



World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities

World Community Institute/World Affairs Council 2010 Visiting Fellow Lecture Series

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Red Square, Moscow.
Photo by Veronica
Tessler

Russia: Its Culture and People

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Anastassia Zvoryguina, Russian native

Rising Global Powers: The New Reality

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Vlad Sambaiew, The Stanley Foundation

The True Colombia

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Elsa Botero-Bolet, Colombian native

Afghanistan: Are We at Last on the Right Path?

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Dr. Thomas Gouttierre
Dean of International Studies
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Canada and the US: World's Largest Trade, Energy and Security Partnership

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Georges Rioux, Consul General
of Canada

Program Information

Free programs are at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Bettendorf Library.

The programs are sponsored by the World Community Institute and the World Affairs Council of the Quad-Cities. The series is supported by a grant from Riverboat Development Authority and individual contributions.

For more information, call 563-355-4390 or 309-792-3131. Visit our website at www.wacquadcities.org.

Greetings World Affairs Council Members!

By Mike Laufenberg, Treasurer, QC WAC

Our new program year began in September with the presentation on “50 Years of John Deere in Germany: Global Business-Local Impact”; followed by “Germany: The 20 Year Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall” in October and then; “The Role of Religions in Peace-Making” for our November meeting. All of this was made possible by your generosity and your annual dues payments to the World Affairs Council of Quad Cities. On January 26, 2010 our program will be “Russia: Its Culture and People”.

So, we come to you with another request, another reminder that it is time for us to ask for “individual support” from all of our members for the 2009-2010 Program Year. Dues have remained the same at \$15.00 annually per member for individual support, \$200.00 for Gold Sponsors and \$500.00 for Platinum Sponsors. Your support for the 2009-2010 year enables the World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities to continue to provide interesting and timely topics related to world cultures, economics, policies and events.

Your dues pay for room rental, microphone rentals, and room tear down after our meetings at the Bettendorf Library; treats which includes all

the paper plates, napkins, food stuffs, and coffee and punch that are served at the meeting break time; the annual housing and yearly maintenance fees for the WACQC website on Augustana’s server; the postage and printing cost of this newsletter; speaker certificates and honorariums; WACQC’s annual dues to the World Affairs Council of America. Without your continued support as individual and Gold Sponsors, none of this can continue.

Won’t you PLEASE use the support form that is part of this newsletter and mail your support to the World Affairs Council (QC WAC) at the address shown on the support form as soon as possible.

The Officers and Board of QC WAC want to extend to you our thanks and appreciation for your continued support. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at *malaufenberg@mchsi.com*, thanks.

The Stanley Foundation: Your Source for Policy Information

By Laura Wonderlin, Intern, The Stanley Foundation

There is no question technology has made the world smaller. With a few clicks of the mouse, information that was once privy to dusty library stacks and unread textbooks can now be read, printed, and shared.

The Stanley Foundation has created a website based on their three key policy areas: fixing fragile states, building a multilateral global system, and securing nuclear fissile materials. Visitors can bring themselves up to date with various reports on issues of global concern. If Sudan is of

interest, there is a report. If nuclear disarmament catches the eye, there is a report on that too.

The ability to share this information with friends, family and coworkers is what makes the world more informed. Share the information found on the Stanley Foundation website. Talk to your neighbors about nonproliferation. The information is free and available for public use.

Visit *www.stanleyfoundation.org* for more information.

Gaza: "A Giant Prison Cell"

By Dr. Jamal Tayh

Israel's three-week attack on the Gaza Strip that began on December 12, 2008 and ended on January 18, 2009 left 1400 dead, over 5000 wounded, and destroyed hundreds of homes and public buildings. More than half of those dead were women, children, and other innocent civilians. Israel's attack was a response to missiles launched by Hamas militants on Israel's border just days before. The United Nations had appointed Richard Goldstone to investigate war crimes caused by Hamas militants and Israeli soldiers during the conflict. In his report, Goldstone accused Israel of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity and Hamas of firing rockets into civilian areas. The Geneva-based Human Rights Council endorsed the report on October 16 and recommended that the General Assembly take it up during the current session.

