



THE DIPLOMAT

PEORIA AREA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, INC.

Winter 2005

PAWAC

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www.pawac.org

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Inside This Edition:

Letter from the President	2
Scholastic Bowl Continues Growth	3
Business Notes...	3
Book Review	4
PAWAC Goes To Washington	5
Calendar	6
About PAWAC	6

35th Annual Conference Takes Center Stage

The 35th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference will take place February 18-19, 2005 at the Hotel Pere Marquette in Peoria, Illinois. This year's conference is "Crime Without Borders: Globalization & Human Trafficking."

Human trafficking, more commonly referred to as

slavery, did not end in the 19th century, as most of us commonly believe. It is an on-going issue that is gaining national attention as the abuses of human rights escalate. The sale of human beings for forced labor and sexual exploitation is a \$13 billion per year global industry. Only the arms trade and

drug trafficking exceed its monetary value to organized crime. This conference will address the crisis of human bondage from various perspectives, including the three-pronged approach of protection for the victims, prevention of the practice, and prosecution of the perpetrators.

PAWAC Launches Great Decisions Series for 2005

This spring, PAWAC launches its first Great Decisions series. Over fifty years old, Great Decisions is a program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) in New York. Each spring, the FPA publishes a briefing book of essays on timely topics in foreign affairs.

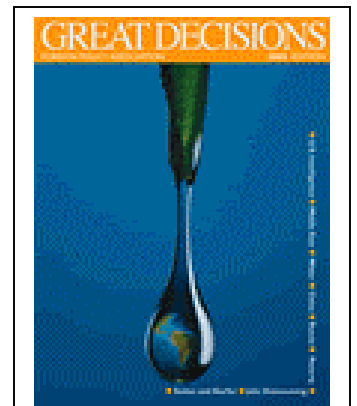
PAWAC has purchased seventy of these books, which are available for sale for \$15 by contacting Executive Director Angela Weck or Great Decisions Co-Chairs Patricia Luthé and Jean Sanger. While buying the book is optional, the heart of the Great Decisions program is the periodic discussion groups on each of the topics within the Great Decisions briefing book.

Topics include U.S. Intelligence, Russia, Outsourcing, China, Sudan, Global Poverty Gap, Middle East, and Global Water Issues. Each topic has a discussion leader who will provide a ten-minute overview of the topic. The group will then spend the next hour talking about the topic with the discussion leader serving as moderator.

Beginning Tuesday, March 1, the PAWAC Great Decisions series will run every other Tuesday until June 7, for a total of eight sessions. Session moderators include PAWAC officers, members, local faculty members, and other experts in the community. A full list of topics and moderators is included in this newsletter's Calendar.

Each Great Decisions session

will take place at the Peoria Public Library downtown (107 NE Monroe) from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Light refreshments will be served courtesy of the League of Women Voters.



The Great Decisions 2005 briefing book (above) is available for \$15 and can be purchased at the 35th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference February 18-19, 2005.

Letter from the President



Dave Thompson
PAWAC President

To prophesy is extremely difficult - especially with regard to the future.

- Chinese proverb

"If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?"

- Albert Einstein

I want to begin by thanking our many members and other volunteers who helped make our 3rd annual scholastic bowl on November 13 such a rousing success. I believe we have established a strongly favorable reputation for this event. Way to go, people! And, let's remember it's never too early to begin writing questions for next fall.

With our domestic election season behind us, whatever our individual feelings about the results, we face troubling international prospects. The outcome and implications of another election, in Iraq, will bear heavily on the question of when and how U.S. and allied occupation forces may begin to withdraw. But author Thomas P.M. Barnett argues that we need to give up our search for an "exit strategy," at least in a broader sense, and get used to the idea that building a safer world will be a long, long process requiring sustained national effort and resolution over the course of decades.

