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&
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BRANKSOME
HALL

PRESENT



WORLD
AFFAIRS
CONFERENCE

THREATS TO HUMANITY




2015

ABOUT WAC

THE WORLD AFFAIRS
CONFERENCE IS
NORTH AMERICA'S
OLDEST STUDENT-RUN
CURRENT AFFAIRS
CONFERENCE.

BECOME A PART OF THIS HISTORY.



LETTER FROM THE WAC EXECUTIVE

Delegates,

Welcome to the 32nd annual World Affairs Conference at Upper Canada College! Over the course of the day, we aim to expose you to new perspectives on issues of global importance. We encourage you to pose questions, engage with your fellow delegates, and maintain an open mind.

This year's conference theme, Threats to Humanity, touches on numerous obstacles and solutions in the coming decades. We are pleased to welcome several influential speakers this year for six exciting plenary sessions: Democracy Faltering; The Critical Necessities; Peace, Love, and Sports; Diagnosing Global Health; Future Terrorism; and the Kashmir Dispute. Speakers have come from across the country, and even across the continent, to share their knowledge and expertise.

We hope you enjoy WAC 2015 and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Kind Regards,



Conor Healy
Upper Canada College



Sophie Mehta
Branksome Hall



Nicholas Elder
Upper Canada College



Lucas Cusimano
Upper Canada College



Naz Gocek
Branksome Hall

→ PLENARY TIMETABLE

A

PEACE, LOVE AND SPORTS

Timeslot 2 11:35AM-12:35PM DAVID CHU

Timeslot 3 1:20PM2:20PM DAVID CHU

C

FUTURE TERRORISM

Timeslot 1 10:30AM-11:30AM LAIDLAW

Timeslot 2 11:35AM-12:35PM LAIDLAW

E

FOOD AND WATER SCARCITY

Timeslot 1 10:30AM-11:30AM DAVID CHU

Timeslot 3 1:20PM2:20PM OLD GYM

B

FALTERING DEMOCRACY

Timeslot 2 11:35AM-12:35PM CC3

Timeslot 3 1:20PM2:20PM LAIDLAW

D

THE COURSE OF GLOBAL HEALTH

Timeslot 1 10:30AM-11:30AM OLD GYM

Timeslot 2 11:35AM-12:35PM OLD GYM

F

KASHMIR: A REGION DIVIDED

Timeslot 1 10:30AM-11:30AM CC3

Timeslot 3 1:20PM2:20PM CC3

FULL SCHEDULE

FEB 2, 2015

7:00PM - 9:00PM

● KEYNOTE & RECEPTION

Laidlaw Hall

FEB 3, 2015

8:00AM - 8:55AM

● REGISTRATION

Main Foyer

8:55AM - 10:15AM

● MORNING PANEL

Laidlaw Hall

10:15AM - 10:30AM

○ BREAK

Student Center



10:30 AM >>

<< 10:30 AM



10:30AM - 11:30AM

● PLENARY SESSION 1

Refer to Name Tag

11:35AM - 12:35PM

● PLENARY SESSION 2

Refer to Name Tag

12:35PM - 1:20PM

○ LUNCH

Lett Gym

1:20PM - 2:20PM

● PLENARY SESSION 3

Refer to Name Tag

2:25PM - 3:25PM

● CLOSING PANEL

Laidlaw Hall



OUR HISTORY

Since 1984, the World Affairs Conference (or WAC as it is affectionately known) has grown into the largest student-run current affairs conference in North America. The conference is a forum for students to nurture their global mindsets and hear opinions of leaders in the world community. WAC has welcomed delegates from North America, Australia, Russia, Europe, the West Indies and Africa.

