

Alaska World Affairs Council Annual Report

(Covering 1 July, 2012 – 3 May, 2013)



The purpose of the Alaska World Affairs Council is to:

- Support and strengthen the United States and its institutions by developing an informed public and promoting international understanding, awareness and involvement in current-day world issues;
- Stimulate interest in world affairs and inspire the public to be involved in world issues, through a program of lectures, discussion forums, media events and other educational activities;
- Inform and educate our students, from the elementary through the university levels, in the importance of involvement in, and understanding of, world affairs;
- Provide support materials, training opportunities and discussion forums for teachers in the fields of foreign policy, geography and current events; and
- Facilitate cooperation among groups and organizations with similar goals, locally, nationally and internationally.

Mission Statements:

The mission of the Alaska World Affairs Council, a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization, is to:

- support and strengthen the United States and its institutions by developing an informed public
- to stimulate interest in world affairs through a program of lectures, forums, and other educational activities
- to assist individuals in reaching their own conclusions on foreign policy issues
- to facilitate cooperation among organizations or groups which have similar aims, including the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State; and
- to promote international understanding and world peace through programs and personal contact



The mission of the World Affairs Councils of America:

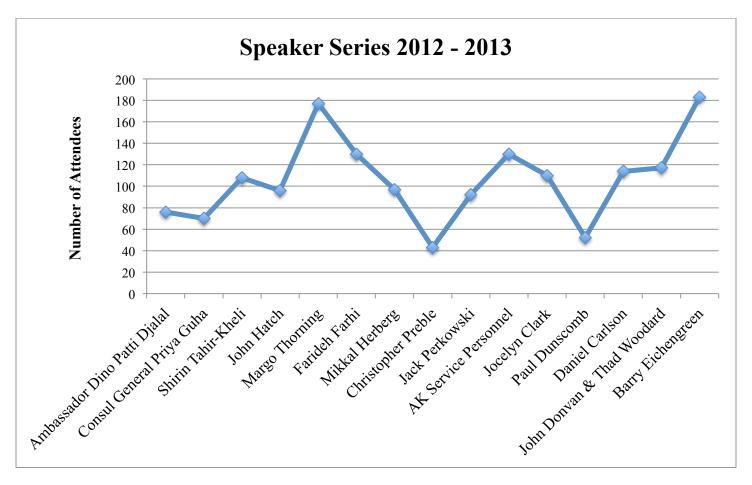
The World Affairs Councils of America represents and supports the largest national non-partisan network of local councils that are dedicated to educating, inspiring and engaging Americans in international affairs and the critical global issues of our times.

Goals of the National Office:

- Empower citizens to participate in the national debate on world affairs
- Build citizen support for American engagement in the world
- Stimulate communities to interact effectively in the global economy
- Help people relate their local concerns to global issues
- Improve international education locally, nationally, and internationally
- Foster international interests in America's young people
- Build alliances with counterpart organizations locally, nationally, and internationally
- Increase council professionalism by disseminating best practices

Dashboard

Speaker Attendance Summary:



Benchmarks & Status:

Description	Status as of 3 May
Facebook Page Likes	343
Facebook Group Members	185
Twitter Followers	1,413
Standard Memberships	212
Student Memberships	190
Total Membership Goal	455
Membership Revenue	\$25,000
Corporate, Grants & General Donations	\$60,000
Speaker Sponsor	\$ 5,000
World Quest Funding (received & committed)	\$12,000

Programs

The Alaska World Affairs Council featured approximately 2 programs each month during the 2012 – 2013 program year. The bi-monthly program series ran from September 2012 – May 2013 with an Ambassador Series during the summer months of June – August.



Eric McCallum and John Hatch discuss ways to end poverty by 2040

For a second year, Northrim Bank sponsored the Oil and Gas Series. This series consisted of 3 prominent speakers who are considered non-partisan experts on the topic of energy. Each speaker addressed the topic from a different perspective and viewpoint.