In *The Pentagon's New Map: War and Peace in the Twenty-First Century* (Putnam's, 2004), Barnett writes of much more than just purely military issues. His map depicts a world divided into two essential parts: the "Functioning

Core" of relatively prosperous and stable countries that generally have benefited from globalization, and the "Non-Integrating Gap" of impoverished regions where violence and oppression still prevail, largely isolated from the potential benefits of international trade and intellectual exchange. In global context, there is no "exit strategy"; a new version of Containment is impossible, and attempting merely to maintain "stability" offers no real solution to a dangerous and unacceptable status quo. We can never prevent serious consequences of misery in the Gap from spilling over to the Core. Instead, the only viable solution is somehow to close the Gap, by improving conditions there so that they eventually converge with the enviable standards of the Core—easier said than done. The keys to constructive integration, he argues, are "connectivity" (e.g., proliferation of Internet access, less restrictive flow of goods and ideas) and "rules sets" (e.g., rule of law, conventions, agreements, or other frameworks promoting cooperation and confidence). The role of

military force in this grand project may be one of the most questionable aspects of Barnett's argument, but he offers a vision of deliberate progress toward greater international harmony and prosperity.

Perhaps one non-military means of reducing the "Gap" would be a new, more vigorous and effective international commitment to stamp out latter-day slavery in its myriad, insidious forms. While its victims may be found in almost every country, including our own, nearly all of them come from Barnett's "Gap"—for example Thailand or Indonesia, where there have been reported attempts to kidnap orphaned children in the aftermath of the recent tsunami. Our 35th annual conference on February 18-19 will shed light on some of the darkest corners of our troubled world.

--Dave Thompson
President, PAWAC

PAWAC's International Scholastic Bowl Growth Continues

By Patricia Luthe, Co-Chair, International Scholastic Bowl Committee

Three years ago, the Peoria Area World Affairs Council created an International Scholastic Bowl to coincide with International Week in November. It seemed a natural way to reach students since the State of Illinois has an IHSA sanctioned Scholastic Bowl.

For those not familiar with the process, it is a competitive team process involving at least five players from each side. During the summer of 2002, the group planned the initial program. Decisions were made about schedule, prizes, participation, and questions. Questions were limited to post 1990 events dealing with the world at large and excluding U.S. people and places unless it also reflected what was happening within the larger scope of world

affairs.

We set the meet for November 16, 2002 and contacted area teams and the Peoria *Journal Star* and the Bloomington *Pantagraph*. They sent newspapers to participating schools to help with preparation since roughly twenty-five percent of the questions were to come from current events. Twenty schools participated in the inaugural event, and the winning teams were: Limestone, Illini Bluffs, Bloomington Central Catholic, and Dunlap. Many coaches told us the event was well run and appreciated by the schools, and these successes led us to continue the program. We also decided to honor the winning schools and the all-tournament team at the conference in February.

In 2003, we honed the

questions and got more of the PAWAC membership involved. We also furnished an *Atlas of World Geography and Junior Scholastic, Atlas and Almanac*, to the now twenty-four participating schools. The 2003 winners were: Limestone, Roanoke-Benson, Morton, and Bloomington High School. The teams felt their involvement strongly contributed to interest in and understanding of world events.

Schools and students last year (2004) seemed even more willing to be involved, and PAWAC further honed our activities. We not only sent the newspapers but also gave topic samples to the area coaches. Included within the post 1990 period were topics of such timeless importance as World War II and Shakespeare. We hosted a pre-tournament training

meeting to improve the skills of the timers, scorers, and reader/judges. The tournament was well staffed and a real success. We also received coverage for the teams from a local television station and the Peoria *Journal Star*. Not only were the teams exceptional but the winning teams of: Bloomington High School, Morton, Peoria Heights, and Peoria Notre Dame, showed us truly advanced knowledge. The all tournament team of: John Smille, Morton; Dylon Troxel, Peoria Heights; Rob Koehler, Roanoke-Benson; Hunter Fast, Bloomington, and Mike Hahn, Illinois Valley Central, showed a vast knowledge of the world around them. We will again honor the all tournament team at the 35th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference in February, and in April 2005, PAWAC will take them to the national World Quest tournament in Washington.