1984

First World Affairs Conference;
Turnout of ~450

1998

Theme: The Future of Education
Keynote: Andrew Nikiforuk

1999

Theme: War
Keynote: Lewis MacKenzie

2000

Theme: Human Rights
Keynote: Stephen Lewis

2001

Theme: Justice, Law and Order
Keynote: Rosalie Abella

2002

Theme: Redefining Gender - 21st c.
Keynote: Margaret Somerville

2003

Theme: Globalization
Keynote: Ken Wiwa

2004

Theme: Ethics and Health - 21st c.
Keynote: Margaret Somerville

2005

Theme: Oppression
Keynote: Gerald Kaplan

2006

Theme: Blueprint for a New World
Keynote: John Charles Polanyi

2007

Theme: Counting on the Future
Keynote: Thomas Homer-Dixon

2008

Theme: Keeping the Promise
Keynote: Jeffrey Sachs

2009

Theme: The Leadership Imperative
Keynote: Samantha Nutt

2010

Theme: Post Colonial World
Keynote: Damisa Moyo

2011

Theme: 21st Century Heroes
Keynote: Izzeldin Abuleish

2012

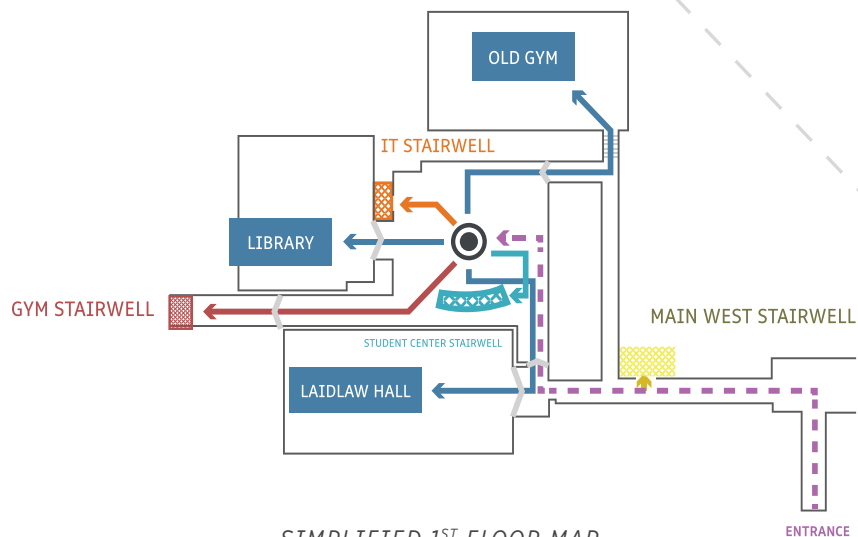
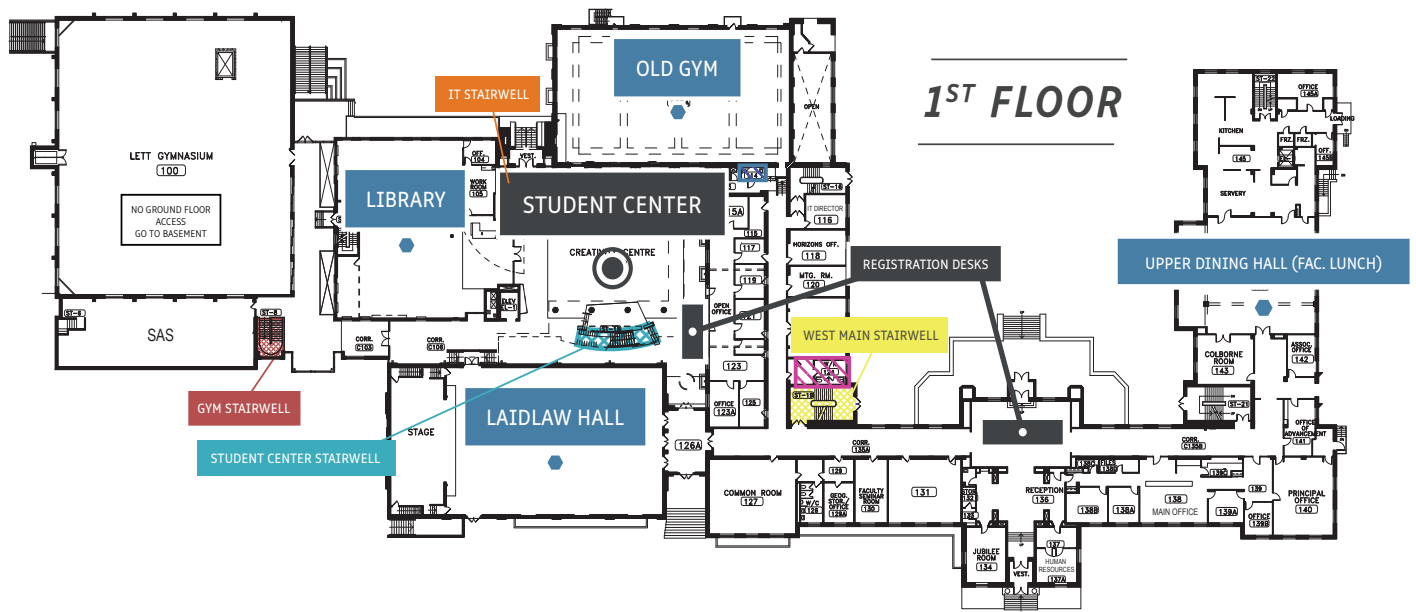
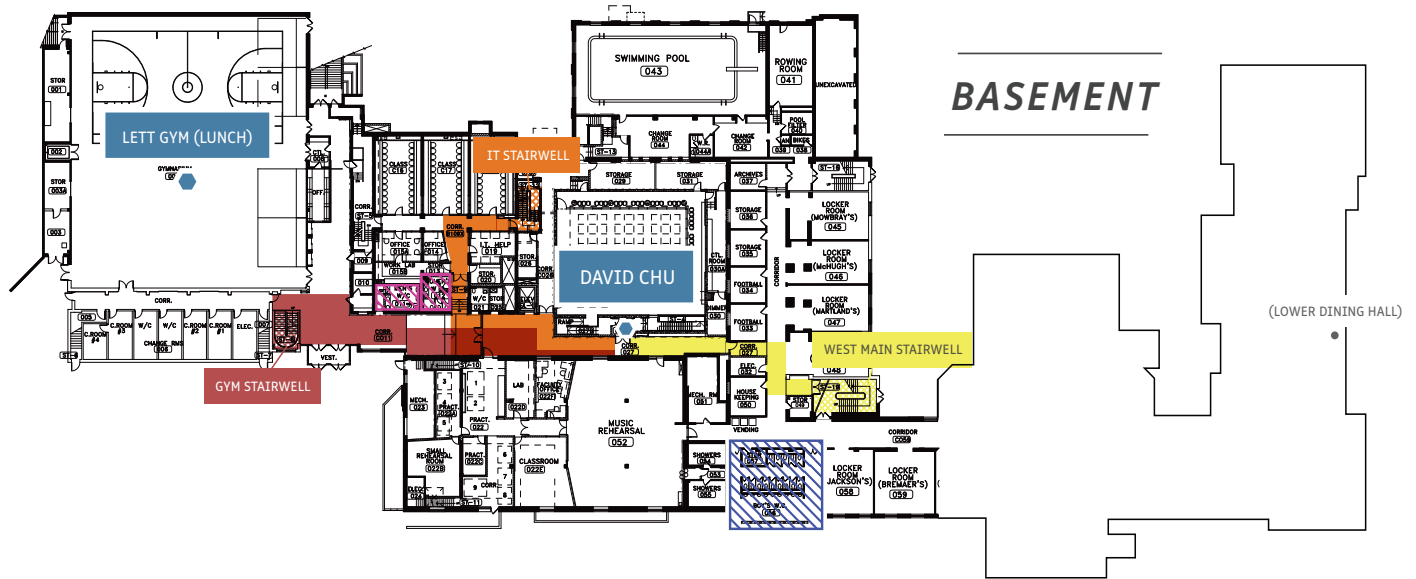
Theme: The Great Divide
Keynote: Marc Garneau

