

# **National Update**

## **Monthly Newsletter of the World Affairs Council System**

### **March 2005**

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Did you know...that over 340 students, teachers, chaperones, and parents are signed up for national Academic WorldQuest 2005!

#### **Academic WorldQuest 2005**

Our national high school competition is just around the corner! Scheduled for April 1-3 at the Organization of American States, this year's WorldQuest promises a lot of excitement, fun, and a tough competition!

The best and brightest high school students from 48 teams around the country will compete in the area of international affairs and will answer questions on countries, people in the news, current events, world religions and languages, Great Decisions, treaties, Africa, the European Union, and flags.

The program will start off with the river boat cruise of Washington with the on-board dinner, DJ, and dance competition.

The ABC news correspondent John Donovan will talk to the students about the news coverage in war zones, especially in Iraq. The students will enjoy the Pizza Dinner after the competition and then will walk to the Reagan National Auditorium for the hilarious political satire performance "Capitol Steps".

Another exciting part of the weekend itinerary will be the tour of the new Museum of the American Indian.

We welcome all of our students, chaperones and parents to Washington DC for yet another successful Academic WorldQuest!

#### **Leadership Mission to Egypt**

Our delegation of 10 returned from WACA's first leadership mission to Egypt on February 27. The trip was extremely successful and our delegates came back many ideas for future cooperation and strengthening ties between WACA and our Egyptian colleagues.

The delegation has a remarkable opportunity to be in Egypt at the time when the President Mubarak made his historic announcement about the direct presidential election. Some of the meetings included the First Lady Suzanne Mubarak, the Prime Minister, and members of the new reform cabinet.

The Egyptians will be sending a team to Academic WorldQuest in 2006. We are trying to arrange a national media interview with President Mubarak now.

The trip report from this leadership mission will be sent to all the councils in April.

### **European Union Teachers' Workshop**

WACA is hosting a workshop on the EU for 20 high school teachers in Washington June 28 - July 1.

The workshop will be open to teachers from grades 9-12 who are currently using the Europe in Transition materials produced by the Southern Center in Atlanta.

This workshop will be a professional development exercise for teachers to deepen their knowledge of the European Union on a wide array of topics.

There will be meetings with members of the EU Commission in Washington, the State Department, the US Trade, Representative Office, Capitol Hill, think tanks, embassies, business leaders, and military officers.

If you are aware of high school teachers in your area that would be interested in this workshop, please have them call our office.

The application deadline is April 1.

### **Program Director Opening at Dallas Council**

Dallas Council is now seeking a dynamic full-time Director of Programs. This position is primarily responsible for the planning and implementation of speaker programs (60+ per year) and 2 large-scale fundraising events per year.

Requires excellent written, oral communication, organizational skills and creativity. MS Office Experience necessary, Adobe PageMaker and Illustrator skills preferred. Bachelor's degree required, preferably in International Relations, English, Journalism or Marketing.

Salary range mid-to-high 30's DOE. Start date on or about June 15. Qualified applicants please email cover letter and resume to [schacko@dallasworld.org](mailto:schacko@dallasworld.org).

### **San Francisco's 59th Conference**

The Asilomar Conference is scheduled for April 29-May 1 on "Meeting the Challenges of the Middle East."

The conference will focus on both the prospects for peace and the constructive and destructive forces that may shape the regions' future. The Israeli-Palestinian peace process could resume. The Gaza pullout may prove disruptive or catalytic. The outcome of the war in Iraq will have international repercussions.

Asilomar is a resort between Monterey and Pebble Beach about two hours south of San Francisco. The conference will offer a blend of social activities and expert presentations.

We highly recommend this conference as it is has been the most prestigious international affairs conference on the West Coast.

For more or to sign up, see [www.itsyourworld.org/meeting.php](http://www.itsyourworld.org/meeting.php).

### **In Memoriam: Barbara Chisolm**

The national board and the whole world affairs council movement join us in sadness and grief over Barbara Chisolm's passing.

Barbara was the National Chairman of WACA from 1998-2001 and the Treasurer and a board member for the three years before that. Her many contributions to our work included chairing six national board meetings and three national conferences, building the board itself, and being a key figure behind our popular Islamic World and United Nations conferences.

She was also Executive Director of the World Affairs Forum in Stamford, a Board Director of the Foreign Policy Association, and a Board Director of the Asheville Council. Her other accomplishments include being President of the Asheville Symphony Guild and a Board Director of the Asheville Symphony.

She was a truly remarkable woman who left behind a great record of achievement and many devoted friends within our system. She is survived by her husband Beirne and two daughters Alison and Serena.

The National Executive Committee will address the Barbara's legacy at its meeting on March 28.

### **NewsNotes**

\* 2005 is the Year of the Languages which was established by a U.S. Senate Resolution with a goal of making Americans aware of the importance of language learning.

\* Congratulations to our Special Projects Director Heather Werner who will be going to LSE for her Master's this fall.

"Everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts." - Daniel Patrick Moynihan