



Naples Council on World Affairs

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2013/2014

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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS NEWS & VIEWS

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President's Message

Like many of you, my husband and I travel north for the summer. We drive back to Chicago, so we have two long days to rehash our winter in Naples. Naturally, my favorite subject is the NCWA and the pride I feel in the quality of opportunities we offer our members. Everything happens because of the hard work and dedication of the Committee Chairs and their members.



A word to those of you who have not yet renewed your membership! As you know, our membership is limited to a specific number, which is driven by the seats available at each lecture. I wasn't kidding when I said at the lectures there are more than 400 Associate Members just waiting for your seats to be available. On July 1st, we will offer all the open memberships to Associate Members according to their place on the waiting list. If you haven't yet renewed for the 2014-2015 season, I urge you to read the Program Report in this newsletter. These are lectures you will not want to miss. It is going to be a very exciting and timely lecture series this coming season.

Almost 30% of our members participate in the Great Decisions program. The size of the groups is limited, so to meet demand new groups have been added. Until recently, registration was open only to participants who wished to stay with their current group. Now, regardless of your membership status, you may sign up for a different group or join for the first time. If you have any questions, contact Maas van den Top (cvdtop@aol.com).

Every year the World Affairs Councils of America hosts its National Conference in Washington, DC. All members of local councils are welcome to attend this meeting which will be November 5-7, 2015. This year's conference which is titled *America and the World 2015* will engage regional leaders and members drawn from the business, civic, and education communities with leading policy-makers and experts. More information is available at <http://worldaffairscouncils.org>.

No sooner is one year over, then we begin working on the next. The world we live in is exciting, dangerous and too often altogether puzzling. I look forward to seeing all of you in November when we can start to figure out who is doing what to whom and perhaps why.

Judith Lipnick, *President*

Thanks to our photographers Bradlee White & Debbie Doyle!

Program Committee News

We closed the season with Peter Singer's presentation on Cyberspace/Cyber-warfare this past April 7th, and it was truly gratifying to hear from you, our audience, that the season's lectures were a success. In view of that, we thought we might try to repeat the performance! So... your committee is and will continue to fill the dates that begin with November 3rd and we are confident that our choices will be rewarding. Here is our lecture series title for 2013-2014 and the impressive list of speakers who have already agreed to address us in next season's program.



The Transformation of Our Strategic Foreign Policy Alliances

We will be welcoming **Ian Brzezinski**, Resident Senior Fellow at the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security and also a member of the Atlantic Council's Strategic Advisors Group. He will cover Ukraine, Poland, the Baltics and Central Europe, with an eye towards Putin's "empire building". And yes, the name recognition is correct!

Professor Andrew Nathan, a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, is Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. His research and teaching focuses on Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy, and we have asked him to address the current Chinese leadership and recent "clashes" in the south and east

China Sea as well as other acts of aggression.

Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan, former Mexican Ambassador to the United States and a Latin-American specialist, will discuss U.S. relations with the countries of Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela as well as his country of Mexico. What are the vestiges of the Bolivarian Revolution? Can Venezuela survive with Maduro at the helm?

Admiral James Stavridis, Former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander, United States European Command, he is now Dean of the Fletcher School of Diplomacy. A native of South Florida! he will speak to us about NATO today and honoring our treaties in defense of our Allies as the global temperatures heat up and challenge our defense and diplomatic capabilities.

Andrew J. Tabler, Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Mr. Tabler focuses on Syria and U.S. Policy in the Levant. He resided in the Middle East for fourteen years and is a fluent Arab speaker. He will address our issues with Syria, our crisis management with Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah's patronage of that country, and what, if any, are possible solutions.

Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns, Professor of the Practice of International Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Following 27 years as a career Foreign Service Officer, he remains deeply involved in international affairs at Harvard, the Aspen Institute and the Cohen Group. We have asked him to address the transformation of our strategic foreign policy alliances; which is also our lecture series title for this next season.

Mimi Gregory, *Vice President - Programs*

Committee for Special Activities

The Committee for Special Activities was pleased to present **Neal Conan** as our speaker at the **Annual Dinner** at the Port Royal Club. His presentation was a great mixture of “tales of a journalist”, current events and their influence on foreign policy, and some of the trademark humor that marked his long career on NPR. Neal came to us from Kona, Hawaii where he now farms macadamia nuts along with his continuing interest in the world around us. We were indeed fortunate to have him address our Council dinner.



We ended the “season” with a luncheon presentation by **Julia Cooke**, a young journalist who spent five years living in Cuba. Her book, “The Other Side of Paradise: Life in the New Cuba” featured in her presentation to 86 Council members and spoke to the “softer side” of life as she lived and found it while there as a student.

