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Editor: Carol Green

President's Message - April 2, 2021



Jim Schmotter

Secretary of State Dean Acheson once observed that his predecessor, George Marshall, was a legendary leader because of his unique abilities in the “apprehension of imponderables.” We at the Naples Council on World Affairs

cannot compare ourselves to the great general and statesman Marshall, but we have, like him, often this season found ourselves “apprehending imponderables.”

When we switched our final lectures of 2019-20 to Zoom last March and, like the world, battened down our individual and collective hatches, we did not know what we would face in 2020-21. After considerable conversation, our board decided to proceed with our programming in virtual mode.

Lectures, Great Decisions conversations, Academic World Quest competitions, and Model United Nations were all transfigured to be presented digitally. This required intensive training of participants in all areas, and willing volunteers and participants spent hundreds of hours in this effort. But until the programs were launched, they remained “imponderable” to many of us.

The vast majority of this programming is now behind us, and I’m happy to report that the questions and concerns we’ve had have been answered. While different from our usual face-to-face gatherings, virtual lectures have been thought-provoking and widely attended. Great Decisions groups have continued their robust discussions on Zoom. Thanks to preparation and the assistance of the Collier County Public Schools and other Southwest Florida educators, both Academic World Quest programs and Model UN have engaged students with critical global issues. And from my interactions with students in both programs, I can attest that a rewarding time was had by all.

So, the decisions we made over the past months to address COVID-19’s imponderables appear to have been the correct ones. We especially appreciate the patience, support, and good will of all NCWA members. We hope that you’ve found your interactions with the Council this year worthwhile. From the numbers of you renewing your membership for next year, that appears to be the case.

Imponderables still remain, but it is our hope and intent to be able to present our menu of programs in live, human (not digital) form next year. We’ll stay in close touch to let you know our progress as we work on this in the weeks and

months ahead.

Again, thank you for your confidence in the Council and for your belief in our mission: “To educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues.”

Get your vaccine and enjoy the summer ahead,
Jim Schmotter
President

NCWA Welcomes Four New Board Members

Members of the Naples Council on World Affairs elected four new members to three-year terms on its Board of Directors at its annual meeting March 29.

Beginning their 2021-24 terms are Robert Roussel, Mark Schwab, Stuart Schweitzer and Alan Van Egmond. President Jim Schmotter thanked former Board member Robert Haffa, who retired from his position at the end of his terms.

Robert Roussel has served on the NCWA School Outreach Committee, where he worked on the Academic World Quest program for middle and high schools, has been a Model UN judge and is a member of Great Decisions. A dual U.S. and EU citizen, he is a retired marketing director and senior executive from the insurance industry, where he served in Europe and New York. His wife is Belgian, his son was born in France, his daughter in Germany, and the family speaks five languages.

Mark Schwab is a former senior vice president of United Airlines and other airlines based in the US, Tokyo and Frankfurt, where he was most recently CEO of the Star Alliance program, a grouping of 28 airlines from around the world. He grew up in Guatemala and Brazil and lived in a number of Latin American countries. He is a board member of Greater Naples Leadership and has served on the NCWA School Outreach Committee.

Stuart Schweitzer, an economist, retired as head of global markets strategic development for JPMorgan where he was a leading voice explaining global economic issues to investors and the public. He has led a Great Decisions group for several years and received the NCWA Volunteer of the Year Award for his work in bringing the Great Decisions program onto the Zoom platform during this year.

Alan Van Egmond has been on the advisory and executive boards of NCWA's Model UN program and a member of the Great Decisions program, as well as having raised funds for scholarships and financial awards to deserving students in NCWA's educational programs. His career spans leadership roles with non-governmental organizations, Congress and U.S. government agencies in many parts of the world. He has worked as a senior foreign service officer with the Agency for International Development, State Department and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, working on policy development for several areas of the world.

OUR MISSION:

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

Officers:

Jim Schmotter, President

Mimi Gregory, Vice President for Programs

Gunther Winkler, Vice President of Operations

Joyce Fletcher, Secretary

Bob Erbsstein, Treasurer

Robert Haffa Leaves Board After Two Terms

NCWA thanks Robert Haffa for his two three-year terms of service on our

volunteer Board of Directors. He began service in 2015 and assumed chair of the School Outreach Committee in 2018, overseeing the Academic World Quest and scholarship programs, as well as enhancing relationships with Collier County Public Schools. Bob has led a Great Decisions group for five years and will continue in that role. He authored introductory chapters to the program's briefing book in 2017 and 2019.

"Most rewarding during my NCWA tenure was assisting and coordinating our National War College Day every two years," Bob said. "As a National War College graduate, I took particular pleasure in inviting faculty to address the Council membership in what was always an inspiring and educational day."

Directors for 2021-22 (year beginning March 29, 2021):

Jim Fleck
Jean Foster
Carol Green
Bill Korstad
Edwin S. Leland
Judith Lipnick

Gerry Melnick
Robert Roussel
Mark Schwab
Stu Schweitzer
Alan Van Egmond
Mark Walchak

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.

