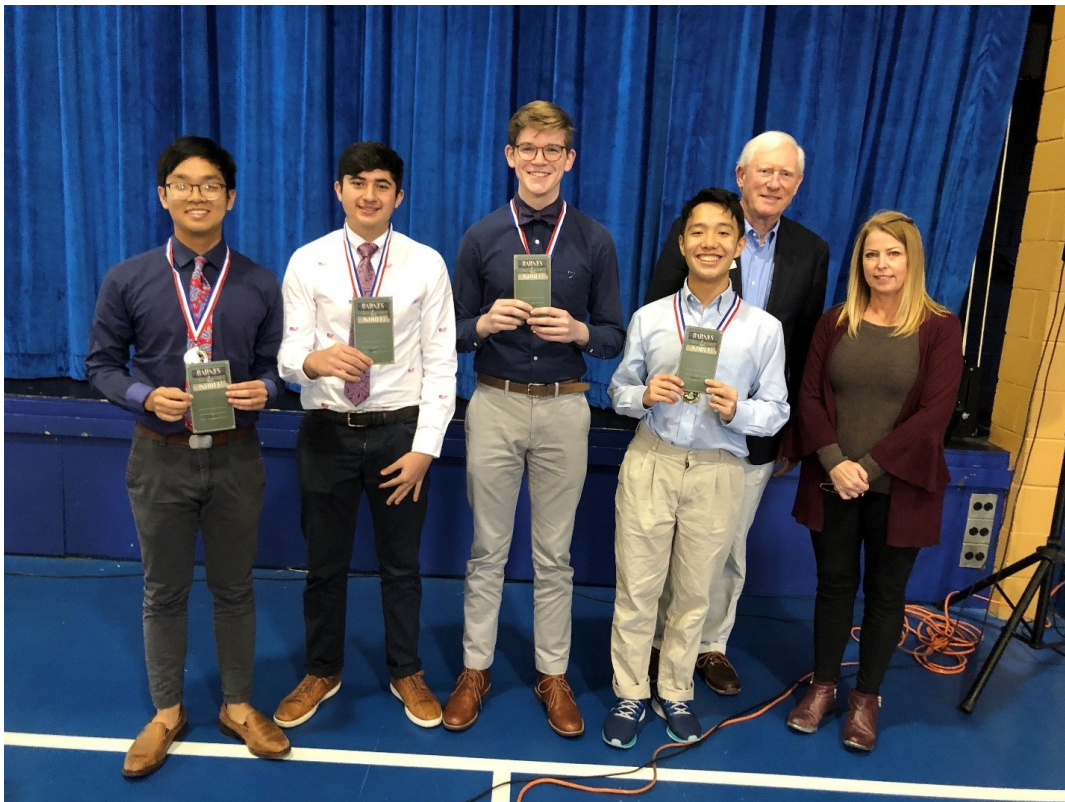
“The team of Sai, Hisam, James and Logan have been together for four years. They are good friends and work well together. Not only was I the club sponsor but I had the privilege of having all four of them as students in my AP US History class their junior year. They knew they had a chance their junior year to come in first place but fell just short to Gulf Coast. That only made them more determined their senior year. Even though I didn't have them in class their senior year, they consistently passed me in the hallway and would update me on how they were doing studying the material. And they were always telling me to make sure my bags were packed because they planned on going to Washington, DC. In the week leading up to the competition they would meet at each other's houses quizzing each other on the various articles. They were extremely determined to go out as champions their senior year.” Coach Jason Gore



Second Place: Gulf Coast High School. Left to Right: Nick McClure, Brandon Casey, Joseph Hernandez, Jim Schmotter, Hadi Dalao, Coach Sue Soulard



High School Academic World Quest at Mid-Question



Third Place: Gulf Coast High School. Left to Right: Sonny Tran, Sayn Dalao,

Aiden Cahill, Mickey Kwa, Jim Schmotter, Sue Soulard

Middle School Academic World Quest

The 2020 Middle School Academic World Quest was to be hosted by the Community School of Naples on March 28th. This year eleven local middle schools were planning on competing with up to 165 students. Unfortunately, the closing of Collier County middle schools owing to the coronavirus compelled us to cancel the event. We will retain and update the questions we had developed for these bright students in categories such as civics, world leaders, geography, and current events and look for another fiercely fought competition next year.

Scholarship Recipients

The Naples Council on World Affairs School Outreach Committee awarded this year's annual scholarships to exceptional Collier County students for a summer program abroad sponsored by World Learning Experiment in International Living Program and the Student Diplomacy Corps. The students, selected from a pool of applicants, met criteria including academic achievement, leadership skills, community service and commitment to global understanding.

