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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS
www.ncwa-fl.org

Editor: Carol Green

President's Message – April 26, 2022

Jim Schmotter

Winston Churchill once observed that "to improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." If he was correct, then we at the Naples Council on World Affairs may be approaching perfection. From last summer onward, developments in our environment have required ceaseless changes in venues, programs, delivery methods, and technology. These changes have sometimes tried the patience of both volunteers and members. It's useful to review them.

As we scheduled lecture speakers last summer, we looked forward to a return to relative normality. Covid appeared to be on the wane, and we had engaged an impressive lineup of lecture speakers. But the impact of increased infections on speakers' travel plans and uneven sound quality in Moorings Presbyterian Church required us to rely on livestreaming and to be agile in scheduling lectures. Even with these distractions, this year's lecture series, "The Gathering Storms," received kudos from many members. The speakers were relevant, eloquent, and accessible, most notably Ambassadors Ryan Crocker and Frank Wisner.

Covid also affected other programs. Great Decisions groups met for most of the season via Zoom, and committees and the Board of Directors employed hybrid technology for their gatherings. Student-oriented programs resumed in live formats. Both High School and Middle School Academic World Quest competitions were held at the Community School of Naples, with typical student enthusiasm and engagement. More than two hundred high school students participated in the Southwest Florida Model UN Conference, and thanks to generous NCWA donors, received $36,000 in prizes.

As we end the 2021-2022 NCWA season, we thank our volunteers and members for their patience, support, and good humor. We are currently evaluating possible lecture venues for next year that will both accommodate our members and provide effective acoustics. I thank all of you who returned our recent survey of live versus online lecture participation to aid in this task.

Throughout all of these changes, we've learned that we've not yet achieved Churchillian perfection. But we do believe that we've adapted as necessary to continue to be the preeminent source in Southwest Florida for information about and dialogue on world affairs. No doubt further challenges lie ahead that may test our resolve and creativity. But with your continuing engagement, we know that these challenges, like those of the past twelve months, will be successfully met.

Thank you and enjoy the summer.

Jim Schmotter
President

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

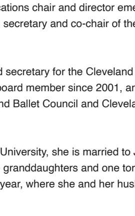
NCWA and Great Decisions Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your NCWA membership! We would love to see you again next year. You can renew online at www.ncwa-fl.org or call (239) 649-3942. The new membership year officially begins July 1, but we encourage you to sign up now so we can firm up plans for next season.

Please help us ensure that you receive your membership cards! We send renewal notices to both the primary and secondary email addresses. After each notice and reminder, we review the list to be sure that all were delivered to the members' designated email addresses and resend if necessary. Please be sure that your email address is correct. You can add a secondary email address by going to the website at www.ncwa-fl.org and checking your Member Profile or by calling 239 649-3942.

Your NCWA Board of Directors

NCWA Welcomes One New Board Member:



Jinny Johnson

During the annual meeting in March, members of the Naples Council on World Affairs elected one new member to a three-year term on its Board of Directors.

Beginning her 2022-25 term is Jinny Johnson, retired administrative manager for Lamalie Associates, an executive search firm in Cleveland. A graduate of the Greater Naples Leadership program, she has served on its board and chaired the communications committee.

Jinny also has been involved in several non-profit boards and advisory councils in Collier County, including the Women's Foundation of Collier County, board member 2017 to present; Hodges University Center for Lifelong Learning Advisory Council; League of Women Voters of Collier County, board secretary and board general member; Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, former board secretary, and communications chair and director emeritus; and Books for Collier Kids, former board secretary and co-chair of the grants committee and director emeritus.

In Cleveland, she is board secretary for the Cleveland International Film Festival and has been a board member since 2001, and is a former member of the boards of the Cleveland Ballet Council and Cleveland Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

A graduate of Chancellor University, she is married to John Johnson and has two step-daughters, three granddaughters and one tortoiseshell cat. She lives in Naples eight months a year, where she and her husband have owned a home since 2001.

Four Board Members Have Ended Their Terms:

Please join the Board in expressing appreciating for retiring Board members:

• Bob Erbstein has served in various capacities over 10 years, most recently as treasurer. He developed a new back-office system and served as Planning Committee chair, facilitating the updating of the mission and using it as the focus for measuring program success. As webmaster, vice president of operations and Membership chair, he developed and managed the NCWA website, including recording of lecture videos; converted to a digital infrastructure, and helped to define operations processes and transfer management to the current structure and software. He assisted in development of the Global Scholar program and chaired the Nominating Committee.

