



It's Your World...Know It!

Newsletter

August 2006

Bridging the Desert **Featuring a Council: Jacksonville Academic**
WorldQuest 2007 **NewsNotes**

WACA National Conference

In our 2007 National Conference, **BRIDGING THE DESERT: the Middle East in the Next Decade**, we will go beyond the daily reprisals in the headlines to hear from policymakers about what they're doing to shape the region's future.

In addition to fascinating plenary sessions, the conference will include embassy receptions, lunches with ambassadors, and a chance to catch up with fellow WAC members.

We will also be hosting a Pre-Conference Operations Workshop for council staff members January 31 to February 1. The workshop will be in two parts one focused on council best practices and one focused on growing school and education programs.

The conference will be January 31 to February 4 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Brochures will be sent to all councils and registration will be available online in September. If you have any questions please contact the WACA office at 202-833-4557 or waca@worldaffairsCouncils.org.

Visiting Jacksonville

On August 7, WACA's Director of Research and Communication, Brent Hessel, visited the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville. After an excellent lunch with Immediate Past President Ambassador Marilyn McAfee and Office Manager Trina Medarev at the scenic River Club in downtown Jacksonville, we joined the council's President, Admiral Jonathan Howe, Vice President of Education Sandy Cook, and Membership Services Coordinator Ellen Wawrzyniak.

The meeting gave us the opportunity to check-in with one another, learning what each office has been focusing on and is currently working towards. Jacksonville's continued success was made apparent upon learning of evening audiences of between 700 and 800 as well as its growing Global Economic Forum lunch program. Also, a novel approach to funding school programs is in the works with a developing relationship with the local Rotary Club.

Visiting as many individual councils as possible is high on President Barbara Propes' agenda. Such meetings will allow the network of councils to better share best practices and further our first-hand knowledge of the challenges councils face in their attempts to grow and develop. In the next month, Barbara has visits planned to the Phoenix, Hartford, Pittsburgh, Naples, Charlotte, Columbia, Hilton Head, Savannah, Charleston, and Hampton Roads councils.

Planning Begins for AWQ 2007

We are in the beginning stages of planning for Academic WorldQuest 2007. The date is March 24. New this year we will require the council teams to be chosen through a competition. A competition can be within one school, among many schools, part of an adult WorldQuest, or another related international affairs competition.

An operations paper on hosting an Academic WorldQuest competition is available and has been sent to council staff and available on the website.

This year's topics this year are:

Current Events, People in the News, Countries, Great Decisions 2006, International Financial Organizations, The Global Marketplace: Cars, Tech, and Pills, The Arab-Israeli Conflict, The Geography of Africa, The Space Age, and International Humanitarian Organizations.

More information regarding study guides, location, and how to pledge a team will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Lawrence at 202-833-4557 or melissa@worldaffairsCouncils.org.

NewsNotes

* WACA Flagship Program *Travel the World* has a flyer of the 2007 Trips available for any council that would like a supply to enclose with a newsletter or display at programs. Call Joan Russell at 800-942-5004 x 209 or email Shoshana Altrichter at saltrichter@wacphila.org for a supply. Make sure you are linked to the travel program at their website: <http://www.wacphila.org/travel/>.

* In honor of former WACA President Jerry W. Leach, WACA has created a conference scholarship in his name. The scholarship will make it possible for students and teachers to attend the National Conference. If you would like to donate, please send a check to the World Affairs Councils of America, 1800 K Street NW Suite 1014, Washington, DC 20007. Donations are tax deductible.

* World Learning invites organizations to submit proposals for the 2007 competition for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Community Connections program. We are looking for local host organizations to implement short-term professional and business programs for visitors from Europe and Eurasia. Please check the web site www.worldlearning.org/communityconnections to access the Request for Proposals (RFP). Proposals are due on Friday, September 29, 2006. Contact Eric Corens at eric.corens@worldlearning.org for questions.

* The National Board met in San Diego the last weekend in July. We thank the San Diego World Affairs Council for hosting us, especially council President Dr. Ina Von Ber and Executive Director Farah Moore.

* Video and text from Prime Minister Tony Blair's speech to the Los Angeles council is available on their website, <http://www.lawac.org/>. Thank you to President Curtis Mack and the LA council for hosting WACA President Barbara Propes and Education Director Melissa Lawrence at the lunch.

* The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations is changing their name to The Chicago Council on Global Affairs effective September 1.

* In order to improve our monthly speaker's e-mails, WACA is always looking for speaker recommendations. If you've recently hosted any speakers who would be interested in more council events, please contact Brent Hessel at 202-833-4557 or e-mail him at brent@worldaffairsCouncils.org.

* If you have any programs or best practices you'd like to share with the other world affairs councils, e-mail Melissa at melissa@worldaffairsCouncils.org.