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THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & PUBLIC POLICY

WORLD AFFAIRS TURNS 25



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Our Mission

The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy is dedicated to providing students with the highest quality instruction and conducting research that serves society. Our students and faculty generate new knowledge that enhances the discussion of important social, economic, and public policy issues and leads to innovations in industry, government, and non-profit organizations. We prepare our students for meaningful careers, advanced professional training, and an active role in public life.

The College's strategic plan is to build on our existing strengths to:

- transform the educational experience for our most outstanding students;
- expand new programs to help prepare tomorrow's leaders in business, politics, government, and the non-profit sector for a global society;
- build world class research and teaching programs focusing on issues related to equality of opportunity, aging, and health that are critical to the state of Florida;
- develop an international research and teaching program on the impact of culture and social and political institutions on such issues as poverty, economic growth, terrorism, and international relations;
- use our path breaking research to generate innovative solutions to economic, political and social problems; and
- achieve top quartile status among public institutions for all of our Ph.D. programs.

On the cover

Participants at the 25th anniversary banquet of the World Affairs Program.



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The spotlight shines on only a few of our exceptional students. Majors in the college account for 44 percent of FSU students who are in the Office of National Fellowships' Hall of Fame; but they represent only 12 percent of the entire student body.

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This Model U.N. Program enhances the university's national reputation every time it competes against premier private institutions. Its past accomplishments and future promise were showcased at the 25th anniversary banquet.

8 LeRoy Collins Institute Sees Trouble Ahead

Many local governments in Florida have made promises to retiree that they cannot keep. The Collins Institute's research program on "Tough Choices" facing Florida and its communities gives legislators and citizens information that needs to be part of public discussions on the future of our state.

10 Preparing for Disaster

The Center for Disaster Risk Policy has an international reputation for its work to prepare public and private responses to large scale natural and man-made disasters. Students and professionals receive training in the Center's The Emergency Management Academic Program.

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John Mayo, Taleb Salhab, David Rasmussen



World Affairs Turns 25

The Florida State World Affairs Program (WAP) is a student-run academic program housed in the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. Participating students travel to compete in Model United Nations and Crisis Simulation Conferences. The conferences, which are held in cities such as Atlanta, Berkeley, Calif., Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Montreal, are academic arenas where participants must combine public speaking, research, diplomacy, and crisis management skills as they represent their assigned country and position to the best possible degree.

For 25 years, the World Affairs Program has prepared students to represent Florida State at these conferences. Commonly known as the "Ivy League Circuit" of Model U.N. and Crisis Simulation, the conferences feature quality competition. Florida State has made a name for itself as our students compete and excel against participants from Ivy League schools, military academies, and other renowned national and international universities. A veritable juggernaut since 2000, WAP has placed first overall 12 times and second overall six times at these conferences. Florida State has earned a reputation as a top-notch school and our students are respected by other conference participants.

To field the best possible team, WAP holds competitive tryouts for every conference. This gives students numerous chances to travel as part of the team, ensuring that more of them get to participate.

While the competitions are always fierce, Florida State students make friends with other students who are among the best and brightest of their generation. These friendships can last a lifetime. By connecting our students with peers who have similar interests and goals, WAP creates strong personal connections between the leaders developing here at Florida State and at prominent schools throughout the world.



Current World Affairs students at the 2011 WAP Banquet

The program's primary mission is to maintain Florida State's worldwide status as an academic leader, but it is also committed to developing leadership abilities and international understanding among students campus-wide. Each year WAP hosts several events for the benefit of all Florida State students, including weekly training meetings where any student may come to learn the art of public speaking, diplomacy and research techniques. At the Regional Training Conference held every fall, students are invited to take part in an on-campus Model U.N. Simulation where WAP members teach them what it takes to compete.

Students from Tallahassee Community College, the University of Florida and other schools also participate in this training session.

When they go out into the world, students in the World Affairs Program show that they attend a top-tier university and can compete with the brightest graduates of the best universities in the world. They gain experience and confidence that prepares them to be productive citizens in the global 21st century.





THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY WORLD AFFAIRS PROGRAM



L to R. Sara Dejam, Jordan Raupp and Amanda Fidalgo



2011 "The Shield" recipient Marie Cowart with Josh Curry (left) and James Parker (right)



Left Sara Dejam 2009-10 "The Rocket" winner, far right 2010-11 winner Christopher Hansford



Robert Johnson Director's Award "The Sword"

The Sword is given to the incoming student Director of the Program at the annual banquet. It is named for the organization's founder and first Director Robert Johnson. Robert, now a board member and donor, had the vision the led the program through its formative years and remains active to this day. The Sword itself is a replica Union Civil War Calvary Officer's sabre and inspires visions of those who led their teams into conflict with bravery and honor. Each Director's name and year of service is inscribed on the sheath.



James G. Parker Alumni Award "The Shield"

