



# THE DIPLOMAT

**PEORIA AREA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, INC.**

**Fall 2004**

## **PAWAC**

**8151 Blackbridge Rd.  
Edwards, IL 61528**

[www.pawac.org](http://www.pawac.org)

### **Executive Director**

**Angela Weck**  
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**Dave Thompson**  
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**Jean Sanger**  
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### **Secretary**

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Dinners Are Here!**

This month, the Peoria Area World Affairs Council and our wonderful volunteer hosts will hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual series of International Dinners.

These events, held as a fundraiser by hosts throughout the Peoria area, cost from \$35 to \$45 per person per dinner, depending on the dinner. Each dinner has a different theme, and we've got the world covered!

Enjoy the flavor of Asia, a Kwanzaa celebration, or the delightful morsels of an Algerian-French dinner. If dinner isn't your thing, try desserts and drinks from around the world.

Each event includes music or entertainment in addition to authentic food. It is a true celebration of world cultures right here in central Illinois!

Nine dinners are scheduled. The newsletter calendar and the PAWAC website have more details on this year's set of international dinners.



Angela Weck, PAWAC Executive Director, prepares items representing folk tales for the Russian Dinner on October 4.

Photo courtesy of Angela Weck

## **New PAWAC Officers and Board Take Charge**

In June 2004, at PAWAC's annual meeting and elections, a new slate of PAWAC officers was elected by the membership. Dave Thompson, President-Elect last year, takes over the reins as President. Jean Sanger moves from the Board of Directors to the President-Elect position, and we're certain she will prove to be a solid addition to PAWAC's executive committee.

Jean will also be working on starting a Great Decisions program in the Peoria area. Look for more information on a PAWAC Great Decisions series this winter.

Dave and Jean will be joined by Secretary Mary Jo Garesche and Treasurer Carolyn Shepherd, both of whom are serving their second consecutive terms in their respective positions.

The Board of Directors is bolstered by newcomer

Catharine Schaidle, who will fill out the remaining year of Jean Sanger's term. Steve Alvin also rejoins the Board. Finally, Dennis Triggs, Richard Sanders, and Madeleine Jaehne were re-elected for new three-year terms. For a full list of PAWAC Officers and Board of Directors, see the "Directors" link on [www.pawac.org](http://www.pawac.org).

## Letter from the President



Dave Thompson  
PAWAC President

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*All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.*

- Galileo Galilei

Fall has officially begun, and with it our new year of programming has commenced with a great "kickoff" event at the Peoria Public Library on September 20. Our panel left us with a lot to think about, including the prediction that by the end of the 21st century, our local climate in Illinois will have heated up to the equivalent of present-day east Texas. I can't think of any more vivid example of how "world affairs" affect our region.

As this year's Presidential campaign approaches its climax, revolving largely around foreign policy issues, it is hard to think of a time when public understanding of international affairs has been more important. Normally I do not bother to encourage the general public to vote, because I'm not convinced

that a higher turnout is necessarily a good thing unless voters are adequately informed. To those reading this newsletter, however, I appeal in earnest: please register before October 5, and then vote! Of course many of us disagree politically, but I am certain that people such as you, with a sincere interest in the wider world around us, will raise the common denominator through your participation.

Looking beyond the election to our annual conference this coming winter, we have decided to tackle a heartbreaking issue which seldom receives much public attention: human rights and the continued practice of de facto slavery in many parts of the world

today, including the United States. William Faulkner wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." I think that the persistence of slavery, contrary to the common assumption that it is just part of history now, is an example of what he meant. I hope that in our own small way, through this conference we can help to put slavery in the past, even if we may never completely escape its legacy.

I also want to thank our many members who make PAWAC happen, particularly our immediate past President Dave Williams who has left such big shoes for me to fill, and who remains the hard-working editor of *The Diplomat*.

--Dave Thompson  
President, PAWAC

## Business & WACA Notes...

◆ World Affairs Council members have the opportunity to purchase the Citizen's Guide / Foreign Policy Election Guide at a special discount of 40% off the already low-priced \$14.99 -a savings of \$5.00. The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) has set up a special order code for the council members who place an order, "CG04". For more information contact Michael Lucivero in New York at 212-481-8100.

### PAWAC Committees:

#### **Finance & Development:**

Dennis Triggs  
[dentrig@mtco.com](mailto:dentrig@mtco.com)

#### **Membership:**

Shirlee Harper  
(309) 682-5009

#### **Programming:**

Judy Triggs  
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#### **Marketing:**

Dave Williams  
[dww@bradley.edu](mailto:dww@bradley.edu)

#### **Scholastic Bowl:**

John Rathbun  
[genrebun@aol.com](mailto:genrebun@aol.com)

◆ PAWAC is always looking for a few good women and men to help with committees. Don't delay, contact a committee chair today!