Three Students in Global Scholars Program

By MIMI GREGORY

NCWA Board Member and Global Scholars Program Chair

Let us introduce you to our three Global Scholars, members of the Daniel D. Bumstead Global Scholar Pilot Program. Finishing up their first -- and hopefully

last -- virtual year joining us via Zoom for lectures and Great Decisions meetings, we are proud of their enduring interest and their active participation along with our members.

As the lecture season draws to a close, the last discussion of Great Decisions left us with this question: "Have we Reached the End of Globalisation?" We are anticipating their summaries of targeted lectures and Great Decision topics that have piqued their strongest interests.

The scholars are Alexander J.G.R. Wilson of Seacrest Country Day School, Win Thant Hlaing of Gulf Coast High School, and Alexia Espinosa Vlad of Barron Collier High School. Alexia joined the program as a sophomore in September, while Alex and Win joined as sophomores last year and are now juniors.

The Global Scholar Program, which began last year with the admission of Alex and Win, provides certification after the students complete course work during sophomore, junior and senior years suitable for 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, Great Decisions groups and a one-week program on international relations or national security at Georgetown University in Washington DC. The winning scholar is given a \$5,000 award.

Committee members assisting with this important project are Bob Erbstein, Greg Hudson, Gerry Melnick and Judi Lipnick.



Alexia Espinoza Vlad

Alexia joins the Global Scholars Program this year as a participant in Scholar Bowl, Academic World Quest, Model UN and Barron Collier’s Debate Society. She has plans for an active program with Amnesty International as founder and president once her school begins allowing new clubs. In addition, she is singing with the Naples Philharmonic Youth Choir.

“As a society, we tend to focus on what is happening in our own lives and what is directly affecting us. This isn’t necessarily a good or bad thing, but it does create a sentiment among Americans that what happens outside of our country is not relevant to our lives.

“This thinking is prevalent throughout all generations, especially my own. I’ve lost track of how many times someone my age has told me that I’m too young to think about foreign affairs. What these teens don’t understand is that international politics is the most impactful aspect of our world system,” she wrote in her essay applying for the program. “The Global Scholar Program (gives) me the opportunity to surround myself with other young peers who have the same mindset that I do, (and) it also gives me a chance to delve into international issues from our small city of Naples.”



Alexander Wilson

Alex's teacher and History Department chair describes a student who worked to start an International Club at Seacrest this past school year, which met weekly to discuss current international affairs and ultimately formed an Academic World Quest team for his school. He is studying Spanish because of a strong interest in Latin America and is a debate team topic organizer.

"Alex has a very unique, global perspective. He has lived in several different countries, traveled the world extensively already, and has a clear sense of the world in which he lives," his teacher wrote. Alex has lived and studied in Dubai, Hong Kong, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the U.S.

"I am interested in making a career in international relations and being able to meet and interact with people who are actively making a living in this field," Alex wrote in his application. "I have already had the privilege of listening to speakers from the Naples Council on World Affairs. Watching these experts showing their insights on sensitive issues made me hungry to learn more and watch more lectures. It is one thing reading about these problems and learning about them from a book or online, but hearing about them from people that were there, from experts that have spent their lives studying and understanding these issues, is a unique opportunity."



Win Thant Hlaing

Win's high school counselor describes him as an exceptionally focused student in an accelerated Advanced Placement and honors program of study at Gulf Coast High School. He has taken Advanced Placement Human Geography, was on the Model United Nations and Academic World Quest teams, on his school's debate team, and a member of the National Junior Honor Society and the Naples Philharmonic Youth Symphonia and Orchestra. He also was captain of the Scholar Bowl team, president of the French Honor Society and a member of the swim team and was recognized as an outstanding delegate at the University of Florida's Gator Model UN competition.

In his application, Win wrote of a summer spent as a Buddhist monk with his brother and father in the poor villages of Myanmar, "a country of distress, yet subtle beauty."

"Unaware of the troubles of the outside world, everyone seemed blissfully ignorant, unfettered by the issues outside their borders, unaffected by their impacts. Religion and the present were all that mattered. During my time as a monk, however, I discovered that underneath their 'thick skin' there lay a sharp intuition and a desire to make a difference in the world, prevalent in the youth. All that hindered them was a lack of knowledge. They lacked a guide to

discover the path to succeed in the world outside their villages,” he wrote.

“And, that summer, I worked to be their guide -- a guide who could help them discover that path. That summer of work proved to be an exciting gateway for me into the world of global affairs, where I could truly help people and make a difference. People all across the world are lacking in knowledge of global affairs, something which could benefit both their education and their lives. I hope to gain greater knowledge to enhance my ability to aid the underprivileged in foreign countries, allowing them to develop and become truly successful in the world outside their villages.”

