



**Dayton Council on World Affairs**

# Annual Report for 2009

**January 25, 2010**

## Mission

The Dayton Council on World Affairs (DCOWA) is a non-profit organization that has served the Dayton region for over 60 years. **Our mission is to “promote informed opinion and decision-making concerning international issues. We engage people on diverse world issues, points of view, and cultures to link individuals and organizations with common interests.”** After many years at the University of Dayton DCOWA is now at Wright State University. DCOWA is one of 85 councils in the United States which belong to the World Affairs Councils of America. Each of these councils has the same international interests and often share speakers and programming.

## 2009 Board of Directors

### **Mark J. Meister: President**

President and CEO of the Dayton Society of Natural History which operates the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park, and Fort Ancient

### **Riad Ajami**

Professor of International Management and Global Strategy, Executive Director of the Center for Global Business Education and Research at the Raj Soin College of Business at Wright State University

### **Amy Anderson**

University of Dayton doctoral candidate in the PhD program in Educational Leadership with research on international education and its impact on the development of intercultural sensitivity; currently the interim director of the Center for International Programs at the University of Dayton

### **Steve Axtell: Secretary**

Attorney and Partner in Thompson Hine, LLC’s Environmental practice group; defends governmental enforcement actions and private actions, environmental permitting, regulatory compliance counseling, environmental audits, and business sales and acquisitions

### **Jacob Dorn**

Professor of United States history at Wright State University with publications on religion and social reform in modern America

**Margaret P. Karns**

Professor of Political Science at the University of Dayton; specializes in international politics, foreign policy analysis, and international organizations

**Bob Keener**

Professor of Marketing at Sinclair Community College; international Education Coordinator directly involved in three sister college agreements for Sinclair with colleges in Kettering, England, Monrovia, Liberia, and Thurso, Scotland

**Ponnie Kendell**

Community volunteer commitments include Sinclair Community College Board of Trustees, Clothes That Work Board, Dayton a Peace Process, and YWCA; received the Woman of Influence Award

**Joan Knoll**

Community volunteer; most recent community success was in her five years of leadership in the funding and subsequent building of the South Jewish Community Center for the Jewish Federation; currently serves on two Federation foundations and an investment committee and is with the Montgomery County CIC

**Josh Lader**

Executive Director, Dayton Heart Institute at Good Samaritan Hospital; has a master's degree in Public Administration and has served in the mayors' offices in Tempe, Arizona and Dayton, Ohio

**Thomas J. Lasley II**

Dean, School of Education and Allied Professions University of Dayton; immediate past president of the Dayton Council on World Affairs

**Ileana Marin**

Senior Program Associate at the Kettering Foundation; coordinates International Fellowship Program; holds master's degree in Romanian and Hungarian Linguistics and Cultures from Bucharest University in Romania, and a second master's degree in Ethnic and Minority Studies from ELTE University in Budapest, Hungary

**Mary Mathews**

Chair of the Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc., the managing entity for the recently created National Aviation Heritage Area in Ohio; formerly executive director of the Carillon Historical Park for 16 years

**Katherine Mitakides**

Doctoral student at Miami University in political science with a focus on international relations and comparative politics; currently active with the Junior League of Dayton, the Dayton chapter of the NAACP, and the Board of Directors of the Opera Guild of Dayton

**David L. Neer**

Director of business development for C. H. Dean and Associates, a thirty-year old financial services organization headquartered in Dayton

**Tom Norwalk**

Incorporated the Miami Valley Marketing Group in 1981; provides tailored marketing and support services and programs; conducts issue campaigns, international marketing programs, economic development, plans and implements programs

**Tom Pearson**

Retired from NCR Corporation; held International Corporate positions; has traveled extensively throughout Europe, Middle East, Africa, and the Far East

**Carolyn Rice: President-Elect**

Montgomery County Treasurer; former Director of Executive Education at Wright State University's Raj Sooin College of Business

**Donna M. Schlagheck**

Professor and Chair of Political Science at Wright State University; expert on American foreign policy and international terrorism; consults regularly at WPAFB and is a frequent guest/expert on area television and radio