Business & WACA Notes...

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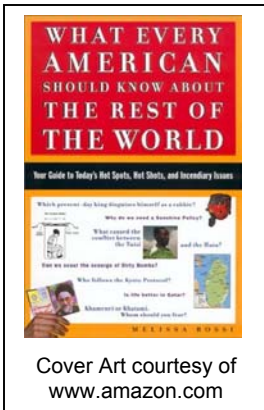
World Affairs Council System Highlights and Accomplishments for 2004:

- ◆ Total aggregate funding nationwide increased to \$37m, our highest level in history.
- ◆ We expanded to 86 councils, the highest in history.
- ◆ Our councils hosted ten heads of state or government.
- ◆ During the 50th Anniversary of Great Decisions, we adopted its as a Flagship Program and have 45 councils now participating in it.
- ◆ The Southern Center World in Transition workshops trained 1290 teachers from 9 councils.
- ◆ The San Francisco Council's radio program "It's Your World" is now syndicated at 21 NPR stations around the country.
- ◆ We held our second national Academic WorldQuest high school competition at the World Bank. Momentum is growing, with 50 council teams pledged for 2005.
- ◆ The Philadelphia Council organized 15 trips for 179 members nationwide, including trips to the Baltics, Sicily, and Russia.
- ◆ Our councils had 16 programs on C-SPAN and 29 on PBS, including 5 FPA specials on foreign policy election issues. The Southern Center ran "The Angry World" on PBS.
- ◆ We produced our first-ever *Foreign Policy 500* book, selecting our 500 most influential people in foreign policy.

Book Review: *What Every American Should Know About the Rest of the World*

by M. L. Rossi

Plume Books, 2003, ISBN—0452284058



Cover Art courtesy of
www.amazon.com

Did You Know?

Chemical and biological warfare have been used since long before World War 1. During the Peloponnesian War in the 5th century BC, Spartans used sulphur and pitch to overcome the enemy. During ancient and medieval times, soldiers sometimes threw bodies of plague victims over the walls of besieged cities, or into water wells. During the French and Indian wars in North America (1689-1763), blankets used by smallpox victims were given to American Indians in the hope they would carry the disease.

(Source: www.didyouknow.cd)

What is the difference between a Shiite and a Sunni?

In Rwanda, why did the Hutus kill the Tutsis?

Which modern monarch likes to disguise himself as a cabbie?

In trying to keep up with the news of the world, one is bombarded with sound bites and tidbits of information.

Understanding the events of our planet requires the ability to view all this information in context—taking into account each country's history and its relationship to other countries. *What Every American Should Know about the Rest of the World* provides that context in an entertaining and well-organized manner. It's light reading on serious subject matters.

M. L. Rossi, a journalist who has written for *Newsweek*, *Newsday*, and *MSNBC*, has arranged four sections, labeled for their current news relevance. The first section, titled "Tickers", concerns those countries where changes are likely to occur quickly. It includes profiles of Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Indonesia, India/Pakistan,

North Korea, and Columbia. The second section, "Slow Tickers", focuses on countries where important changes are occurring, but the situations are not so volatile. It profiles Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and China, among others.

The third section, "Talkers", as indicated by its title, profiles nations and areas that people are talking about. In some cases, a single profile covers several countries that are connected geographically and culturally. For example, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are covered in one profile titled "The 'Stans." Other profiles are "Mideast Medley," "Balkan Bunch," and "African Assortment."

The fourth section, "The Big Picture," examines international relations from a continental view, with profiles of North America, Europe, Africa, along with the other continents.

While the book is solidly researched and documented, what makes the book enjoyable is Rossi's wit. She compares India and Pakistan's conflict over Kashmir to a nasty child custody battle following a

bitter divorce. She describes Vladimir Putin, Russia's President as "young, athletic, and kinda cute."

Another aspect of the book that makes it easy to consult is its organization. Each profile starts with a vital statistics section labeled "Fast Facts." Important places and people are covered in the "Hot Spots" and "Hot Shots" sections. Important historical information is presented in "Background Briefing."