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 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 More Timely Lectures Will Close The Season



Mimi Gregory

By MIMI GREGORY
NCWA Board Member and Vice President for Programs

Well, the news about the giant freighter getting stuck sideways in the Suez Canal was certainly daunting! Had we been just a week later in presenting our program with Nabil Fahmy and Steven Cook, the questions might well have been centered on “how do we get those 200,000 metric tons moving?” Given that the length of the container ship is equivalent to the height of the Empire State Building, I am fairly confident that the situation generated a lot of discussion in the coffee shops in Cairo. Fortunately, it is moving again.

We must thank our speakers for a good discussion on U.S.-Arab relations, and especially in this case, where Zoom makes a speaker in Cairo and one in Washington a perfect reality.

We will be welcoming Dr. Stephen Morrison of the Center for Strategic and International Studies on April 5. His topic: “Global Health in the Time of Covid 19” could not be more timely. Looking ahead, Dr. Morrison will discuss the possible variants and “vaccine hesitancy,” as well as the foreign policy issues and the lack of diplomatic discussion between the U.S. and China over “the blame game.”

April 19 will close our season of 12 lectures, as Ambassador William Taylor will join us once again to speak to the challenge of having Russia as a neighbor. We owe this former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine a debt of gratitude for stepping into a very complicated relationship between the U.S. and Ukraine during the former administration. His knowledge of the region gives him a perfect illustration of the task ahead: “What is Putin’s next move”?

We close this season with great optimism that we will meet again in person at St. John’s. Please keep your fingers crossed!

THE NCWA LECTURE SEASON

“THE CHALLENGE OF FREEDOM”

Lecture times and video links will be issued by email prior to the dates.

April 5:

“Global Health in the Time of Covid-19”

Dr. J. Stephen Morrison, Director, Global Health Center, Center for Strategic and International Studies

April 19: - *bonus lecture for NCWA full members only*

“Ukraine: The Clear and Present Danger Living as Russia’s Neighbor”

Ambassador William B. Taylor, United States Institute of Peace

PAST LECTURES

If you missed any of these lectures, they are archived on video.

See our website to catch up!

October 12: - *bonus lecture for NCWA full members only*

“Lincoln on the Verge: 13 Days to Washington”

Ted Widmer, Ph.D., Macaulay Honors College

November 2:

“Twilight of Democracy; The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism”

Anne Applebaum, American Historian, Journalist, “The Atlantic”

November 16:

“The Battle for Pakistan, The Bitter U.S. Friendship and a Tough Neighborhood”

Shuja Nawaz: Distinguished Fellow, South Asia Center, The Atlantic Council

December 7:

“China’s Western Horizon: Beijing and the New Geopolitics of Eurasia”

Daniel S. Markey, Professor, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS

January 11:

“The Art of War in an Age of Peace: A New U.S. Grand Strategy of Resolute Restraint”

Michael E. O’Hanlon, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

January 25:

"Is There A New Nuclear Reality in Our Future?"

Joseph Cirincione, Author of "Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons"

February 8: "Isolationism: A History of America's Efforts to Shield Itself from the World," Charles A. Kupchan, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

February 22: "The Global Economy in a Post Covid-19 World"

Daniel Alpert, Founding and Managing Partner, Westwood Capital

March 8: "Global Geopolitical Power Shifts and 5G, Quantum and AI"

Richard B. Andres, Professor, U.S. National War College

March 22: "Turkey, Egypt, and the Battle for the Middle East"

Steven A. Cook, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations, and
Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, Dean, American University of Cairo

Model United Nations Students Dazzle Again



Ed Leland
Model UN Chair

By MO WINOGRAD
Model UN Co-Chair

One of the prime educational outreach programs of the Naples Council on World Affairs is the Model UN program of Southwest Florida, which NCWA began in 1989 in cooperation with the Collier County Board of Education. It continues to be a source of pride.

The young people of Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties never disappoint. These young stars dazzled the Model UN judges once again. Every year we hear the same comments from the judges about how smart these kids are and how they will be fine stewards when it's their turn.

A variety of different awards were available this year and many of the teams won money for their Model UN clubs, which allows them to compete in other competitions to hone their skills.

We started the awards ceremony by announcing the winners of the Special Competition. This is like an extra credit exercise in which any registered school can participate. This year five of the 15 schools participated. The funding for this special competition was provided by Howard and Nancy Cohen, Mickey and Mo Winograd and Julie and Alan Van Egmond. The winners are:

1st place	\$500	Lely High School
2nd place	\$350	Golden Gate High School
3rd place	\$200	Gulf Coast High School
4th place	\$125	Bishop Verot High School
5th place	\$ 75	Bonita Springs High School

The winners of the many scholarships provided through NCWA can be found at

this link:

<https://www.swfilmun.org/2021>

Thanks to the extraordinary contributions from our NCWA members, these Model UN delegates (competitors) took home some serious money. The most notable include:

