

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 Winter 2017 Newsletter

January Speaker Examines Energy Security and Foreign Relations

William Flynn Martin is an energy economist who will speak on Energy Security and Foreign Relations in 2017 at our January 15 dinner. Martin served as Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Energy in the Reagan administration.



Prior to his appointment, he was Executive Secretary of the National Security Council. From 1983-85, he served as Special Assistant to President Reagan, coordinating the President's international and head of state meetings. Among his contributions, he played a crucial role in persuading Europeans to reduce dependence on Soviet gas, and he drafted the Williamsburg Economic Summit Communique of 1983.

Other key governmental posts he has held include Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State, and Director of International Economic Affairs at the National Security Council. Early in his career, he worked for the International Energy Agency, where he served as special assistant to the Executive Director during the second oil shock in the Seventies. Previously, he helped develop the methodology for reporting United Nations energy statistics. F

For the past ten years, he has chaired the DOE's Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee and the Council on Foreign

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Relations Energy Security Group. In 1992, he was the Executive Director of the Republican Platform Committee. In 1998, he became Chairman of the Development Committee and a board member of the World Resources Institute. He co-founded the Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Program at the Prague Security Studies Institute, and the Club of Prague, an organization devoted to finding new technological solutions and strategies for energy challenges.

In 2004, the Secretary General of the United Nations appointed Martin to the Council of the University of Peace. He was elected Chairman in 2006. Martin holds a BS from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and an MS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After graduation, he spent four years on MIT's professional research staff, co-authoring three books.

GITMO: February's Lecture Topic, Couldn't Be More Timely



On February 12, Dr. Kamal A. Beyoghlou will speak about Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp, a trending subject in the waning days of the Obama administration.

He is a Professor of Strategic Studies, International Politics, Middle East, North African and Islamic Studies at the National War College.

He also coordinates the college's Arabic Cultural Literacy Program. In addition, he teaches classes in Government at American University.

Previously, he was Academic Chair and Professor of Terrorism and Counterterrorism at the National Defense University, within the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Prior to that, he was Professor of International Relations and National Security at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. In addition to terrorism, his courses included Islam, the Middle East, North Africa, and the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

He also has served as a foreign relations officer in the US Department of State. He worked in the office of the US Coordinator for Counterterrorism, where his responsibilities included counter-terrorism policy for the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Beyoghlou earned his undergraduate degree at San Diego State University. He holds a Master's degree from Tufts University, and a Ph. D. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley. He began his career at



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Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a political analyst with the US Army 4th Psychological Operations Group.

Academic WorldQuest: Announcing the Winners!



The Charles and Priscilla Porter Academic WorldQuest Competition, which took place December 8, was our twelfth annual event, and it was a resounding success.

Twelve teams from area high schools participated - Coachella Valley, Desert Hot Springs, Desert Mirage, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Palm Valley, Rancho Mirage, Shadow Hills, West Shores, and Xavier College Prep.

Palm Desert High School took top honors. Rancho Mirage placed second and Xavier Prep placed third. "The Palm Desert High School Team scored 46 out of 50 points, which is the highest score in the history of our local competition," Dr. Doris Wilson, WACD board member and

WorldQuest committee chair. "Xavier Prep and Indio battled it out for third place, and it took nine rounds of tiebreaker questions to decide the match!"



Palm Desert HS: Matthew Chang, Danielle Hjerpe, Patricia Dan, Joshua Philips.

History was also made in attendance. Xavier Prep had eighty-five supporters in the audience, the largest crowd by far to appear in support of a participating team at a WorldQuest event.

Our Master of Ceremonies this year was Bianca Rae, Morning Anchor of KESQ News Channel 3. She presided over five rounds of competition.



Rancho Mirage HS: Sebastian Guzman, Olivia Manes, Palmer

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This year, the topics *Manes, Julio Jaimes.* were the European Union, Global Megacities, and Women in Technology, Countering Violent Extremism and Great Decisions.