Unfortunately, owing to the coronavirus pandemic, EIL and SDC cancelled their overseas study programs for this summer. Our intention is to send these students to the same or similar programs next summer, in addition to students who win scholarships in 2021.

We congratulate the 2020 winners!

Christine Ryan, Gulf Coast: EIL - Thailand

Corazon Holloway, Lely: EIL - Germany

Grace Muesing, Gulf Coast: EIL- South Korea

Chase Melton, Naples: SDC -Chile

Son Tran, Gulf Coast: EIL-Japan

Eileen Poling, Lely: Japan

Arlenys Soler, Golden Gate: SDC - Morocco

Nicholas Constantine, St. John Neumann: SDC -Basque Spain

Clayton Mather, Barron Collier: EIL - Tanzania

Hannah Schneider, Naples: SDC - Albania

Gabriella Lazarre, Golden Gate: EIL - Germany, Argentina, or Thailand

Emily Oplt: St John Neumann, S. Korea, Japan, or Thailand

We thank the members of the Selection Committee chaired by Gene Burke.

Georgetown

We Congratulate our 2019 Winners!

Denis Rizaj, Barron Collier
Doren Destine, Golden Gate
Isabella Riano, Golden Gate

We thank the members of the Selection Committee, chaired by Bob Haffa

Student Essays

We ask each of our returning students to author a brief essay, describing their experience. Here are a few edited excerpts from students who participated in Council-sponsored experiences with Experiment in International Living/Student Diplomacy Corps and Georgetown Summer Institutes in 2019:

“Discussing what I learned during the lectures and debating opinions was one of my favorite parts of the week at Georgetown. One of the debates we had was on which model of the International System fits our world today. I am still considering whether it is multilateral, diffuse-bloc, or any of the models at all. I am very thankful for the International Relations Academy for leaving me with a base knowledge that I can use to explore this question, and many others. I am very much looking forward to a possible career in International Relations! Thank you, Naples Council on World Affairs, for this opportunity.”

“What I enjoyed the most this week was hearing all the lectures from people talking about how all their different areas of expertise relate to international relations. When hearing from all these professionals I said to myself “I could listen to this all day long, and I see myself studying and someday working on international affairs.” This experience helped me decide that when in college I want to study International relations in depth and the dream is to do that at Georgetown.”

“While I had high hopes and expectations for this week, my preconceptions barely scratched the surface of what an amazing time I had in the Georgetown academy. There simply was never a moment I was not learning and engaged. I was not only able to experience lectures from immensely respected individuals, but also to ask them questions. From former CIA heads to established authors, diplomats and even experts of nuclear warfare-- at the end of the week after seventeen or more hours of lectures, I was left only wanting to hear more.”

“The extensive autonomy that characterized my overseas program of study enabled me to truly auto-observe my response to a completely novel situation: living in a foreign nation. Through my autonomy in choosing where to travel and “when”-downtown, restraints, tourist sights- I gained great insight into my capabilities to operate in a detached parental state. Specifically, I realized that I am extremely comfortable traveling and spending time in foreign and exotic locations without traditional comforts. This effect of the trip complements and bolsters my devotion to my career goals (international relations and linguistics) since it engendered a sense of confidence in me, in regards to my capacity to

function within an environment much similar to that which a diplomat or foreign service member would face.”

“I now believe my calling is to make the world a more cognizant and conscious place of all cultures and people, especially marginalized and disadvantaged groups, within America and internationally. Combining this passion with my acumen of foreign and domestic policy and political theory, of which I have pursued during my time in high school, I am excited to challenge myself and deepen my knowledge of this academic track in college. Ultimately, I want to make a meaningful difference in the world, a decision in which I believe the Naples Council of World Affairs scholarship played a large role.”

Thanks to NCWA Volunteers

The Naples Council on World Affairs thanks the many volunteers whose creativity, diligence and commitment make our organization and programs strong and successful. Their tireless dedication to the Council’s mission can be neither purchased nor duplicated. The 139 individuals serving this year are:

Board of Directors: Greg Hudson, Mimi Gregory, Bob Erbsstein, James Fleck, Joyce Fletcher, Robert Haffa, Bill Korstad, Ed Leland, Judith Lipnick, Gerry Melnick, Robert Pendergrass, Jim Schmotter, Donna Suddeth, Mark Walchak, Gunther Winkler

Program Committee: Mimi Gregory, Earl Anderson, Greg Hudson, Bill Korstad, Ed Leland, William Pope, Judy Rubenstein

Committee for Special Activities: Mimi Gregory, Joseph Bianco, Harry G. Dimopoulos, Bob Haffa, Greg Hudson, Jonathan Mohle, Robert Pendergrass

