



WETLANDS PROTECTION CALLED URGENT FOR AMERICA FAU Freshman Gets Honorable Mention In National Competition

For Release 9/14/09

Contact press@ourvoiceourcountry.org

Kelly Novinski has received Honorable Mention in www.ourvoiceourcountry.org's 2009 Summer Scholarship Competition, which was open to incoming freshmen at any accredited college in the USA. Kelly is attending Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University.

Kelly's entry proposes that preserving wetlands is urgent for America now. Her first hand experience residing in a state where severe storms are common led Kelly to realize the critical role wetlands play in flood prevention and reduction, among other benefits. She nominated high school her AP environment teacher/mentor Phyllis Hand, who first taught Kelly all about wetlands, to supply an achievable solution (see attached).

Between June 15th and August 17th, 563 other students from colleges in every state in the Country posted many concise, articulate descriptions of what they believe to be urgent national problems (Topics). Most also nominated experts in the field (Problem-Solvers), whom they believed able to provide a solution for each problem. During the competition, over 47,000 people, from every state in America visited the site.

Regarding her former student, ProblemSolver Phyllis Hand, a 22 year veteran teacher, recalls "Kelly has depth and passion and respect for issues and others. There are only a handful of students in a teacher's career with the abilities Kelly shows."

Connecting the topic to climate change, Jim Lewis, director of biology research at Fordham University's Calder Center points out, "As we face increasing storms, flooding and threats to our ecosystem, wetland preservation is critical, to provide an effective buffer and carbon sink."

Our Voice Our Country's Jon Mann adds "We applaud Kelly for addressing an essential issue to our citizens' safety and survival. All are invited to discover the powerful new tools at this site, created to enable real progress on any urgent national issue."

The timely relevance of Kelly Novinski's entry; and that of competition winner Kelsey Price (University of Utah) demonstrates the needs *Our Voice Our Country* will be filling when the site rolls out it's full process in 2010 -- enabling the 'common sense' of everyday Americans and the solutions they support to guide our representatives in D.C.

"this is indeed the right time for the voice of the people to be heard, the will of the people to be done, and for Americans to become an informed electorate." *Walter Cronkite*



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“The website is amazing..I love the concept, purpose and faith it shares with everybody.”
- User comment, 7/31/09

To **view and rate Kelsey’s topic ‘US Policy and the FATA Region of Pakistan’ and Kelly’s Topic ‘Protect Our Wetlands’** among 1200 + posted, go to www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/recommend-topic-rate.aspx
To **rate their ProblemSolver Solutions**, search that catalog by name for Dr. Hassan Abbas (Kelsey) and Phyllis Hand (Kelly).

Kelsey and Kelly made short videos about their experience in the competition.
Watch at Channel OVOCTV on You Tube:
PUT UTUBE LINX HERE

Judges for the 2009 Summer Scholarship Competition included:

Jim Ramstad, House Republican from Minnesota (1990-2008),
Mindy Fullilove, noted author, researcher and professor at Columbia University
Brian Nickerson, Dean at Iona College and a Public Policy expert

Special Announcement from OVOC NEWS

A New Fall Scholarship Competition for college freshmen will be announced next week!

Site Info

www.ourvoiceourcountry.org provides the opportunity for all Americans to express their concerns, gives visibility to those ready to provide answers, and to see ‘what flies’ in the court of public opinion. The site went online in February, 2009 and was a featured presenter at The National Civic Summit in Minneapolis this past July.

Our Voice Our Country was developed over the past 6 years, with input and guidance from Walter Cronkite, Ruby Dee, Joanne Woodward, Yolanda King, Jane Alexander, judges, professors, lawyers, students, senior citizens, soldiers, current and retired politicians, leaders of national non-partisan organizations and dozens of blue and white collar workers of all political parties and beliefs, from across the Country.

Made possible with funding from the Yudelson and Patricia Brooks Foundations, and by donations from individual supporters. Special Thanks to outreach partner Center for Civic Education’s We The People program, and for outreach assistance from Fastweb, Zinch and Campus Compact.



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