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NCIW Partner - Here is the current issue of North Carolina in the World NEWS.

Readers - North Carolina in the World NEWS will not be published during the summer and will return to your inbox in September.



Increasing Student Knowledge and Skills About the World



Tarheel Highlights

► **Teaching abroad** was a career highlight for North Carolina's newly named Teacher of the Year, James Bell. Bell, a language arts teacher at Chowan Middle School, taught English in South Korea. In a statement, Bell said, "They didn't speak English, and I didn't speak Korean. . . It didn't matter that we were from worlds thousands of miles apart, and as different as night and day. It didn't matter that we looked and spoke differently. We lacked text books, we didn't have access to the internet in the school . . . But I still taught, and they learned. That's what mattered."

► **Marty Babcock, architect** of North Carolina in the World, has been named this year's winner of the Marita Houlihan Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field of International Education. This national award is given by NAFSA: Association of International Educators and was named in honor of a U.S. State Department official who helped establish the Fulbright International Student Exchange Program. It recognizes "those who have displayed imaginative activity, outstanding personal enterprise, and creative contributions to the field through research, writing or program development." Babcock, who has served as the Center for International Understanding's

This Is **What It Looks Like:** Global Education at Work in NC **Juniors Experience Model United Nations**

Submitted by Syndie Fleener, Director, Academy of International Studies Independence High School, Charlotte

Independence High School was one of the first three schools in the country to be awarded a grant from the Asia Society, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to create a small learning community based on global education.

Every year we try to create a required class for the Academy of International Studies that will enrich the students' experiences in cultural awareness and international studies. Our freshmen start by reading and discussing literature from around the world. Our sophomores have been enrolled in cultural anthropology and our juniors are experiencing Model United Nations.

During the course of this Model UN class, our students are assigned a country to represent. They are responsible for being the delegate for that country for the entire semester. It is their responsibility to know the culture, religion, and politics of that country, both past and present. The students use this country for the framework to study human rights, globalization and other international issues. The classroom is a simulation of the United Nations where the students use parliamentary procedure to speak in class and hold debates. The goal of the course is to model the UN in order to prepare them for competition. Students attend competitions to interact with other students from around the world. It is here that they play the role of the true delegate. The students are given a problem that reflects the world today. As delegates to a country, the students debate following parliamentary procedure and attempt to pass resolutions in order to solve this issue. Students interact in formal and informal debates in order to pass a resolution. The result to solve the issue reflects the true UN, as sometimes resolutions pass and sometimes they do not.



It is the philosophy of the Academy of International Studies to empower our students with the skills to become global citizens prepared for the 21st century. The Model UN class provides our students with the necessary skills to prosper in higher education and beyond.

As junior Zuhaib Mahmood puts it, "education is like a step ladder: our classes provide a base, and The Academy holds the steps together. Model UN is a step on that ladder, a step closer to wisdom and away from ignorance."

Director of Programs for more than 20 years, will accept the award in Minneapolis later this month.



National Notes

▶ UNESCO and the Goi Peace

Foundation are inviting young people from around the world to enter the International Essay Contest for Young People. Open to everyone under 26 years of age, this year's theme is "The role of media and information and communication technologies in building a peaceful world."

Submissions are due June 30. For more information...[click here](#).

▶ **A bill appropriating** nearly \$2.5 million for international education over the next two years has been introduced in the Arizona House. House Bill 2741 requires the Arizona Department of Education to establish Schools of International Studies to "prepare pupils for international business or international service by emphasizing oral or written fluency in foreign languages, knowledge of global history, knowledge of international business and relevant skills."



Business Perspective

"Change is a reality of today's global business climate. We need to understand today's business needs and trends, while being flexible enough to adapt to change. It only makes sense for economic development officials to work with education leaders to prepare students for this challenging environment."

Elizabeth Smith
Policy Director
NC Department of Commerce



Progress Report: North Carolina in the World

World Languages

Smith Middle School French teacher Robin McMahon recently received an award of 51,000 euros (about \$70,000) from the European Commission to teach about the European Union. Working with Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, McMahon's effort is to help local communities obtain first-hand knowledge of Europe and the European Union. The grant was part of the European Commission's "Getting to Know Europe" program, and Smith Middle School was the only K-12 school in the nation recognized this year. As part of the project, McMahon led a group of 29 middle school students from Smith Middle School on a study trip to Paris and Brussels.

Advancing Policy

Education appropriations requests are currently advancing through the legislative process in the North Carolina General Assembly. At the writing of this newsletter, \$200,000 for North Carolina in the World was included in the current version of the state appropriations bill. Two reports about North Carolina in the World progress and linking international education to state economic development priorities have been filed with the state legislature in response to a 2006 special provision. To read the full reports...[click on "In the News"](#)

World Languages

The need for world language proficiency was highlighted in a recent opinion piece by North Carolina in the World Executive Committee member David Young. Young, president of the Visiting International Faculty Program in Chapel Hill, writes: "...our system of teaching international languages is broken. We must rethink our outmoded strategy and retool it for the 21st century global economy. We do our children a disservice by not preparing them for communication across cultures and languages." To read the full article that appeared in The News & Observer on May 14...[click here](#).



North Carolina in the World is a statewide collaborative effort to prepare students to be citizens, workers and leaders in the global age of the 21st Century.

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