"The highlight for my time on the Board was the opportunity to work with some very talented women, especially Mimi, Judi Lipnick and Donna Suddeth. Being in the printing industry for most of my career, there were very few women in senior positions. The NCWA was a major and wonderful change from this situation," he said.

• Bill Korstad continues to lead the NCWA Book Club after ending his Board term. Bill served on the Board for three years, of which one year was on the Hospitality Committee, three years on the Programs Committee and three years as chair of the Book Club, for which he received rave reviews on book selection, timing and discussions.

• Ed Leland retired from the Board as chair of Southwest Florida Model UN, which he led for four years. He inherited a successful program, which he guided through the many pitfalls presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the enhancements implemented during his tenure was a modification to the awards structure that provides scholarship money directly to the recipients rather than to the university they attend. He also garnered very strong NCWA membership support during a challenging period for the Council.

• Judi Lipnick was most recently Membership Committee chair. Judi has served two six-year terms and has been president (2012-15), vice president of operations, and chair of Model UN, as well as serving on the School Outreach, Model UN Steering, Finance, Annual Dinner, Nominating and Global Scholar Committees.

"I have been involved with NCWA since we first moved to Naples, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my adult life," she said. "It is truly a working board of willing directors unlike any other I have served on. The friendships I have gained will last a lifetime – mine!"

Their many contributions are deeply appreciated.

Officers:

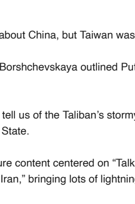
Officers for the 2022-2023 year were elected to one-year terms in a special meeting:

Jim Schmotter, President and ex-officio member of all committees
Mimi C. Gregory, Vice President for Programs, Chair of Committee on Special Activities
Carol H. Green, Vice President of Operations
Joyce Fletcher, Secretary
Robert Roussel, Treasurer

Committee Chairs:

Programs:	Mimi C. Gregory
Special Activities:	Mimi C. Gregory
Global Scholars Program:	Mimi C. Gregory
Great Decisions:	Stu Schweitzer
Membership:	Mark Schwab
Lecture Front Office:	Mark Schwab
Model United Nations:	Alan Van Egmond
School Outreach Program:	Mark Walchak
Finance:	Robert Roussel
Village Assistance Program:	Joyce Fletcher
Hospitality:	Jim Fleck
Newsletter/ Communications:	Carol H. Green
Nominating Committee:	Gunther Winkler
Technology:	Gunther Winkler

Our Lecture Season: Storms Gathered, As Predicted



Mimi Gregory

By MIMI GREGORY
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And Vice President for Programs

We called our lecture season "The Gathering Storms." Did the storms gather?

Last summer, as the last of the speakers was in place, the clouds were definitely forming.

Omer Taspiar shared Turkey's new relationship with Russia.

Ryan Berg spoke to the assassination in Haiti.

Christopher Painter warned of cyber attacks, ongoing warnings from the new administration.

Ryan Hass was guarded about China, but Taiwan was shaking.

Andrew Tabler and Anna Borshchevskaya outlined Putin's dangerous moves in the Middle East.

Ryan Crocker returned to tell us of the Taliban's stormy plans to restore Afghanistan to an Islamic State.

Suzanne DiMaggio's lecture content centered on "Talking with the Enemy: The Case of North Korea and Iran," bringing lots of lightning.

General Ruggiero didn't get here! Putin invaded Ukraine, drawing the general to other matters, a mighty storm, indeed.

Mariya Olechevskaya and William Hill pulled cloudy skies over Ukraine.

Ambassador Frank Wisner told us, "India is not our friend," and thunder rumbled over Asia.

And Katie Zimmerman endorsed Ryan Crocker's concerns about the Taliban, and for women in the Islamic world, the storms had reached the ground.

Yes, the storms did gather.

Mimi Gregory

Videos* are Available for the Past Lecture Season

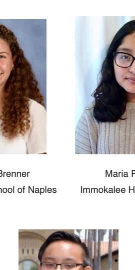
If you missed any of the lectures during our 2021-2022 season, they are available on our website. To view videos of any of the lectures listed below, both full members and associate members may go to our home page and follow the links. You must be logged in.