◆ Nearly 4,000 grassroots "UN People Speak" events were organized in September to encourage Americans to hold in-depth discussions about U.S. foreign policy in their schools, community centers, homes, and clubs.

◆ WACA has future plans for national leadership missions to Egypt, the EU in Brussels, and China.

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*There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it.*

- Bertrand Russell

## Election 2004: Candidate Views on Foreign Policy Issues

*Editor's Note: This information is reprinted, with permission, from the Foreign Policy Association. The FPA publishes "The Citizen's Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy 2004" which is available at a discount to council members (see "WACA Notes," page 2).*

### Introduction

What Are U.S. Interests?  
By: Barbara Crossette

Not since the U.S. became disastrously embroiled in anti-Communist wars in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia four decades ago has there been a presidential election that promises, as 2004 does, to force issues of foreign policy to the center of political debate. It is not only the unfinished business of Afghanistan and Iraq but also the broader "war on terrorism" that have raised big questions about how the U.S. intends to project (or expend) its enormous power in this century, and how much or little Americans care what others around the world think of us.

**Position Brief #1:  
What Are U.S. Interests?**  
By: Daniel Widome

President George W. Bush  
Since 9/11, Bush has clearly interpreted security as the United States' primary interest. In calling for a "war on terror," he defined very clear battle

lines, and he continually stresses the demands and importance of winning this war. He conceives of the U.S. struggle against Islamic terrorism broadly, categorizing the invasions of both Afghanistan and Iraq as central fronts in the war against a single enemy. Bush feels that the United States has a responsibility to lead the world in this struggle, a responsibility that trumps most disagreement among allies and international organizations where such disagreement exists. Pre-emption of potential threats (such as in Iraq) is a central component in Bush's interpretation of how best to secure U.S. interests, even if such a strategy meets with widespread international opposition. His is a very moral conception of U.S. responsibilities and national interests. In this moral context, Bush is a proponent of the "democratic peace" theory, which suggests that democratic states are less likely to attack each other than autocratic states. In his administration's 2002 National Security Strategy, Bush declared the goal of the United States is "to help make the world not just safer but better."

Senator John Kerry  
"Support for democracy, human rights and the rule of law are among the most fundamental principles on which America was founded," according to

Kerry, and in his view, they should be the principles which define U.S. interests. He pledges to uphold international human rights standards and to "return the United States to full membership in the international community." While reserving the right for the United States to act in its self-defense and on its own, Kerry feels that security both at home and abroad is best served by deliberative, inclusive, and multilateral processes. He has indicated that the development of democratic values and human rights are "the keys to long-term security," but a under certain circumstances, democracy promotion should take a back seat to national security priorities.

### SUGGESTED READINGS

The Breaking of Nations: Order and Chaos in the Twenty-First Century  
by Robert Cooper

The author proposes that all countries today are premodern, modern or postmodern, and that the latter two need to do more to restrain the dangerous desires of the premodern states.

America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy  
by Ivo Daalder & J. Lindsay

An in-depth discussion of the lasting impact George W. Bush has had on U.S. foreign policy. The authors

hold that President Bush has not been ideologically captured by neoconservatives, but has personally created his Administration's more aggressive foreign policy.

From Empire to Community: A New Approach to International Relations  
by Amitai Etzioni

Making use of both liberal and neoconservative ideas, the author offers a new vision for international affairs, one that prevents the "clash of civilizations" from worsening.

Power, Terror, Peace and War: America's Grand Strategy in a World at Risk  
by Walter Russell Mead

The author, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, analyzes the neoconservative foreign policy and the sources from which it emerged.

Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics  
by Joseph Nye

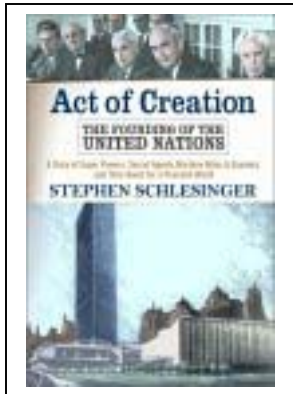
The author writes of the importance of soft power in international affairs and claims that only by making more use of "soft power" can the U.S. maintain its status as the world's sole superpower.

A New World Order  
by Anne-Marie Slaughter

The author, a top international relations scholar, discusses the need of citizens, theorists, and government officials to recognize the horizontal and vertical links between individuals and countries.