Oil and Gas Series Speaker, Daniel Carlson addresses the topic of petrochemicals on a global scale

Our 26 program series can be summarized as 3 Oil and Gas Programs, 4 Global Business Programs, and 19 General Interest Programs with the largest two subcategories being 3 Middle East Programs and 5 Web Programs.

The 2012 – 2013 programs covered a wide range of topics including the following:

- The Muslim World, Democracy, and Capitalism: Can They Coexist?
- The Eurozone Enigma Webinar
- The Changing Face and Role of the British Representation in the US and Around the World
- Understanding Muslim Societies
- The End of Poverty by 2040
- Ambassador Djerejian Talks Syria Webinar
- Stories of Struggle, Stories of Hope: Art, Politics, and Human Rights
- US Energy and Tax Policies: Implications for Alaska's Economy
- Mexican Elections and the Transition of Power Webinar
- Postcards from Tomorrow Square: China's Economic Explosion, Environmental Impact, Transition to Democracy and Compelling Human Stories
- Iran's Nuclear Policy and Its Impact on the Region
- Alaska LNG Opportunities: Prospects in Japan, China, and Other Asian Markets
- From Triad to Dyad: Rationalizing US Nuclear Weapons Delivery Systems
- The World in 2013 Webinar
- China in Transition: Opportunities in the Next 10 Years
- Alaskans on the Ground: Experiences in Afghanistan
- Horse Dancing Over the Fences of Tradition: Korea, YouTube, & the Marketing of Culture in the 21st Century
- At What Cost? US Leadership in Global Health in an Era of Austerity Webinar
- Postwar Japan is Over: So Why Isn't it?
- Natural Gas as the 21st Century Economic Game Changer
- Autism: A Global Story
- Exorbitant Privilege: The Rise and Fall of the Dollar and the Future of the International Monetary System
- The Betrayal of American Prosperity: Free Market Delusions, America's Decline, and How We Must Compete in the Post-Dollar Era
- The Obama Administration's Pivot from the Middle East to Asia: Opportunities for Alaska and the Entire West Coast

Attendance for the year decreased 20% with an average of 107 people per event compared with 129 people per event last year. Total membership increased from 349 members last year to 401 members this year, however, individual memberships decreased 7% from 227 members last year to 212 this year.



Global Business Series Speaker, Barry Eichengreen speaks to our largest audience of 2012/2013 with 183 people!

This year was the second year of a sponsorship by UAA allowing for all UAA faculty and staff to attend AKWorld programs at no cost. Over 70 UAA faculty and staff attended programs through this sponsorship. We are currently looking for a sponsor to help military personnel and families allowing them to come to AKWorld Programs without a cost barrier.



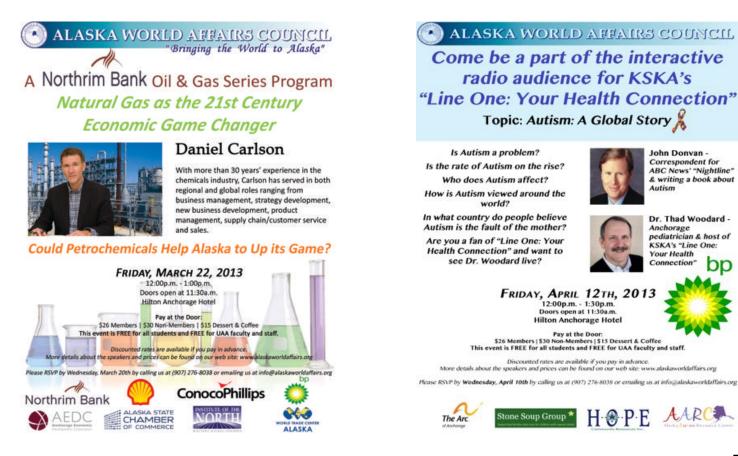
The Alaska Service Personnel panel captivated their audience with their experiences in Afghanistan