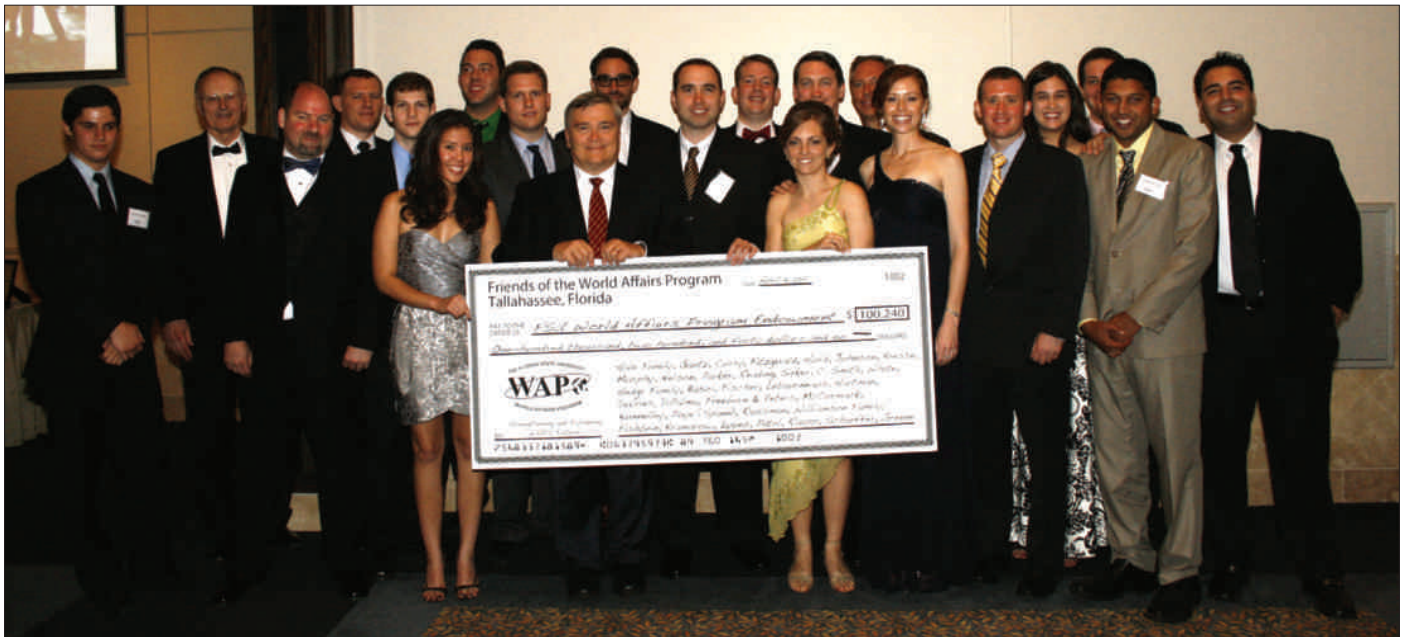
The Shield is given at the annual banquet at the discretion of the alumni board. It is named for the founder of the alumni group and the Program Director in 2000-01. James Parker is the Chairman of the Board and a donor to the Program. The Shield is a replica of the Shield of El Cid Campeador. The 11th century Castilian nobleman, military leader, and diplomat was revered for his defense of his people and inspirational leadership in preparation for battle. To date the award for outstanding defense of the Program has been given to Vice Chairman of the Board Joshua D. Curry and former Dean of the College of Social Sciences Dr. Marie Cowart. Each recipient's name and year awarded is placed on the shield.



John Windmueller Best Delegate Award "The Rocket"

The Rocket is given annually to the Program's best delegate of the year. It is named for the Program's first member to win eight consecutive first place awards at national competitions. John Windmueller is an active alum and donor who set the standard for all future delegates to follow. The Rocket itself is a M735 Armor Piercing Projectile, commonly known as a "Tank Killer." The Rocket was selected because it represents a weapon specifically designed to destroy a battlefield's most potent weapon, the tank. WAP's best delegate is recognized for having successfully taken on the best students that the service academies, Ivy League, Georgetown, Berkeley, and others have to offer. Each Rocket winner's name and year is attached to an actual M735 practice round for the student to keep.





World Affairs Program Alumni presented FSU President Eric Barron with a check symbolizing their commitment to the continued success of the program



L to R. Aakash Patel, Daniel Rossman, Farhood Basiri, Allin Hedge, Adam Sloan, Chris Smith.

President Eric Barron learned of the World Affairs Program early in his tenure at Florida State. A student in the program told him about a Model U.N. competition at which a member of the Harvard University team asked, “Why does a southern public university bother trying to compete here?” She told President Barron, “It sure was nice to beat them.”

The President has often told this story when talking to alumni because it reveals a fundamental truth about the World Affairs Program and the university at large: FSU students can compete with any students in the nation.

On April 9, 2011, WAP held a dinner to celebrate its 25th anniversary as an organization at FSU. More than 125 current students and program alumni attended the event and some of those who could not come sent video greetings to the assembled diners. Greetings came from Iraq, Germany, Turkey and England. Another had just returned from Afghanistan where he was working on a development project. It is clear that their interest in international affairs does not diminish after graduation.



L. to R. James Parker, Sarah Rodriguez, Elizabeth Kennedy, Joshua Curry, Allin Hedge. They are the Chairman's University Relations Advisory Committee (CURAC)

"I do not know of another student group that has such close ties with its alumni," says Dean David Rasmussen. They assist in getting the team ready to compete each year and take them to dinner when they compete in cities where several alumni are living. Most important, these young alumni have stepped up to the plate and have helped fund the program that has, like the rest of the university, suffered from budget cuts.

On the occasion of the 20th reunion dinner, alumni pooled their resources to commit \$25,000 to start an endowment fund for the program. This year, they presented President Barron a symbolic check representing the \$100,000 they will be adding to the fund over the next five years. James Parker and Joshua Curry, who lead the alumni support group, were enormously grateful to the President when he committed another \$25,000 for the fund.

Parker said that "support of College of Social Sciences Deans Cnudde, Cowart, and Rasmussen has been critical to our success and we are awed by the support that President Barron has showed us."



James G. Parker, Capt. Kathryn Fitzgerald, Allin M. Hedge, Josh Curry. These four plus Emir Sirker were the core members that founded the alumni group.



*I do not know of another student group
that has such close ties with its alumni*

—Dean David Rasmussen



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Josh Curry, Marie Cowart, James Parker