## Book Review: *Act of Creation: The Founding of the United Nations*

By Stephen Schlesinger  
(2003; Westview Press; 288 pages)



### *Did You Know?*

*Did you know that the first people known to have used the peanut were the Mayans of Mexico?*

*International explorers first recorded the peanut in Haiti, but were told it had originally been taken from the Mayan lands. The Mayans called it "cocoa de la tierra", because it is harvested from the ground.*

*In fact the peanut is a botanical curiosity because it isn't a nut but a legume, a relative of the chick pea.*

(Source: [www.mexconnect.com](http://www.mexconnect.com))

Act of Creation is a mostly chronological re-telling of the events of both the conference itself and those leading up to it. Roosevelt's meeting with Stalin at Yalta, the winding up of the war in Europe and in the Pacific, and Truman's hurried takeover as President following Roosevelt's death just weeks before the conference was to begin all set the stage for Professor Schlesinger's account of the San Francisco debates. The vast majority of the book, including important dialogue, is in a sense spoken by the author. All is factual, and though quotes do appear, events are mostly recounted in a third-person narrative style.

Professor Schlesinger's book provides a wealth of information about the issues and crises of the San Francisco conference, both on the personal level of conflict between representatives, as well as conflict within the U.S. delegation itself. Schlesinger also examines the greater political struggle between Russian, British, American, and South American interests at the negotiations. At the same time, Act of Creation gives an excellent picture of the daily evolution of

the discussions, and highlights several overlooked aspects of those important weeks, seeking to show the contributions that the press and nongovernmental organizations made and the usefulness of the U.S. intelligence services to the U.S. delegates.

Following this, Act of Creation offers one of the most complete accounts of the founding UN discussions, even to the extent that the average reader may at first find overwhelming. The scope of the topic adds to this challenge. However, Professor Schlesinger's book manages to give the reader enough background and enough grounding in the process of the conference that he does not lose his audience. Rather than first present an intimidating discussion of the influences, political quarrels, and complete world situation in one blow, the author lets the pace of the conference dictate his presentation. While Schlesinger does set the stage for his book with some preparative analysis of world events, the main body of his presentation is guided by the timetable of crisis and compromise at San Francisco.

Delving into Truman's commitment to the process begun by Roosevelt, and into the diaries of the Senate leaders (Republican and Democrat alike) included in the delegation, the author does a strong job of making the U.S. camp come alive.

Overall, Act of Creation: The Founding of The United Nations, is strongest as a diplomatic history of the founding San Francisco conference, and gives a clear picture of the major issues and stumbling blocks whose resolution we now take for granted. It is valuable as well as a reference for information about some of the key and some of the overlooked players involved. Those hoping for a better understanding of how the United Nations' structure and powers came to be, or who have an interest in the ground-level diplomacy of the negotiations will find Professor Schlesinger's book a rewarding experience. Act of Creation offers an in-depth, well-researched look behind the scenes at a time when hopes were high, and when it seemed something new was to be born.

*Written by Duncan McNiff  
Reprinted, with permission, from FPA.*

## The Impact of Visa Policy Changes

By Dr. John R. Throop, President, The Summit Planning Group

Most people in central Illinois probably do not think that world affairs, and the world political situation, has much of an impact on their lives. Perhaps when they stop to think about it, world affairs may have an impact here, but international issues typically do not count for much.

Increasingly, however, there is one dimension of world affairs that has a direct impact on universities, employers and cultural institutions: visa problems. Just this past spring, for example, the Peoria Symphony Orchestra struggled to bring renowned Danish flutist Thomas Jensen for the performance of a flute concerto by Carl Nielsen. His visa request was refused because he was not coming as an educator, but as a performer earning money in the United States.

As a consultant, one of my clients is an international association which holds a large annual international conference in the United States with a roster of international speakers. Several speakers and participants are being denied visas because, while they are governmental officials themselves, they come from countries on a watch list for visa abuse.

Local educational institutions can tell stories about the challenges with recruiting students, faculty and support staff. Large and small companies, and medical facilities in central Illinois, face similar problems trying to hire people permanently or even

temporarily for specialized functions with critical importance for operational effectiveness and success.

When the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) existed, those who tracked immigration patterns determined that people who come on visas “drop out of sight” after the visa expires. Even though these officials clearly state that they will be returning to their countries of origin, their visa requests are being refused as a matter of policy. Similar stories can be told about students needing visas to pursue higher education programs, or about companies needing workers in specific job classifications.

Historically, U.S. immigration has been open and flexible, and policies on short-term visas to visit, work and study here have been relatively liberal. U.S. entry has become tighter since the mid-1990s. One reason for tougher entry into the United States: the challenge of illegal aliens from Mexico, Haiti and Central American countries. Even with the NAFTA in place, people continue to enter the United States for what they believe will be a more prosperous life. The INS not only sought to patrol U.S. borders and ports of entry (airports, seaports), but to coordinate visa processing with the State Department.