Consistent with the prior year, we offer all of our speakers the opportunity to fly to Juneau while in Alaska, visit our capital city, and speak for the Juneau World Affairs Council. This year, we sent Chris Preble, Jack Perkowski, and Clyde Prestowitz to Juneau. The Juneau World Affairs Council organized a program with Dr. Jocelyn Clark who spoke to the Alaska World Affairs Council about "Horse Dancing Over the Fences of Tradition: Korea, YouTube, and the marketing of culture in the 21st Century" and Farideh Farhi who spoke about "Iran's Nuclear Policy and its Impact on the Region."



Speakers, Dr. Thad Woodard, John Donvan, Dr. Paul Dunscomb, and Dr. Chrisopher Preble, provide much variety for 2012/2013 with topics ranging from the global story of Autism to Japan to nuclear weapons.

Program Flyers:





ALASKA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL Bringing the World to Alaska"

Exorbitant Privilege: The Rise and Fall of the Dollar & the Future of the International Monetary System



RECENT EVENTS IN THE U.S. HAVE RAISED SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE DOLLAR. SOME SAY THE DOLLAR MAY SOON CEASE TO BE THE WORLD'S STANDARD CURRENCY. IS THE SITUATION THAT BAD?

DR. BARRY EICHENGREEN. ONE OF THE FOREMOST EXPERTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM WILL ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AND MORE!

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2013 12:00P.M. - 1:00P.M. DOORS OPEN AT 11:30A.M.

ANCHORAGE HILTON HOTEL

Pay at the Door: \$26 Members | \$30 Non-Members | \$15 Coffee & Dessert This event is FREE for all students and FREE for UAA faculty and staff.

Discounted rates are available if you pay in advance. More details about the speaker and prices can be found on our web site: www.alaskaworldaffairs.org

Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 17th by calling us at (907)276-8038 or emailing us at info@alaskaworldaffairs.org

Barry Eichengreen's book, Exorbitant Privilege: The Rise and Fall of the Dollar and the Future of the International Monetary System, will be available in limited quatities for purchase at the event.

Part of the Global Business Series Sponsored by:







ALASKA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL Bringing the World to Alaska"

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PIVOT FROM THE MIDDLE EAST TO ASIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKA AND THE ENTIRE WEST COAST



Pulitzer Prize WINNING **FOREIGN** CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS

FRIDAY, MAY 17 2013

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M DOORS OPEN AT 11:30

HILTON ANCHORAGE HOTEL

PAY AT THE DOOR

\$26 MEMBERS/\$30 NON-MEMBERS/\$15 DESSERT

THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS AND FREE FOR UAA STAFF & FACULTY

DISCOUNTED RATES ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU PAY IN ADVANCE. MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SPEAKER AND PRICES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEB SITE: WWW.ALASKAWORLDAFFAIRS.ORG

> PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING US AT (907)276-8038 OR EMAILING US AT INFO@ALASKAWORLDAFFAIRS.ORG







ALASKA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL Bringing the World to Alaska"

THE BETRAYAL OF AMERICAN PROSPERITY: FREE MARKET DELUSIONS, AMERICA'S DECLINE, AND HOW WE MUST COMPETE IN THE POST-DOLLAR ERA

HAS THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE U.S. ERODED SO MUCH THAT IT CANNOT COMPETE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST CHINA, INDIA, AND OTHER FAST-GROWING ECONOMIES?

CLYDE PRESTOWITZ FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC STRATEGY INSTITUTE



FRIDAY, MAY 3RD, 2013 12:00p.m. - 1:00p.m. Doors open at 11:30p.m Anchorage Hilton Hotel

Pay at the Door: \$26 Members | \$30 Non-Members | \$15 Coffee & Dessert This event is FREE for all students and FREE for UAA faculty and staff.

