Dear Members and Friends,

The Council has had an excellent year beginning with author and researcher Nina Hachigian speaking on the complex relationship between U.S. and China and the multitude of critical issues that they must navigate together. We hosted Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Japan and Korea Affairs and Southern California native James Zumwalt who gave an overview on the efforts being made toward strengthening our alliances with Asia.

In February the Council also hosted eight high schools that competed on international topics at our local Academic WorldQuest at Chapman University. Because of the generous support of our members and first-time-sponsor the Rotary Club of Mission Viejo, we are able to send the winning team of four Irvine High School students and their coach to Washington, DC, to compete in the National Academic WorldQuest competition in April. Canyon Crest High School in San Diego placed second and University High School in Irvine placed third.

In March we will be having an exciting month beginning with Philip Crowley, Former Special Assistant to President Clinton speaking on Homeland Security and discussing whether US Defense against terrorism has been compromised via Wiki-Leaks and Snowden. We will also be hosting Angela Stent to discuss the very timely topics of U.S.-Russian relations, the crisis in Ukraine, the Syrian conflict, the Iranian nuclear program and other critical issues. You won’t want to miss these programs!

In June, we are pleased to host a panel discussion comprised of the Consuls General from Britain and Germany speaking on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which aims to expand the trade relationship between the US and the European Union. What are the biggest challenges facing this agreement and what are the projected gains for various industries in the US and EU?

Thank you for your continued support of the Council. I look forward to seeing you this spring!

Leslie M. McNamara
Chairman
Academic WorldQuest 2014

Irvine High School was the winning team at our sixth annual Academic WorldQuest competition that took place on February 8, 2014 at Chapman University. The winning team will travel to Washington D.C. on April 26, where it will face national competition with an estimated 40 academic teams from throughout the U.S.

Canyon Crest Academy in San Diego was second place and University High School in Irvine was third place. Other schools that participated were Marina High School, Mission Viejo High School, Northwood High School, Santa Margarita High School, Tustin High School.

To become a Future Leader sponsor through our Education Outreach Program, please call 949-253-5751 or email us at orangecounty@worldaffairscouncil.org.

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In Memoriam

In memory of Dr. Giles Brown by Past Chairman and Trustee Art Kidman

Left to right: Arthur Kidman, Dr. Giles Brown and Bruce Hallenbeck

As with every member of our Council, someone invited me to attend my first dinner meeting. However, I attended my second meeting and hundreds more over the last 35 years, because of Dr. Giles Brown. Giles was our long time master of ceremonies for the Q&A following our featured speakers. His handling of the questioners and the speakers was a pure delight, which captivated me, and many others, converting sometime dreary and difficult to follow presentations in sparkling entertainment. He was a professor of history and his mastery of and perspectives on world events very often rivaled our illustrious speakers. But what really captivated us all was his delightfully humorous manner of handling the occasional questioner who tried to climb atop the proverbial soap box to make a policy statement, instead of asking a question of our speaker.

Giles and his wife, Beth, were charter members of our Council. Giles served as Chairman of the Council and later received our highest recognition, the Golden Orange Award. Giles and Beth attended nearly every Council meeting until she passed away in 1994. What few people know is that on the day following a Council event, Giles often would mail a hand written note to the presiding officer providing congratulations and encouragement for their work the preceding evening. What a classy, old school touch!

Giles passed away at the end of December this past year. He was 97. He was my friend. He was a friend of our Council. The Council and I are both better off for knowing him.

Member Happenings

Judge Jim Gray (Ret.), “In my capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of the Nicholas Academic Centers www.naccenters.org, I have written an article which we hope will provide a template to other people and foundations around the country to duplicate what we have done here in Santa Ana. Under the vision and direction of Judge Jack Mandel (Ret.) and Dr. Henry Nicholas, one of the founders of Broadcom, the two NACs have, so far, been able to tutor, counsel and stimulate 347 Santa Ana high school students from economically poor means to win full ride scholarships to colleges and universities all around the country. And most of them are thriving! This never would have happened except for our program, and it is a truly gratifying project that deserves more attention!”

WAC’s newest member Michael Lawler and his wife Barbara celebrated his 60th birthday by hiking across England, from Newcastle to Carlisle, along the Path of Hadrian's Wall, wearing their kilts.