Terrorist attacks on the U.S. or on U.S. targets overseas prompted a far more restrictive immigration policy. INS was abolished in 2002 and immigration monitoring was drawn into

the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under a new entity called the Directorate of Border and Transportation Security (BTS) of Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

As a result, immigration and visa approval has become even more challenging, because security concerns shape the review of any request for entry to the U.S. Borders still are permeable and people slip into this country without formal approval. Yet around the world, those who seek entry into the U.S. are put through a thorough and demanding review regarding their purposes for visiting the U.S. If there is even a slight intent to earn money here, they typically will be turned down without explanation.

If their nation of origin or their ethnic group has some possible connection with terrorism, the border shuts immediately to potential visitors and temporary workers. Even if a local member of Congress intervenes to encourage admission, the personnel of the CBP and the State Department have the final say. Our nation struggles to demonstrate the words of Emma Lazarus, written as a fundraiser at the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor,/ Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,/ The wretched refuse of your teeming shore./ Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,/ I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

Part of that reluctance to admit the huddled masses and wretched refuse (or highly educated and technically proficient) also revolves around uncertainty

over the current and future direction of the American economy. Political and economic pressures have prompted policy-makers to take a more restrictive immigration policy. Even though Americans’ work habits and interests may be changing, specialized work visas or even basic temporary entry visas are more difficult for internationals to obtain. If they come, they may take a job that an American needs, so the reasoning goes. They may stay, the reasoning continues, and displace more American workers.

Yet the positions may go unfilled because American workers may not be properly trained, or may not have the language skills or multicultural sensitivity to do a good job. Restricting immigration for economic reasons can be a politically charged action, but it demonstrates short-term thinking. Even if the worker with a temporary visa creates a path to stay, he or she may not be taking a job, but adding to the economy ultimately by creating new jobs. That dynamic was behind the prosperous economies of other times in U.S. history.

In the end, tighter borders also can promote greater isolation—a pattern this country does not need in the present danger. Certainly there are risks in granting visitor or temporary worker visas but in the long run the risks are greater for the economy and for national security. The tightening of visa policies creates roadblocks for businesses and community organizations to participate more fully and more competitively in a global economy and multicultural world.

## PAWAC

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### Executive Director

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### Community

#### Advisory Board

Mr. Bashir Ali

Dr. John Erwin

Ms. Anne Fox

Mr. Henry Holling

Mr. Larry Ivory

Dr. Stan Liberty

Mr. John Morris

Ms. Roberta Parks

Ms. Ricca Slone

Dr. John Throop

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Dennis Triggs

Dave Williams

[www.pawac.org](http://www.pawac.org)

## Calendar

October 2004 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Series of International Dinners

October 02 – Russian Dinner, 6:00pm, \$35.00

October 10 – Asian Dinner, 6:00pm, \$35.00

October 17 – Desserts & Drinks from around the World, 2:00pm, \$35.00

October 17 – African – Kwanzaa Dinner, 5:00pm, \$35.00

October 19 – Algerian-French Dinner, 6:30pm, \$40.00

October 24 – Scottish Dinner, 3:30pm, \$40.00

October 25 – Italian Jewish Dinner, 6:30pm, \$35.00

October 29 – Northern Italian Dinner, 6:30pm, \$40.00

October 30 – Mexican Dinner, 7:00pm, \$45.00

*Call PAWAC at (309) 693-0462 or ArtsPartners at (309) 686-2787 to purchase tickets.*

November 11, 2004 (*note shift to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; Scholastic Bowl training follows the meeting*)

Business Meeting, 5:00pm, Godfather's Pizza, 618 West Glen Ave., Peoria

November 13, 2004

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual PAWAC World Affairs Scholastic Bowl, Bradley Hall, Bradley University

December 2, 2004

Business Meeting, 5:00pm, Location TBA

*Check for updates and view a full schedule of events at [www.pawac.org](http://www.pawac.org).*

### About Our Organization...

The Peoria Area World Affairs Council (PAWAC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all individuals. Since 1972, PAWAC has promoted a better understanding of world affairs among the people of Central Illinois by sponsoring public programs and fostering a cooperative educational approach to world problems.

PAWAC is affiliated with the World Affairs Councils of

America and the Foreign Policy Association.

PAWAC meets the first Thursday of each month for a business meeting followed by dinner and an open discussion.

The Caterpillar Foundation serves as our primary benefactor. Sponsoring institutions include Bradley University, Eureka College, Illinois Central College, Illinois College,

Illinois Valley Community College, Illinois Wesleyan University, Lincoln College, Monmouth College, and the University of Illinois. Also we give special thanks to our Corporate Members as well as Friends and Supporters of PAWAC.

Annual dues are \$25 and entitle the member to program discounts.

## PAWAC

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Peoria, IL 61528

