



World Affairs Councils of America

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Newsletter

August 2011

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A Note from our President

Dear Colleagues,

The drama of the past several weeks regarding the debt ceiling limit has put Washington, the state of American politics and America's ability to govern in the global spotlight. Not only America's Leadership has been questioned by other nations and global financial entities, but also America's wisdom and financial stability.

The need for Americans to understand these events puts a spotlight on our mission. It also puts a spotlight on our continued, persistent and historic commitment to civil discourse. As we witness American politics drifting further and further away from this essential tenet of democracy, the World Affairs Councils continue to remain true to our founding principles of providing a public platform for civil, non-partisan, debate and discussion on critical global issues.

The debt ceiling debate has also shined a spotlight on our Council Leadership's prescient vote earlier this year on the Top Six Issues for the 2012 Election. US Economic Competitiveness was selected as one of the Top Six Issues that need to be debated and discussed in the run-up to the Presidential Elections. This issue along with the other five chosen: US Education-Competing Globally, China, the Middle East, US Energy Policy, are front and center as the most critical issues that need to be debated and discussed during the election year.

Our Network-wide discussion of the Top Six National Security Issues for the 2012 Election will be publicly launched at this year's **National Conference, November 2-4, at the Mayflower Hotel**. As you can read below, we have the privilege of hosting our Nation's leading experts and policymakers on these issues and we hope that you will join us.

The Six Top National Security Issues for the 2012 Election are also

- Peter Edwards
- Akmaaq
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- [1918 Society Members](#)
- Chevron
- The Claremont Group
- El Paso Corporation
- ExxonMobil
- The Fox Family Foundation
- The Gambrinus Company
- Goldman Sachs
- Hutchins Family Foundation
- Merrill Lynch - Mr. Michael Phillip
- NATO
- Northrop Grumman
- Raytheon
- Saltzman & Evinch, P.C.
- The Stanley Foundation
- Strategic Forecasting, Inc.
- Thomson Reuters
- Turkish Cultural Foundation
- VSE Corporation

framing our **2011-2012 Academic WorldQuest Competition**. This is the **10th anniversary** year of Academic WorldQuest. As you will see below all of the materials are available and we look forward to working together with our Councils and our educators across the country to help educate and engage our future global leaders in America's high school on the critical global issues of our times.

The newsletter has much, much more including an excellent article in Share: The Best on Young Professional Programs from Trina Medarev, head of our Jacksonville Council and Uli Decker who runs their Education programs, information on the Taiwan Leadership Mission, and a listing of some of the very exciting activities taking place throughout the network.

It is a privilege to serve as President & CEO of this essential and dynamic network dedicated to civil discourse. We hope you find the information in this newsletter helpful to your efforts across the country and we hope to see you in November for our Annual Membership Meeting, Fall Leadership Meeting and 2011 National Conference.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lori E. Murray
 President & CEO
 World Affairs Councils of America

News from the National Network

2011 National Conference

US National Security: Six Top Issues for the 2012 Elections

Register now!
Early Bird Special!

Registration is now open for the **2011 National Conference, US National Security: Six Top Issues for the 2012 Elections!** The Conference will take place **November 2-4, 2011** at the **Mayflower Hotel** in Washington, DC. Also happening at that time will be our Fall Leadership Meeting for Council CEOs and Staff and our WACA Annual Membership Meeting. This year's conference will launch the year long discussion on the Six Top National Security Issues facing the

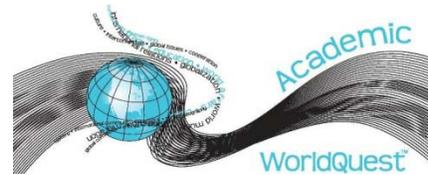


United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, which were selected by our council network leadership; **US Education: Competing Globally, US Energy Policy, Afghanistan/Pakistan, US Economic Competitiveness, the Middle East, and China.**

Join the Discussion! Confirmed speakers include: **Gloria Borger**, CNN Chief Political Analyst; **Charlie Cook**, Editor and Publisher of the Cook Political Report; **Doug Foshee**, Chairman, President & CEO of El Paso Corporation; **Ambassador Petr Gandalovic** of the Czech Republic; **Ambassador Marc Grossman**, US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan; **Stephen Hadley**, Former National Security Advisor; **General Michael Hayden**, Former Director of the CIA, NSA; **Richard Levin**, President of Yale University; **Bill McInturff**, Partner and co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies; Lead Pollster for McCain 2008; **Ambassador Ronald Neumann**, Former US Ambassador to Afghanistan; **Senator Sam Nunn**, Co-Chairman & CEO, Nuclear Threat Initiative; **Mark Penn**, Worldwide CEO of Burston-Marsteller; Advisor to Senator Hillary Clinton 2008; **Robin Wright**, United States Institute of Peace Senior Fellow; and **Daniel Yergin**, Chairman, Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Academic WorldQuest 2011-2012 Materials Available!