Port Charlotte	Brennen Fender	Robert King Award, \$3,000
Gulf Coast	Clarisse Fontes	Ronald & Marianne Gymer Award, \$2,500
Cape Coral	Shannon Dougherty	Gregor Zore & Edith Hunt Award, \$2,500
Cape Coral	Roan Borghi	Thomas J. O'Gorman Memorial Award, \$2,500
Port Charlotte	Jonah Katz	Mimi Gregory Award, \$2,500
Gulf Coast	Hadi Dalao	David & Beverly Worthington Award, \$2,000
Cape Coral	Melanie Pena	Sasha Rethati Award, \$1,500
Gulf Coast	Walezka Abdala	George Gotschall Memorial Award, \$1,500

Two students won \$1,000 prizes for their Model UN clubs at their high schools. 2021 Performance Awards went to:

Gulf Coast	Eden Krumholz	\$1,000
Barron Collier	Allyson Horst	\$1,000

Top Delegations were:

1st Place (\$1,000):	China	(Gulf Coast High School)
2nd Place (\$700):	Spain	(Gulf Coast High School)
3rd Place (\$500):	Ethiopia	(Gulf Coast High School)

Most Improved School in 2021: **Bonita Springs High School** **\$300**

The Model UN program is designed to impart important skills and knowledge to students, including negotiating, bargaining and communication skills; representing a foreign perspective in a disciplined forum; enhancing awareness and informing students about critical global issues, and acquainting students with the workings of the United Nations. A number of students have moved on

to careers in influential international or government arenas based on interests and knowledge developed in this innovative program.

Gulf Coast High School Student Wins \$6,000 Ralph Bunche Scholarship



Christie Ryan of Gulf Coast High School won the prestigious Ralph J. Bunche Award and Scholarship worth \$6,000 by accumulating the most points for participating in Model UN for a number of years.

This scholarship was begun four years ago with a \$2,000 contribution by Dick Clemens and his wife. Several others donated to it so that the first Ralph J. Bunche Award totaled \$2,750. Many more of our Naples Council members have donated to the scholarship over the past few years and it has now become a \$6,000 scholarship. The idea of creating the scholarship in honor of a very significant man involved in the United Nations originated with Dick Clemens and we are most grateful.

We encourage you to watch the final awards program and learn about who Ralph Bunche was and why it is so significant for us to have a scholarship in his name. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rqHH_9Ch24

Model UN: A Team of Heroes in a Challenging Year



Mo Winograd

By MO WINOGRAD
Model UN Co-Chair

Whoever came up with the saying “It takes a village” was spot on. Model UN 2021 presented more challenges than normal once we decided that the only way we could proceed was to go virtual with the entire competition.

Many people went way beyond the call of duty. At the top of that list was Beth Foss, who has been managing the back room of Model UN for NCWA for more than 20 years. Beth found Gatherly, the most ideal software for our competition, and set about getting all of the Executive Committee, 34 judges, 220 highschool delegates, and all their coaches trained before March 1. For four days before the competition began, she spent hours on the phone with school IT personnel in Collier and Lee, getting the firewalls adjusted so the students could gain access. Beth averaged probably seven or eight training sessions each week in January and February and did it each time with a smile, a sense of humor and the patience of Job.



Personally, I was most proud of the 34 judges who hung in with us and did as many trainings as they needed in order to participate. It consumed many more hours this year than ever before, and we're most grateful that everybody pitched in so we did not have to skip a year. About a week before the conference Beth actually said to me that she thought the judges were the best trained of everyone.

The following is a list of the members of the Naples Council who served as judges for Model UN in 2021. And what an awesome stable of well-trained judges they were! Hats off to every single one!

Richard Badolato	Robert King	Richard Ryder
Peter Borre	Craig Korkoian	Jim Schmotter
Eugene Burke	Karen Leland	Michael Smith
Howard Cohen	Marvin Lender	Chuck Theisen
Richard Cowan	Paula Lockhart	Mary Tousignant
Jill Force	Jessie Lovett	Mary Udell
Ron Gymer	Patrick Mattingly	Alan Van Egmond
David Heiman	Frank Mitchell	Julie Van Egmond
Paula Himowitz	Bobbi Polacheck	Steve Vesce
Pat Jackson	Jim Portnoy	Carol Vesce
Jan Johnson	John Psaras	

Many thanks to Dennis Parass, who was instrumental in getting the judges recruited, matched up with the UN committee they wished to serve on and

doing the training with them each available time. Dennis even stepped in and acted as a judge when one had to step away for two hours.

Another very significant contribution to the program was made by the “readers,” or volunteers who evaluated students’ position papers, which are one-page papers on various international topics. Our readers were:

Judy Baker	Bill Hollister	Judi Mollerus
Pat Cacho	Jen Johnson	Michael Smith
Martha Davis	Kishor Kulkarni	Chuck Theisen
Natalie Fisher	Barbara Lafer	Don Timm
Joe Forgiano	Paula Lockhart	Julie Van Egmond
Joanne Fowler	Elie McLaren	Greg Weber
Mike Himowitz	Ruthmarie Mitsch	Bill Woods
Bruce Hobbs		

One new wrinkle this year that worked out exceedingly well was that many of our chairs, usually provided by FGCU Model UN Club participants, this year came from around the globe. We had two from Spain, one from Germany, one from Minnesota and they networked among themselves to find others who still compete after undergrad. They introduced us to another type of new software called MUN command used by most of the European Model UNs, and the developer participated throughout the conference and may be working with interested Model UN judges from our stable to further develop the software so it can be useful to the judges next year.



