

2015



WORLD AFFAIRS  
CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION PACKAGE

PRESENTED BY:



ABOUT WAC

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

BECOME A PART OF THIS HISTORY.



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LETTER FROM WAC EXECUTIVE PANEL

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Dear Faculty Advisors and Students,

We are pleased to invite your school to the 32nd annual World Affairs Conference (WAC), to be held at Upper Canada College on February 2nd and 3rd, 2015. Our theme this year is “Threats to Humanity”, a deliberation of some of the impactful issues that the human race will contend with in the near future. The conference typically welcomes over 800 student delegates from across North America. We encourage you to learn more about WAC 2015 by reviewing this information package and visiting our website at [www.world.ac](http://www.world.ac).

WAC begins on the evening of 2nd with the Lionel Gelber Keynote Address, our most important event. Past keynote speakers have included: Marc Garneau, David Frum, Ralph Nader, Stephen Lewis, Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, Dr. Jeremy Sachs, John Stackhouse and Dambisa Moyo. The following morning will start with a panel on the Global Climate Crisis, after which students will attend three plenaries lead by a variety of expert speakers.

Our aim is to expose students to a range of international issues, thereby expanding their horizons aiding them in their development into global citizens. We believe it is uniquely valuable to be exposed to ideas that do not exist solely within national boundaries; WAC provides this exposure. Through a combination of expert discourse and intriguing dialogue, WAC affords each student the chance to develop his or her own informed opinions.

This brochure contains conference information and instructions for registration. Please be sure to register your students as soon as possible. We look forward to hosting you at this year’s conference. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our registration correspondent at [peter.coxford@ucc.on.ca](mailto:peter.coxford@ucc.on.ca).

Kind Regards,



**Nicholas Elder**  
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**Conor Healy**  
Conference Chair  
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# WHY WAC?



## OUR EXEMPLARY SPEAKERS

Our speakers travel from across North America - and this year, from Europe - to attend WAC. They are experts in their fields and experienced presenters. At no other high school conference will you find such a congregation of talent.

## OUR HISTORY

The World Affairs Conference is an institution among student-run conferences. Since its founding in 1983, WAC has hosted speakers of a top caliber, such as Ralph Nader, Marc Garneau, Michael Ignatieff, Jeffrey Sachs, David Frum and Bob Rae, as well as numerous others.



## THE CURRENT ISSUES

Our topics this year reflect some of the most current subjects of debate in global forums. They are broad in their scope and enormous in their importance.

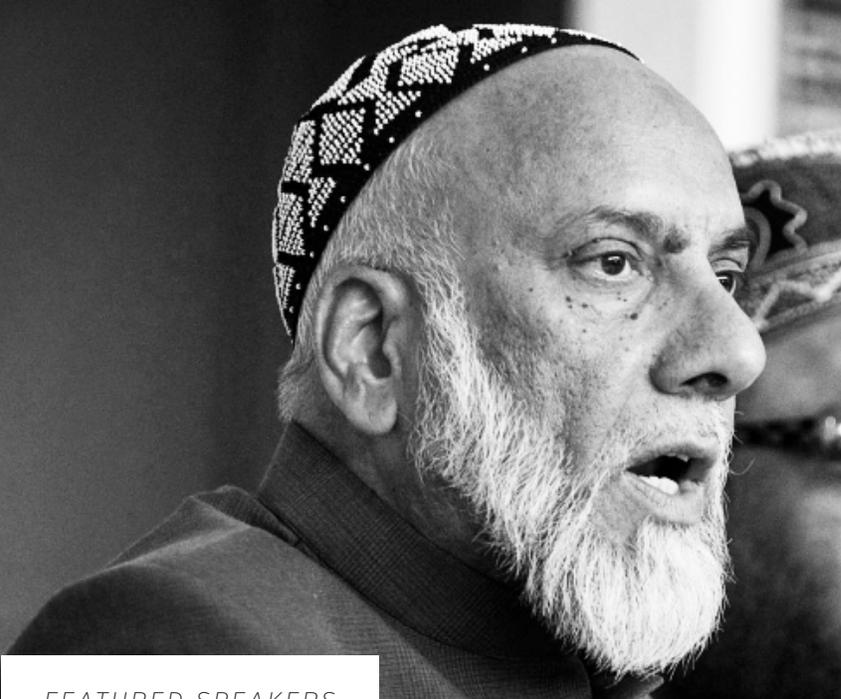
## THE INSPIRATION

The opportunity to be exposed to ideas that do not exist solely within national boundaries is an incredibly valuable one. This is what WAC provides.