Great Decisions: Gerry Melnick, Marcia Eaton, Steve Feldhaus, John Ferriter, Joyce Fletcher, Elizabeth Foley, Judith Gates, Carol Green, David Goldstein, Lew Hadelman, Bob Haffa, Tom & Nancy Hanson, Dieter Haussmann, Bruce Hobbs, Greg Hudson, Bill Korstad, Marjorie Lewis, Ted Olson, George Purvis,

Robert Ravitz, Paul Rosofsky, Bob Sanchez, Tom Schrader, Stuart Schweitzer, Rusty Troth, Wally Stimpson, Mark Walchak, Mo Winograd

Village Assistance Program: Joyce Fletcher, Bob Erbstein, Bill Korstad, Judi Lipnick, Marjorie Lewis

Membership Committee: Judith Lipnick, Bob Erbstein, Greg Hudson, Gunther Winkler

Finance Committee: Bob Erbstein, Mimi Gregory, Greg Hudson, Judith Lipnick, Donna Suddeth

Nominations Committee: Jim Schmotter, Mimi Gregory, Judith Lipnick, Donna Suddeth, Gunther Winkler

Lecture Door Greeters: Pat Bush, Ulla Doose, Joyce Fletcher, Joanne Fowler, Alex Libers, Geoffrey Noble, Cesca Thorne, Catherine Walchak, Susy Warren, Gunther Winkler, Mo Winograd

Model UN Executive, Advisory and FGCU Committees: Ed Leland, Mo Winograd, Steve Vesce, Dennis Parass, Jim Schmotter, Beth Foss, Andrea Bedoya, Earl Anderson, Jack Bovee, Bob Erbstein, Judith Gates, Judith Lipnick, Donna Suddeth, Roy Tarnaghan, Mary Udell, Alan Van Egmond

Model UN Position Paper Readers: Jim Schmotter, Judy Baker, Pat Cacho, Martha Davis, Natalie Fisher, Joe Forgiano, Joanne Fowler, Ron Gymer, Paula Himowitz, Bill Hollister, Daphne Jameson, Kishor Kulkarni, Barbara Lafer, Stanley Lipnick, Ruthmarie Mitsch, Judi Mollerus, Connie Reger, Chuck Theisen, Donald Timm, Greg Weber, Bill Woods

Model UN Judges: Richard Badolato, Peter Borre, Eugene Burke, Howard Cohen, Rich Cowan, Linda Crescenzi, Benjamin Glick, Carol Green, Ron Gymer, Richard Harrison, David Heiman, Paula Himowitz, Edith Hunt, Jim Huskey, Joanne Huskey, Pat Jackson, Des Keane, Rob King, Craig Korkoian, Carol LaFontaine, Roger LaFontaine, Karen Leland, Marvin Lender, Michael

Long, Ileen Malitz, Patrick Mattingly, Sara McFadden, Frank Mitchell, Maureen O’Gorman, Louise Orkin, Bobbi Polachek, John Psaras, John Rittenhouse, Richard Ryder, Jim Schmotter, Michael Smith, Wally Stimpson, Chuck Theisen, Mary Udell, Julie Van Egmond, Steve Vesce, Carol Vesce, Nancy Wallace, Helge Wehmeier, John Welser, Richard Zounes, Gregor Zore

Model UN Registration Assistants: Betty Baldolato, Karen Biernesser, Pat Cacho, Nancy Cohen, Richard Harrison, Jan Johnson, Geraldine Keane, Chris Korkoian, Jon Mohle, Bonnie Parass, Nancy Wallace, Bradlee White

Model UN Photographers: Dennis Parass, Bradlee White

School Outreach Committee: Bob Haffa, Mikie Stroh, Jim Schmotter, Judy Baker, Gary Biernesser, Jack Bovee, Gene Burke, Linda Crescenzi, Ken Cyrus, Debbie Doyle, Jim Fleck, Joyce Fletcher, Mimi Gregory, Ron Gymer, Richard Harrison, Sandy Karaganis, Judith Lipnick, Philip Markin, Jon Mohle, Robert Pendergrass, Robert Roussel, Jim Seymour, Mark Walchak, Nancy Wallace

Global Scholars Committee: Bob Erbstein, Mimi Gregory, Judith Lipnick, Gerry Melnick

Hospitality Committee: Robert Pendergrass

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Currently the *Newsletter* is emailed to one address per member household. This electronic publication provides news and updates on the Council’s myriad activities three times a year. We want to provide access to it for all interested stakeholders. If you would like us to send the *Newsletter* to another member of your family or a friend, just send the email address to schmotterj@wcsu.edu.

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