Join the Quest! This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the World Affairs Councils of America's flagship education program for high School Students on global issues, Academic WorldQuest.



10th Anniversary!!

This year's categories are:

US Education: Competing Globally; US Energy Policy;

US Economic Competitiveness; Middle

East; Afghanistan/Pakistan; China; NATO; UN Millennium Goals; Child Health; Azerbaijan; and Current Events.

The AWQ Study Guide is now available! [More Information](#)

Taiwan Leadership Mission

The **World Affairs Councils of America** is pleased to announce that **The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office** has offered to host a Leadership Mission to Taiwan

from **October 5-11, 2011**. We are currently accepting applications for participants. The deadline to apply is **Friday, August 5, 2011**. [More information.](#)

1918 Society

We are excited to announce that we have renamed the Chairman's Circle the **1918 Society**, and will be launching it this season with a new focus and benefits that we will be sharing with you soon.



The name "1918 Society" recalls the founding of the World Affairs Councils Network and the importance of its mission. In 1918, during the aftermath of World War I, the Foreign Policy Association and the World Affairs Councils joined forces to nurture grassroots citizen involvement in international affairs. At that time, as America was assuming an unprecedented leadership role in world affairs, American citizens were becoming aware of events on an international level to a degree previously unknown. Renaming this program serves to refocus on our commitment to our timeless mission of educating, inspiring and engaging Americans in international affairs and the critical global issues of our times.

Welcome to our New Council

We are pleased to welcome the **International Council of Central Florida** to the World Affairs Councils Network! [Click here](#) to find out more information about our newest council.

International Council
of Central Florida

New Website Design

Having trouble accessing our new website? Make sure to type in the new url: www.worldaffairscouncils.org. Visit us online to learn more information about the World Affairs Councils Network!

Engage America Series

Now Showing: *Before the Killing Begins: The Politics of Mass Violence*

The **World Affairs Councils of America** is pleased to join again ~~before the killing begins~~ The Politics of Mass Violence with the **Stanley Foundation** to provide to the WACA network a complimentary Now Showing event-in-a-box tool kit. Now Showing Before the Killing Begins: The Politics of Mass Violence considers how early preventive strategies by governments and the international community should build much-needed capacities within countries and make it harder

for leaders to resort to violence. It aims to encourage discussion of how future efforts might better protect populations under threat, giving new meaning to never again.

To sign up now and receive your complimentary event-in-a-box tool kit, go to www.stanleyfoundation.org/nowshowing.

Iran Study Group: Read Barry Blechman's op-ed piece on his visits to the World Affairs Councils

This Spring, WACA partnered with the Stimson Center on a WACA Engage America speaker tour addressing the work of the Iran Study Group. Barry Blechman, co-founder of the Stimson Center and the featured speaker on the tour, recently wrote an op-ed piece about his visits to World Affairs Councils across the country.

Common Sense on Iran by Barry Blechman
The Hill, July 14, 2011

I recently visited 12 American cities - from Anchorage to Colorado Springs to Charleston - to discuss Iran and the effort to stop its nuclear weapons program. I may not have drawn crowds as large as Lady Gaga's, but I did engage thousands of citizens directly or through local media. It was refreshing to be able to discuss the issue free from the political implications that color similar Washington conversations. Americans, I discovered, have a lot more common sense about our options than many Washington politicians. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Share: The Best

This column features a guest short essay from a Council CEO on a range of best practices topics, in an effort to help strengthen our council network and more broadly share our network expertise. Please feel free to contact the author directly with any further questions. This month's topic addresses Young Professionals and describes how the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville has been able to attract Young Professionals to the organization.

Connecting and Enlightening - Young Professionals

By Trina Medarev, Executive Director, World Affairs Council of Jacksonville and Uli Decker, Director of Education and Community Outreach

The Young Professionals (YPs) of the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville formed in 2008 to provide an opportunity for individuals between the ages of 21 and 40 to develop a greater understanding of the world while connecting with others who share an interest in international affairs and the globalization of

Northeast Florida.

Particularly over the last two years, the Council's YP membership has grown significantly and now includes 110 members (about 12% of the Jacksonville Council's membership.)