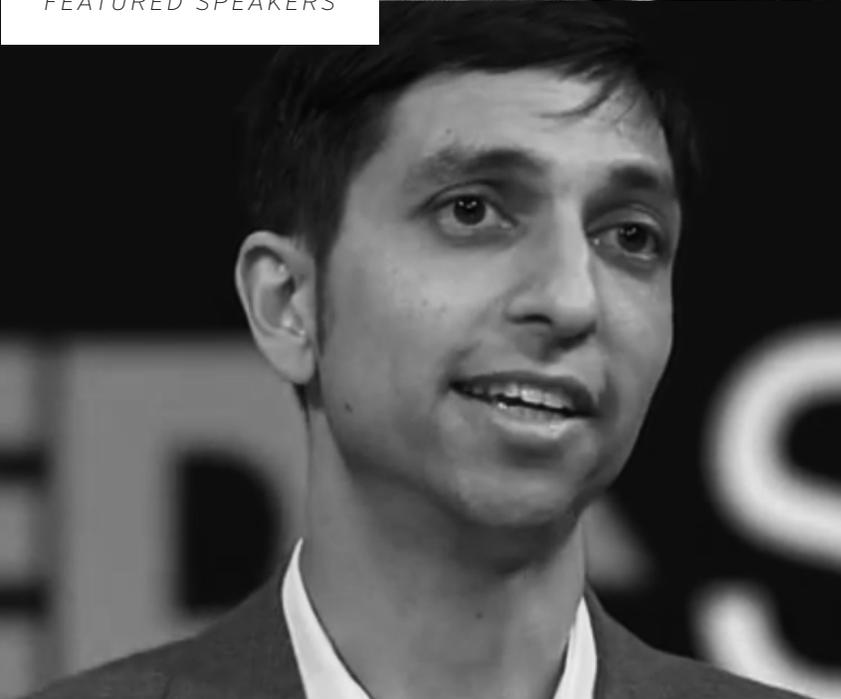


## COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS

WAC routinely attracts up to a thousand like-minded students. Delegates will have the opportunity to meet people from across Canada that share their interest in global affairs.


**FEATURED SPEAKERS**
**SYED SOHARWARDY**
**TERRORISM**

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.


**DR. ONIL BHATTACHARYYA**
**GLOBAL HEALTH**

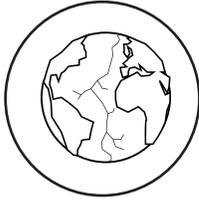
Dr. Bhattacharyya completed his B.Sc. (in biochemistry) at McGill, his MD at the University of Montreal and his PhD (in health policy, management and evaluation) at the University of Toronto. He’s been part of the DFCM since 2006 where he is an assistant professor in The Department of Family and Community 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.


**PROF. HUGO MELGAR-QUIÑONEZ**
**FOOD &  
WATER SCARCITY**

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.

Theme: *Threats to humanity*

# PLENARIES



## OPENING PANEL

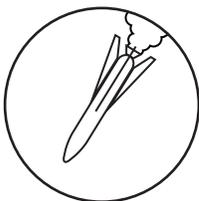
### THE CLIMATE CRISIS

#### SYNOPSIS:

We could think of few better choices for our morning panel than this topic which practically needs no introduction. According to a global consensus of scientists, the Greenhouse Gases in Earth's atmosphere have reached such dangerous levels as to spell disaster for humanity. Due to resultant changes in the climate, we can expect rising sea levels, greatly increases incidence of extreme weather, more extreme temperature and, in general, significant damage to the world economy. Our panel of speakers will examine the issue, with a particular eye to policy solutions. On one side, we have Dr. Gordon Faulks, a climate change denier infamous for his outspoken views against the general scientific consensus. In the middle, we have Senator Grant Mitchell, a senior member of the Liberal Party of Canada and active environmentalist in parliament. Senator Mitchell has a particular interest in the economics of the situation. On the left side, we have MP Bruce Hyer, the first member of the Green Party of Canada to be elected to parliament.

#### SPEAKERS

Bruce Hyer; Senator Grant Mitchell; Dr. Gordon Faulks



## CLOSING PANEL

### THREATS TO HUMANITY

#### SYNOPSIS:

Each year we hold a closing panel to discuss our theme for the conference. At the moment, we have not confirmed the speaker. However, we are considering a number of excellent choices. Past speakers for the closing panel include Craig Kielburger and David Miller.



### DEMOCRACY FALTERING: AN OUTDATED FRAMEWORK?

#### SYNOPSIS:

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?



