



The Fifty-eighth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

“OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE”

Tim Wirth Plenary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS TIM WIRTH TO ADDRESS “AMERICA’S VALUES”

BOUDLER, March 30 – The Fifty-eighth Annual Conference on World Affairs will be held **April 10-14, 2006** on the University of Colorado’s Boulder campus. The week’s broad array of panels, plenaries and performances are all free and open to the public. The full schedule of 220 events and biographies of over 100 prolific participants may be viewed online at www.colorado.edu/cwa.

Senator Timothy Wirth (bio attached), president of the United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund, will deliver the plenary address *America’s Values–Perceived and Real* at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 13** in the UMC Center Ballroom on the University of Colorado’s Boulder campus. This session, as with all CWA events during the week, is free and open to the public.

Wirth says he will address the “increasing concerns about the apparent and rapidly growing gap between American ideals and the reality of current U.S. policies. How does this play out in our world and what are the implications and ramifications domestically and internationally?”

The United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund were founded in 1998 through a major financial commitment from R. E. Turner to support and strengthen the work of the United Nations. As president of the UN Foundation since its inception, Wirth has organized and led the formulation of the foundation’s mission and program priorities, which include the environment, women and population, children’s health, peace, security and human rights. The foundation also engages in extensive public advocacy, resource mobilization and institutional strengthening efforts on behalf of the UN.

Wirth began his political career as a White House Fellow under President Lyndon Johnson and was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education in the Nixon Administration. He served as Congressman from 1975 to 1987, representing Colorado's Second District, and concentrating his efforts in the areas of communications technology and budget policy. In 1987, Wirth was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he focused on environmental issues, especially global climate change and population stabilization.

The University of Colorado's Conference on World Affairs was founded in 1948, originally as a forum on international affairs. CWA expanded rapidly to encompass music, literature, environment, science, journalism, visual arts, diplomacy, technology, spirituality, film, politics, business, medicine, human rights and so on.

Every year in April approximately 100 participants representing a wide range of expertise gather in Boulder for what *The New York Times* calls "a week-long extravaganza of discussion and debate" on over 200 non-academic, cross-disciplinary panels, plenary sessions and performances.

The Conference challenges its participants to discuss a wide-range of issues on an impromptu basis—offering a refreshing alternative to the specialized gatherings of academia and the business world. According to columnist Molly Ivins, CWA panels offer "astonishing, cross-disciplinary insights, whole new ways of looking at old questions and information that can transform the way you look at things." Ebert, who has made the annual trek to Boulder in April as a participant for 35 years, has dubbed the CWA the "Conference on Everything Conceivable."

Past participants at the Conference include Studs Terkel, Simon Hoggart, Andrei Codrescu, R. E. "Ted" Turner, Steve Allen, Paolo Soleri, Yitzhak Rabin, Ralph Nader, Norman Cousins, Henry Kissinger, Arthur Miller, Howard Nemerov, R. Buckminster Fuller, George McGovern and Eleanor Roosevelt.

For further information, contact Ramsay Thurber at 303.492.2515, or email the Conference on World Affairs at cwapress@colorado.edu . The full CWA schedule and participant bios are available online at www.colorado.edu/cwa

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Timothy E. Wirth

Timothy Wirth is the president of the United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund. These organizations were founded in 1998 through a major financial commitment from Ted Turner to support and strengthen the work of the United Nations.

Wirth began his political career as a White House fellow under President Lyndon Johnson and was deputy assistant secretary for education in the Nixon Administration. In 1975, Wirth returned to his home state and successfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Colorado's Second Congressional District from 1975 to 1987. In the House he concentrated his efforts in the areas of communications technology and budget policy. In 1987, Wirth was elected to the U.S. Senate where he focused on environmental issues, especially global climate change and population stabilization. After a successful term, Wirth chose not to run for re-election.

Following those two decades of electoral politics, Wirth served in the U.S. Department of State as the first undersecretary for global affairs from 1993 to 1997. In this position he coordinated U.S. foreign policy in the areas of refugees, population, environment, science, human rights, and narcotics.

As president of the U.N. Foundation since its inception, Wirth has organized and led the formulation of the foundation's mission and program priorities. They include the environment, women and population, children's health, peace, security, and human rights. The foundation also engages in extensive public advocacy, resource mobilization, and institutional strengthening efforts on behalf of the U.N.

Prior to entering politics, Wirth was in private business in Colorado. He is a graduate of Harvard and holds a PhD from Stanford University. The recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees, he also served as a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers. Wirth is married to Wren Wirth, the president of the Winslow Foundation, and they have two children.