This war that only lasted three weeks has left a devastating impact on all aspects of Palestinian life in Gaza. Palestinians are living only within their means since emergency assistance and supplies are all that can enter Gaza through the Rafah Border Crossing. The Rafah crossing prevents Palestinians from leaving Gaza and others from entering it. This means that during the war, civilians could not flee Gaza to seek refuge. Egypt, which controls the crossing, opened it for only three days and after the war was over to send medical equipment to care for the wounded. The Rafah crossing affects everyone who wants to enter or leave Gaza.

My own son had taken a trip to the region in late June to marry his fiancée. Even though he is an American citizen, my son wasn't allowed to leave Gaza until two months after his planned leave date. This was only after making several desperate phone calls and sending out emails to anyone who could get him out of this fiasco. I sent several messages to the US embassy in Cairo and even they weren't willing to help us. Fortunately, he was finally allowed to leave following weeks of talks with border officials. My son was lucky, but others weren't. Thousands are still struggling to find a way out of Gaza. The impact the crossing is having on normal

life is one of the reasons Palestinians sometimes refer to themselves as living in a "giant prison cell."

These violations of human rights are often ignored when it comes to US foreign policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ignoring them has slowed down progress towards peace. The current Palestinian political scene is also a contributing factor to this problem. Palestinians are divided amongst each other. Even though Gaza is run by Hamas, Fatah



has a large group of followers. US refusal to accept Hamas as the new government in Gaza also contributes to this division. President Barack Obama needs to realize that a new approach to peace in the Middle East is necessary. Past mistakes made by former President Bush have proven that simply satisfying Israel's needs cannot bring about peace in the region. As difficult as it will be, some kind of deal must be established between Hamas and the United States. Many have called the Israeli war on Gaza karma on the Palestinian people for electing Hamas to run their government.

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The United States should understand that Hamas did not win the 2006 elections because of its anti-Israeli views. What is often overlooked is that Hamas has a good reputation among the Palestinian people for providing large amounts of funding for public services and other causes. In a democracy, issues that concern people's safety, welfare, and personal beliefs are what drive them to vote for certain candidates and this is what oc-

curred in Gaza. Palestinians, like all people, only want what is best for them and as a Palestinian I know that the majority of us want peace. However, if this goal is to be achieved, the United States must respect issues that are being faced by both sides of the conflict.

Dr. Jamal Tayh is the former President of the Muslim Community of the Quad Cities.

The Role of Faith in Violence and Peacemaking

The November program was of interest to anyone who had ever thought, "religion seems to be at the root of so much conflict in the world!" This session was inspired by the Fall 2009 Honors Seminar at Scott Community College entitled, "Subverting Hatred: The Challenge of Non-Violence in Religious Traditions". Professor Nnachi Umenachi introduced this session, and invited his class to attend.



Professor Nnachi Umenachi

Next, Dr. Dan Ebener, a member of the local inter-faith dialogue group, Bridges of Faith, introduced the panelists (all members of Bridges of Faith): Linda Golden a Jewish panelist, Lisa Killinger, a Muslim, and Ron Quay, a Christian shared their personal perspectives on the role of their faiths in peace making. Bridges of Faith has been discussing faith issues since 2001 here in the Quad cities, predating many of the Faith Clubs that have sprung up around the nation over the past 5 years. They have held discussions on such important issues as violence, women's roles in faith, prayer, forgiveness, and even the conflict in the Middle East. Questions and answers from the audience were taken for the last 20 minutes of this World Affairs/World Community Institute program.

Fifty Years of John Deere in Germany: Local Business, Global Impact



Dr. Klaus Hoehn

The kick off program for the 2009-2010 World Affairs year was a presentation by Klaus Hoehn, from John Deere and Company. We were delighted to see the room filled, and to have to set up a couple dozen more chairs to accommodate approximately 80 people who attended the program.