**Hans Tschudin: Treasurer**

Retired from the NCR as executive in sixty-three countries with marketing, manufacturing, finance/administration accountabilities; community volunteer

**Dona Vella**

Formerly Development Director for Cox Arboretum & Gardens MetroParks; Executive Director of Kids Voting for seven years; Deputy Director for development and external affairs, Dayton Art Institute

**Special Director: Linda Harrison**

Librarian and community volunteer

**Director Emeritus: William Wild*****Ex officio:* Stephen P. Foster**

University Librarian and Associate Vice President for International Affairs, Wright State University

**DCOWA Staff****Michelle Streeter-Ferrari, Program Administrator for DCOWA**

Michelle currently also serves as the Director of the University Center for International Education at Wright State University. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Center which includes international student recruitment, international graduate and undergraduate admissions, international student and scholar services, and education abroad programs. Michelle is directly responsible for institutional partnerships, faculty exchange, grant and curriculum development, and international programming. In her position as Program Administrator for DCOWA, she

oversees the administration of DCOWA adult programs and administration of the day-to-day operations for DCOWA.

Michelle has extensive experience in international programs and international curriculum development. She has previous experience as Administrative Director on several US Department of Education grants at Wright State including two Title VIA grants, two Title VIB-Business and International Education grants, a Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) EU-US grant, and a Fulbright Legacy Grant. She serves as the Wright State Fulbright Campus Representative and Chairs the UCIE Advisory Committee on Internationalizing the Curriculum.

Born in Belgium and having lived in Italy, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Argentina, Michelle has extensive international experience. She holds a B.A. in International Studies and Modern Languages from Wright State University and a M.S. in International Relations from Troy State University-Europe. She is fluent in French and Spanish, has taught English as a Second Language and International Management, and has held several national and international positions in international education organizations such as Assistant Director of the North American International Trade Educators (NASBITE) organization.

#### **Bridget Federspiel, Youth Program Director**

Bridget teaches World History, AP US History, and AP European History at Stivers School for the Arts and is a lecturer at Sinclair Community College. Her awards and honors include Fulbright-Hayes, Time Warner National Teacher Award, James Madison Fellowship and OCSS high school teacher of the year.

#### **Joy Ndiangui**

Joy Ndiangui is the Program Coordinator at the Dayton Council on World Affairs. She has experience in international programming, event management, fundraising and community relations. She recently graduated with a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from Wright State University and is completing her second Masters in International and Comparative Politics along with a nonprofit certification from the American Humanics Institute.

After completing her Bachelors in Economics and Sociology, she worked with Total Kenya in the Corporate Affairs department where she was involved in community relations. From 2006, while pursuing her Masters education, she worked with Wright State University serving various roles including research assistant and Graduate assistant, while serving in different university organizations. At the international office she was in charge of student activities programming. She has also interned at the DP & L in the Community Relations Department, as well as the American Red Cross and American Friends Service Community where her skills in nonprofit management have been enhanced. She also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK. Joy is a professional member of the Toastmasters International, Phi Alpha Alpha and Generation Dayton.

#### **Ryan Haerer**

Ryan Haerer is a recent graduate of Ohio State University in International Studies, focusing on Developing Nations, and will be attending graduate school in a similar field in 2010. A combat medic in the Army, he spent 11 months in Baghdad, Iraq before having to leave the service due to injuries sustained in a roadside bombing. He recently spent 3 months studying Spanish in Quito, Ecuador, and has participated in service-abroad trips in Jamaica, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

## President's Report

Last year in my annual message, I noted the challenges facing DCOWA in light of the economic downturn. As the year progressed, it became clear that in order to survive and thrive in this challenging environment, DCOWA would need a new operating strategy. A DCOWA Board strategic planning session in June determined that the organization required an operating partner and the search began at that time.

After discussions with several organizations and colleges over the course of the summer, I reported to the membership that DCOWA had entered into an operating agreement with the University Center for International Education (UCIE) at Wright State University (WSU) on August 17, 2009.