Looking ahead to our next season, we are presenting a program in conjunction with Google: one part for educators and one part for our general membership. Members of the Google team will demonstrate their educational software to our teachers in Collier County, and the general lecture will discuss Google and privacy issues in our everyday lives. We will post dates when confirmed. See you next Fall. Have a great spring and summer.

Mimi C. Gregory, *Vice President - Programs*

Membership Report

Current members have until **June 30th** to insure they are able to renew for the **2014-2015** season. Beginning **July 1st**, membership will be opened to **Associate Members**.

In May a second invitation was sent to members who had not yet renewed reminding them that the exclusive renewal time for members will be ending on June 30th. We hope all interested in remaining with us will act on this.



Renewals can be done on the website, paying by check or by credit card. The process for each includes:

- Accessing our web site at www.ncwa-fl.org.
- Printing and mailing your completed application with credit card information or a check to NCWA, 12290 Treeline Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33913, as soon as possible; or
- Calling us at (239) 649-3942 with credit card payment or for additional assistance in completing a renewal.

I urge you to keep your membership profile current on the website. Your cards will be mailed first class according to the data on your profile. Also, you may use the member profile to add an email address for a second family member which will appear on the website only. This data exchange is now encrypted for improved security as has always been done for financial transactions. We look forward to having you all back next fall.

Bob Erbstein, *Chair*

Website News

Videos of all lectures for the 2013-2014 season are now on the Website at <http://www.ncwa-fl.org/lecturevideos.html>. These are only available to Members and Associate Members so you will be required to login to the website.

This is an opportunity to view lectures which were missed or have a second viewing of lectures of particular relevance. Given what's going on in the Ukraine I just watched the lecture "Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin" by Dr. Clifford G. Gaddy.

We have just upgraded our website so that in addition to encrypting all financial transactions, this is now done for all data exchanges between members and the website. Once logged onto the site you will see the web address change from http to https along with an icon of a lock indicating this increase security. This designation will remain until you log off the site. Hope you all have a great summer.

Bob Erbstein, *Webmaster*



Great Decisions Program

Preparations for our 2015 program are in full progress. All 2014 Great Decisions participants have had an opportunity to register in their same discussion group again for next year or choose any other group of their choice.

In 2015, four new groups will be added: one at the Norris Center (Wednesdays 2-4 pm); one at the Moorings Presbyterian Church (Thursdays 2-4 pm); one at the Commons Club at The Brooks (Mondays 3-5 pm) and one at the Public Library at Lely (Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 pm). There will then be 28 groups at 8 different locations in Naples, Bonita Springs and on Marco Island. Each group has a leader who facilitates the discussion.

The topics for discussion are selected by the Foreign Policy Association and will be announced later this year. Experts on the topics are invited to write articles that are included in a briefing book. The articles provide historical perspective and current information on eight global issues, alternative policy options and questions to stimulate group discussion.

Each group will meet once a week for two hours. The 2015 discussion sessions begin during the week of January 19-23, 2015, and continue through March 9-13, 2015. All NCWA members and associate members who have not yet registered will receive or have already received an e-mail or letter, inviting you to join one of our groups. You may either register online at our web site www.ncwa-fl.org or by phone at (239) 649-3942. The registration fee is \$35 per person and a briefing book, which can be shared in a family, costs \$15.

I encourage you to register soon after you have received the invitation. You will then have the best opportunity to join your preferred group. As soon as a group has reached 30 members it will be closed for registration.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*



SWFL Model United Nations Program

The 2014 Model United Nations (MUN) has enjoyed another successful year. Eleven one-year scholarships in the total amount of \$16,000 have been awarded to the highest rated delegates. But rather than repeat all the activities that make up the MUN experience, I'd like to share with you a letter of thanks written by one of our scholarship winners to the donors of the scholarship funding. This speaks more genuinely to the value of the experience and the scholarships provided.

“Dear Mr. Gregory Hudson Family and the Members of the Pelican Bay Rotary Club:

“Thank you for your generous funding of the Outstanding Junior Scholarship, awarded at the Southwest Florida Model UN Conference at Florida Gulf Coast University. This year it was my prestigious honor to receive this scholarship. Your kind gift will aid my pursuit of a higher education. I truly appreciate it.

“Participation in Model UN benefits students. I know this first hand. I was not always a gifted speaker. In fact, at my first conference, I spoke very little, and could not persuade any of my fellow delegates to recognize my ideas. My poor performance embarrassed me, and I vowed to do better. Model UN exposed me to talented debaters, both inside and outside my high school. By observing them and interacting with them, I gradually developed the skills and confidence public speaking requires. This spring, my junior class chose me as the speaker for our International Baccalaureate pinning ceremony. I knew then just how far I had come from my first conference.

“Model UN profited me in other ways. It increased my awareness of the global community and some of the issues facing it. In addition, Model UN advanced my communication skills and improved my research techniques. The impact of these benefits is not limited to the conference, but rather, extends into the classroom and life.