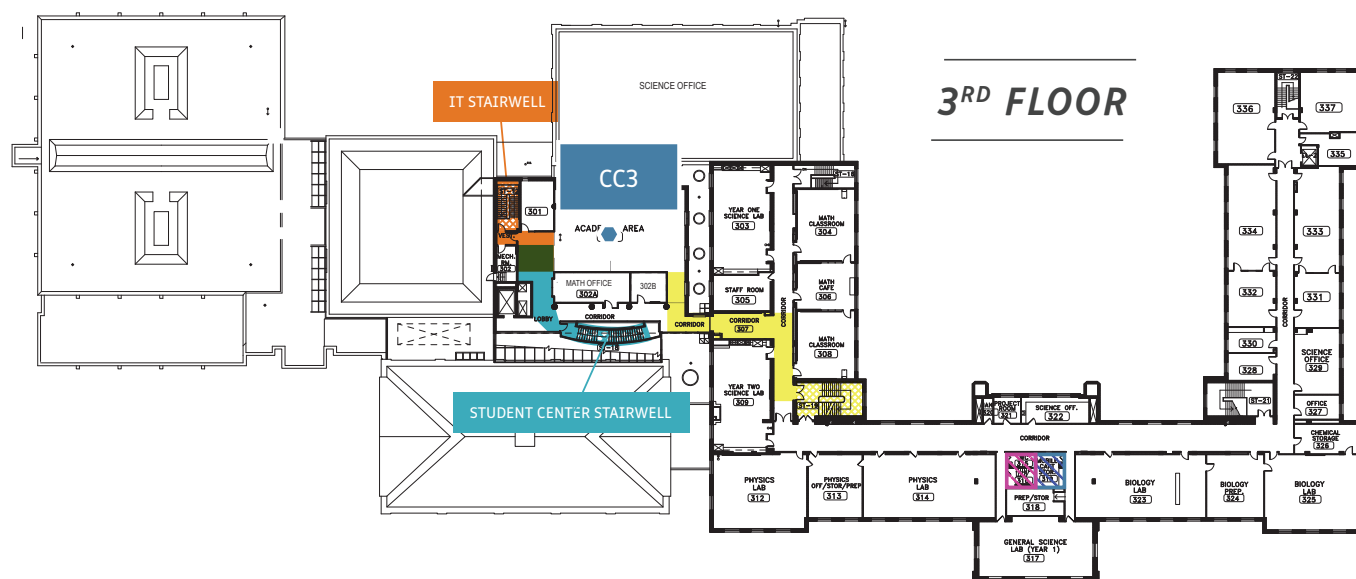
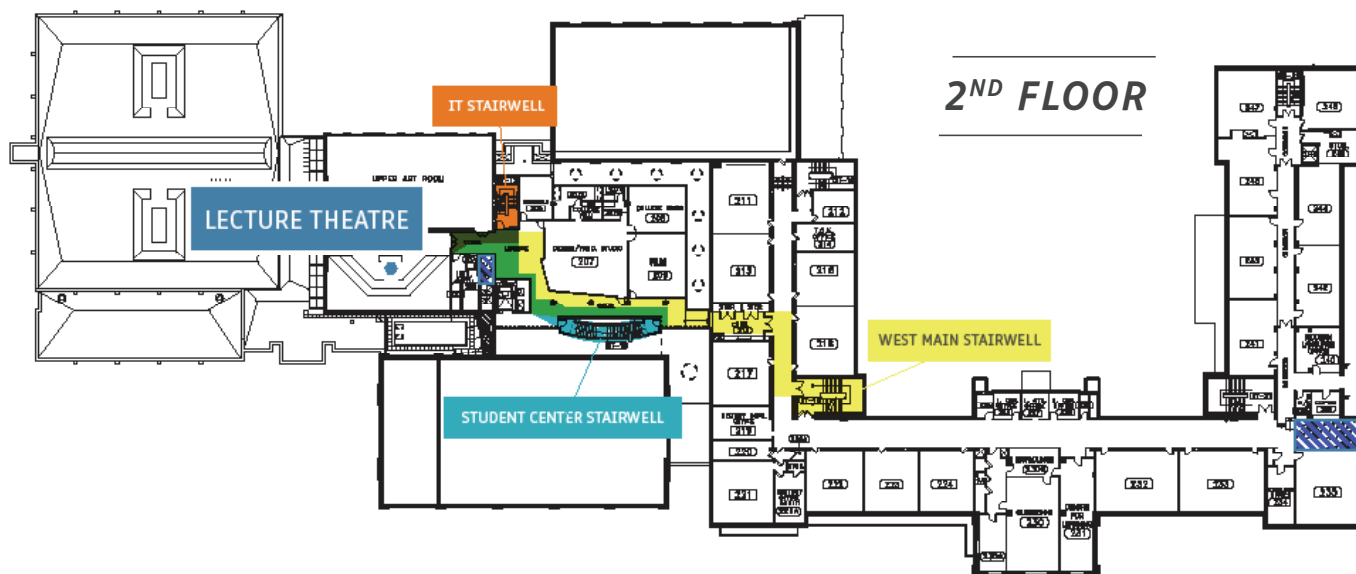
2013