"The Gathering Storms"

- November 1, 2021: Ömer Taspinar, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
- November 15, 2021: Ryan Berg, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- December 6, 2021: Christopher Painter, President of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise
- January 10, 2022: Ryan Hass, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Chair in Taiwan Studies
- January 24, 2022: Andrew Tabler, Martin J. Gross Fellow on Arab Studies, Syria and the Levant, and Anna Borshchevskaya, Senior Fellow on Russian Policy in the Middle East, Washington Institute
- February 7, 2022: Ambassador Ryan Crocker, [USA ret.] Career Ambassador, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan. Diplomat in Residence, Princeton University
- February 22, 2022: Suzanne DiMaggio, Chairman, Quincy Institute. Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- March 7, 2022: Dr. Mariya Omelicheva, Professor of National Security Strategy, National War College, and Dr. William H. Hill, Global Fellow at the Wilson Center, Kennan Institute, expert on Russia and former Soviet Union
- March 21, 2022: Ambassador Frank G. Wisner, [US Ambassador retired] Egypt, India, Philippines and Zambia. International Affairs Advisor, Squire Patton Boggs (US), American Academy of Diplomacy
- April 4, 2022: Katherine Zimmerman, Fellow, American Enterprise Institute (AEI). Adviser to AEI's Critical Threats Project

**Please note: These videos are the property of the Naples Council on World Affairs and their re-use and content may not be distributed to non-members without permission of the Chair of the Programs Committee or the President of the Board of Directors.*

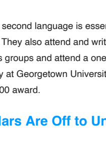
Annual Dinner Features Jon Alterman



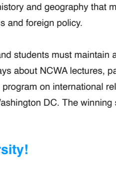
The NCWA season came to a close with the annual dinner on April 8, featuring Jon B. Alterman, Senior Vice President at the Center of Strategic and International Studies, speaking about the Middle East after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It was the first annual dinner after a two-year hiatus because of Covid-19.

NCWA Has Five Global Scholars

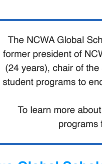
By MIMI GREGORY
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And Global Scholars Program Chair



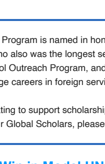
Anya Brenner
Community School of Naples



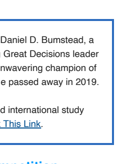
Maria Rueda
Immokalee High School



Alexia Espinoza Vlad
Barron Collier High School



Win Thant Hlaing
Gulf Coast High School



Alex Wilson
Seacrest Country Day School

NCWA's Daniel D. Bumstead Global Scholars Program provides Global Scholar certification after the students complete course work during sophomore, junior and senior years to give them an understanding of global history and geography that may encourage them to pursue a career in international relations and foreign policy.

Proficiency in a second language is essential, and students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade average. They also attend and write essays about NCWA lectures, participate in Great Decisions groups and attend a one-week program on international relations or national security at Georgetown University in Washington DC. The winning scholar receives a $5,000 award.

Two Scholars Are Off to University!

Congratulations to two of our graduating scholars!

Win Thant Hlaing was accepted at Yale University, where he will begin studies this fall, majoring in political science, which includes the subfields of American government, comparative politics and international relations.

Alex Wilson will be attending the Elliott School of International Relations at Georgetown University.

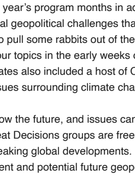
> The NCWA Global Scholars Program is named in honor of Daniel D. Bumstead, a former president of NCWA who also was the longest serving Great Decisions leader (24 years), chair of the School Outreach Program, and an unwavering champion of student programs to encourage careers in foreign service. He passed away in 2019.
>
> To learn more about donating to support scholarships and international study programs for our Global Scholars, please Click This Link.

Two Global Scholars Win in Model UN Competition

Two members of the Global Scholars Program recently won prizes during the Southwest Florida Model UN competition at Florida Gulf Coast University. Shown with program leader Mimi Gregory are Win Thant Hliang, left, of Gulf Coast High School, who won the $2,500 Thomas O'Gorman Scholarship, and Alexia Espinoza Vlad of Barron Collier High School, who won the $1,000 Rising School Delegate Award.

> PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN! At https://www.ncwa-fl.org you can get the latest information about NCWA events, lectures and news, and sign up for programs, such as Great Decisions and more! It's updated frequently.

Great Decisions Is Laying Plans for Next Season



Stu Schweitzer

By STU SCHWEITZER
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And Great Decisions Chair

Planning for Great Decisions 2023 is well underway. After a second season on Zoom, we plan to resume **in-person** next year if health conditions permit, when there will be no shortage of important foreign policy issues to analyze and discuss.

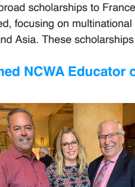
Group Leaders are working together to share best practices and consider how to make the Great Decisions experience even more satisfying next season. Our top priority: helping members feel comfortable participating in the discussion.

The staff at the Foreign Policy Association has the unenviable task of identifying topics for each year's program months in advance -- no mean feat, given the range of potential geopolitical challenges that can lie ahead. Yet somehow, they manage to pull some rabbits out of their hats. "Putin's Russia," for example, was one of our topics in the early weeks of this year's Great Decisions season. Our plates also included a host of China-centric subjects, as well as a discussion of issues surrounding climate change and outer space.

Of course, no one can know the future, and issues can crop up out of the blue. That's why individual Great Decisions groups are free to adapt their programs to take account of late-breaking global developments. Our goal is to deepen our understanding of current and potential future geopolitical issues and U.S. foreign policy challenges.

If you haven't already signed up for Great Decisions 2023, we encourage you to do so. We know for sure that we'll have plenty of important issues to puzzle through with our fellow group members!

School Outreach: Top Educator, World Quest Competition, Alumni Luncheon



Mark Walchak

By MARK WALCHAK
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And School Outreach Chair

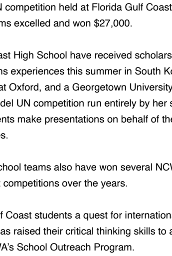
NCWA Supports Students

In the season closing in April 2022, NCWA awarded 12 scholarships totaling $71,000 to students for study at home and abroad in various areas of international affairs, according to NCWA Treasurer Robert Roussel. All study opportunities are selected to support students' interests in pursuing careers in international relations or diplomacy after they graduate from high school.

For domestic programs, NCWA awarded seven scholarships totaling $25,000. Five were to summer programs at Georgetown University and two to American University.

Five international study abroad scholarships to France, Germany, England and South Korea were awarded, focusing on multinational governmental organizations in Europe and Asia. These scholarships totaled $46,000.

Sue Soulard is Named NCWA Educator of the Year



Sue Soulard and her husband, Michael, left, were guests at NCWA's annual dinner. At right is Mark Walchak, chair of NCWA's School Outreach Program.

Sue Soulard, head of the Social Studies Department and teacher at Gulf Coast High School, has been selected to be the NCWA Educator of the Year.

Sue has participated in a wide variety of NCWA programs over the last 20 years. She has been a teacher in Collier County Public Schools and Model UN coach since 2002 and has been head of the Social Studies Department since 2015.

Her teams came in first and second in this year's Academic WorldQuest. She will be taking the first-place team to Washington DC to compete in the national competition.

For the 2022 Model UN competition held at Florida Gulf Coast University, the Gulf Coast High School teams excelled and won $27,000.

Students from Gulf Coast High School have received scholarships from the NCWA for international relations experiences this summer in South Korea, a Tufts program in Geneva, a program at Oxford, and a Georgetown University summer program. She set up a Shark Model UN competition run entirely by her students with local schools, in which students make presentations on behalf of their mock countries before a panel of judges.

Her Gulf Coast High School teams also have won several NCWA High School Academic World Quest competitions over the years.

Sue has instilled in Gulf Coast students a quest for international relations knowledge and at the same time has raised their critical thinking skills to a high level, said Mark Walchak, chair of NCWA's School Outreach Program.

She has coached the Debate Team since 2013 and has sponsored the National Honor Society at the school since 2018. She was named 2011 Macy's Florida Teacher of the Year Award winner for Collier County, a recognition sponsored by Macy's and the Florida Department of Education of a teacher from each county in Florida who demonstrates a "superior ability to foster excellence in education and contribute to the continuous improvement of student learning and the school environment."