Within the framework of the agreement, DCOWA remains as it has been for over 60 years – an independent 501 (c) (3) organization devoted to international affairs. UCIE is now providing the administrative support that DCOWA could no longer afford on its own, with Michelle Streeter-Ferrari, UCIE's Director, serving in a dual capacity as DCOWA's Program Administrator. Bridget Federspiel remains as Youth Program Director, with responsibility for our JCOWA programs. Joy Ndiangui now serves as Program Coordinator, and Ryan Haerer is a DCOWA intern. Dr. Stephen P. Foster, University Librarian and Associate Vice President for International Affairs, joined the DCOWA Board in an *ex officio* capacity.

Since signing the agreement, we have worked to transition DCOWA to UCIE. The office so kindly provided by the University of Dayton was closed, and the UCIE office in the Student Union at WSU became DCOWA's physical location. The DCOWA Web site was streamlined and can now be accessed at [www.wright.edu/ucie/dcowa](http://www.wright.edu/ucie/dcowa). The Web site contains all of the new contact information for DCOWA, a monthly calendar of events, a current events list, and for the first time includes a downloadable application form for the Pfeife Smith Scholarship.

Once it became known that we would be working with UCIE, the Adult Program Committee immediately began its planning for the remainder of 2009 and beyond. The program resources of DCOWA and UCIE are now combined to provide a wider variety of events than ever before.

I am pleased to report that as a result of the agreement with UCIE, DCOWA ended 2009 in a strong financial and programmatic position. It is this newly configured organization that I pass to my successor as President, Carolyn Rice, and I know that DCOWA will continue to thrive under her able leadership.

My thanks go out to the DCOWA Board of Directors and to Wright State University for making all of this possible.

Mark J. Meister  
January 25, 2010

## **DCOWA Adult Programs 2009 Summary**

Dayton Council on World Affairs (DCOWA) had an exciting spectrum of programs throughout the year.

- The February 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting featured Aileen LeBlanc & Karen Levin speaking about their documentary “*Take Us Home: The Exodus of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.*”
- On April 21<sup>st</sup>, DCOWA partnered with the Miami Valley International Trade Association to present another Global Economics Luncheon. The event started off with a panel of local business leaders discussing “*Exports and International Trade in the Dayton Region.*” The highlight of the day was Governor Lee Fisher speaking to a packed crowd at the Engineer’s Club on “*Ohio’s International Trade Opportunities & Challenges.*”
- The April 23<sup>rd</sup> Insights program featured two Dayton Rotarians talking about the local club’s Kenya project to provide housing, education, and medical services to children from the urban slum.
- The May 14<sup>th</sup> Insights program was entitled “The Boys of Sudan”.
- On May 18<sup>th</sup>, DCOWA hosted the three journalists who created the radio documentary “India Rising.” In addition, the journalists visited with students at Stivers and Fairmont high schools. All of these activities were paid for through a grant by the Stanley Foundation.
- In October, DCOWA teamed with WSU to offer a series of web interactive programs focused on “*Making Women’s Rights and Health Central to Global Development.*” The audience included a class of medical students from WSU along with DCOWA members.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, DCOWA sponsored an International Forum on “The Future of US-Iranian Relations: 30 Years After the Revolution.” Immediately following the forum, WSU hosted a reception announcing the partnership between DCOWA and WSU’s University Center for International Education (UCIE).
- On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Allison Stanger visited Dayton and appeared at several venues to talk about her book, *One Nation Under Contract: The Outsourcing of American Power & The Future of Foreign Policy.* In the morning, she spoke to students at Fairmont High School. She was the featured speaker for the Global Economics Luncheon at the Engineer’s Club. In the afternoon, she met with students at the University of Dayton.
- The final event of the 2009 year was the China Town Hall, a national webcast to 40 cities throughout the US, featuring Dr. Kurt M. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, talking about the current state of relations between the US and China. One of the questions from a member of the Dayton audience was even selected for Dr. Campbell to address nationwide. After the webcast ended, a panel of local experts on China commented on the webcast and took questions from the audience.