It took twenty-seven volunteers to manage the event and make sure everything happened smoothly and on time. This included everything from registration to refreshments, question development, judging, scoring, timekeeping, and awards development and presentation. Room does not permit thanking all who made our event possible, but the organizers would like to recognize Jean Carrus and Dr. John Welty of the WACD board; David Thatcher of the Cypress Group (WAC Presenting Sponsor); Charles and Priscilla Porter (WACD Platinum Sponsors); Bianca Rae, our Emcee,; Sharon Brown-Welty, Dean CSUSB-PD; Gary Tomac, DSUSD Board; and Wendy Johnathan, DSUSD Board.



*Xavier Prep: Trisha Doleste,
Indiana Wilson, Sarah Rincon,
Jillian Barbato.*

Please see the [Academic Worldquest Program](#) for a full listing of volunteers, sponsors, and contributors to this outstanding event.

Board Member Spotlight

Ed Tauber came to the desert when he retired in 1986. "We came in March, so we didn't know how hot it was going to get!" he said.

Ed is the founder of Brand Extension Research a firm based on the field he pioneered. Ed coined the term "brand extension" in 1979 to describe the process of using an established brand name in one category to launch a new product in another. His product successes include Nestle-Gerber Infant Formula, Clorox Clean-up, Dole Fruit & Juice Bars and Snickers Ice Cream Bars.



Previously, he was Director of Research for Dancer, Fitzgerald, Sample NY (Saatchi), and Director of Market Research, Nestle-Carnation. Ed holds a Ph.D. in business from Cornell University, and an MA in economics from the University of Virginia.

Ed is unsurpassed at identifying a brand's unique competitive advantage. "Whereas other lecture series feature 'celebrity' our WACD program showcases 'expertise,'" he said. "We bring speakers to our community who have proficiencies that cannot be found in our locale."



Katharine A.
Russell

Ed first came to a WACD lecture five years ago as a guest of Rick Stein. "I enjoyed the evening because it had both social and educational elements. I continued to attend, and discovered that the best part is the interactive part, sitting at different tables each time and meeting interesting, new people. I have a good time, and, if I learn something too, that's great!"

Subsequently, Ward Fredericks asked whether Tauber would be interested in becoming part of WACD's leadership group. "I thought I could help with building a sustainable marketing effort and increasing awareness within our community of what WACD has to offer," he said.

At the Academic WorldQuest event in December, Tauber served as a judge. "Our most important community contribution is helping students understand world issues," he said. "Our lecture program is an extension of this and a vehicle for allowing young people to learn from global experts and interact with them."

In addition to his board membership at WACD, Ed also serves on the board of the Desert Community Foundation and the Cal State Advancement Board.

"When people ask me about WACD, I ask them if they listen to world news or read about it in the newspaper or online. If the answer is yes, I tell them they will enjoy our programs," Ed said. "And I always stress that it involves, fun, fine dining, and meeting different types of people who are educated and experienced."

We Say Farewell To A Steadfast Friend and Supporter of WACD -- John Benoit



Sadly, in late December, our organization lost a tireless advocate and benefactor, with the untimely passing of Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit. Benoit lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on December 26. He was 64.

As the representative of the Fourth District on the board of supervisors, he represented the largest district, geographically, in the county. His political career began with his service on the board of Desert Sands Unified School District. He served three terms in the State Assembly before his election to the Senate. He succeeded Supervisor Roy Wilson in 2009.

John Benoit spent thirty-one years in law enforcement before running for office, serving in city departments and with the California Highway Patrol.

Benoit held a BS in public safety from Cal State, Los Angeles, and a Master's degree in public administration from Cal State, San Bernardino.

Despite his many responsibilities, John Benoit found time to attend our events and support our programs, especially those involving youth.

The board, staff and membership of WACD extend our deepest sympathies to the Benoit family, and to his many colleagues in public service across the State.

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