Discounted rates are available if you pay in advance. More details about the speaker and prices can be found on our web site: www.alaskaworldaffairs.org

Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 1st by calling us at (907)276-8038 or emailing us at info@alaskaworldaffairs.org

Clyde Prestowitz's book, The Betrayal of American Prosperity: Free Market Delusions, America's Decline, and How We Must Compete in the Post-Dollar Era, will be available in limited quantities for purchase at the event.

A Bey Power's Memorial Program

> Part of the Global Business Series Sponsored By:









WE ARE BRINGING SOME OF THE BRIGHTEST MINDS TO ALASKA TO DISCUSS OIL, GAS, & ENERGY



Остовек 26, 2012

Dr. Margo Thorning U.S. Energy & Tax Policies: Implications for Alaska's Economy

Dr. Thorning is an internationally recognized expert on tax, environmental, and competitiveness issues. She writes and lectures on tax and economic policy, is frequently quoted in publications such as the Financial Times, New York Times, and Wall Street Journal, and has appeared internationally on public affairs news programs. Margo Thorning is senior vice president and chief economist with the American Council for Capital Formation



WEMBER 28 2012 Mikkal Herberg

Miska INCO Opportunities: Prospects in Japan, China, and other Asian Markets Mikkal Herberg writes and speaks extensively on Asian and global energy issues to the energy industry, governments, research institutions, and the media in the U.S., Asia, and Europe. His recent publications include: "China's "Energy Rise' and the New Geopolitics of Global Energy": "Energy Security in the Asia-Pacific Region and Policy of the New U.S. Administration:" and "China's Search for Energy Security: Implications for the United



MARCH 22, 2013

Natural Gas as the 21st Century Economic Game Change

Daniel Carlson currently serves as Shell's General Manager New Business Development Americas. He is responsible for identifying new business opportunities and deployment of gas to chemical technologies in the Americas. With more than 30 years' experience in the chemicals industry, he has served in both regional and global roles ranging from business management, strategy development, new business development, product management, supply chain/customer service, and sales.



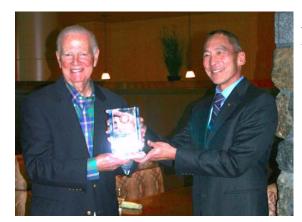
DATE TO BE DETERMINED

Frank Verrastro
Frank Verrastro is senior vice president and director of the Energy and National Security Program at CSIS. He has extensive energy experience, having spent 30 years in energy policy and project management positions in the U.S. government and the private sector. He has served in the White House (Energy Policy and Planning Staff) and the Departments of Interior (Oil and Gas Office) and Energy (Domestic Policy and international Affairs Office).



International Award of Excellence

AKWorld awarded its first International Award of Excellence to Secretary James Baker III. James Addison Baker III is an American attorney, politician and political advisor. Baker served as the Chief of Staff in President Ronald Reagan's first administration and in the final year of the administration of President George H. W. Bush. Baker also served as Secretary of the Treasury from 1985–1988 in the second Reagan administration, and Secretary of State in the George H. W. Bush administration.



AKWorld Board of Directors Chairman Garret Wong honors Secretary Baker with the International Award of Excellence.



AKWorld President Lise Falskow and Board Members join former U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski and current AK Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell in a congratulatory photo with Secretary James Baker III.

Media Coverage

This year we experienced continued media interest and coverage of Alaska World Affairs Council Programs. All programs were recorded for KSKA public radio for rebroadcast throughout Alaska. In addition, there were several articles and coverage of Alaska World Affairs Council Programs on the Alaska Dispatch, Anchorage Daily News, and Petroleum News. Speakers were also invited for live interviews on 88.1FM KRUA; 91.1FM KSKA; 650AM KENI; and the Dan Fagan T.V. Show.





