

The Briefing

A Newsletter of The Alabama World Affairs Council / Spring 2014

Coming Up: Korb on Defense Budget; Kakoma on Sudan; Added Program: Future of Korea; War College Instructors



JAN 21

The next program will be Tuesday, Jan. 21 featuring **Dr. Lawrence Korb**, a widely quoted and respected defense expert whose previous appearances at AWAC have been well received. He will discuss the political situation regarding the budget and defense cuts, and what it means to national security. His professional career following Navy and Navy Reserve duty includes being former Assistant Secretary of Defense (where he administered about 70% of the department's budget), holder of senior positions at Brookings Institution and the University of Pittsburgh and Raytheon Co., and former director of national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is now a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a senior advisor to the Center for Defense Information.

On Feb. 25 **Itonde Kakoma**, assistant director of the Conflict Resolution Program at the Carter Center in Atlanta, will discuss his work on peaceful initiatives in volatile Africa. He manages the Center's conflict resolution activities in Sudan and South Sudan and previously



FEB 25

worked on the Center's peace initiatives in Liberia. He has worked for the World Council of Churches, consulted for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and advised inter-disciplinary initiatives at Emory University and Georgia Tech.

APR 15

As a special bonus, the Alabama World Affairs Council has added an exciting seventh program this year: **The Future of Korea**, to be held April 15, thanks to a grant received from the Korea Economic Institute. Former U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo, president of KEI, will lead a three-member panel along with representatives from the U.S. State Department and the Korean Embassy. A similar program in 2011 was deemed a great success.

The final program on May 13 will be the annual Air War College Regional and Cultural Studies Program report from **four senior Air War College professors** on their recent trips to various countries of topical interest around

the globe. The experts give first-hand analysis of regional hotspots and areas of vital interest to the United States, and the program is always one of the most highly regarded of the year.



MAY 13

Grant Allows Added Program on Korea

The Alabama World Affairs Council has earned a grant from the World Affairs Council of America for a special program on April 15 on “The Future of Korea,” held in collaboration with the Korea Economic Institute of America. The speaker program focuses on the economic and political situation on the Korean Peninsula as well as U.S.–Korea relations.

The centerpiece of the program is a panel discussion consisting of one representative each from the U.S. Department of State, the Korean Embassy, KEI, or other relevant institutions. The panel participants typically offer a general overview presentation (approximately 60-90 minutes in length), followed by a Q&A period. The speakers address political, security, economic and financial issues pertaining to the Korean Peninsula and U.S.–Korea relations.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this special program on April 15. Do your taxes early!

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3 Fall Events Held

Three programs were held last fall featuring top experts in their fields. **Mr. Tom Timberman**, a retired senior foreign service officer who is helping build the Afghan Civil Service up to a competent and effective organization, led off the season on Sept. 24 with an inside look at nation-building efforts in general and his own experience over the last half-century in war zone development, beginning with Vietnam.

On Oct. 22, the **Hon. Maurice McTigue**, QSO, former cabinet minister and member of Parliament in his native New Zealand and currently with the Mercatus Center, posited that the private sector is a welcome antidote to government inefficiencies.

Rex Adams, chairman of the huge international investment company Invesco, spoke on Nov. 12 and provided a 2014 investment forecast. He expects “wild rides” with investment and retirement monies, and suggested use of trustworthy financial advisors and focus on large cap stocks.



A pensive Rosemary Gobrecht, Joan Powers, and Ann Cheney at reception

Members Can Visit Cuba, Led by Nathan

Our executive director, **Dr. James A. Nathan**, will lead a cultural and educational trip to Cuba in March that is open to interested Alabama World Affairs Council members. The March 15-22 trip via charter flight from Miami is being organized by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and involves five days in Havana and two in Trinidad, perhaps the best-preserved Spanish colonial town in Cuba and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Dr. Nathan, a retired foreign service officer and Cuba expert, is the author of seven books on U.S. foreign and security policy including *The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited*, which was cited by *The Washington Post's Book World* as “mandatory reading for policymakers at all levels.” Besides his talks and insights on Cuban affairs, travelers will engage with political scientists, economists, entrepreneurs and artists and visit a clinic, school and organic farm cooperative.

License rules require that participants commit to full-day people-to-people programming assuring members opportunities for meaningful dialogue with Cubans. The cost is \$4,595 including air to/from Havana. More details are available at www.wacphila.org. If interested, contact Dahdee Bullen at the AWAC office, (334) 244-3337.

Our web site is maintained by Prof. Jeremy Lewis at Huntingdon College.

awac.us

Board Member Profile

Samuel P. Johnson of Birmingham is chairman and CEO of Johnson+Sterling, Inc., an independent financial advisory firm he co-founded in 1976 that serves clients throughout the U.S. Johnson+Sterling is an investment advisory and pension consultancy headquartered in Birmingham, with remote offices in the Seattle, Wash., area and in a few locations adjacent to universities the firm serves. Clients include medical schools, colleges, foundations, endowments, physicians' practices, hospitals, law firms, corporations, individuals and families, trusts and estates.