Theme: Clashing Ethics
Keynote: John Stackhouse

2014

Theme: The People's Regime
Keynote: Samantha Nutt





LEGEND

*PATH TO PLENARY

*STAIRWELL

PLENARY ROOM

STUDENT CENTER *

STUDENT CENTER *

MAIN WEST *

MAIN WEST *

IT STAIRWELL

IT STAIRWELL

GYM STAIRWELL

GYM STAIRWELL

WOMEN'S WC

MEN'S WC



STAFF@WAC

WAC owes its existence to dozens of committed volunteer students and faculty working tirelessly to perfect every last detail and ensure the conference runs smoothly. Creating a conference of such scale and complexity is an accomplishment in itself. Alongside the students and faculty listed below, WAC would also like to thank the UCC Advancement team for all their support in helping organize the Keynote event along side IT, facilities, housekeeping, and food services. We would also like to thank the UCC Press for their contributions.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alan Chan | Faculty Supervisor |
| Reem Parsons | Faculty Supervisor |
| Jarrold Baker | Faculty Supervisor |
| Tracy Dalglish | Faculty Supervisor |
| Conor Healy | UCC Conference Chair |
| Sophie Mehta | BH Conference Chair |
| Nicholas Elder | Director of Registration and Media |
| Lucas Cusimano | Head of Programs |
| Naz Gocek | Head of Programs |
| Nikhil Kassum | Secretary |
| Jack Oneschuk | Operations Head |
| Faraz Fadavi | Operations Head |
| Elliot Birman | Head of Facilities |
| Miles Hoaken | Head of Security |
| Hark Ahluwalia | Head of Security |
| Sonia Mahajan | Head of Security |

REGISTRATION & MEDIA

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Derek Lam | Lead Graphic Designer and Developer |
| Peter Coxford | Lead Registration Correspondent |
| Gabriel Birman | Registration Correspondent |
| Matthew Wang | Registration Correspondent |
| Daniel Kovacs-DaCosta | Registration Associate |
| Samuel Gernburd | Registration Associate |
| Andrew Patel | Registration Associate |
| Matthew Patel | Registration Associate |
| Alexander Roberts | A/V Technology Associate |
| Jack Sarick | A/V Technology Associate |
| John Mace | A/V Technology Associate |

PROGRAMS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Nitish Dhingra | Opening Panel Head |
| Blaise O'Malley | Opening Panel Head |
| Will Labasi-Sammartino | Closing Panel Head |
| Nicole Lee | Closing Panel Head |
| Amirah Mahomed | Programs Mgmt. |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Matthew Patel | Programs Mgmt. |
| Andrew Patel | Programs Mgmt. |
| Ronan Murphy | Plenary Head |
| Alex Jewkes | Plenary Head |
| Logan Ye | Plenary Head |
| Xu Zhang | Plenary Head |
| Emir Belkacem | Plenary Head |
| Andrew Irwin | Plenary Head |
| Siham Ally | Plenary Head |
| Arielle Rosen | Plenary Head |
| Kathy Liu | Plenary Head |
| Juliette Escande | Plenary Head |
| Alexandra Philp Reeves | Plenary Head |
| Tori Williams | Plenary Head |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Philippe Archambault | Security Team |
| Akeil Zarudny | Security Team & Technology Associate |
| Jeff Misner | Security Team |
| Brett Beckley | Security Team |
| Tyler Vandervelden | Security Team |
| Henry Gould | Security Team |
| John Marshall | Security Team |
| Ali Haydaroglu | Security Team |
| Ryan Albaum | Security Team |
| Sophie Chamberland | Security Team |
| Christiana MacGregor | Security Team |
| Soo Min Cheon | Security Team |
| Kendal Rudka | Security Team |
| Georgia Levitt | Security Team |
| Zoe Blue Coates | Security Team |
| Lydia Wong | Security Team |
| Elaine Zhang | Security Team |
| Alexandra Whang | Security Team |
| Meredith Wilson Smith | Security Team |
| Spencer Bandeen | Security Team |
| Sierra Chow | Security Team |
| Mallika Chandaria | Security Team |
| Jasmine Nanji | Security Team |
| Mikaela Heck | Security Team |

SECURITY

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Charlton Kelly | Security Team |
| Nathan Tong | Security Team |
| Craig Archibald | Security Team |
| Matthew Lapointe | Security Team |
| Jeremy Kim | Security Team |
| Louis Hebert | Security Team |





The Climate Crisis

OPENING PANEL:

CO2 levels in the atmosphere are climbing steadily higher. Some believe this is having a devastating effect on humans and nature, while others argue that the threat has been overstated. Is this the moment for a bold international treaty to curb carbon emissions? Or, are the

social and economic costs of reducing CO2 emissions too high in world where a billion people live on a dollar or less a day? (The Munk Debates). Climate change is already beginning to transform life on Earth. Around the globe, seasons are shifting, temperatures are climbing and sea levels are rising. And meanwhile, our planet must still supply us - and all living things - with air, water, food and safe places to live. If we don't act now, climate change will rapidly alter the lands and waters we all depend upon for survival, leaving our children and grandchildren with a very different world. (Nature.org). Climate change has the potential to devastate life on Earth as we know it. With marginal increases in temperature and sea level, some scientists predict immense changes to our environment. Solutions have been proposed, but at what cost? What is the best way to deal with the problem? Are humans even causing the problem? Three distinguished speakers will be participating in this discussion: Dr. Fulks will argue that evidence for anthropogenic climate change is tenuous at best, Member of Parliament Bruce Hyer will argue that the effects will be devastating if we do not make radical changes, and Senator Mitchell will be taking the middle ground.