Guidance and Governance -A key component of our YP initiative is connecting the YPs to our Board of Directors. We do so by offering a yearly Mentor Program and hosting Global Exchanges, which bring together leaders of today and tomorrow. To ensure that YP interests are represented appropriately within the organization's leadership, two YP delegates serve on the Council's Board of Directors. Additionally, the creation of a YP Committee has encouraged YP members to take ownership and to initiate new ideas for YP programming.

Community Partners - Partnering with other YP organizations has proven to be both inspirational and educational. One of the YP signature programs, Global Exchange, where YP members meet and interact with visiting leaders from abroad, is hosted in partnership with GlobalJax, under the auspice of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Sponsor Support - Another important element has been identifying and engaging a YP corporate sponsor. Our goal was to find a company with global vision, supporting community involvement and continuing education of its employees. In 2009, we found the right fit with Deutsche Bank. We continue to strengthen this partnership by offering on-site information sessions about the Council and hosting special events tailored to corporate interests. Also, to foster continued participation, a Deutsche Bank YP serves on the YP Committee.

Adding Variety - Networking opportunities are an important reason for individuals to join the YP group. While we offer a variety of programs for professional and personal development, we take care to include a social element to each event. Maintaining the interest and commitment of the YP demographic is a challenging undertaking with many other local YP groups vying for their attention. To keep our offerings timely, unique and impactful, we frequently explore new partnerships and eclectic venues such as the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, the Federal Reserve Bank and the FBI building.

TAKE AWAY: The synergy between the YPs, the Board and the Council membership at large has been critical. This breadth of experience and community leadership strengthens the YP initiative while the YPs bring vitality and a broader, more diverse membership base to the organization.

Annual YP Offerings include:

- **Global Exchanges** are unique opportunities for Council YP members to engage in round-table discussions with visiting leaders from abroad. These cross-cultural exchanges are co-hosted with our partner GlobalJax and examine topics such as: leadership and ethics; culture and society; and government and foreign policy. Board members of the Jacksonville Council and GlobalJax are invited to these events and serve as facilitators of discussions.
- **International Trivia** Nights are held at least twice a year and are sponsored by a local restaurant. Teams of four compete, testing their knowledge of world affairs while networking with other YPs. The winning team receives a prize and is highlighted in the Council's monthly newsletter and Facebook page.
- **Social Fusion** events are periodically hosted and combine networking, education and entertainment in an informal setting. We partner with various local YP groups (i.e. The Crew from HabiJax) and organize happy hours, film screenings and guest speaker presentations.
- **The YP Mentor Program** partners selected YP members with individuals from our Board and Advisory Board to promote an exchange of wisdom and interest. YP members must submit an application consisting of education and career history, as well as personal references and future goals. Once accepted into the program, YPs have the option to be paired with a mentor in a similar or different profession.

Special YP Events 2010-2011:

- An Evening with Dr. Reuben E. Brigety, II - U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, hosted by The Federal Bureau of Investigations in appreciation of our Young Professional Corporate Sponsor, Deutsche Bank
- "State of the Middle East - an Evening of Dialogue with Deputy Consul of Israel Paul Hirschson" -special pre-event reception co-hosted by the Young Steering Committee of the Jacksonville Jewish Federation

Contributed by Trina Medarev, Executive Director, World Affairs Council of Jacksonville, and Uli Decker, Director of Education and Community Outreach, World Affairs Council of Jacksonville (www.worldaffairsCounciljax.org). They can be reached at 904-280-8162 or trina@worldaffairsCounciljax.org or uli@worldaffairsCounciljax.org.

Available Authors

Working with the publishing houses, WACA has prepared a listing

of authors who are available to receive invitations from World Affairs Councils around the country.

We have specifically highlighted authors who can speak to one of the Six Top National Security Issues voted on by our Council Leaders. These authors will help us in our effort to conduct a national conversation and debate on these six top issues in the run up to the 2012 elections. We also have a listing of authors who can speak on other foreign policy topics under General Interest.

To access the listing, go to our [homepage](#), then click on WACA Leadership Network. Once logged in, click on "Available Authors"

What's Happening in the Network

The following updates from around the network include programs you can attend, participate in virtually, get ideas about speakers, or model format. We encourage you, as you read through the programs, to follow-up with the sponsoring council for more information.