Kevin Lee was named "2013 Photographer of the Year" by the Los Angeles Underwater Photographic Society, at the LAUPS Annual Award Banquet, held on January 25, 2014.
Member Happenings

WACOC member **Rocky Parker** and Social Science teacher at St. Margaret’s Episcopal School was fortunate to attend the World Affairs Council of America National Conference in November 2013. The conference was held over three days near the Capital and opened with Senator Kelly Ayotte as the keynote speaker and had many presenters throughout the conference on the six top issues selected by the National Network as the most important national security issues: Cybersecurity, U.S. Energy Independence, Global Economic Realignment, Middle East, Global Environment Issues, and K-12 Education. “Overall the trip was a wonderful opportunity for me as a teacher of Advanced Placement US government to hear and speak to many of the foremost experts in their field regarding issues that are discussed in the classroom on a regular basis.” National Board members Timor Rafiq and Serge Tomassian also attended the conference.

Every Sunday night from 10pm to midnight, WAC OC’s **Timothy Spangler** hits the airwaves with his own talk radio show, dedicated to a humorous-yet-informative discussion of international affairs and global events. "The Bigger Picture with Timothy Spangler" airs live on KRLA 870AM and is available online, as well at www.facebook.comTheBiggerPictureWithTimothySpangler. Timothy’s award-winning weekly OpEd column also runs each Sunday in the Orange County Register. Be part of the conversation!

**The Tomassian Family** at Aix en Provence France in the Summer of 2013.

Left: In Marseille, Serge and daughter Paris visiting Notre Dame de la Garde.

Right: In Le Vieux Port, Marseille France, Serge is visiting his birthplace with his family.

WAC member **Consul of Mexico Alejandra Garcia Williams**, participated with Councilman of Santa Ana Vince Sarmiento in the kick-off ceremony of the “Relay For Life”, to promote the upcoming fundraising event Saturday, April 12, 2014 12:00 PM to 12:00 PM at Santa Ana College, and to assist in the awareness and fight against the nation’s biggest health concern.

Relay for Life

Community Happenings

The Institute for International, Global and Regional Studies (IIGARS) is well into the winter quarter and its International Studies Public Forum series, which is welcoming several notable speakers, including Jackie Ogega, the executive director of Mpanzi; Kristen Monroe, UCI Chancellor’s Professor; Brenda Seaver, CIA analyst; David Lyon, Director of the Surveillance Studies Centre; Inderpal Grewal, professor at Yale University; and a panel discussion with Ngugi wa Thiong’o and others on the production of a new play by wa Thiong’o and Micere Mugo.

Members of the World Affairs Council of Orange County and others in the OC community are welcome to join UCI International Studies for a variety of events throughout the school year. More Info: http://internationalstudies.ss.uci.edu/
Past Events . . .

Speaker Juan Zarate at the November 15, 2013 Lunch and Book-signing

Speaker Juan Zarate and Past Chairman, Dr. Michael Moodian

Guest Sam Ruggeri, Speaker Juan Zarate, Julie Clenenden and Trustee Norm Tanber

Guests Bill and Robyn O’Grady with Trustees Errol and Candace Mathieu

His Excellency Gary Doer, Consul General David Fransen, Trustee Nora Valenzuela and students from Tustin High School

Speaker Juan Zarate and Event Sponsor, Trustee Ron Gwak

Consul General David Fransen, Dr. Cigdem Coyle, His Excellency Gary Doer, Dr. James Coyle and Chairman Leslie McNamara

Servite High School Boys Choir at the Annual Holiday Celebration in December 2013

Speaker Juan Zarate and his father Dr. Alfredo Zarate

Speaker Nina Hachigian with students from Rancho Santa Margarita High School

Speaker Nina Hachigian at the January 22, 2014 event at the Westin
Welcome New Members

Panteha Abdollahi  Carolyn Kirkwood
Ariana Attie       Maria Johnson
Alex Bolourchi    Bryan and Judy Kleckner
Peter and Jacqui Bryant Michael R. Lawler, Jr.
Kevin and Maura Byrne Gabriele Mahutte
Cindy Cunha       Carl Mariz
David Curtis      Alistair Nabi
Zaher Fallahi     Diane O’Malley
Scott and Mari Fassett Donald and Stacey Roberts
Courtney Fassett   Jay and Penny Swigart
Steffi Gascon Hafen Charles Zhang
Fred Horn and

(Con’t) Past Events . . .
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Our Mission
At West Coast University, we embrace a student-centric learning partnership that leads to professional success. We deliver transformational education within a culture of integrity and personal accountability. We design market-responsive programs through collaboration between faculty and industry professionals. We continuously pursue more effective and innovative ways through which students develop the competencies and confidence required in a complex and changing world.

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