



The 61st Annual

Conference on World Affairs

Perspective 360°

Theme Announcement & Attendance Figures

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Johanna Stoyva

Tel: 303.492.2515

Fax: 303.492.3934

E: cwapress@colorado.edu

<http://www.colorado.edu/cwa>

Boulder, Colorado –The Conference on World Affairs is pleased to announce the theme of this year’s event: Perspective 360°. The theme reflects the Conference’s 60-year tradition of bringing a genuinely global outlook on most fields of human endeavor to the University of Colorado’s Boulder Campus.

A cherished Boulder tradition, the Conference is thriving. In the past ten years it has doubled in size to become Boulder’s largest event. Last year more than 84,000 CU students, Boulderites, and national and international visitors attended the 200 panels, plenary sessions, performances, and the spectacular Tuesday Night Jazz Concert.

Building on a pilot program launched in 2008, the Conference will again this year offer live, online streaming of many plenary addresses and larger events taking place in Macky Auditorium and the UMC Center Ballroom. Remote viewing locations will be listed in the printed CWA program book, available as an insert to the *Camera* on Sunday, March 29th and online at <http://colorado.edu/cwa>.

Conference Director and University of Colorado professor James Palmer says he believes the increasing audiences are a reaction to today’s easy access to information. “In an age when facts and figures are available almost instantaneously via the Internet, people are craving context, background, experience; they want texture and substance, face-to-face encounters and exchanges, to help them interpret all the detailed information we now have so readily at hand. This is one of the things the Conference does best. Also, it is moving, wild, unpredictable, and fun.”

Background

The University of Colorado’s Conference on World Affairs was founded in 1948 as a forum on international affairs. It rapidly expanded to encompass a huge range of fields including but not limited to: music, literature, environment, science, journalism, visual arts, diplomacy, technology, spirituality, film politics, business, medicine, and human

rights.

Each April, approximately 100 participants from all of these fields, including rising stars, established luminaries, and more discreet behind-the-scenes players gather in Boulder for what *The New York Times* calls “a weeklong extravaganza of discussion and debate” that is free and open to the public.

The Conference challenges participants to discuss a wide range of issues on an impromptu basis, offering a bracing alternative to the specialized, often highly scripted gatherings of academia and the business world.

Journalist Molly Ivins, who was a frequent participant, wrote that the event offers “astonishing, cross-disciplinary insights, whole new ways of looking at old questions and information that can transform the way you look at things.”

Film critic Roger Ebert, who has attended the Conference 38 times, calls it “The Conference on Everything Conceivable.”

For more information contact Johanna Stoyva: 303.492.2515/cwapress@colorado.edu.

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