Philadelphia

[The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia](#) would like to highlight two upcoming *Travel The World* tours:



- February 20-March 6, 2012 - **Inside Sri Lanka with optional tour to Southern India:** Join acclaimed lecturer, **Dr. Donald Stadtner** as he travels to a country that has been off the radar for far too long. Special meetings and briefings featured. \$5,290 plus airfare. Extend the trip to Southern India.
- March 10-25, 2012 - **Inside India with optional tour to Southern India:** **Dr. Donald Stadtner** will also join Council travelers in a tour of Northern India with Southern India offered as an option. \$5,990 plus airfare.

For more information, please visit www.wacphila.org.

Dallas/Ft. Worth

[The World Affairs Council of Dallas/Ft. Worth](#), in partnership with The Economist, would like to invite all those interested to its monthly online audiocast entitled Global I.Q. This month's topic is **Growing Potential in the Middle East Following Unrest**, featuring **David Butter**, Middle East Regional Director for the **Economist Intelligence Unit**. The wave of political activism that started in southern Tunisia in December 2010 has now reached all



parts of the Arab world, from Morocco in the west to Oman in the east. The fate of these popular uprisings remains in the balance, but it is already clear that they have produced the most dramatic changes in the region since the end of the colonial era in the middle of the 20th century. Will these developments result in positive or negative outcomes for the region? [Register now](#). Sponsored by Jones Day and Texas Capital Bank.

Hilton Head

The [World Affairs Council of Hilton Head](#) is pleased to announce its **Fall Forum 2011: Islam**, a discussion group for members. This forum will focus on three dimensions of Islam: religion, history and politics.

Dates and topics:

October 11 or 12 - The religious background of Islam including the five pillars and the Sunni/Shia split.

November 8 or 9 - An historical perspective of Islam during the Western colonial Period in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia.

December 6 or 7 - The politics of Islam in today's world and its implications for US foreign policy.

For more information, visit www.wachh.org.



Harrisburg

This July, teachers from the [World Affairs Council of Harrisburg](#) who participated in the "Spotlight Turkey" Study Tour appeared on "Life Esteem", a tv program broadcast throughout the PA. capital region, to discuss their travel experiences. Check out the blog on our website written by one of the teachers at www.wacharrisburg.org.



On **July 28**, at Temple University Harrisburg, WACH presented a dinner and discussion, kicking off its program series: **"Ten Years Later: The Aftermath of Sept. 11"**. The topic of the discussion: "Can We Forgive Osama bin Laden?" featuring a viewing of the film, "The Power of Forgiveness."

Foreign Policy Association

The [Foreign Policy Association](#) presents its **FPA U Fall 2011 program**, a series of career development seminars focused on international affairs. Hosted in New York City, Washington D.C., and Boston, the expert-led program provides specialized courses,



networking opportunities, and invaluable access to insider information for the next generation of global professionals.

This fall, seminars will be offered on careers in: International Development, the United Nations, and Working Around the World.

- New York City: October 6, 12, 13
- Washington D.C.: October 18, 19, 20
- Boston: October 25, 26, November 3

For more information and the details for your city, please visit www.fpau.org or email fpau@fpa.org.

Greater Hampton Roads

The [World Affairs Council of Greater Hampton Roads](#), Virginia, announces that its annual **Ryan C. Crocker Global Citizen of the Year Award** for 2012 will be presented to **Robin Wright** in a special dinner event in February 2012. Ambassador Crocker, US Ambassador to Afghanistan, will attend and assist in presenting the award.

Charlotte

On **September 29, 2011**, the [World Affairs Council of Charlotte](#) will present its **CEO Series** featuring **Christopher Kearney**. The World Affairs Council of Charlotte hosts CEOs from Charlotte area organizations who talk about their respective companies from a global perspective. In addition, they offer insight on global economic trends, emerging markets and the future of the world economy. Christopher Kearney is Chairman, President and CEO of SPX Corporation, a global Fortune 500 multi-industry manufacturing leader. SPX's innovative products and technologies are helping to meet rising global demand for electricity, processed foods and beverages, and vehicle services - particularly in emerging markets.



Denver

On **August 9, 2011** the [Denver World Affairs Council](#) will host **John Cassarato** present "**Terror Finance: The War Behind the War on Terror**".



In this lecture, John Cassara will give an overview of the challenges and examples of hidden financial systems employed by criminal and terrorist organizations. Mr. Cassara served as an intelligence officer and special agent for 26 years, beginning as a clandestine case officer for the CIA.

Peoria Area

The Peoria Area World Affairs

Council will host "The Arab Media Revolution and Democracy: Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, Al Manar, Facebook and Twitter," presented by **Dr. Orayb Najjar**,

Professor of Communications at Northern Illinois University on **Thursday, August 18**.