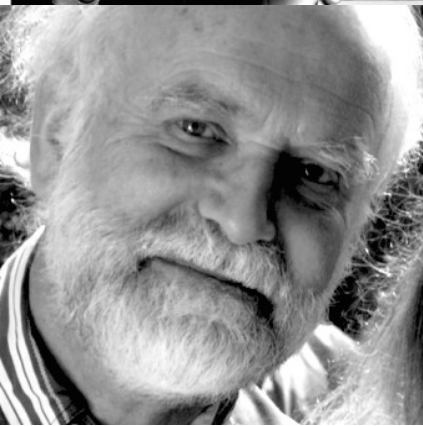
Bruce Hyer

Bruce Hyer's past professions include terrestrial ecologist, caribou biologist, bush pilot, ecotourism entrepreneur and consultant, forester, businessperson, environmental analyst, and adjudicator for the Ontario Environmental Appeal Board. He was elected to federal Parliament as an NDP member in 2008 and 2011. After Jack Layton's death, the party punished him for standing up for his constituents on several issues. He decided he could better represent his constituents as an Independent MP and left the NDP caucus in April 2012. On December 13, 2013, he joined the Green Party as their second MP and Deputy Leader. He is particularly focused upon electoral and parliamentary reform, along with Carbon Fee and Dividend as a good way to reduce CO2 emissions.



Grant Mitchell

Senator Grant Mitchell has had careers in the public service, business and politics in Alberta. He was appointed to the Senate in 2005 and sits as a Liberal. He received a Master of Arts in Political Studies from Queen's University in 1976 and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science from the University of Alberta in 1973. He obtained his Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 1983. From 1994 to 1998 Senator Mitchell was leader of Alberta's official opposition and leader of the Alberta Liberal Party. Prior to this, he was the official opposition's House Leader from 1993 to 1994. He was a member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly for the riding of Edmonton McClung and served his constituents with dedication and diligence from 1986 to 1998. In 1988 and 1989, Senator Mitchell taught graduate level courses in the field of business-government relations. He has had experience in business as an executive with Principal Group Ltd. from 1979 to 1986 and as an investment advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy from 1998 to 2008.



Gordon J. Fulks

Dr. Gordon J. Fulks, one of today's leading 'deniers' in anthropogenic global warming, currently lives in Corbett, Oregon. Dr. Fulks holds a BS, MS and Ph. D in Physics, all from the University of Chicago, where he actually worked initially for the Laboratory for Astrophysics and Space Research at the Enrico Fermi Institute studying the solar modulation of galactic cosmic rays, using a large charged-particle spectrometer flown in the Arctic. He is well-known recently for his Op-Eds in the Oregonian on Global Warming, within which he criticized Governor Kulongoski for his forcing State Climatologist George Taylor out his position at Oregon State University because he expressed doubts about Anthropogenic global warming. Today, Dr. Fulks plays a critical role in displaying the alternative view to the widely accepted notion of human-caused global warming through talks, articles and otherwise.

Closing Speaker



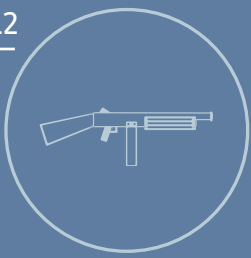
This year's closing speaker is Boris Cherniak. Mr. Cherniak is a Soviet-born Canadian-based entertainer, psychological illusionist, hypnotherapist, comedian hypnotist and motivational speaker that performs internationally. He will be closing this year's conference on a high note with his presentation.

CLOSING SPEAKER:

The Closing Seminar of the World Affairs Conference has a rich history. With prominent speakers from across North America and beyond, the presentation has focused on ending the day on a high note. It has featured a variety of speakers who focus on important world issues spanning from human rights to gender issues to health ethics. Students leave Upper Canada College deep in thought about the conference and educated on important global issues.

Boris Cherniak





Future Terrorism

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

Throughout the modern era, the success of terrorist groups has changed. The Terrorism plenary for WAC 2015 will discuss the intricacies of modern-day terrorism and how states should combat it. Some thought that 9-11 would be the height of terrorism in the modern era, and that the increased security measures taken globally would limit terrorism's reach and impact. However, recent revelations may prove otherwise. As another terrorist organization, ISIS or ISIL, rises, with a seemingly undying pursuit of attacking the West, questions arise to how we are going to defend ourselves. The previous reluctance of the American public to accept domestic surveillance by the NSA has been tempered by the threat of a renewed effort by terrorist organizations to attack the West not only in the Middle East, but also in the homeland. Should it be through military intervention and strict government surveillance? Or is there another solution that reduces to sacrifices the citizens and their state have to make? These questions will define the geopolitical structure of the coming decades. Kent Roach will argue that the solution does not lie in increased surveillance and curtailment of rights. Syed Badiuddin Soharwardy, on the other hand, argues that we must sacrifice our civil liberties to gain security against the threat of terrorism.