Sue's response: "Thank you for this honor. I am grateful for the many amazing opportunities the Naples Council provides for students in Collier County. The constraints provided by classroom instruction limit what educators can do, but with your support and many programs, students are able to expand their learning and understanding.
Forever grateful,
Sue"

Academic World Quest

For more than a decade, NCWA has sponsored two Academic World Quest (AWQ) competitions in Collier County – one for high school and one for middle school students, aiming to promote student awareness of world affairs and of the role of the U.S. in the international political system.

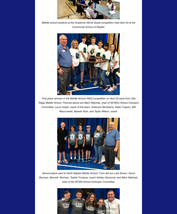
Last year, because of Covid-19, the competition was conducted via computer. This year, students competed in person, answering 100 questions presented in 10 sections to test the students' knowledge of current events, international politics, geography, global economics and world cultures. Students prepared by studying an online guide supplied by the World Affairs Council of America.

High School AWQ: Gulf Coast HS Wins Top Two Places

Teams from Gulf Coast High School placed first and second in the annual High

The forty-three-team Gulf Coast High School Let the Rivers Run Regatta on October 10 is complete! In the national competition on April 26-28, ARCC is a hard-played competition that tests knowledge of watersheds, geography, physical economics, history and environmental issues.

Pictured above with the team from Gulf Coast High School, Fourth at Meet Abraham NCMA School Liaison at Meet Ryan Bernard Volunteer, Second Bruce, Sixth Helen, 4th Richard, Third Kimberly and Fifth Jeanne Volunteer Public School.



Amelia Gulf Coast High School Liaison Abraham Volunteer Meet Richard, NCMA School Coast Liaison Gulf, Meet Bernard, Helen Kimberly, Diving Two, Mike Shell of Little Young Kimberly, and 3rd Schneider, NCMA Lessons

Above: Cotter High School Coach passed from 1st Left as Meet Abraham, NCMA School Liaison Gulf, Meet Bernard, Helen Kimberly, Diving Two, Mike Shell of Little Young Kimberly, and 3rd Schneider, NCMA Lessons

Middle School AWC: Oak Ridge Wins Top Place

The NCSA Middle School Academic World Quest competition ended the season with a tournament on April 26. Twenty-five teams representing top schools entered the competition.

Middle school students at the Middle School Academic World Quest end of the tournament in Colorado School of Mines.

Pictured, coached by Middle School AWC competitors on April 26 and from Don Kings Middle School. Pictured above are Meet Abraham, NCMA School Student Counselor, Second Bruce, Sixth Helen, 4th Richard, Third Kimberly and Fifth Jeanne Volunteer Public School.

Second place went to Oak Ridge Middle School. Pictured left to right are Jessie Bonner, Bennett Shaver, Taylor Dobbins, coach Ashley Gutschow, and Meet Abraham, NCMA School Liaison Gulf.

Winning third place was the Community School of Naples. Shown above, from left, are William Dunn, Garrett Miller, Grace Cunningham, Brooke Bell, and coach Ashley Gutschow.

School Outreach Alumni Luncheon

The Alumni Luncheon held each spring brings together alumni and students who have been selected to attend summer programs in international affairs or who have been awarded scholarships to study abroad during the school year. The program showed, in past years the two been an opportunity for alumni to share experiences with the newly chosen scholarship recipients and for new students to learn about the many opportunities that are available to them and to be a source to help program leaders stay connected.

This year we had a new format. Jim Seymour, a member of the NCMA School Outreach Committee, spoke on his career in international banking. Jim is a graduate of Gulf Coast High School and Cotter High School. He is currently chief, spoke on his career in international relations. Attendees shared among themselves, and a lot of networking took place.

Alumni attending were:

- Sarah Davenport, Experiment in International Living (EIL), 2013, Tanzania: Is finishing her junior year at Cotter High School.
- Jessica Dobbins, Second semester of the senior group, Georgetown 2011, A graduate of Oak Ridge Academy, where she is a sophomore at the University of Miami and is entering the Teachers Corps.
- Jessica Bonner, Second semester of the senior group, University of Central Florida and is entering into the school with international emphasis.
- Laura Cruz, current alumni president, Chime 2010, is a sophomore at Florida State University.