“Thank you for supporting the Model UN. I thank you for this scholarship as both a monetary contribution to my studies as well as another milestone demonstrating how far I have come.”

[Signature Withheld]

Earl H. Anderson, *Chair*



Outstanding Senior Scholarship - Wyatt Navarro with Judith Lipnick



Outstanding Junior Scholarship - Matt Dougherty with Greg Hudson



Position Paper Scholarship - John Govern with Greg Hudson



Winning Team - Gulf Coast High School



The MUN Delegates Working on Issues

Outreach Committee

In the school outreach business, we appear to have most of the hatches battened down for the summer. At the time this newsletter appears, we will have eleven Collier County high school students sprinkled around the world, going through their **Experiment in International Living** (EIL) experiences. The countries visited this year are Morocco, Tanzania, Thailand (two students), Botswana, Japan, Mongolia, Ecuador, South Korea, Turkey, and Peru.



These programs are designed to immerse the students in a foreign culture. In the pre-departure briefing, they are asked not to take cell phones or other devices that make for easy communication back home. Immersion means exactly what it says: the students have to get deep into the local culture, and EIL feels that frequent communication back home to their parents detracts from this experience. Both students and parents reacted well to this suggestion, especially when assured that trained and experienced group leaders on the scene would be monitoring their experience very closely. Many of the returning students have reported that they rarely felt the need to communicate back home. They were simply too busy keeping up with the scheduled activities.

At roughly the same time this summer we will have nine students attending Georgetown University's summer programs in Washington, D.C. These are one-week, highly intensive lecture and visitation programs in the field of either International Relations or National Security. The lecturers are drawn from the various government agencies around town, such as the State Department, the CIA and FBI and others, as well as from the very distinguished Georgetown faculty.

Also, there are three students attending a two-week program in Brattleboro, Vt. This is not summer camp; this is a mix of American and foreign students in an intensive program that includes such activities as a mock United Nations and a mock U.S. Congress (the latter, you have to admit, would be fun). This is called the **Governor's Institute on Current Issues and Youth Activism** at the School for International Training and is part of the EIL complex of organizations and programs.

All the pre-departure briefings have been done for both students and parents. Travel arrangements have been made. The rest is up to the students.

Lastly, and still in the realm of summer programs, we are sponsoring one teacher to attend a one-week **teachers training course** in Washington conducted by the World Affairs Councils of America, a national organization of which our Naples Council is a member.

Beginning next academic year, we will be engaging with **Gulf Coast High School (GCHS) in its enhanced curriculum in international studies**. This school has excelled in this field over the past half-dozen years or so under the guidance of Sue Soulard, our "Teacher of the Year" a few years ago. Its students participate in a Model United Nations program that takes them to competitions all over the country (including our own competition at FGCU), and GCHS students feature prominently in our scholarship programs.

GCHS is the **ONLY** high school in Collier County that maintains this emphasis on international studies, and we want to encourage it in further developing a program that other schools will want to replicate.

It's all about the Council's mission – to stimulate interest in and promote a wider knowledge and understanding of world affairs. What better way to do this than to work with the young people that one day soon will be running this country?

Dan Bumstead, *Chair*

NCWA 2013 Annual Dinner Honorees

Due to limitations of space, most of our NCWA members cannot attend the season-ending annual dinner, and are likely unaware of those who are honored there. This year, four deserving individuals were recognized for their contributions to the work and success of the NCWA, and we'd like to be sure we bring them to the attention of our full membership.



The 2014 NCWA Annual Dinner was held April 10th at the Port Royal Club. Our featured speaker, Neal Conan gave a very interesting speech on his experiences during his 36 years with National Public Radio and host of "Talk of the Nation."

After dinner, three awards were presented:

Sharlene and Park Davis were presented The President's award for their outstanding work as co-chairs of the Outreach Middle School Academic World Quest work on other Outreach programs, as well as the Model United Nations program

Chris Kossman, a teacher at Golden Gate High School, was presented the Teacher of the Year award, an annual NCWA award recognizing outstanding teaching and support for NCWA student outreach programs.

Wendy Hodgson, Social Studies coordinator for Collier County Public Schools, was presented a special award to recognize her collaborative work for the last five years with Outreach programs, and the notable contribution she made to their success.

Chuck Stuart, Chair



Sharlene and Park Davis
Judi Lipnick



Chris Kossman



Wendy Hodgson



Mimi Gregory Speaker Neal Conan
Judi Lipnick



Chuck Stuart and
Iqbal Mamdani



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LECTURE BROADCASTS

Our Lecture Series is aired on
Sunday nights at 8:00 pm
after the Monday lectures

Thanks to our partnership with WGCU-FM, Public Media

The lectures can be heard on
WGCU: 90.1 FM, Naples and
WMKO: 91.7 FM, Marco Island

Gregory E. Hudson, *Newsletter Editor*