Steve Vesce



Chelsea Peters

One other unsung hero in this Model UN was Steve Vesce, a judge and co-vice chair of MUN. Not only did he secure our guest speaker, Chelsea Peters, <https://www.swfilmun.org/guest-speaker>, but he “produced” the opening session for Model UN with Mike Martin, president of FGCU, and Ed Leland, Chair of Model UN.

When you listen to Chelsea Peters speak about the career she has had with ten years at UNICEF, it certainly will renew your faith that the younger generations will be very fine stewards of the world we leave them.

Steve also produced videos to be used for breaks, as well as the final awards video. Beth Foss secured all the pictures from the individual high school delegates as well as pictures of the Model UN high school teams, and, somehow, Steve, working with Anica Sturdivant at FGCU (who created the videos we have posted here,) gave us a fabulous final awards video we hope you will all take time to watch at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rqHH_9Ch24.

All of these young people were awe inspiring. It is a feeling we all share each year when we wrap up another successful MUN.

We cannot close out without acknowledging the leadership provided by our

Model UN Chair, Ed Leland. He knows how to dot every “i” and cross every “t.” This year had many challenges, but Ed just soldiered on and the rest of us fell in line and did our duty. We believe our Model UN was very successful under trying times and we have Ed’s leadership to thank for that. Ed did us proud.

Long-Distance Judge



Richard Ryder, a long-tenured Model UN judge, participated this year from Vermont, showing the dedication of our NCWA members to this program.

READERS NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR’S MODEL UN!

NCWA’s Southwest Florida Model UN program is growing. Position papers submitted by students are playing an increasingly important role in the competition. A reader (position paper evaluator) reviews and ranks approximately 20 one-page papers on a variety of international topics.

Each delegate to the Model UN is encouraged to submit a position paper on the

topic that their Model UN Committee will be discussing from the point of view of the country they represent. A student must submit a position paper to be considered for a financial award or individual committee award.

We expect to receive 200-300 papers in 2022, so we need a large team of readers, each willing to rank 20 randomly selected papers in the first round of review. Each paper is limited to one page in a prescribed format with a second page for citations permitted. While a delegation representing a country is from one school, readers receive a variety of papers from multiple schools by students on different committees writing on different topics, so there is plenty of variety.

Readers are not expected to be experts on any of these topics but need to have good writing skills and the ability to fairly judge high school papers. They will receive suggested guidelines for ranking the papers they receive but are free to create their own process. No comments, notes or ranking justifications are required -- only a ranked ordering of the 20 papers reviewed.

If this sounds like a fun way for you to contribute next year, Paula Himowitz at phimowitz@gmail.com can provide more information. Check it out!

A Stimulating Great Decisions Season Has Ended



Gerry Melnick

By GERRY MELNICK
NCWA Board Member and Great Decisions Chair

Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.”

--Joshua J. Marine

COVID-19 presented Great Decisions with a crucial challenge. Many participants were not returning to Naples for the season. The sites that leased space for the program were not available because of the pandemic. Members themselves were questioning whether the program could be sustained during this health crisis. Yet the issue for leadership was not to cancel the season but rather how to deliver the program in a safe environment.

It was decided to use the Zoom platform to conduct the eight-week sessions. This necessitated developing a training program for 28 group leaders, as well as for all participants who needed an understanding of how Zoom operates. Two group leaders, Carol Green and Stu Schweitzer, undertook the task and ultimately enabled the program to conclude successfully with over 600 participants.

We optimistically look forward to the 2022 season meeting with a return to “normality” as management of the health situation progresses. Registration for 2022 is currently in progress and with the new season comes some new faces.

Retirements have led to the need to replace three group leaders, and we have successfully engaged three talented individuals:

David Heiman: University of Cincinnati (BBA 1967, JD 1970) David founded the business restructuring practice of Jones Day, an international law firm, in 1984, headed the firm’s global business practice (1992-2003) and sat on the firm’s management committee (2002-2017). He has also been active in leadership positions in numerous non-profit organizations, including the American Bar Association, the American College of Bankruptcy (Chair, 2002 to 2005), and Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Deschappelles, Haiti (Vice Chair, 2011 to current). He has enjoyed Great Decisions since 2018.

Hank Venable: Received a BA in journalism-radio and television news from the University of Oklahoma, and subsequently an MD degree from Oklahoma. Between his undergraduate and graduate studies, he served in the US Army as

a helicopter pilot. He trained as an anesthesiologist in Miami and practiced in Florida and Texas, retiring in 2018. Along the way, he completed a Master of Business Administration at the University of South Florida and later a Master of Liberal Studies from Rice University in Houston. He and his wife, Susan Krauter, MD, have participated in Great Decisions since 2019.

