

World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley

Newsletter Spring 2014

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Welcoming our New Board Members!

The World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson would like to welcome this year's new Board Members: Robert Brigham, Carolyn Hansen, Kathy Kurosman, Juris Pupcenoks, Alexandra Putman, Marc VanderHeyden and Davina Vora!

Academic WorldQuest 2014

The World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley hosted its annual Academic WorldQuest competition at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY on March 1. Academic WorldQuest is a global affairs and U.S. foreign policy-based knowledge competition. Over 4,000 high school students enter at the local level for a chance to participate at the national competition in Washington D.C. Teams of students representing regional high schools in the Mid-Hudson Valley competed on issues including international affairs, current events, the global economy and world history.

Contributions from both IBM and the Handel Foundation helped support the event, and the Henry A. Wallace Center donated space for the event. Sheila Appel, the U.S. East Regional Manager, IBM Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs returned as the quizmaster for the competition. This year's topics included Cybersecurity, U.S. Energy Policy, Global Environmental Issues, Global Economic Realignment, the Middle East, U.S. Education, UN Millennium Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger, Global Heath, Geography, and Current Events.



Photo: Winning team photographed with WAC-MHV President Andrew Rieser



World Affairs Councils of America
Engaging Americans in Global Affairs

The Poughkeepsie Day School team of Jackie Yixing Huang, Haosen Jason Fan, Siyue Peng and Lucy Weijian won the regional competition and earned the team an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. sponsored by the WAC-MHV to represent the mid-Hudson Valley in the national competition on April 26. The competition hosted 16 of teams representing Arlington, Cornwall, Kingston, Oakwood Friends, Poughkeepsie Day School, Roy C. Ketcham, Spackenkill and Washingtonville. The event is free and open to the public, and was attended by parents, teachers and fellow students.

The upcoming National Academic WorldQuest competition will begin on April 26th. The Poughkeepsie Day School team will join other winning teams as they compete in the nation's capital at Georgetown University. In the past, the event has been hosted by ambassadors and international affairs experts to speak in addition. The students are also able to network with university faculty about a future education and career path in international relations.

Best of luck to Jackie, Haosen, Siyue and Lucy on April 26th!

Sinan Ciddi: "Political Opposition and Dissent in Turkey"

Kathy Kurosman

Will political dissent that erupted last summer seemingly over "culling of trees ... in a disheveled park" withstand the increasingly dictatorial rule of Turkey's Prime Minister Erdogan? What is Turkey's economic and political future? Dr. Sinan Ciddi fielded these questions and more Friday evening, April 11, at the Lowell Thomas Center, Marist College, the first WAC-MHV spring 2014 event.

Dr. Ciddi is currently Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies, Georgetown University. Dr. Ciddi was born in Turkey and educated in the UK, where he earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, in June 2007. He was previously an instructor at Sabanci University in Turkey between 2004-2008.



Photo: Mr. Ciddi at Marist College

In his talk, "Political Opposition and Dissent in Turkey," Ciddi first described the historical political context in Turkey in which Erdogan rose to power, Erdogan's years as Mayor of Istanbul,

bul, his establishment of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the first election of the party in 2002. Much of Erdogan's early success came from his pragmatic approach to government as mayor and his efficient handling of problems with water, electricity and infrastructure in Istanbul. He carried this pragmatic approach into the AKP government. During the early years of the first AKP administration, the economy flourished and infrastructure and education improved across the country. Support for the AKP in the recent local elections may have been at least partially the result of admiration for these accomplishments.

Over the years, however, Erdogan's approach to government has become increasingly autocratic. His government has announced legislative proposals and regulations that restrict the right to abortion and the sale of alcohol among other incursions into the lives of Turkish citizens. Dr. Ciddi does feel that neither Erdogan nor his party truly understand the consequences of its overreaching and that, despite success in the recent elections, continuing repression of dissent and use of social media, as well as manipulation of the judiciary, will lead to more public protests. However, the political opposition in Turkey, especially the Republican People's Party (CHP), is not well organized nor is it likely to become so in the future.

Dr. Ciddi's publications include a book, *Kemalism in Turkish Politics: The Republican People's Party, Secularism and Nationalism* (London and New York: Routledge, 2009) and numerous articles on the Turkish elections.

