

World Affairs Council of the Desert

Engaging and Educating Adults and Students in International Affairs



Our Vision



We focus on developing future world leaders through engagement in international affairs.

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WACD Spring 2018 Newsletter

Final Speaker of the Season Discussed the Future of American Power

With China and Russia embracing aggressive nationalistic goals, the Middle East mired in seemingly perpetual conflict and terrorism spreading across the globe, Thomas Wright addressed critical questions of what the competition between world powers may look like in the decades ahead and, what strategies the United States should pursue to succeed in this increasingly disruptive world.



An author and in-demand commentator, Wright addresses topics on world affairs for the Financial Times, The Washington Post, the New York Times, Foreign Affairs, NBC, CBS, BBC, and Bloomberg, amongst other outlets.

Dr. Wright is Director of the Center for the U.S. and Europe at the Brookings Institution. His most recent book, "All Measures Short of War" addresses the contest for global supremacy and the critical topic of the future of American power in the 21st century.

The questions he raised in his talk are critical to understanding the very real threats to America's continued world leadership, a discussion all should hear.

New members who joined at the event received an autographed copy of Dr. Wright's book.

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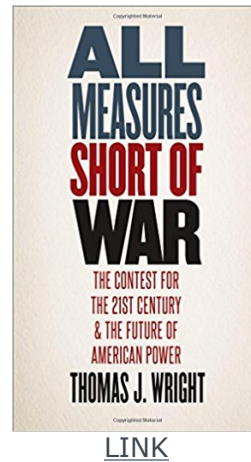
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Sneak Preview of the 2018-19 Lecture Series -- From Robots to Russia !

AI: Robots Will Rise, But Will They Rule Us All?

Is artificial intelligence eliminating jobs or creating new careers? Stifling creativity or accelerating innovation? Addressing today's heightened fears around the increasing powers of automation, Dr. David Danks will give us an enlightening view of how capitalizing on the unique capabilities of AI and robotics can accelerate national economic growth and produce careers unimagined today.



Dr. Danks is a professor of psychology and Andrew Carnegie Fellow, Carnegie Mellon University

America-Russia Relations: Evolving or Dissolving?

An in-demand expert on Russia foreign and defense policies and frequent participant in State Department international speaking tours on US foreign policy, Dr Jonathan Adelman will provide illuminating views on the future of US-Russia relations at a time of intensifying tensions between the two powers which have not been seen since the heights of the Cold War.

Dr. Adelman is a professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

President's Letter



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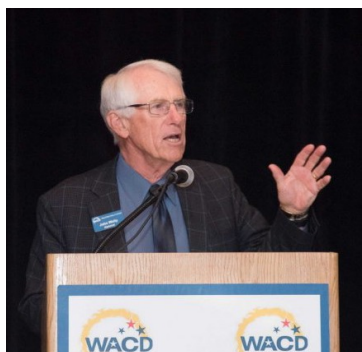


Thunderbird
Country Club



UBS Financial
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Dear Members, Sponsors and
Friends:

We are closing the year in a very strong position with a sixty percent increase in membership and solid financials. The objectives we established and the initiatives we launched in the wake of our 2017 strategic planning meeting have paid off. As we

enter the 2018-19 season, we intend to build on our success by continuing to focus on quality - the quality of our educational programming and the quality experience our members enjoy at our dinner lectures.

Our practice has been to attract exceptional speakers who are content experts. We explored new topics in 2017-18, and were rewarded with increased interest and attendance. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a preview of speakers to come and note that we are continuing to embrace new material. Although our organization pays only expenses and not honoraria, your board has agreed that we will be open to lecture sponsorships, if individual members would like to fund a speaker or topic. (Please reach out to Jim McFarlin, our program chair, if you are interested.) We believe these actions will further enhance the quality of our programming.

Locating our dinner events at Thunderbird Country Club has worked well for us. However, space at the club for our type of program is limited. Our board wants to assure attendees of comfortable seating, good acoustics and an adequate view of the speakers and screen. We want to continue the tradition of hosting students for our lectures. However, we wish to avoid packing the room or expanding into adjacent spaces. We also want to maintain a ticket purchasing process where a freeze out of members is a rarity. For these reasons we are limiting membership in the 2018 season to 225 memberships.

We are now accepting renewals and new memberships for the 2018-19 season. We ask that current members renew by June 1st to be assured of a spot in our roster.

Another change this year affects the configuration of our student dinner sponsor program. A sponsorship continues to cost \$1,000. However, we are now accepting dinner co-sponsorships, two individuals or couples can donate \$500 to share a sponsorship. Our hope is that this change will broaden participation in this important activity.

Your board is focused on implementing an exciting, new season, but the current season is not quite over. Our official 'farewell' will take place Sunday, May 6 at a special member-only social event at Desert Falls Country Club. See details below.

Before closing, I want to stress how much of a team we have become as we have worked together this year. One



Ms. Jean Carrus

Brent & Nan Shipp
Jones

BG (Ret) Guido
Portante

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon
Kramer

Mr. & Mrs. John
Westerholm

Dr. & Mrs. John
Welty

example of teamwork was the emergency speaker substitution that we pulled off for our February event. Any organization that books speakers in advance can experience this sort of problem, but it takes foresight, flexibility and leadership to avoid disaster. We were informed the Monday prior to our Sunday evening event that our speaker John Nixon would be unable to fulfill his commitment due to family health issues. Our program committee maintains a list of backup speakers for situations like this. Jim McFarlin and Becky Kurtz made a selection, and, with the help of Jean Carrus, had a new speaker by Wednesday morning. By Thursday, Linda Borses and I had the information we needed to broadcast a new speaker and topic to the membership. The event went forward as arranged.