Larry Goode: Graduate of Rollins College with a BA in history and public affairs and a minor in secondary education. Most of his career was as owner of RT/Dygert International, a wholesale distributor and importer of high precision, technical rubber and plastic parts used as seals in anything containing fluids under vacuum or pressure. For the last 12 years he has been active in management consulting, two angel Investment groups, an irrigation technology startup company and several non- and for-profit boards. He has been a member of NCWA and Great Decisions for 10 years.

School Outreach



Robert Haffa
NCWA Board Member And
School Outreach Committee Chair

High School Academic World Quest Proves Its Adaptability

By SANDY KARAGANIS

Chair of High School Academic World Quest Competition for 2021

In past years the student teams competing in the World Affairs Council of America's High School Academic World Quest clustered together in large group gatherings with pencils poised over answer sheets.

But the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the Council to cancel last year's Quest, forced us this year to substantially change the format of the competition -- while preserving the intellectual challenge of academic teams that has made the Quest so special in the past.

Instead of all the teams sitting together as in past years, this year each four-member World Quest team from Collier County schools huddled together in front of a monitor with their team captain in charge of clicking on the correct answer.

Sponsored for nearly two decades by the Naples Council on World Affairs in cooperation with the World Affairs Councils, the competition challenges students from public and independent high schools in Collier County to answer 100 multiple-choice questions taken from 10 categories relating to important events in the world that test students' knowledge of current events, international politics, geography, global economics and world cultures. The categories and questions change annually. This year, students pondered questions on the Arab Spring, the U.S. Foreign Service and the post-pandemic economy, among others. Students and their teacher coaches prepared by studying an online guide supplied by the World Affairs Council.

This year, the online competition hosted 12 teams from five local high schools -- Lely, Barron Collier, The Community School of Naples, Gulf Coast High School and Naples High School. The first- and second-place winning teams came from Gulf Coast High School, coached by Sue Soulard. The third-place winners were from The Community School of Naples, coached by Mike Mansfield.

This year has certainly been a challenge for teachers and students throughout Naples. In past years, the Quest had been held at the Community School gymnasium, where students, parents, Council members and observers mingled without restraint.

All three winning Naples teams will compete in the national World Affairs Council competition on April 17. We look forward to it with enthusiasm and appreciation for all the efforts of the students and teachers in our Naples community.

High School Academic World Quest Winning Teams



Members winning first place were from Team A from Gulf Coast High School. They were, from left, Zayn Dalao, Mickey Kwa, Nick McClure and Hadi Dalao, team captain. Presenting the trophy is Jim Schmotter, NCWA president, right.



Team B from Gulf Coast High School won second place. From left are Robert Haffa, chair of the NCWA School Outreach Committee, team members Sonny Tran, Aiden Cahill, team captain; Bharath Ram and Joseph Hernandez, and Jim Schmotter, NCWA president.

14 Teams Compete in Middle School AWQ

By MARK WALCHAK
NCWA Board Member

Fourteen teams from six schools competed in the NCWA annual Middle School Academic World Quest, proving again the flexibility of our students and NCWA leaders in the use of online programs in the time of COVID-19.

The teams competed in their own schools, emceed by Bob Haffa, School Outreach chairman, using WebEx software.

Ten questions in each of 10 categories were presented on software from MyQuiz. Sandy Karaganis, chair of this year's competition, made sure all teams

were logged in for each section before starting that section, after which teams had 25 seconds to decide on an answer for each question.

Winning first place was the North Naples Middle School team. Second place was Team A from Pine Ridge Middle School and third was Team B from Oakridge Middle School.



The North Naples Middle School team was first-place winner of the Middle School Academic World Quest competition. From left are Noah Marshall, sixth grade; Luke Brown, sixth grade; Selma Parfene, eighth grade, and Isidor Radojevic, eighth grade, team captain.

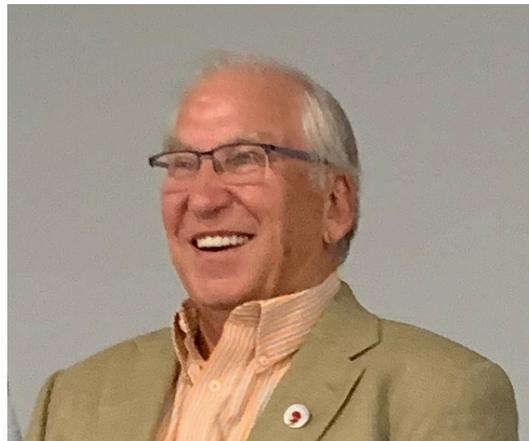
Second place was won by Pine Ridge Middle School Team A, coached by Lisa Carrier. Members were Ariama Russian, team captain; Alex Russian, Gabriella Chernysh and Jossimar Reyes-Barrios.