The Scholarship winners attending the luncheon were:

- Alleen Abdelnaby Sabine Golden Eagle High School, 2d, South Korea
- Ainsley Nunez, Gulf Coast High School, 23, Germany
- Jessica Bonner, Gulf Coast High School, 23, Germany
- Leah Davis, Gulf Coast High School, Georgetown
- Rachel Hernandez, Golden Gate High School, Georgetown
- Jessica Dobbins, Gulf Coast High School, Georgetown
- Adrianna Hernandez, Golden Gate High School, Georgetown
- Kimberly Lee, Gulf Coast High School, Georgetown

Above: Attending the luncheon were, from left, Catherine Wagner, past alumni president and current Georgetown student; Jessica Dobbins, Georgetown 2011 and graduate of Cotter University; Sophie Klein, who is graduating from the University of Central Florida; Laura Lowell, current alumni president of Florida State University; Jessica Bonner, Georgetown 2011; and Sarah Davenport, Georgetown 2011.

A number of scholarship winners attended the Alumni Luncheon. Shown from left are Leah Davis, Georgetown 2011; Jessica Dobbins, Georgetown 2011; Jessica Bonner, Georgetown 2011; Adrianna Hernandez, Georgetown University; Alleen Abdelnaby Sabine Golden Eagle High School, 2d, South Korea; Rachel Hernandez, Georgetown University; and Jody Bonner, NCMA volunteer.

Scholarship: Alumna Blends International Affairs and Film

Chelsea Casabona is NCMA scholarship recipient. Above with a non-profit foundation in Costa Rica, where she provided videos supporting local business to help women entrepreneurs.

By CARLOS CASABONA
Florida State University Reporter

I am 21 years old and will graduate from Florida University. I will be completing a dual degree in international affairs and political science with a minor in film this fall semester.

When I was 17 years old, I was selected by the Naples Council on World Affairs for a scholarship to attend the Governor's Institute of Vermont. Current Events. The program was a month long and was designed to help high school students from the area to study global politics in college. I have produced a video about my trip to Vermont, which was inspired me to me my interests in global politics and international affairs.

The Lead summer, I was one of 10 students selected by Florida State University's College of Social Science to become a UN1 Global Ambassador. The program was a month long and was designed to help high school students with skills needed on campus passionate about making a difference in the world. The program was a month long and was designed to help high school students how to implement positive sustainable change. We were split up into groups and had to develop a project that we would like to see on our campus. We then had to put stages to advocate for them. We presented the project to the group at the end of the semester.

I am interested in the relationship worldview. I received a 500,000 scholarship to study abroad in Argentina during the summer of 2011. I received a stipend to a program with the Institute for Central American Development Studies, also in Costa Rica. I am fluent in Spanish. I have been studying Spanish since 2007 with a Costa family. For the first few weeks in the Country I volunteered Spanish classes as well as classes on Latin America and the global politics that shaped the countries in Latin America.

After two weeks of classes, I interned with a non-profit organization called Fundacion Mujer. The foundation is dedicated to empowering women by providing resources with other women's organizations, and created a mini-documentary about the refugee women who used Fundacion Mujer to help them start their own businesses.

Here are links to my two videos:

https://youtu.be/1hRSBvoWy4g

https://youtu.be/hwGdUWKDfQI

Model United Nations

Eric Lakland
Model UN Chair, 2002

Alan Van Egmond
Model UN Chair, 2003

Model UN Competition Was a Resounding Success

NCMA's Southwest Florida Model UN competition wrapped up the year on another resounding success. Two hundred ten students were registered, and they represented 14 countries in 12 committees. Students spent the day in activities representing 21 countries at UN proceedings. This was the 12th year that NCMA has been opening the MUN competition for area high schools.

Award or generous donations from our members, NCMA awarded $50,000 in scholarships and awards to students and teachers.

In the Top Schools category, prizes, funded by Gregor Zoe and Ruth Cotter, were awarded to Cotter High School, Gulf Coast High School, and Golden Gate High. The Charlotte High School, second place and $1000, and Patriot Charter High School, third place and $500. Cotter High School, Gulf Coast High School, Golden Gate High School, Charlotte High School and Patriot Charter High School.