1st Annual Student World Affairs Conference (SWAC)

The 1st annual Student World Affairs Conference, held on April 12, 2014, successfully brought together students, professors and members of the public interested in international affairs. The conference was free for students and \$30 for the general public.



The all-day conference on world affairs was hosted at Vassar College's Rockefeller Hall and began with a captivating keynote address by Ambassador Robert Gosende. Ambassador Gosende addressed the audience with encouragement as well as warning of the international issues that the next generation of Americans will be left with. Ambassador Gosende served for 36 years in the Foreign Service, in the U.S. Information Agency and the Department of State before joining the State University of New York (SUNY) in 1998. His experience includes an impressive range of positions in Libya, Somalia, South Africa, Poland and the Russian Federation. He served as President Bill Clinton's Special Envoy for Somalia, with the personal rank of Ambassador, at the height of the crisis in 1992-93. Ambassador Gosende's address sternly warned of the mess that has been left by his generation to be resolved by the future practitioners in the room in the field of international relations. His lecture identified some of the greatest threats to American diplomacy and security today, including issues pertaining to relations with

both Russia and Iran. He acknowledged that the Russian invasion of Crimea and eastern Ukraine will require a strategic series of actions to prevent a second Cold War. Tension with Iran will also require attention in order to smartly deter violent attacks and alleviate the historical rift between Iranians and the United States. The former Foreign Service Officer also addressed prospective domestic reforms. Specifically, Ambassador Gosende denounced the surveillance methodology used by the NSA and defended mandatory service for millennials, urging them to serve their country through military service or volunteer work as well as gain more international experience.

Ambassador Gosende's keynote address was followed by a series of presentations prepared by local mid-Hudson Valley students on academic papers covering Global Governance, Democratization, Human Rights, Sustainable Development and International Security. A panel of local experts who reviewed and discussed the papers was also in attendance in each session. The "Democratization" workshop, for example, featured a paper evaluating United States Agency for International Development's democratization funding to former-Soviet states as well as an analysis of democratization prospects in China. The "Global Governance" workshop covered topics including United Nations peacekeeping, the real effects of globalization and the future of global hegemony. Students attended the conference from college campuses throughout the Hudson Valley. Students represented Vassar College, Marist College, Bard College, SUNY New Paltz, several local community colleges as well as the United States Military Academy West Point.

The conference was co-sponsored by the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley, the Vassar College International Studies Program, the Vassar College Political Science Department, the Vassar College Office of the President, the Vassar College Office of Residential Life, the Vassar College Office of Alumnae/i Affairs and Development, the Vassar College Career Development Office and the Handel Family Foundation.



Photo: SWAC was held in Rockefeller Hall, Vassar College

2014 Global Studies Teaching Award

Karen Nichols

The YEC (Youth Education Committee) has reviewed applications for the 2014 Global Studies Teaching Award. We had some really wonderful applications from a variety of schools. Two applicants stood out as exceptional. The award this year will thus be shared between Dawn Vandervloed, a social studies teacher at Washingtonville High School and Stephan Miller, a history teacher at Oakwood Friends School. Both applicants stood out for service to students and for exposing students to global affairs and history through both their range of courses, field trips, and advising in areas such as Model UN and Academic Worldquest. Teachers will be honored at a Community Foundation dinner in May (this piece needs to be fact-checked).

The Community Foundation dinner will include the Partnership in Education reception on Wednesday May 28, 2014 at Locust Grove 5-6:30pm. Please contact Cora Davis at (845) 452-3077 for reservations and more information.

Membership Survey

It is the mission of the World Affairs Council to promote awareness and stimulate discussion around international affairs in the mid-Hudson Valley. As WAC-MHV is also interested in attending to the interests of its membership, we will soon release a Membership Survey!

The survey seeks to evaluate how WAC-MHV has performed at satisfying the interests of its members. The survey is brief and can be completed in 5 minutes. The feedback will be used to guide WAC-MHV in its decision-making pertaining to future event planning and sponsorship. Feedback will also be used to strategize the best ways to expand and retain participatory membership. WAC-MHV is a community-based organization working to start important conversations about our changing world. If there are specific topics, issues or geographic areas that you would like to have WAC-MHV prioritize in the future, please take the time and let us know with this quick 10-question survey. Members interested in contributing to event planning and coordinating, or assisting with technical computer oversight, should also state their qualifications and availabilities to help out. After all, a community that learns together... stays together. For more information about WAC-MHV membership, please see page 5.