The third place team was Oakridge Middle School Team B, coached by Taylor Wilson and Laura Heald. Members were Jayden Gomez, team captain; Jon Ellis, Anderson McAdams and Joshua Lairt.

Reminder to NCWA Members

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 Whizzes!



Mark Walchak

By MARK WALCHAK
NCWA Board Member



The weekly “What in the World” Quiz started as a new benefit for NCWA members in January is drawing participation of up to 280 members a week. A range of 20-40 people achieve perfect scores consistently. Every Monday afternoon the quiz is posted on the NCWA website under the “Additional Benefits” tab, so be sure to test your knowledge of international events!

Special recognition goes to Robert and Heather Zavod, who got a perfect score on all quizzes in March!

Those receiving at least one perfect score in March were Bruce Bacon, M. Bailey, E. Bassett, Claude Beaudoin, Steven Beckett, Gary Biernesser, Ed Bjorncrantz, William Blomquist, John Broadbent, Gunilla Broadbent, William Brock, Eileen Brooks, Jerry Burke, Joseph Curran, Terri David,

George Day, Harry Dimopoulos, Dave Distad, Helene Drapeau, Barrett Edwards, B. Eissner, Regina Espenshade, Judith Falese, Fran Fee, Michael Finkel, Natalie Fisher, James Gerspacher, Howard Gilbert, Benjamin Glick, Paul Goldstein,

Lewis Hadelman, Manson Hall, Tom Hanson, Dieter Haussmann, Todd Joseph, William Kenney, Robert Kincaide, John King, Harriet Lancaster, Marjorie Lewis, Bruce MacDougal, Richard Macken, Stuart Melnick, Frank Mitchell, Robert A. Morse,

Susan Hall Muelder, Francis Murphy, Dominique Najjar, Dick Norwood, Vivian Patterson, John Psaras, Barbara Reed, Marilyn Rozsa, Ken Schmidt, Jim

Schmotter, Mark Schwab, Wes Scott, Kathy Shampaine, Carol Shepard, Sue and B.B. Smiley, Julia Smiley,

Michael Smiley, Jerome Spivack, Wally and Sue Stimpson, Ken Stowe, Colin Taylor, Don A. Timm, Richard Toder, Art Treuhafts, Bob Trimper, Juliane Van Egmond, Mark Vaughn, Edward Walsh, Mark Weber, J. Wilson, Kent Willoughby, Mo Winograd and Philip Wyckoff.

Village Assistance Program



*Joyce Fletcher
NCWA Board Member
and VAP Program Chair*

By JOYCE FLETCHER

NCWA Board Secretary and Village Assistance Program Chair

An exciting manufacturing-marketing partnership is developing between students in Brazil and Collier County, fulfilling one of the outreach objectives of NCWA through its Village Assistance Program (VAP).

During this program year, the Naples Council has established a relationship

between our current grantee, the Brazil ACER Eldorado Textile Project, and the Entrepreneurship Department students of the Collier County Public Schools. This relationship fulfills the objective to offer a small grant for a project of interest to a NCWA member in a poor community abroad and that can have a relationship with local school students.

The Brazil students are sewing while the Florida students are developing marketing and sales plans for an item the students have developed to meet a need they identified. Coordinating their plans online, they will sell their work in their local markets and abroad. The seven teenage girls are also learning to design and sew clothing, which also will be for sale.

The NCWA Board of Directors has approved an additional small grant for this textile project requested by member Judith Gates to purchase two more lock-stitch direct drive industrial sewing machines and fabric. These had been included originally, but some funds had to be diverted to make the facility in Brazil COVID-19 safe before the students could return.

In addition, NCWA member Patricia Gullo has submitted a grant application for this year on behalf of the Imani Milele Children, Inc/ Lugazi School and Orphanage for a water holding tank in the Uganda Bush, northwest of Kampala, to capture clean rain water during the rainy season to use during the dry seasons. The students and staff now collect water from streams and small lakes that are often contaminated. We are continuing to pursue a connection with students from our schools, perhaps a pen pal type program.

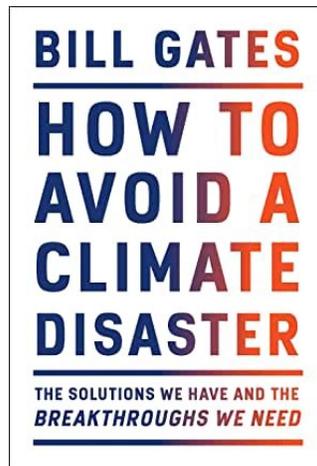
The NCWA Board of Directors has approved a total \$6,095 for these two programs for 2020-2021.

The VAP was initiated a few 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.

NCWA Book Club



Bill Korstad
NCWA Board Member
Book Club Chair



Check out the NCWA Book Club! It meets the first Tuesday of each month to read current significant works relevant to foreign affairs and important global trends. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 6, from 12:00 noon to 1:15 pm via Zoom.