All in all, 2009 was a year of programs on interesting and timely topics at a wide variety of venues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Rice  
DCOWA Adult Program Chair

## **Junior Council on World Affairs 2009 Report**

The Junior Council on World Affairs program continues to grow in membership. The following schools are new to the council in the last two years: Chaminade- Julienne High School, Wilmington High School, Belmont High School, Thurgood Marshall High School, Dunbar High School, Ponitz Career High School and Meadowdale High School. The JCOWA student membership is 290 for 2009-2010.

JCOWA continues to host, bi-annually, youth forums on current topics. In 2009 the spring youth forum was on Liberia led by guest speaker, Dr. Boikai Twe from Sinclair Community College. The fall youth forum was on the Arctic led by guest speakers, DCOWA board member Dr. Margaret Karns from the University of Dayton and Professor Mohsen Khani from Sinclair Community College.

The winner of the 2009 International Quiz Bowl was Northmont. Advisor David Jones and his four students traveled to Washington, D.C. in April to compete in the WACA-held Academic World Quest. DCOWA covered the cost of the hotel for the team. After the event Mr. Jones wrote:

“Thanks for taking care of everything this weekend. My kids and I had a wonderful time in D.C., and everything about the process was very easy. We improved upon our score from the UD event, getting 67/100 correct, good for 28th place. We were only 7 points out of 5th place, as there were around 25 teams clustered between 65 and 70 points. The dinner on Saturday night was amazing, and we enjoyed listening to the speech from the representative from the German Information Center. We also enjoyed our time sightseeing around D.C.- this was a crazy weekend there with the Cherry Blossom Festival and three sporting events on Saturday.”

The 2010 JCOWA International Quiz Bowl is on February 2 in the University of Dayton's Kennedy Union Ballroom from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Fourteen area schools will compete for a chance to attend the WACA competition in April. Kirk Talbott, the President & CEO of WACA, has generously offered to host the team from Dayton at his home in Virginia.

Schools that are currently members of JCOWA include Belmont, Chaminade-Julienne, DECA, Dunbar, Fairmont, Lebanon, Meadowdale, Northmont, Ponitz, Russia, Stivers, Thurgood Marshall, Vandalia Butler, and Wilmington. If any member would like to help promote JCOWA in a particular school and/or district, please contact Bridget Federspiel at [bfedersp@dps.k12.oh.us](mailto:bfedersp@dps.k12.oh.us).

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Federspiel  
Youth Program Director



## **2009 DCOWA Scholarship Report**

The members of the Pfeife Smith World Affairs Scholarship Committee are:

Annabelle Cummings

Marlea Gaskins

Linda Harrison, chair

Katherine Mitakides

Diane Timmons

After reviewing the applications and conducting interviews, Marie Mehaffey, a Stivers senior, was awarded a one-year \$4,000 scholarship for study at Wright State University in the field of International Relations.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Harrison, Chair

## **Nominating Committee Report Annual Meeting January 25, 2010**

The Nominating Committee submits the following names for the DCOWA Board of Directors Class of 2012:

Linda Harrison – first term

Joan Knoll – second term

Mary Mathews – second term

Katherine Mitakides – second term

Donna Schlagheck – second term

The Committee also presents this slate for election as officers:

President – Carolyn Rice

Treasurer – Mark J. Meister

Secretary – Steve Axtell

Respectfully submitted,

Ponnie Kendell, Chair

Steve Axtell

Tom Pearson

**Diplomat Club Members of the Dayton Council on World Affairs**

**Khurshid Ahmad  
Riad Ajami  
Amy Anderson  
Stephen Axtell  
Irvin Bieser  
Harry Bossey  
Jacob Dorn  
Thomas P. Gratto  
John Haddick  
Linda Harrison  
Margaret Karns & Ralph Johnston  
Robert Keener  
Ponnie Kendell  
Andrea Klein  
George & Evie King  
Joan & H. Charles Knoll  
Thomas J. Lasley II  
Thomas Martin  
Mary & David Mathews  
Mark Meister & Carla Steiger  
Katherine Mitakides  
David & Nancy Neer  
Tom Norwalk  
Thomas Pearson  
Robert Pohl  
Carolyn Rice  
Donna Schlagheck  
Frederick Smith  
Hans & Sherry Tschudin  
Tim Van Simaey  
Dona Vella**