Dr. Hoehn shared not a historical perspective of John Deere's half century relationship with Germany, but also a personal perspective as a German native. He eloquently told the story of how the word tractor is now synonymous with John Deere in his country of origin. Many of his John Deere colleagues turned out to support (and sometimes poke fun at) their co-worker.

All in all the audience appreciated the banter, and had many questions related to both the agriculture and culture of Germany. Klaus answered all, with grace, and everyone went home with a deeper understanding of how this local company has an enormous impact in Germany and in many other countries.

Note from the President



Dr. Lisa Zaynab Killinger

Our 2009-2010 year has started off with a bang!

Over 80 attendees in September and over 130 in October enjoyed two outstanding presentations on the topic of Germany. The speakers were both excellent and everyone enjoyed having time to chat during the break

with friends who share an interest in global issues. In October, we had a surprise celebrity guest at our monthly program. Mr. Kirk Talbott, the President of the National Association of World Affairs Councils spoke briefly after our program, encouraging people to support and engage in World Affairs activities.

In November, we are exploring the Role of Religions in Peace-Making, a very interesting and timely program, when violent acts are front page news. Our panel, including a Christian, a Jew and a Muslim, propose that people of faith can and must stand together to work for peace and justice in society. The November program was inspired by a senior seminar course at Scott Community College taught by professor Nnachi Umennachi (a past president of the Quad Cities World Affairs Council.)

I would like to personally thank all of those who attended our first three programs, and encourage you to return as we continue offering enlightening events in the months ahead.

A visit from the National World Affairs Council President is just one example of why involvement in our local organization is so very important. Many of the events and speakers we host would never have come to the Quad Cities without World Affairs Council backing and sponsorship. Our affili-

ation with the National Association of World Affairs Councils gives us access to nationally recognized speakers and, sometimes, special funding to support their visits to the Quad Cities.

In December, we are on 'winter break', but our board will be busy behind the scenes gearing up for our winter and spring programming. In January, we will make a virtual visit to Russia and hope you will come along for the ride! Watch, in February, for the Stanley Foundation presentation on Rising Global Powers, a program which will offer a unique, "on the ground" perspective on which countries will most likely challenge and even rival the United States in economic, technological, and even military power. Glimpsing ahead, we will have two incredible programs with nationally known speakers. Stay tuned!

My special thanks to all of our generous individual and institutional supporters who make our 2009-2010 programs possible. I wish you and yours all a very peaceful and joyous holiday season and a happy new year to come.

Lisa Zaynab Killinger, DC
President: World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities

Board Members

Lisa Killinger, President
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Juanita Zertuche

October Program: The 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall

By Dr. Lisa Killinger

On October 20, we held our second monthly program for the 2009-2010 year. There were over 130 people in attendance; our largest crowd in several years.

Our presenter was John Stark, an award winning teacher and a representative of the American Association of Teachers of German. Mr Stark has traveled to Germany almost every year since the fall of the wall, and his knowledge and enthusiasm about the topic really showed.



Guest speaker John Stark addresses the audience.

His presentation included many photographs of the area where the wall once divided a nation. These photos showed the real metamorphosis of Berlin over the past two decades,

including pronounced changes in the architecture, landscape, travel and commerce in what is now a busy metropolitan area. Our speaker also brought and displayed many books on the topic of Germany, allowing the audience a chance to view them during the break.

A surprise special guest attended this program,



Kirk Talbott speaks about the importance of supporting the World Affairs Council while accompanied by Dr. Lisa Killinger and guest speaker John Stark.

Kirk Talbott, the head of the National Association of World Affairs Councils. He addressed the audience, emphasizing the value of supporting the World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities.

Upcoming Community Events



World Affairs Council of the Quad Cities

4310 5th Street
East Moline, IL, 61244

Year 2009–2010 Support Form

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Please send me a brochure about local World Affairs programs.

Questions about Support? Contact: Zobeida Laufenberg: (309) 792-3131. Please visit our World Affairs Council webpage: www.wacquadcities.com.