Winners of the Climate Change and Regional Issues Competition were Lely High School, first, $300, funded by Howard and Nancy Cohen, Scotia Springs Charter School, second, $200, funded by Ruth Cotter, and Cypress Lake High School, third, $200, funded by Steve and Carol Mason.

Position paper awards went to Jacob Stone, Cypress Lake High School, first prize and the $1,000 Gray Hudson Award; Sophie Lukowski, Gulf Coast High School, second prize and $500; Ryan Bernard, Cotter High School, third; Ashley Whitworth, Cypress Lake High School, third place and $250; Grace Thornbrook, Cypress Lake High School, fourth place and $200; and Jacob Stone, Cypress Lake High School, fifth place and $100.

Scores Dodds of Gulf Coast High School won the Ralph J. Bunche Award and $2,000 for her multiple years of participation.

Other multi-year participation winners, all of Gulf Coast High School, were Anne Shaw, Anne Shaw, $2,000 Ed and Karen Lowell Award; Lauren Dodds, $2,000 Will Rogers Award; Mr. Pearl Mayo, $2,000 Thomas J O'Connor Award; Ryan Bernard, $2,000 Ed and Karen Lowell Award; Jacob Stone, Dave Shaw, $2,000 Ron Gainer Memorial Award; Leah Simonetti, $2,000 Ed and Karen Lowell Award; Ryan Bernard, $2,000 Ed and Karen Lowell Award; Ricardo Worthington Award; Jacob Brown of Cypress Lake High School won the $2,000 George Gerhardt Memorial Award.

Dan Lillard of Gulf Coast High School won the FL200 Best Novice Award. Other Best Novice Awards went to Ryan Bernard, Cotter High School; Maggie Beard, Victoria Queen of Gulf Coast High School; Mitchell Bright, Gulf Coast High School; and Jacob Brown, Cypress Lake High School. Best Delegate Awards went to Ryan Bernard, Cotter High School; Maggie Beard, Victoria Queen of Gulf Coast High School; Mitchell Bright, Gulf Coast High School.

Members of the Climate Change and Regional Issues Competition were Lely High School, first, $300, funded by Howard and Nancy Cohen, Scotia Springs Charter School, second, $200, funded by Ruth Cotter, and Cypress Lake High School, third, $200, funded by Steve and Carol Mason.

Position paper awards went to Jacob Stone, Cypress Lake High School, first prize and the $1,000 Gray Hudson Award; Sophie Lukowski, Gulf Coast High School, second prize and $500; Ryan Bernard, Cotter High School, third; Ashley Whitworth, Cypress Lake High School, third place and $250; Grace Thornbrook, Cypress Lake High School, fourth place and $200; and Jacob Stone, Cypress Lake High School, fifth place and $100.

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Ministers

Delegates in the Disarmament and International Security Committee discuss how to present their position on cybersecurity with committee chair Steve Vesce, left, and Patrick Mattingly, assistant chair.

Students listen to the Model UN competition debate.

Model UN delegates raise placards showing the name of their country to vote.

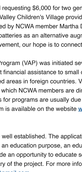
Delegates confer during the Model UN conference.

A delegate representing Australia makes his argument.

Spending a moment with Ambassador Tony Hall, right, are Dr. Michael McDonald, chief international officer and assistant vice president of academic affairs at FGCU, left, and Dr. Michael V. Martin, president of FGCU, center.

Dr. Richard Coughlin, associate professor in the FGCU Department of Political Science and Public Administration, is faculty advisor for Model UN at FGCU.

Model UN Alum Is Stationed in Croatia



Ashley Inman

Ashley Inman, a SWFL Model UN alumna who returned about five years ago as a guest speaker, checked in recently with Mo Winograd, our Model UN vice chair.

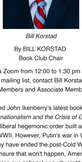
She is now head of consular services with the U.S. State Department in Zagreb, Croatia. Ashley was recently interviewed on the local outlet for CNN about Croatia joining the Visa Waiver Program.

Ashley was head delegate at Gulf Coast High School, where she graduated in 2012, and the University of Florida and was voted by her peers into the Best Delegate College Model UN All-Star Team as a senior at the university.