Speakers, Ambassador Dino Patti Djalal and Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli on the Dan Fagan T.V. Show



Dr. Jocelyn Clark on the UAA Student Radio 88.1FM KRUA

Students

The Alaska World Affairs Council is a focused educational organization that values students and supports their quest for knowledge and first hand experiences. Students are encouraged to come and listen to world-class speakers at no cost thanks to a sponsorship from BP. Students often send AKWorld and BP thank you cards to thank us for this opportunity.





Left: AKWorld student staff members, Alyssa Bish and Meneka Thiru, host at an informational booth at the UAA Global Opportunities Fair. Right: AKWorld student staff members, Alyssa Bish and Meneka Thiru, with speaker Chris Abani.

BP once again sponsored the AKWorld Student Program making it possible for all students to come to AKWorld programs at no cost. This generous sponsorship allowed for an average of 35 students to come to each event. The largest student attended programs were Margo Thorning, who spoke about "U.S. Energy and Tax Policies: Implications for Alaska's Economy" which had 63 students, the Alaska Service Personnel panel, who spoke about "Alaskans on the Ground: Experiences in Afghanistan" which had 69 students, and Barry Eichengreen, who spoke about "Exorbitant Privilege: The Rise and Fall of the Dollar and the Future of the International Monetary System" which had 94 students.



Students from Eagle River High School claim a table at Margo Thorning's program

In addition to students coming to AKWorld Programs, many of the speakers agreed to visit our local High Schools including McLaughlin Youth Center. These visits reached up to 300 students per speaker. Below are photos of economist Margo Thorning speaking to a group of West High School Students about oil and gas taxes.





Internship Opportunity:

The Alaska World Affairs Council is part of the School Business Partnership's High School Gifted Internship Program. Through the Gifted Internship Program with AKWorld, interns are assigned a project, assist at the event check-in desk, wrap presents for speakers, tell jokes, get introduced to leaders of other nonprofits in the community, and have the opportunity to meet world class leaders. This is an opportunity for local high school students who are interested in studying international relations in college to see what it is like working for an international non-profit organization before they start university. This year, Meneka Thiru, a UAA graduate, joined our team as an intern for 4 months in the fall. Meneka was responsible for program promotion and creating marketing flyers and brochures. The Alaska World Affairs Council has had the best interns and enjoys their energy and enthusiasm.



Intern Meneka Thiru with Indonesian Ambassador Dino Pati Djalal

Student and Teacher Competitions:

Below is information about the Alaska World Affairs Council High School Student WorldQuest Competition. For this competition, student teams of four compete on topics including current events, geography, foreign affairs, and pre-determined topics which this year included Energy Policy and the Middle East. A team of 4 girls from West High School won the Alaska competition for the second year in a row and won a trip to Washington D.C. along with their chaperone for the national competition where they placed 13th overall.







A full house at the UAA Lucy Cuddy for the 2013 Academic WorldQuest Competition



The new clicker system and electronic scoreboard.



Student team from Fairbanks is all smiles.



AKWorld Board Members volunteering at the WorldQuest check-in table

Legacy Gifts/Endowment Fund/Memorials

Legacy Gifts

Legacy gifts are made through a will or living trust, charitable gift annuity, charitable trust, retirement plan, or other planned gift. Legacy gifts to the Alaska World Affairs Council are held at the Alaska Community Foundation in the AKWorld Endowment Fund for the sustainability of the council and to benefit future generations.

Endowment Fund

The Alaska World Affairs Council established an Endowment Fund held at the Alaska Community Foundation in 2008. This fund was started with a significant legacy gift from James Power. In recognition of his legacy gift, the Bev Power Memorial Program was established to recognize her dedication to bringing world-class speakers to Alaska. Individuals and generous matching funds from Cornerstone General Contractors have made additions to this fund. All 2013 Pick.Click.Give donations went to the AKWorld Endowment Fund and were matched by Cornerstone General Contractors. The Alaska World Affairs Council currently has \$98,000 in the endowment fund.