Every new generation brings along with it great inventors, humanitarians and politicians. However, along with them come terrorists who find new ways to disrupt the peace and safety of western countries.



Syed Badiuddin Soharwa

Syed is the founder of the "Islamic Supreme Council of Canada" (ISCC) and the group "Muslims against Terrorism" (MAT). The ISCC was founded to be the leading organisation in Canada to help citizens understand the teachings of Islam and issues of the Muslim community, as well as to provide guidance on the issues related to Muslims. MAT is dedicated to providing Muslim perspectives on issues related to terrorism. Syed is a dedicated activist towards keeping the Muslim community as well all Canadians safe from terrorists. He believes that early intervention is needed to stop the threat of terrorism in our society, and that the Canadian government has resources to help the cause. Further, Soharwardy believes in peace between all Canadians no matter their culture or religion, and more importantly peace between all countries around the world.



Kent Roach

Kent Roach is Professor of Law and Prichard-Wilson Chair of Law and Public Policy at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto and of Yale, and a former law clerk to Justice Bertha Wilson of the Supreme Court of Canada. Professor Roach has been editor-in-chief of the Criminal Law Quarterly since 1998. In 2002, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2013, he was one of four academics awarded a Trudeau Fellowship in recognition of his research and social contributions. He is the author of 12 books including Constitutional Remedies in Canada (winner of the Owen Prize); Due Process and Victims' Rights (short listed for the Donner Prize), The Supreme Court on Trial (same); (with Robert J. Sharpe) Brian Dickson: A Judge's Journey (winner of the Dafoe Prize) and The 9/11 Effect: Comparative Counter-Terrorism (winner of the Mundell Medal).

Democracy Faltering



PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

Democracy is going through a difficult time. Where autocrats have been driven out of office, their opponents have mostly failed to create viable democratic regimes. Even in established democracies, flaws in the system have become worryingly visible and disillusion with politics is rife. Yet just a few years ago democracy looked as though it would dominate the world. In the second half of the 20th century, democracies had taken root in the most difficult circumstances possible—in Germany, which had been traumatised by Nazism, in India, which had the world's largest population of poor people, and, in the 1990s, in South Africa, which had been disfigured by apartheid. Decolonisation created a host of new democracies in Africa and Asia, and autocratic regimes gave way to democracy in Greece (1974), Spain (1975), Argentina (1983), Brazil (1985) and Chile (1989). The collapse of the Soviet Union created many fledgling democracies in central Europe. By 2000 Freedom House, an American think-tank, classified 120 countries, or 63% of the world total, as democracies.” (The Economist.) Democracy has long been held as the zenith of political development. However, as a system, it is as a precarious point in its history. Western democracies - including Ontario and Quebec - have incurred budget deficits of monumental size as they attempt to meet their citizens' demands. Simultaneously, its ineffectiveness in the Arab Spring uprisings has cast doubt over its viability in certain regions. Some have suggested that society would be better off if we chose to give up some of our personal freedoms and installed a system that was more technocratic than the current style. Therefore, this plenary aims to examine the future of democracy; can we afford to keep the status quo? Mr. Yakabuski is critical of democracy as the best form of government, and Mr. Bearse will bring his unique perspective to this discussion.

Konrad Yakabuski

Konrad Yakabuski writes a column on public policy for The Globe and Mail. Prior to taking up

this assignment in early 2013, Konrad was The Globe's chief U.S. political writer, based in Washington. He covered all aspects of the American political scene, including the 2012 presidential election campaign. Prior to joining the Washington bureau in 2009, Mr. Yakabuski was based in The Globe's Montreal bureau and wrote on Quebec business, politics and culture for more than a decade. He previously worked as a political reporter at Le Devoir. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from McGill University and a Master of Science in Business Administration degree from the University of British Columbia.



Dr. Irvin Studin is a fellow with the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto. He is the President of the Institute for 21st Century Questions and Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of Global Brief magazine and has worked with a number of federal departments in both Canada and Australia in the Privy Council Office.

Irvin Studin

As the first ever recruit of the Canadian government's Recruitment of Policy Leaders programme, he co-authored Canada's 2004 national security policy, and principal-authored Australia's 2006 national counter-terrorism policy. He holds degrees from the Schulich School of Business, the London School of Economics, and the University of Oxford, where he studied on a Rhodes Scholarship. His PhD is from Osgoode Hall Law School, where he earned the Governor-General's Gold Medal.





The Critical Necessities

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

We are dangerously close to running out. There is more than enough in some parts of the world but scarcely any in others. As the backbones of prosperity, food and water are often used up more quickly than they can be replaced. We output 17 percent more calories per person today than we did 3 decades ago, despite a 70 percent increase in global population. The United Nations estimates that approximately 870 million people, 16% of our population, were suffering from chronic undernourishment in 2010-2012. Most of those without food, 852 million, live in countries that are not fully industrialized, which is 15 percent of the population. There are another 16 million people undernourished in developed countries. While the hunger is reversing in many parts of the world (it has fallen 30% in the Asia-Pacific region), it is rising in others, such as in Africa (from 175 million to 239 million). Water scarcity also threatens us. While 70% of the Earth is covered in water, only 3% of this is fresh, and another 66% of that is locked away in glaciers. It is estimated that anywhere from 700 million to 1.1 billion people suffer from water scarcity, and that by 2025, two out of every three humans will face water shortages. There are numerous factors causing water scarcity: pollution, agriculture, and population growth. Experts predict habitats will be destroyed and humans will suffer as a result. The World Wild Life Fund provides us with an example: "The Aral Sea in central Asia was once the world's fourth largest freshwater lake... It is now as salty as an ocean due to the excessive pollution and the diversion of water for irrigation and power generation... This ecological catastrophe has created food shortages and resulted in a rise in infant mortality and a decrease in life expectancy for the nearby population." Humanity is suffering from a resource management crisis, and at the centre of this issue is the question of the continuing availability of food and potable water. This plenary will feature one speaker discussing food security, and one discussing water scarcity. Our approach to these issues will be pivotal in determining the future course of global events as nations come face to face with their decreasing capacity to provide basic necessities. Both Dr. Melgar-Quinonez and Mr. Moloney have extensive expertise in their respective areas.