Her advice to students? Model UN can be one of several stepping stones to a career in diplomacy. "Make sure to diversify your interests and activities beyond Model UN when you can, and find other ways to further develop the lessons learned from MUN, while also developing diversified professional experience that can directly translate to a career in international affairs."

"I still tell people that Model UN is what got me started down this path!" she said, in an email exchange with Mo.

Village Assistance Program



Joyce Fletcher

By JOYCE FLETCHER
Secretary, NCWA Board of Directors
And Village Assistance Program Chair

VAP Closes One Program, Is Considering Another

The VAP committee is closing the book on last year's project submitted by Patricia Gullo for the water holding tank at the Lugazi school campus in Uganda. The tank was installed last fall.

Due to many complicating factors, including Covid, the pen pal program between the students in Uganda and the Village School of Naples did not come together. Our grant of $4,003 was for a water harvesting tank purchase and installation.

We have a new proposal requesting $6,000 for two generators to back up a solar system for the Rift Valley Children's Village provided by the Tanzania Children's Fund, submitted by NCWA member Martha Davis. We have had discussions about solar batteries as an alternative augmentation for the solar system. For school involvement, our hope is to connect again with a class at I-Tech or similar school.
The Village Assistance Program (VAP) was initiated several years ago by NCWA to provide modest financial assistance to small communities or groups in economically distressed areas in foreign countries. VAP will consider assisting only projects in which NCWA members are directly involved. Applications by members for programs are usually due in February of each year. The application form is available on the website www.ncwa-fl.org under the VAP tab.

A project's need must be well established. The application should be for a one-time grant, preferably for an education purpose, an educational building or facility. It must also provide an opportunity to educate some Collier County students about the country of the project. For more information, contact Joyce Fletcher at jfletcher989@gmail.com.

MUN Legacy in Memory of Former NCWA Board Member

Please keep your profile information, including your email and snail mail addresses, up to date so that we can keep you informed! To edit your profile, sign on to www.ncwa-fl.org and go to Members, then View My Profile. Or, call 239-649-3942 and give us the information over the phone.

What in the World Quiz

The What in the World Quiz, a weekly test about current global events, is taken by 200-250 people each week. A link to the quiz is emailed every Monday along with a list of those who received a perfect score the previous week. Please join in the fun!

NCWA Book Club

Bill Korstad

By BILL KORSTAD
Book Club Chair

The Book Club meets via Zoom from 12:00 to 1:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. To get on the mailing list, contact Bill Korstad at bkorstad@mac.com. Members and Associate Members are invited.

On March 1, we discussed John Ikenberry's latest book, *A World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crisis of Global Order.* The book describes the rise of the liberal hegemonic order built and led by the United States during and after WWII. However, Putin's war in Ukraine and Xi's aggressive ambitions may have ended the post-Cold War era and upended the current world order. To ensure that won't happen, America must respond by reforming and strengthening our national security institutions, strengthening our global alliances, and helping our citizens understand why events abroad matter to us.

On April 5, the book club discussed *Future War and the Defense of Europe* by John R. Allen, Frederick Ben Hodges, and Julian Lindley-French, three highly respected authors. The book offers a major new analysis of how peace and security can be maintained in Europe, a continent that has suffered two cataclysmic conflicts since 1914. At the heart of the book is a radical vision of a technology-enabling future European defense, built around a new kind of Atlantic Alliance, an innovative strategic public-private partnership, and the future hyper-electronic European force, E-Force, it must spawn. All that Europeans now take for granted could be lost in the maze of hybrid war, cyber war, and hyper war they must face.

On May 3, we'll discuss a yet-to-be-selected book about Iran, a fast-emerging hot spot. We'll take a break during the summer months because of travel schedules.

Finally, we are going through probably the greatest change in world affairs in our lifetime. Join the NCWA Book Club to keep up to date on the latest books and participate in great discussions with knowledgeable people.

Want a spouse or friend to receive the NCWA Newsletter?

Currently the newsletter is emailed to one address per member household. This electronic publication provides news and updates on the Council's activities three times a year. We want to provide access to it for all interested stakeholders. If you have a family membership and would like the newsletter sent to the other member on your membership, please send your request to carolgreen2@mac.com. If you would like a copy sent to someone who is not currently a member, please send your request to judithyfarrick@gmail.com.

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