Bev Power Memorial Programs

The Beverly Power Memorial Program was established and features a world-class speaker on a yearly basis. Bev Power, Mrs. James Power, was a long-time leader in the Alaska World Affairs Council, donating untold hours and serving as President in 1968. Bev had a knack for inspiring others to promote and benefit the Council. One of her goals was to bring well-known speakers to Alaska to address the Council and general public. Upon her death, a significant donation was bequeathed to the Alaska World Affairs Council Endowment Fund to meet this goal. Each year, we recognize her and her contribution through the designated Bev Power's Memorial Program. This year's Bev Power's Memorial Program is speaker Clyde Prestowitz (pictured right) speaking on "The Betrayal of American Prosperity: Free Market



Delusions, America's Decline, and How We Must Compete in the Post-Dollar Era" on May 3rd, 2013.

Brian Davies Memorial Award

The Brian Davies Memorial Award was established in 2012 and sponsors sending the winning student team from AKWorld's Academic WorldQuest Competition to the national competition in Washington, D.C. each April. Brian Davies was passionate about the Alaska World Affairs Council WorldQuest competition and led the coordination of the competition for many years. Brian was wonderful at inspiring students to share his enthusiasm for world affairs and encouraging individuals and companies to support the students.



Brian Davies on the far left with High School Coaches and WO MC.

Memorial Recognition

In Memory of the following supporters, donations have been given to the Alaska World Affairs Council.

All of the following individuals are listed on a memorial plaque held in our office:

Elaine Atwood, 2001,
William Barnes, 2001,
Helen Butcher, 2005,
Brian Davies, 2012,
Don Doyle, 2012,
Pat Fleetwood, 2011,
Cheryll Heinze, 2012,
La Rue Hellenthal, 2008,
James Parsons, 2004,
Ken Taylor, BG, USAF (Ret), 2006,
Maxine Reed, 2009,
Floyd Smith, 2006,
Alden Todd, 2006



Partnerships, Staff, and Board of Directors

Partnerships with Other Organizations:

The Alaska World Affairs Council partnered with several organizations in 2012 - 2013 to bring world-class leaders to a larger audience. Partnering organizations included AEDC, Alaska Autism Resource Center,

Alaska Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Dispatch, Alaska Public Media, Alaska Writers Guild, Anchorage Libraries, Arc of Anchorage, Commonwealth North, Hope Community Resources, Institute of the North, Stone Soup Group, World Trade Center Alaska, and the University of Alaska Anchorage.



Staff:

The Alaska World Affairs Council Staff consists of Alyssa Bish, Administrative Assistant; Lise Falskow, President and CEO; and Kari Gardey, Program Coordinator. The staff works diligently to execute directives laid out by the AKWorld Board of Directors.



Board of Directors:

The 2012 - 2013 Board of Directors included the following individuals: Torrie Allen, Dr. Robert Artwohl, Dr. Shadi Battah, Laura Cameron, Liz Carter, Dale Cope, Chuck Coulson – Board Vice Chairman, Gary Dixon – Treasurer, Nancy Eliason, James Pepper Henry, Bob Iden, Susan Kalina, Ann Lovejoy, Cheryl Myers, Pamela Orme, Alice Rogoff, Deborah Smith, Renee' Stewart, William Theuer – Secretary, Dr. Timothy Thomas, Flip Todd, Garret Wong – Board Chairman, and Steve Zelener. Board Member Emeriti included Chuck Becker, Rod Finkle, Carolyn Rader, and Phyllis Smith.