Are you following the news?

1. The election commission of this country, that has been without a fully functioning government since December 2013, recently announced that it would try to hold a vote in July of this year.

- a. Lebanon
- b. Belgium
- c. Sri Lanka
- d. Thailand

2. This country recently released a propaganda campaign to encourage women to marry early and focus on domestic affairs rather than the workplace.

- a. Pakistan
- b. Indonesia
- c. Ukraine
- d. China

3. The European Union adopted a new set of sanctions on April 28, expanding the total number of persons subject to travel bans and assets freezes to 48, to reflect concern about instability in what country?

- a. Lithuania
- b. Ukraine
- c. Poland
- d. Moldova

4. Which Latin American President recently told the United States Embassy to shut down a military cooperation office, claiming that the U.S. had too many military officers assigned to its embassy?

- a. President Rafael Correa, Ecuador
- b. President Ollanta Humala, Peru
- c. President Richard Martinelli, Panama
- d. President Michelle Bachelet, Chile

5. President Barak Obama began a 4-country Asia-Pacific trip in Tokyo this April. On his journey, President Obama will visit all but which country?

- a. The Philippines
- b. South Korea
- c. Indonesia
- d. Malaysia

6. The United Nations recently condemned the targeted killings of civilians based on their ethnicities, after hundreds of civilians were killed during a rebel seizure of an oil-producing town, in which country?

- a. South Sudan
- b. Kenya
- c. Central African Republic
- d. Chad

7. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan made headlines last week when he offered condolences for the first time for the mass killings of _____ under Ottoman rule during World War I.

- a. Bulgarians
- b. Armenians
- c. Greeks
- d. Georgians

8. The United States government expanded enforcement of its sanctions recently, adding 8 Chinese companies, a Dubai company and 2 Dubai-based executives to blacklists for evading American restrictions on weapons sold to _____.

- a. Turkey
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Iran
- d. Syria

9. Muslim leaders accused police of abusing their power after armed officers raided Islamic institutions in _____, detaining 20 people that included the author of a book that law enforcement officials say incites xenophobia and violence.

- a. Prague
- b. Amsterdam
- c. Brussels
- d. Berlin

10. After missing their deadline to complete the export/destruction of chemicals in its weapons arsenal, international officials estimated the Syrian government had covered __% of its arsenal on April 27.

- a. 40%
- b. 64%
- c. 75%
- d. 92%

See answers on the bottom of Page 5.

Join Us at Our Upcoming Public Events!

On Wednesday, **June 4 2014**, WAC-MHV will host the **Member's Only Dinner!** Dinner will be served at 6pm in the Culinary Institute of America's Caterina de Medici restaurant in Hyde Park, NY. This will be followed with a presentation in the Ecolab Theatre in the Admissions Building.



For more, visit: www.hvworldaffairs council.org

Membership Options

Join Us! Meet and exchange ideas and questions with people in the region who share an interest in international issues. The World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley is an all volunteer organization. Membership directly supports the educational programs and activities which bring nonpartisan, lively information about critical issues facing our nation and the world.

Student	\$5	Not for Profit	\$100
Educator	\$35	Diplomat	\$250
Single	\$50	Envoy	\$500
Dual	\$70	Consul	\$1,000
Sponsor	\$100	Ambassador	\$2,500
Leader	\$250		
Patron	\$500		
Benefactor	\$1,000		

Benefits of Membership:

- Deepen your understanding of international issues that touch our lives as professionals, citizens, and students
- Connect and network with experts and like-minded individuals in the Hudson Valley who are seeking to expand their knowledge and understanding of global affairs
- Invitations of public lectures, youth activities programs, and other events
- Invitations at reduced cost for Members-Only Dinners at the Culinary Institute of America
- Receive advance notice of all WACMHV activities through email
- Receive advanced copies of the quarterly WACMHV Newsletter
- Invitation to special pre-event receptions for Patrons, Benefactors, and Organization Members
- Through WACA, special rates on publications from Foreign Affairs, World Policy Journal, and books from Brookings and other publishers