



Bringing the World Closer

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Sponsors,

When people think of the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville, they usually think of our iconic Global Issues Evenings, replete with receptions, simulcasts, and guest speakers. Some may think of our Global Business Luncheons with great views and food at The River Club, along with exceptional presentations from business leaders and scholars. But to over 400 young people in our local high schools, the Council means "Great Decisions," a year-long program of readings and discussions on eight current major international topics. The program has grown from four schools in 2004 to 16 schools in 2017, with more being added. These extracurricular programs are possible only through the dedication of high school history and social science teachers and college faculty liaisons from FSCJ, UNF, JU and Flagler. The program was selected as an honoree for the 2017 Innovators in Education from the *Jacksonville Business Journal*. All of this is the result of the great work by [Uli Decker](#), Director of Education and Community Outreach and [Abbie Bernet](#), Education and Community Outreach Officer. These fine staff members are supported by an Education Committee headed up by an exceptional educator of the Board, [Edythe Abdullah](#), Dean of Continuing Education at UNF. You can be proud of your Council's contribution to our future leaders.



DAVID M. STRICKLAND

Please join me in congratulating our teachers and students.

**DAVID M. STRICKLAND**

Chairman of the Board

## EDUCATION

### Where Are They Now: Ben Leong



Ben Leong at Peking University West Gate

Over the years, the Council has worked with some remarkable interns and awarded exceptional area college students with the Ambassador Marilyn McAfee Scholarship. We are often asked what our former interns and scholarship recipients are up to now, and we are excited to provide an update on [Ben Leong](#), one of our interns from fall 2015.

*"My involvement with the Council has enhanced my research ability and broadened my knowledge in East Asia, both of which are instrumental in my academic success at Peking University."*

> Continued on reverse

## ANNUAL MEMBER CELEBRATION

### "U.S.-Russia Relations: A Unique Moment or Cold War 2.0?"



**GENERAL F.L. HAGENBECK, USA (RET.)**

57th Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017  
6:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
WJCT Studios**

Council members and sponsors enjoy a celebration of the 2016-2017 season and a "sneak peak" at 2017-2018

## GLOBAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

### "The NFL: Across the Pond and Beyond"



**MARK WALLER**

Executive Vice President of International, NFL

**TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017  
NOON - 1:30 P.M.  
The US Assure Club East at EverBank**

#### Sponsored by:

Water Street Capital, Association of Corporate Counsel North Florida Chapter, EverBank, Mayo Clinic, Chase, Foley & Lardner LLP, Regency Centers, US Assure

#### Media Sponsors

*Jacksonville Business Journal & WJCT*

Cost: \$50 (Council Members)

\$75 (Non-Members)

\$1,000 (Sponsored Table of 8)

#### Complimentary Reservations and Seating

for Sponsors and Ambassador's Circle Members must be secured 24 hours prior to event for up-front seating

RSVP for Council events via our calendar at [www.worldaffairscounciljax.org](http://www.worldaffairscounciljax.org) or call (904) 280-8162.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAY 16, 6:00 P.M.**  
Annual Member  
Celebration  
WJCT Studios

**JUNE 6, 12:00 P.M.**  
Mark Waller  
EverBank Field

**MAY 17, 11:00 A.M.**  
Andrew Nagorski  
Fleet Landing

## SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT

### "The Nazi Hunters"

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017 | 11:00 A.M.**  
Fleet Landing's Windward Commons



**ANDREW NAGORSKI**

Award-winning Journalist and Author

Co-Hosted with:



Sponsored by:

Jeanie M. Taras, CFP, CDFA,  
Taras Wealth Management,  
UBS Financial Services, Inc.

Reservations required. Secure your spot  
by calling (904) 280-8162.

## GREAT DECISIONS

### THE PULSE

**What should be the number  
one funding priority in the U.S.  
international affairs budget?**

Combatting Terrorism

6%

Countering Foreign Aggression

6%

International Peacekeeping

16%

Migration and Refugee Assistance

27%

Economic Development Assistance

45%

Survey size: 32 Students

> *Where Are They Now, cont.*

After his internship with the Council and graduating Summa Cum Laude from Jacksonville University with a Bachelor's in Political Science and Sociology, Ben enrolled in a dual degree program in International Affairs jointly offered by Peking University and the London School of Economics. He is now finishing up his first year of study in China, where he has been focusing his research on Asian Pacific affairs and, specifically, the interplay between domestic politics and international factors in Malaysia-China relations.

As Ben is preparing his transition to London for the second year of study, the Council wishes him much continued success in his endeavors!

## EDUCATION

### McAfee Scholarship Recipients



The 2017 Ambassador Marilyn McAfee Scholarship Recipients

As the Council's education initiatives continue to grow, so does our impact for area college students participating in study abroad programs. The Education Committee was thrilled to receive so many competitive applications and to offer twice as many scholarships as last year. We are pleased to announce our 2017 Ambassador Marilyn McAfee Scholarship recipients:

**Bassem Shoukry** is an Accounting major in his senior year at the University of North Florida (UNF). He will study in Cologne, Germany for four weeks this summer. **Amandalee Arnold** is pursuing a Master's degree in International Affairs at UNF and is a Magellan Society member of the Council, she will travel to Brazil this summer. **Kathlina Brady** and **Natalie Vesely** are both Political Science majors at UNF; in April they embarked on a month-long study abroad program in Alicante, Spain. Natalie is a reoccurring Great Decisions facilitator and volunteer.

Congratulations to all the recipients! We look forward to hearing more about their travels upon their return to Jacksonville.

**ULI DECKER & ABBIE BERNET**