The following members have applied for and been approved for the 2013 - 2014 program year board of directors: Torrie Allen, Nils Andreassen, Dr. Robert Artwohl, Randy Banez, Dr. Shadi Battah, Laura Cameron, Sean Churchfield, Dale Cope, Chuck Coulson, Gary Dixon – Treasurer, Paul Dunscomb, Jocelyn Fenton, Bob Iden, Susan Kalina, Ann Lovejoy, Cheryl Myers, Pamela Orme, Kim Reitmeier, Alice Rogoff, Deborah Smith, Renee' Stewart, Commissioner Daniel Sullivan, William Theuer, Dr. Timothy Thomas, Flip Todd, Garret Wong – Board Chairman, and Steve Zelener. Board Member Emeriti included Chuck Becker, Rod Finkle, Carolyn Rader, and Phyllis Smith.

Receptions with Visiting Speakers

Board Members as well as \$500+ sponsors of the Alaska World Affairs Council are invited to private speaker receptions. Please consider joining us at the \$500 level to help support our mission and enjoy this unique benefit.



Reception with British Consul General Priya Guha



Reception with Dr. Margo Thorning at the Captain Cook Hotel



Reception with Christopher Preble at the Muse Restaurant



News From Our National Office

The World Affairs Councils of America is the largest nonpartisan, non-profit grassroots organization in the United States dedicated to educating and engaging the American public on global issues. Over 500,000 people a year benefit from the network programming, including members and participants.

The World Affairs Councils of America has a long and storied history that stretches back some 90 years. Two groups, the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) and the World Affairs Councils worked together in the same organizational system from 1918 until the early 1950s. The FPA was begun in the spring of 1918 by a small group of individuals who worked with President Woodrow Wilson that included journalist and social reformer Paul Kellogg, who also served as FPA's first president. The founding members were concerned that at the end of World War I, Americans would choose an isolationist foreign policy over one of engagement and worked to nurture grassroots citizen involvement in international affairs. By 1947, these two groups operated as a national organization that was composed of a network of independent community councils. In 1986, the National Council of World Affairs Organizations national office was established in Washington, D.C. This office evolved into the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA). Today, WACA is the country's largest non-profit organization dedicated to fostering grassroots understanding and engagement in international affairs and seeks to involve as many citizens as possible in an exchange of ideas, knowledge and understanding of global issues. The national office of the WACA works to develop new program opportunities to distribute to member councils. This includes a variety of national program series, an annual national conference, five flagship programs, Leadership Missions to other countries, and other opportunities. In addition to providing program opportunities, the WACA acts as the central hub for the council network, connecting councils with resources, opportunities, and of course, with each other. Councils often turn to the WACA for assistance with capacity building and organizational development. The WACA staff visit several councils every year and work hard to help councils accomplish their goals.

Six Top Issues for 2013-2014

The World Affairs Councils of America conducted the Six Top Issues annual survey for 2013-2014. Over 400 people responded and let us know what their Six Top Issues are in the realm of global affairs.

We are excited to announce the Six Top Issues for 2013-2014 are:

- Cybersecurity
- U.S. Energy Independence
- Global Economic Realignment
- Middle East
- Global Environmental Issues
- K-12 Education

We look forward to examining and World Affairs Councils driving the conversation regarding these Six Top Issues.

Prior national webinars, webcasts, and conference calls can be accessed through our national office website at www.worldaffairscouncils.org.

AKWorld Sponsors

\$10,000+





\$2,500 - \$9,999













UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

\$1,000 - \$2,499



Anchorage Downtown Rotary



\$250 - \$999





















Personal Sponsors

Personal Sponsors are individuals who have contributed \$500 or more during the 2012-2013 year.

Sarah Barton, Jeanne Bonar, Milton Bryd, Laura Cameron, Liz Carter, Chuck Coulson, Paul Dunscomb, Nancy Eliason, Tom and Lise Falskow, Carol Fraser, Robert Iden, Susan Kalina, Bradford Keithley, Linda Kumin, Ann Lovejoy, Thomas Marshall, Doug Martin, Joe Mathis, Sean and Robin Murphy, John and Carolyn Rader, Jim and Flo Rooney, William and Elizabeth Saltonstall, Phyllis Smith, Flip Todd, Jan and Jeri Van Den Top, Garret Wong