Hugo Melgar-Quinonez

Professor Melgar-Quinonez is the Director of McGill University's Institute for Global Food security and an Associate Professor at McGill University. Born and raised in Guatemala, Professor Melgar-Quinonez holds a Medical Degree and Doctorate of Sciences Degree both from the Friedrich Schiller University of Germany. Prior to joining McGill he was Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Human Nutrition at The Ohio State University. His research focuses on food insecurity in developing countries where he continues to play a critical role in the development and validation of household food security surveys for the World Bank, USAID and for FAO and for several countries including Brazil, Bolivia, Kenya, Ghana, Mexico, Guatemala, the Philippines, Burkina Faso and India and China.



Maurice Moloney

Professor Maurice M. Moloney is a research biologist and biotechnology businessman. He is currently the Executive Director and CEO Executive of the Global Institute for Food Security at Saskatoon, Canada. Between December 2013 to October 2014 he was Group Executive, Food, Health and Life Science Industries, for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). Prior to that he was Director and Chief Executive of Rothamsted Research, from April 2010 to 2013. He founded SemBioSys and served as its President from 1994-1998 and then as Chief Scientific Officer from 1998-2010. Moloney is also the NSERC/Dow AgroSciences Industrial Research Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary. Prof. Moloney holds over 300 patents in plant biotechnology worldwide and led the Cell Biology group at Calgene to develop the world's first transgenic oilseeds, which resulted in RoundUp Ready Canola and other novel crops.

Peace, Love, and Sports



PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

Millions of foreign tourists were drawn into the crowds in Brazil during the World Cup. But was the vast expenditure of public money worth it? Those stadiums will now lie underutilized. Meanwhile, the government declares it a victory for the tourism industry. Critics disagree, and maybe it is just too soon to tell. For some cities, a major sporting event like the Olympics is a boon, to others, a bust. Barcelona has been seeing elevated tourism since it hosted the 1992 Summer Olympics. Athens's Olympic venues, on the other hand, have become decrepit since 2004, when they hosted the summer Olympic games. This issue may not be the most divisive, but it is certainly an important one. Corporate giants, such as football teams or FIFA, get to benefit off of a new stadium being built off of public funds. Especially in nations like Brazil, where social services are far from ubiquitous, it is questioned whether the government really should be spending so much money on venues rather than on education, infrastructure, and the like. A plenary focusing on International Sporting Events may seem incongruous with the theme; this discussion is our wildcard this year. At least one large-scale sporting event occurs almost every year, namely the Olympics, FIFA and the PanAm Games. On one hand, these events bring people of all nationalities together to share a common passion, thereby improving global interactions. On the other hand, they may be a poor vessel for peace. Empirically, such events have been associated with serious economic impacts on involved countries and a host of other issues; recently, in Sochi and Rio de Janeiro for instance, these issues have included allegations of widespread human rights violations and corruption. In this plenary, Allen R. Sanderson will be presenting the view that international sporting events are wasteful and, on the whole, a negative endeavour. Doug Smith will tell us why these events are worth keeping around.

Allen R. Sanderson

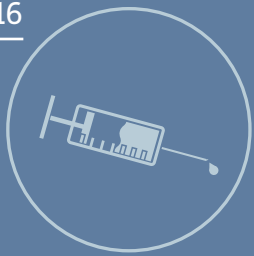
Allen Sanderson is a senior lecturer in economics at the University of Chicago. He came to Chicago from Princeton in 1984; served eight years as associate provost of the University; and has also been a senior research scientist at NORC. In addition to his popular two-quarter sequence in microeconomics and macroeconomics, he teaches a course and does research on the economics of sports. He has received a Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Mr. Sanderson is an oft-cited authority on sports economics issues, a contributor to op-ed pages on sports and non-sports topics in newspapers around the country. His most recent professional journal articles and book chapters are on the economic impact of colleges and universities on their communities; the political economy of Chicago's unsuccessful bid to host the 2016 Olympic Games.



Doug Smith

Doug Smith has been covering the Toronto Raptors since their inception in 1995. He works for the Toronto Star and runs a mailbag, answering fans' questions about the team. Mr. Smith also has a popular blog, informing fans of the latest developments in basketball news. His Twitter account (@SmithRaps) has nearly 26,000 followers, keeping the public up-to-date and engaged with the sports world.