The tone of the book is fairly objective, though with a slight liberal bent. Rossi presents her opinions directly in sections labeled "Armchair Diplomat."

One drawback to the book is that some of the information is already out-of-date, an inevitable and unavoidable drawback to the book publishing field. But Rossi should be able to bring out an updated edition every two years or so. Still, the background information alone in this book makes it worth reading and owning.

*Written by
Marla E. Warren,
PAWAC Member*

PAWAC Goes to Washington: The 2005 Annual WACA Conference

By Marla E. Warren

One of the highlights of the national conference of World Affairs Councils of America was a speech given by Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International*. After receiving the Distinguished International Journalist award, Zakaria spoke at length on America's role in the world. In a speech described as "mesmerizing" by Jean Sanger, he said, "If we don't take a critical look at how the United States is dealing with the world, we may find that we have succeeded in globalizing the world, but we have failed at globalizing ourselves."

The conference, "Tackling the World's Toughest Issues," was held January 26-29 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C. Along with Jean Sanger, other PAWAC members in attendance were Chet Sanger, Mac Pogue, Don and Cindy Samford, Dick Sanders, and Angela Weck. "There was too much for just one person to see and do, so we divided and conquered," said Jean Sanger.

Another notable speaker was Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Laurie Garrett, author of the books *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World out of Balance* and *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Health*. Garrett spoke on the topic "What Will It Take to Conquer AIDS?"

"She really put the pieces of the AIDS crisis together for me, and helped me see how it connected," said Jean Sanger. Garrett spoke about how the tsunami in

Southeast Asia would increase the spread of AIDS. According to Weck, Garrett stated that relief agencies are hiring local people to do most of the clean-up work. Because the work is physically demanding, most of the workers being hired are men. So many of the men suddenly have money where many of the women do not. The women turn to prostitution to get some of this money for themselves, and this increase in prostitution leads to an increase in

the spread of AIDS.

Embassy receptions were another enjoyable aspect of the conference. Attendees had to choose between receptions at the embassies of France, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, and Taiwan. Weck attended the Jordanian embassy reception where the chief of economic affairs gave a talk on how much economic development in the Middle East helps ease the threat of terrorism. Chet and Jean Sanger went to the reception at the French embassy, which was hosted by the French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, whom Jean Sanger described as "charming, charismatic, and very knowledgeable about French-American history."

A special treat for some of the attendees was the Chairman's Dinner on Wednesday evening. The speaker was former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who, according to Weck was "candid but diplomatic" in speaking of the current state of the nation. Powell stressed that citizen's groups such as world affairs councils are more important than ever these days.



PAWAC Executive Director Angela Weck (far right) with PAWAC member Mac Pogue (far left) and Lee Hamilton (middle) of the 9/11 Commission at the WACA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in January 2005.

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Calendar

February 18-19, 2005

35th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference, Hotel Pere Marquette
"Crime Without Borders: Globalization and Human Trafficking"

March 3, 2005

Business Meeting, 5:00pm, Peoria Public Library, Lakeview Branch

Great Decisions Discussion Forums, 7:00 – 8:30pm at Peoria Public Library, 107 NE Monroe

March 01 – "China" moderated by Dr. David Thompson

March 15 – "Middle East" moderated by Dr. Amir al Khafaji (at Bradley University Library, Wyckoff Room)

March 29 – "Global Poverty Gap" moderated by Dr. Edwina Jordan

April 12 – "U.S. Intelligence" moderated by Dr. Chuck Bukowski

April 26 – "Sudan's Crisis in Darfur" moderated by Hala Ahmed

May 10 – "Global Water Issues" moderator TBA.

May 24 – "Russia" moderated by Angela Weck

June 07 – "Outsourcing Jobs" moderated by Dave Williams

April 7, 2005

Business Meeting, 5:00pm, Peoria Public Library, Lakeview Branch

Check for updates and view a full schedule of events at 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.

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