I am proud of our team and excited about the year to come. I also want to thank our sponsors who sustained us this year. I look forward to seeing you on May 6 and hope you will take the time to renew your membership soon.

John Welty
President

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WACD
Newsletter
Editor



Katharine A.
Russell

Special Member-Only Event on May 6

The final social event of the current season will be held on Sunday, May 6 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Desert Falls Country Club.

Join fellow members to celebrate our many successes in the 2017-18 season which is coming to a close, and hear about our exciting 2018-19 program.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres from around the world and participate in an international wine drawing. Dress for the evening is casual. There will be a no-host bar.



Desert Falls Country Club is located at 1111 Desert Falls Parkway in Palm Desert. The entrance is on Country Club Drive just east of Cook Street.

Our hosts are board member Katharine Russell and her partner Phil Gagnard.



Members, please RSVP for this event to Linda Borses, our office administrator by Friday, May 4 at worldaffairs3@msn.com or via telephone at 760-322-7711 Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm.



WACD Is Moving!



On April 9, your WACD offices are relocating to new space in a centrally located building owned by the RAP Foundation at 41-550 Eclectic Street in Palm Desert. Our mailing address and phone number will remain the same: P. O. Box 3031, Palm Desert CA 92261, 760-322-7711.

The Regional Access Project Foundation invests in and empowers community-based non-profits with an array of resources and training. The Center for Non-Profit Advancement, a facility that serves as an incubator for charitable organizations, is one of RAP's initiatives for helping local corporations achieve their goals. The center offers cost-effective office spaces, meeting and conference rooms, ample parking and other operating resources.

RAP has been a sponsor of WACD and its educational mission for years and this new association only deepens our gratitude for their support.

In March, the RAP Foundation was awarded "The 2018 Spirit of Rotary Education" Award by the Palm Desert Rotary Club. Many WACD members and board members attended the ceremony at the Marriott Desert Springs Resort to recognize and honor this indispensable asset to our community.



Board Member Spotlight

Board member Yul Roe and his wife Roula are originally from Canada. Yul received his bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of British Columbia and began his career in Calgary. The Roes moved to Northern California and then to La Quinta in 2000. They have two sons.



A registered Landscape Architect, Yul founded his own company, Project Links, in 2010, and specializes in resort landscape development projects around the western United States and the world.

While WACD gets many new members from adult referrals, the Roes were introduced to the organization and its lecture programs by their youngest son. During his last two years at La Quinta High School, he participated in the L.Q.H.S. WorldQuest team. He attended a sponsored dinner and thought his parents, who are avid world travelers, would appreciate the broad range of international topics addressed. Yul became actively involved in the WorldQuest program during his son's final year in high school.

"I think WorldQuest is the best part of the WACD organization," Roe said. "Encouraging students to participate in a competition that allows them to expand their understanding of other countries and cultures as well as learn about international relationships will help them become better people."

Working with our youth program was Yul's stepping stone to becoming involved with WACD at the board level. "I really enjoy being part of a group that fosters international awareness among our young people," he said. "The United States is so large and populated that it is easy to remove oneself from the rest of the world - even at a time when the Internet can provide so much access to the world around us."

Roe believes the dinners and lectures are a bargain for the information that is presented. "I tell my friends the speaker series is excellent. The information and the dinner environment will give them a chance to enjoy a relaxing and educational evening," he said, "and they will come away from the evening discussing issues they may never have thought about."

In addition to his WorldQuest activities, Roe has coached and refereed soccer for AYSO for over a decade. Roulia works for OneFuture Coachella Valley, a non-profit whose mission is helping valley students prepare for college.

So, the next time you are seated at dinner next to one of our student guests, ask them if their parents know about the lecture series. Who knows, you might attract more members like the Roe family!

WACD Schedule At-A-Glance



2018

- April 8 -- All Measures Short of War: The Future of American Power 5p Thunderbird Country Club
- May 1 -- Time to Renew Membership for the 2018-19 Season
- May 6 -- Member-Only "Season Farewell" Reception 5p Desert Falls Country Club
- May 9 -- WACD Board Meeting 3p Thunderbird Country Club
- May 12 -- Board Strategic Planning Session CSUSB Campus 8:30a
- June 1 -- Membership Renewal 'Assurance' Deadline
- October 21 -- Dinner/Lecture Program 5p Thunderbird Country Club
- November 18 -- Dinner/Lecture Program 5p Thunderbird Country Club
- December 14 -- Members Only Holiday Event

2019

- January 13 -- Dinner/Lecture Program 5p Thunderbird Country Club
- February 10 -- Dinner/Lecture Program 5p Thunderbird Country Club
- March 10 -- Dinner/Lecture Program 5p Thunderbird Country Club
- April 14 -- Dinner Lecture Program 5p Thunderbird Country Club

[Read more about our events on the web site](#)

Coming In The Next Issue



- Presenting your new Board of Directors and Officers
- Results of the national WorldQuest competition in Washington DC

- Highlights of the trip our valley students took to the Nation's Capital.
- More news about 2018-19 Speakers and Topics

World Affairs Council of the Desert

Mailing address: P.O. Box 3031, Palm Desert CA 92261

Location address: 41-550 Eclectic Street, Palm Desert CA 92260

Email: worldaffairs3@msn.com

Website: www.worldaffairsdesert.org

Phone: 760.322.7711

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