Dr. Najjar will explore how the evolution of the media has contributed to the struggles for greater rights and liberties for the people of the Middle East and North Africa. She will also delve into the emerging role of social media as the key source of current events in the region. The program will begin with a reception at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:00 pm and the presentation at 7:00 pm.

PAWAC welcomes all members of any World Affairs Council to register at the member rate of \$30. Pre-registration is required and may be done online at <http://artstix.artspartners.net>.

Santa Fe

Colombian Ambassador Gabriel Silva Lujan will speak about U.S. -

Latin American Political and Economic Relations. Presented

by Santa Fe Council on

International Relations, **Saturday, August 20**, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, The Forum, Santa Fe University of Art & Design; 1600 St. Michael's Dr, \$15 Members/\$20 Non-members, Register: sfcir.org, or call (505) 982-4931.



Laura Sherman, Senior Legal Advisor at Transparency International-USA, will deliver the first of four lectures in **Santa Fe Council on International Relations' Fall 2011 International Lecture Series** entitled: *Corruption Around the World*. Sherman's talk, *Corruption: A Global Overview*, will focus on the scope of corruption around the world and efforts to fight it. **Saturday, August 27**, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, The Forum, Santa Fe University of Art & Design; 1600 St. Michael's Dr, \$15 Members (or \$48 for the series of 4 lectures)/\$20 Non-members, Register: sfcir.org, or call (505) 982-4931.

Mike Ryan, Chief Financial Analyst and Chief Investment Strategist for UBS Wealth Management, will discuss global trends that UBS' Wealth Management Research - Americas has identified as important to the United States and to the rest of the world in a

talk entitled: *The Decade Ahead: Trend Extenders, Trend Breakers and Paradigm Shifts*. **Thursday, September 8**, 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 pm, Santa Fe Preparatory School, 1101 Camino de Cruz Blanca, \$15 Members; \$20 Non-members, Register: sfcir.org, or call (505) 982-4931.

Las Vegas

The World Affairs Council of Las Vegas was approved for provisional membership with the **National Council for International Visitors**. WACLV looks forward to working with other international visitor organizations, community organizations, and individuals as we develop the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. Please e-mail contact@waclv.org for inquiries or suggestions. The IVLP program director for Las Vegas is Matthew McNeelege who can be reached at (702) 435-1385.



Boston

On Thursday, August 25, WorldBoston, the World Affairs Council serving Eastern Massachusetts, will continue its popular "Chat & Chowda" author series with award-winning *Boston Globe* reporter Sally Jacobs, the author of **The Other Barack: The Bold and Reckless Life of President Obama's Father**.



WorldBoston's "Chat & Chowda" series convenes one evening every month, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm, to feature prominent authors on international affairs, stimulating community discussion, and delicious Boston chowda. We look forward to seeing you soon! Reserve your place today by calling 617-542-8995 x104.

Columbus

The Columbus Council on World Affairs kicked off its new fiscal year on July 1 with some new programming announcements after concluding an intensive strategic planning process.



The focus of the Council's Public Programs will rest on its signature luncheons, forums aligning with 2011 Great Decisions foreign policy topics, Webcasts, discussion groups and travel. Tess Mateo, co-leader of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Vision 2050 study, launched this programming on July 20 speaking to an audience of 125 business, civic and academic leaders

The Council's K-12 Programs will offer equally exciting opportunities for area youth and educators. These will include a series of youth forums examining the most pressing foreign policy issues; a September teacher institute utilizing a Horn of Africa discussion as content backdrop; development of curriculum modules, lesson plans and tool kits leveraging the Council's other programs and easily accessible via Web; and a series of GlobalCamps already underway.

WACA Leadership Network

To access the WACA Leadership Network, go to [our homepage](#) and click on WACA Leadership Network on the right-hand side.

Available Authors

For details, see above

Speaker Recommendations

All recommended speakers are posted in a database that is searchable by topic and area. Users can directly recommend speakers for other councils and make comments on existing entries.

Stuff You Should Know

The Virtual Library

Latest from the Capitol:

President Obama on the Status of the Debt Ceiling Debate 7/29/11 [Watch video.](#)

House Committee on Foreign Affairs Passes Fiscal Year 2012 Bill 7/20/11 [Watch video.](#)



Virtual Library

Be Part of the WACA Newsletter!

If you would like to highlight an upcoming program, [email Kelsey Compton](#) with the relevant information (a 50-100 word description and a graphic). Of course, if there is anything else we can do to help promote your programs within the network, please let us know!

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