The group will discuss the new Bill Gates book, *How to Avoid a Climate*

Disaster: Solutions We have and the Breakthroughs We Need. With the administration's focus on climate, the Gates book is an obvious choice. It's currently a best seller and may even be one of the most talked-about books this year.

To join the Book Club list and get a Zoom link, email Bill at bkorstad@mac.com. Members and Associate Members are invited.

Celebrating All Who Made This Year Successful

Resilience, energy, dedication, belief in the importance of a mission bigger than ourselves... All of these are the character traits that make a difference in a chaotic world. Those who pulled together to produce another successful season for the Naples Council on World Affairs demonstrated those traits – and more.

And so, while we acknowledge a year of difficulties, let us pause and express our gratitude to each other for serving our members and our community so well. We are grateful to all who made it happen:

Officers and Directors for 2020-21:

Jim Schmotter, President

Gunther Winkler, Vice President of Operations

Mimi C. Gregory, Vice President for Programs

Joyce Fletcher, Secretary

Bob Erbstein, Treasurer

Jim Fleck

Robert P. Haffa

Joyce Fletcher

Bill Korstad

Jean Foster

Edwin S. Leland

Carol Green

Judith Lipnick

Ron Gymer

Mark Walchak

Committee Chairs:

Finance:

Bob Erbstein

Programs:	Mimi C. Gregory
Special Activities:	Mimi C. Gregory
Model United Nations:	Edwin S. Leland
Great Decisions:	Gerry Melnick
School Outreach Program:	Robert P. Haffa
Village Assistance Program:	Joyce Fletcher
Membership:	Judith Lipnick
Website:	Gunther Winkler
Hospitality:	Bill Korstad
Newsletter:	Carol Green
Nominating Committee:	Gunther Winkler

Program Committee Members:

Mimi C. Gregory, Vice President for Programs

Earl Anderson	William P. Pope
Bill Korstad	Judy Rubinstein
Edwin S. Leland	Wallace Stimpson

Committee for Special Activities:

Mimi C. Gregory, Vice President for Programs

Joseph Bianco	Robert P. Haffa
Harry G. Dimopoulos	Jonathan W. Mohle
Book Club:	Bill Korstad

Great Decisions Group Leaders

Gerry Melnick, Chair

Group Leaders:

David Brown	Robert P. Haffa	George Purvis
Marcia Eaton	Tom and Nancy Harrison	Robert Ravitz
Steve Feldhaus	Bruce Hobbs	Paul Rosofsky
John Ferriter	Gregory E. Hudson	Bob Sanchez
Joyce Fletcher	Bill Korstad	Stuart Schweitzer
Judith Gates	Marjorie Lewis	Rusty Troth

Carol Green	Gerry Melnick	Wallace Stimpson
David Goldstein	Ted Olson	Mark Walchak
Lew Hadelman	William Pope	Mo Winograd

Village Assistance Program:

Joyce Fletcher, Chair

Bob Erbstein	Bill Korstad
Marjorie Lewis	Judith Lipnick

Membership Committee:

Judith Lipnick, Chair

Bob Erbstein Jim Schmotter Gunther Winkler

Nominating Committee:

Gunther Winkler, Chair

Mimi C. Gregory	Mo Winograd
Mark Walchak	Carol Green

Finance Committee:

Bob Erbstein, Chair

Mimi C. Gregory	Judith Lipnick
Ron Gymer	Jim Schmotter

Southwest Florida Model UN Executive Committee:

Ed Leland, Chair

Mo Winograd, Vice Chair

Steve Vesce, Vice Chair

Alan Van Egmond, Recruitment and Mentoring Chair

Dennis Parass, MUN Judges Chair

Paula Himowitz, Position Paper Chair

FGCU Committee:

Ed Leland, Co-Chair Rick Coughlin, Co-Chair

Beth Foss	Nicole Stanco
Dennis Paras	Alan Van Egmond
Roxana Ruiz Rodriguez	Steve Vesce
Mo Winograd	

Advisory Committee:

Ed Leland, Chair	Mo Winograd, Vice Chair
Earl Anderson	Ron Gymer
Alan Van Egmond	Judith Lipnick
Bob Erbstein	Donna Suddeth
Beth Foss	Mary Udell

School Outreach Committee:

Robert P. Haffa, Chair

Jean Foster, Secretary

Mikeol Stroth, Collier County Public Schools

Gary Biernesser	Joyce Fletcher	Rob Pendergrass
Jack Bovee	Mimi C. Gregory	Robert Roussel
Eugene Burke	Ron Gymer	Jim Seymour
Linda Crescenzi	Richard Harris	Mark Walchak
Ken Cyrus	Sandy Karaganis	Nancy Wallace
Debbie Doyle	Judith Lipnick	Jim Fleck
Phillip Markin		

Global Scholar Committee:

Robert Erbstein	Judith Lipnick
Mimi C. Gregory	Gerry Melnick

Hospitality Committee:

Bill Korstad, Chair

Want a spouse or friend to receive the NCWA
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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 judithlipnick@gmail.com.

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