Global Health

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

The World Health Organization (WHO) writes, “Health coverage... requires a strong, efficient, well-run health system; a system for financing health services; access to essential medicines and technologies; and a sufficient capacity of well-trained, motivated health workers.” It continues, “At least a billion people suffer each year because they cannot obtain the health services they need... In the next twenty years, 40-50 million new health care workers will need to be trained and deployed to meet the need. Globally, two-thirds (38 million) of 56 million annual deaths are still not registered... Good health allows children to learn and adults to earn. This helps people escape from poverty and provides the basis for long-term economic development.” It is clear that the planet faces issues of epic proportion. Health is vital to our species. But while the WHO can provide statistics, are their actions and top-down approach the best way to secure health for the people of the world? Or are more localized responses and provisions best? It is difficult to say. Our ability to improve global health through the eradication of diseases and the betterment of living conditions is among the single greatest collective human causes. The WHO and similar bodies are effectively responsible for keeping the course. They are symbolic of a large-scale, international approach to solving health problems, in contrast with domestic, community-based initiatives. This plenary aims to take a snapshot of the efficacy of our approach by presenting two sides of the issue: one in favour of internationalism, and one that is skeptical of current paradigms. Dr. Bhattacharyya will be joining us today and presenting the view that local, community-based initiatives are the best way to support the health of citizens. Dr. Cole will be discussing the benefits of a global response to healthcare issues.

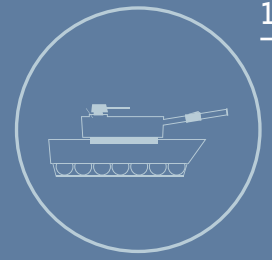
Onil Bhattacharyya

Dr. Bhattacharyya completed his B.Sc. (in biochemistry) at McGill, his MD at the University of Montreal and his PhD (in health policy, management and evaluation) at the University of Toronto. He's been part of the DFCM since 2006 where he is an assistant professor in The Department of Family and Community and in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. He is also a clinician scientist at St. Michael's hospital. To improve methods in developed communities, he has been part of several projects such as Hacking Health in Toronto where he was challenged to improve cares for more complex patients. Dr. Bhattacharyya has also been part of the District Evaluation Study on Health where he was co-principal. DESH's goal is to replicate the methods found in their India's research in other countries to then improve their health cares.

Donald Cole

Dr. Cole works at the University of Toronto in the division of Epidemiology. He received his MD in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and holds an MSc in Design, Measurement and Evaluation of Health Services. From January of 1995 to December 1996, he was Director of the Community Medicine Residency Program, McMaster University and served as Interim Director of Research at the Institute for Work & Health from July 1997 to January 1999. He is currently a member of the Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Health, and he is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

The Kashmir Dispute



PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

The territory of Kashmir was hotly contested even before India and Pakistan won their independence from Britain in August 1947. Under the partition plan provided by the Indian Independence Act of 1947, Kashmir was free to accede to India or Pakistan. The Maharaja, Hari Singh, wanted to stay independent but eventually decided to accede to India, signing over key powers to the Indian government - in return for military aid and a promised referendum. Since then, the territory has been the spark for two of the three India-Pakistan wars: the first in 1947-8, the second in 1965. In 1999, India fought a brief but bitter conflict with Pakistani-backed forces who had infiltrated Indian-controlled territory in the Kargil area. From potentially being one of the most dangerous disputes in the world - which in the worst-case scenario could trigger a nuclear conflict - the recent warming of relations between Delhi and Islamabad has led to less sabre-rattling over the Kashmir dispute. In 1998 India and Pakistan both declared themselves to be nuclear powers with a string of nuclear tests. In 2002 there was a huge deployment of troops on both sides of the border as India reacted to an armed attack on the national parliament in Delhi the previous December. India said the attack was carried out by Pakistani-based militants assisted by the Pakistan government - a charge always denied by Pakistan." (The BBC). As British Colonialism came to a close in India, two countries stood where there was once one. Pakistan seceded with the intention of establishing a nation for India's Muslim. With that secession, the ownership of Kashmir, a border region, became the subject of contentious dispute that continues to destabilize the two nations. In short, the dispute in Kashmir has massive global implications. Both India and Pakistan stand ready to destroy each other with nuclear force if they cannot reach a compromise. A nuclear outcome in Kashmir has the potential to cause the extinction of the human race. Reverend Kenneth MacDonald and Salman Zafar will be providing their expertise for this topic.

Kenneth MacDonald

Kenneth MacDonald is involved with the University of Toronto's Centre for South Asian Studies. He is an associate professor of Critical Development Studies and Human Geography with the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Ethics Review Committee, and his major interests are in nature, society and environmental change, holding a PhD, MS, and BA from the University of Waterloo.



A writer, blogger and poet. The founder of www.verybadapple.com, a blog focusing on sociopolitical themes relevant to both local and international arenas, and a regular contributor to the Express Tribune Blogs. Mr. Zafar is a staunch Marxist and a member of Socialist Alternative Canada.

Salman Zafar



POLICIES

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining order, both in and out of sessions, so that we may provide a professional, safe and educational conference. Please feel free to approach any member of the WAC executive Committee to discuss any questions or concerns. Throughout the conference, please be aware of the following:

1

Delegates are expected to be respectful of others. Harassment in any form will not be tolerated. In order to maintain an open forum for discussion, discrimination due to race, religion, sex, age, disability, socio-economic status or sexual orientation will result in immediate removal from the conference.

2

Delegates found in violation of the Criminal Code will be immediately required to leave the conference and may face criminal charges.

3

The use or possession of illicit drugs will result in removal from the conference and relevant authorities will be notified.

4

There is no smoking on the UCC campus.

5

The legal age to purchase and consume alcohol in Ontario is 19. Delegates must comply.

6

Individuals will be liable for vandalism or damage to UCC property.

7

The WAC Executive reserves the right to expel delegates from the conference for inappropriate behaviour including, but not limited to, the use of foul language and/or obscenity.

8

If delegates must leave prior to the conference closing, they are requested to time their departure at the beginning or end of a session.



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