Mr. Johnson earned a B.S. in business and economics from Auburn University. Besides serving on the Alabama World Affairs Council board, he is on the board of directors of the World Affairs Councils of America in Washington, D.C. He is also on the boards of the Church Life Insurance Corporation; Church Pension Group, Episcopal Church of the United States in New York; the Alabama Symphony Orchestra Endowment Board; and the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation. He is president of the board of Spring Valley School, Birmingham, and is on the Advisory Board, Auburn University-Montgomery School of Business. He has a wide variety of professional designations and honors.

Sam's wife, Elizabeth L. Rutherford, is president and chief compliance officer of their firm, and they have been professional partners for 27 years. They have three sons – Jay, 43; Will, 38; and Wright, 25 – and six grandchildren.

Final FY 2013 Budget Figures

In the last *The Briefing*, we reported that the unreconciled end of year FY 2013 (June 30, 2013) cash balance was \$24,589. The final reconciled balance was \$24,530, as shown in the budget figures below. The main driver of the increase over the previous FY was the boost given by our corporate sponsors and anonymous donors.

	FY '12	FY '13
Income		
Membership dues	37,065	35,765
Corporate sponsors	6,000	10,898
Donations	500	1,750
Grants	1,153	900
Total Income	44,718	49,313

Expenses		
Catering and Beverage	21,624	21,595
Facility rental	5,796	6,118
Printing and mailing	3,837	5,960
Post Office and Internet	0	687
Honoraria	2,800	800
Speakers' expenses, travel	2,394	3,604
Contract services	1,934	1,596
Organization dues	1,030	830
Meeting & office expenses	851	342
Promotion (radio)	0	1,200
Total Expenses	40,266	42,732
Net Income	4,451	6,581

Cash Statement

Beginning Cash July 1, 2011	13,498
Income July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012	44,718
Expenses July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012	40,266
Net Income July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012	4,451
Ending Cash June 30, 2012	17,949

Beginning Cash July 1, 2012	17,949
Income July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013	49,313
Expenses July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013	42,732
Net Income July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013	6,581
Ending Cash June 30, 2013	24,530

Executive Director's Corner: Dr. James Nathan

Editor's Note: As always, the views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Alabama World Affairs Council organization.

Nine years ago I went to North Korea for what some term an exercise in “track-two diplomacy.” Last month, after American ex-Korean war veteran Merrill Newman, who was “hosted” on his visit to North Korea by the same tour company I had used, was detained there for a month, Korea’s “supreme leader,” Kim Jong-un, arrested and executed his uncle and regent, Jang Song-taek, 67.

Jang was hauled away from a televised meeting and within days he and an unknown number of associates were machine-gunned to death. Jang’s “confession” was breath taking: “I was going to stage the coup by using army officers who had close ties with me or by mobilizing armed forces under the control of my confidants.” The statement that significant elements of the military were ready to attack the regime is a shocker.

For me, the events in North Korea were more like Stalin’s show trials of the mid-1930s where old Bolsheviks were tortured to confess. Khrushchev termed these old Bolshevik confessions “grave and unlikely crimes,” and they were exacted so that Stalin could sleep better, knowing he had weeded out some rivals and had cowed the rest.

For those who hoped Western educated Kim would be different, it’s a sorry day. For the wretched people of North Korea, it’s heart-breaking.

Jang’s economic crime was said to be the attempt to make Rason, a city that borders both China and Russia, into a free-trade zone, in the apparent hope that it would prompt something of a test case for Chinese-style “reform.”

Last year, China’s then-President Hu Jintao praised Jang for contributions to “the development of good neighborly relations between China and North Korea.” Jang’s brutal eclipse will cause China to re-think its balancing act: a growing intimacy with South Korea, on the one hand; and, on the other, steady life-support for North Korea.

The April 15 visit of the delegation from the State Department’s Korea Desk, the Korean Embassy, and the president and chief executive officer of the Korea Economic Institute of America, former U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo, couldn’t be more timely.

At this time last year I visited Cuba for the first time, though I had written about Cuban-American relations for years. It was fascinating, and save for the Cuba-North Korea weapons trade, the two communist states couldn’t be more different in their approach to visitors.

So I was delighted when the World Affairs Council of America travel program received a rare travel license for a group to go to Cuba, and I was asked to lead a delegation of members of the World Affairs

Council “system” on the trip.

The World Affairs Council trip, leaving Miami on March 15, is seven days and includes all meals and stays at the best hotels in several island locations, including, of course, several days in Havana.

I have authored two books on the Cuban missile crisis and had written a study for the Joint Chiefs on the Bay of Pigs. At long last, I will have a chance to actually see it and the UNESCO “world heritage” town of Trinidad.

Last time, my hard won academic visa kept me in Havana. I had but three days. So a seven-day trip across the island is a treat. I look forward to seeing 600 years of Moorish, Baroque, Art Deco architecture like no other. Cuba will change, soon. To see it as it was and still is—before an inevitable tsunami of modernization—is the chance of a lifetime.

We will meet on an intimate level political scientists, economists, entrepreneurs, and artists, and visit clinics, schools, and farms. Each day is filled with numerous sightseeing and interpersonal exchanges with a variety of specialists and ordinary Cubans. Our members would receive preference since I expect space to be scarce. A similar trip organized by Johns Hopkins, with less going for it, sold out in 24 hours. If you’d like more information, please call the office: (334) 244-3337.