



WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCIL of
ALBUQUERQUE

Member, World Affairs Councils of America

The Council's 74th program year got off to a resounding start on 31 August with the presentation on international trade policy by Nelson Cunningham, Vice Chair of the Washington-based McLarty Associates consultancy and Special Advisor on Western Hemisphere Affairs to President Clinton.

WACABQ welcomed as special guests for the evening Ms. Melora Palmer, director of Global Ties Albuquerque, and Professor Jim Jawahar, chair of the International Management Department of the UNM's Anderson School of Management.

Our upcoming programs continue the run of excellent speakers that the Council has attracted over the years. On tap for the remainder of the fall:

- September 14 (by Zoom) – Dr. Chris Preble, resident at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security will discuss arising issues confronting NATO.
- September 21 – Dr. James Tegnalia from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency will discuss "NATO after Ukraine".
- October 19– Dr. Evan Ellis, from the US Army War College, will present his research on contemporary political and social issues in Latin and South America.
- November 2 – Dr. Gary Grossman from Arizona State's Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation will focus on Turkey after the reelection of President Erdogan.
- December 7 – Ambassador William Taylor (former ambassador to Ukraine) will provide an update on Ukraine-Russia Conflict.

The Council wrapped up the previous program year at the end of June with several personnel changes. We thanked Emile Nakhleh for his three years as the Council president and departing Board members Kathleen Lebeck, Marshall Shore and Mike Riley for their contributions to the Council Board of Directors over the years. Greg Vuksich took over as WACABQ president and three new members joined the board. Dr. Jami Nelson-Nunez is chair of UNM's Department of Political Science, Aaron Velasquez is the CEO of Theta Plate an Albuquerque company, and Mike Daly is a civil engineer and project manager running a public water system in Gallup.



New officers (L-R): Greg Vuksich President; Board members
Jami Nelson-Nunez and Aaron Velazquez

Supplementing our Council's principal mission of informing its members about the broad range of international policy choices by bringing nationally recognized experts to Albuquerque, the Board of Directors is focused on rebuilding from pre-COVID days or creating several student and young adult programs. A major focus is reviving our high school and college programs. In addition to reenergizing high school attendance at our monthly dinner meetings, we have established a cooperative arrangement with our sister World Affairs Council in Dallas to recognize Albuquerque's high school teachers who voluntarily lead out-of-curricula student international awareness programs such as Model UN.



Teacher Gabriela Garcia and three students from
East Mountain High School

At the university level, we are intent on reestablishing participation by National Security Studies and ROTC students, with other UNM initiatives still being developed. For young adults, the Council has initiated a program to provide two annual membership and coverage of all dinner meetings for the program year -- sponsored by generous donations of several of our members.

In addition to youth programs, the board is exploring opportunities to broaden Council interaction among Albuquerque's internationally oriented non-profit organizations. To that end, we have concluded a formal agreement with Global Ties Albuquerque (GTA) in which either organization hosting an event will allow members of the other organization to participate in the host's programs at the host organization's member rate. We will be distributing information on GTA programs that may be of interest to our members and GTA members will receive information on WACABQ events.

GLOBALTIES > ABQ

The Board is energized about the coming 74th program year. We are eager to reestablish pre-COVID programs and kick-start the several new initiatives mentioned above. As WACABQ goes forward, we seek input from all of our members on their desires and suggestions to enhance our mission to broaden international awareness in the community. We encourage everyone to spread the word about Council membership among others who might enjoy – and benefit – from what it has to offer members and guests. The board also asks for your help as WACABQ rebuilds its list of sponsors supporting various Council programs – commercial enterprises, financial institutions, professional organizations, fraternal societies and others that have interests in global affairs education.

Wishing all of WACABQ the best for the second half of 2023 and the first half of the Council's 74th Program Year. We appreciate your continuing membership and look forward to you joining us in each of our upcoming events.