### THE CRITICAL NECESSITIES: GLOBAL FOOD AND WATER SECURITY

#### SYNOPSIS:

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.

#### SPEAKER

Professor Hugo Melgar-Quiñónez



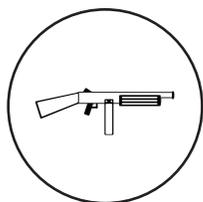
## PEACE AND SPORTS

### SYNOPSIS:

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 occur 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.

### SPEAKER

Alan R. Sanderson



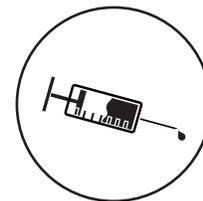
## FUTURE TERRORISM

### SYNOPSIS:

Since the events of September 11, 2001, Terrorism has been at the forefront of global issues. With the effective end of the US War on Terror and the withdrawal of Allied group troops in the Middle East, we have transitioned into a new stage. The nature of modern-day terrorism is an uncertain, intricate and ever-evolving threat. Equally uncertain is the extent of the measures necessary to combat it. From where will future terrorism originate? And need we sacrifice civil liberties to protect ourselves?

### SPEAKER

Syed Soharwardy



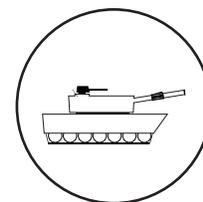
## DIAGNOSING GLOBAL HEALTH

### SYNOPSIS:

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 World Health Organization 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.

### SPEAKER

Dr. Onil Bhattacharyya



## THE KASHMIR DISPUTE

### SYNOPSIS:

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.

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**FEB 2, 2014**


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7:00PM - 9:00PM

● KEYNOTE & RECEPTION

Laidlaw Hall

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**FEB 3, 2014**


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8:00AM - 9:00AM

● REGISTRATION

Main Foyer

9:00AM - 10:15AM

● MORNING PANEL

Laidlaw Hall

10:15AM - 10:30AM

○ BREAK

Student Center

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*

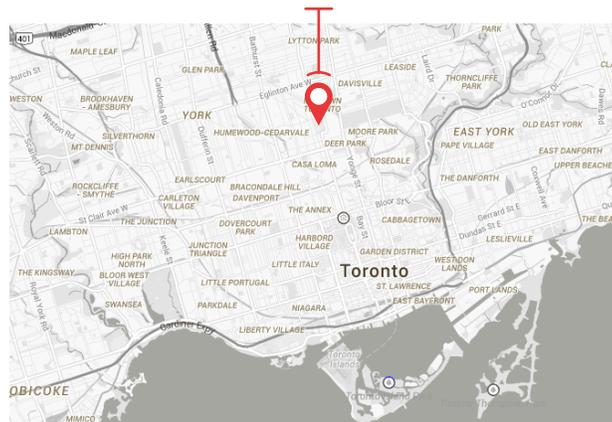
2:25PM - 3:25PM

● CLOSING PANEL

Laidlaw Hall

## UPPER CANADA COLLEGE

200 LONSDALE ROAD  
M4V 1W6, TORONTO ON  
(416) 488-1125



## ACCOMODATIONS

For your convenience, we have compiled a list of hotels close to the conference venue, UCC, where you may book your accommodations. These include:

### Holiday Inn Toronto Bloor Yorkville

280 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1V8  
(416) 968-0010  
3.5 km from UCC

### Howard Johnson Hotel Toronto Yorkville

89 Avenue Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2G3  
(416) 964-1220  
2.5 km from UCC

### Intercontinental Toronto Yorkville

220 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1T8  
(416) 960-5200  
3.1 km from UCC

### Marriot Toronto Bloor Yorkville

90 Bloor Street East, Toronto, ON M4W 1A7  
(416) 961-8000  
3.5 km from UCC

### Park Hyatt Toronto

4 Avenue Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2E8  
(416) 925-1234  
2.8 km from UCC



Dear Faculty Adviser,

An entirely student-organized and student-run event, the World Affairs Conference brings together young people from across North America and provides them with a unique opportunity to listen and talk to experts linked to a particular current affairs topic. Equally important, it allows delegates to exchange views with those who may have backgrounds quite different from their own.

As you can imagine, the challenges of defining a topic, booking appropriate speakers, and organizing, feeding, entertaining, and accommodating approximately eight hundred delegates are enormous. Each year, those who attend compliment the professional approach of the student organizers and their commitment to ensuring the best possible experience for their guests. The organizing committee tries to anticipate the needs of our delegates: if there are oversights, please bring them to our attention. We are always open to constructive suggestions.

Students and faculty who attend the conference contribute significantly to its success through their enthusiasm, cooperation, and—at times—their patience and understanding. There are certain things that we do request of teachers who bring students to WAC:

- Please register as quickly as possible, providing full information and payment. We realize the timing of the conference presents a challenge for semestered schools and we apologize for the inconvenience.
- The student organizers collect a range of research articles relating to the conference topic; these materials are available on our website ([www.world.ac](http://www.world.ac)). The more fully prepared delegates are before the conference, the more they gain from it.
- The faculty advisers for WAC are delighted to assist you and your students in any way possible. Our primary focus is to support the students running the conference—as a result, we are unable to supervise delegates closely. This is the responsibility of the faculty advisers who accompany them.
- Please review with your students the expectations you (and we) have of them. Those staying in the hotel should display courtesy for other guests. During the actual conference, it is important for students to follow instructions, to be punctual, minimize the use of electronics, and to remember that talking and unnecessary movement are very distracting for speakers and other delegates. In addition, please ensure that your students follow a business-casual dress code.

Should you have any questions about the conference, or, as the conference draws nearer, any concerns about the registration process or other logistics, please do not hesitate to contact one of us by phone or email. Thank you for your consideration,

**Alan Chan**  
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# HOW TO REGISTER

- 1 Collect interested students using optional wall signup sheet enclosed in package.
- 2 Fill out school information on the enclosed registration form.
- 3 Provide the names and email addresses for each student delegate on the registration form.
- 4 Select each students plenary requests.
- 5 Enclose 50\$ CAD (USD taken at par) per registered delegate in cash or cheque. Cheque must be payable to Upper Canada College (please note that your cheque is intended for the World Affairs Conference).
- 6 Mail both your completed registration form and payment to **UCC**.

The World Affairs Conference  
Upper Canada College  
200 Lonsdale Road  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M4V 1W6

- 7 We will send a confirmation email to the faculty advisor as soon as we receive your registration form and cheque in the mail.

\* Please Note: Registration forms received without payment will be discarded.

## CONTACT US



**Registration Corespondent:** peter.coxford@ucc.on.ca

**Faculty Corespondent:** achan@ucc.on.ca

**Programs Corespondent:** lucas.cusimano@ucc.on.ca

**Conference Chair:** conor.healy@ucc.on.ca

**Head of Registration and Media Dpt:** nicholas.elder@ucc.on.ca



**Faculty Corespondent:** [416] - 488 - 1125 ext. 3175



[www.world.ac](http://www.world.ac)



## 2015 World Affairs Conference

February 2nd and 3rd 2015 at Upper Canada College  
[www.world.ac](http://www.world.ac)

*Design by: Nicholas Elder and Derek Lam  
Printed by the UCC Press*

# School Registration Form

Please complete the following registration form for the 2015 World Affairs Conference to secure your school's space. The registration fee is \$50 CAD per attending delagate (we kindly accept the USD at par). Please note that registration without payment will not be processed. We accept both cash and cheques (payable to Upper Canada College). The deadline for registration is December 16th 2014. WAC begins on the evening of February 2nd 2015 with the Lionel Gelber Keynote Address (optional to school delagates, an open even for the Toronto community), and continues through the day of the conference on February 3rd 2015. The second page of this document should contain the list of all attending students, the third page is promotional material for your internal use, and should not be submitted with registration. Please return this completed form along with your form of payment with the enclosed return envelope. We look forward to hosting you at this year's conference.

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Advisor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Advisor Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Delagates Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Faculty Advisors Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Names of Faculty Advisors: (if more than 1 attend)** \_\_\_\_\_

**How many years has your school attended the conference for? [including this year](optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the conference? (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What was the biggest barrier to your school attending? (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is there anything we could do to make attending the conference easier? (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mode of Payment (please check one):**

- Cheque       Cash

## Interest Specific Plenary Sessions:

Each student attending the conference will attend 3 plenary sessions based on his or her personal interests. The following is a list of the plenaries names and their short-hand letter name to be used indicating plenary selections for each student on the following page. A full description of each plenary has been included in the registration information booklet. Updates to the plenary information, including the identities of the speakers, will be made available on our website: [www.world.ac](http://www.world.ac)

<b>A</b>	Peace, Love, and Sports	<b>D</b>	The Course of Global Health
<b>B</b>	Faltering Democracy	<b>E</b>	Food and Water Scarcity
<b>C</b>	Terrorism	<b>F</b>	Kashmir: A Region Divided



