



The World Affairs Council of Central Illinois

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COMMUNIQUÉ

2021-2022

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www.mywacci.org for Zoom log in

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom

“International Education in the Land of Lincoln”

In part of International Education Week at UIS, various local organizations will share how they support international education in central Illinois. Learn more about these organizations and how you can get involved!

World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI)

WACCI is a civic organization dedicated to educating the public in our region about US foreign policy, global economic and environmental issues, and international politics through in-depth presentations and discussions.

Speaker: Bruce Strom, President of WACCI

Sister Cities Association of Springfield

SCAS is a citizen diplomacy group, promoting mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation between Sister Cities. The City of Springfield currently has two international Sister Cities relationships with partnership agreements recognized by Sister Cities International (SCI):

- o Ashikaga, Tochigi, Japan

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Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom

“China’s Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy.”

Peter Martin is Bloomberg’s defense policy and intelligence reporter in Washington, DC and author of China’s Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy.”

Martin will discuss his book “China’s Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy” (Oxford University Press, 2021). This book charts China’s transformation from an isolated and impoverished communist state to a global superpower. He holds degrees from the University of Oxford, Peking University and the London School of Economics. Martin has been published in Foreign Affairs, The Atlantic, Foreign Policy, the National Interest, and the Guardian among others.

Drawing for the first time on the memoirs of more than a hundred retired diplomats as well as author Peter Martin’s first-hand reporting as a journalist in Beijing, this groundbreaking book blends history with current events to tease out enduring lessons about the kind of power China is set to become.

The book has received high acclaim from both Martin’s journalist peers and

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Young Diplomats

This season of 2021 and 2022, the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois is excited to offer high school students in the Sangamon County area a unique opportunity to interact with a wide range of international leaders, diplomats, scientists and business executives. The students will have dedicated briefings with each speaker before the main events. The intention of the program is to open a window on the world for high school students, give them a more global outlook on current affairs and encourage them to set ambitious goals in their ongoing studies and career aspirations.

Springfield Southeast students participated in the first W.A.C.C.I. program of the year in September featuring Dr. Andy Knight of the University of Alberta. Dr. Knight addressed the need for the responsibility to protect (R2P) atrocity crimes in Myanmar. Rochester High students followed up in October with Dr. Karla Kral and Dr. Claudia Prado-Meza of the University of Colima, Mexico. The student-only gatherings last for approximately 30 minutes. Students participating in the two programs were able to ask questions of the speakers.

W.A.C.C.I. will continue to invite interested high schools to engage with future speakers throughout the academic year which concludes in May. In the future, the plan will be to have the briefings coincide with the dinner events and programs at UIS Brookens Auditorium.

“International Education in the Land of Lincoln” *continued*

o San Pedro de Las Colonias, Coahuila, Mexico

Speaker: Maria del Pilar Mayorga, Treasurer of SCAS

Springfield Commission on International Visitors

The SCIV administers the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program in Springfield, Illinois and is part of the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Speaker: Janet Kenney, President of SCIV

Meridian International Center

Meridian is a nonpartisan, nonprofit diplomacy center that connects leaders through culture and collaboration to drive solutions for global challenges. Founded 60 years ago, we’ve equipped thousands of leaders with the networks, insights and cultural context essential for non-partisan work on shared issues.

Speaker: Lee Norrgard, Program Officer of Meridian

“China’s Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy.” *continued*

policy-makers. Evan Osnos, staff writer at The New Yorker and winner of the National Book Award expresses that Martin’s book is “a penetrating portrait of China’s political psychology, based on rich, insider accounts that hardly any

foreigners have accessed. Entertaining, learned, and immediately useful, this is nothing short of a how-to manual for understanding China’s strategy in the world.”

Perspective

WACCI programs are designed to make us think, to view the world from new perspectives and encourage global citizenship. Over the next few months, we will feature the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (2015-2030) as windows into global challenges and opportunities.

Goal #1-No Poverty-it sounds like an impossible goal, but the devastating, far-reaching effects of extreme poverty (less than \$1.25 per day) call for ambitious goals and unified action. Eight of the seventeen SDGs have clear links to extreme poverty (Zero Hunger, Good Health, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water, Clean Energy and Decent Work).

Is no poverty attainable? Well, we know that tremendous progress is

possible. Between 1990 and 2015, the number of people living in extreme poverty was cut in half, dropping from 1.9 billion to 835 million. Extreme poverty continued to decline, albeit at a slower rate, between 2015 and 2020. Unfortunately, COVID-19 and related economic changes has contributed to the first increase in extreme poverty in 20 years. We have experienced a set-back, but elimination of extreme poverty is possible and it will change the world.

Perspective-What is your reaction to the definition of extreme poverty? Imagine the effects that extreme poverty has on nutrition, child development, infectious disease and violence.

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Dear Former Member or Friend of the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI):

Because of your past membership or attendance at past WACCI events, it is clear that you value what our programs contribute to Springfield and to the surrounding areas.

By choosing to become a member, you join the global conversation on current issues and support greater understanding of international affairs. The Council is a community of individuals, business leaders, academics and educators, young professionals and students who share a global perspective and a commitment to international understanding in our communities.

Upcoming programs include:

*November 16

International Education in the Land of Lincoln

*November 21

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Photojournalist Lynsey Addario: Online Event Sunday, 2:00pm -3:00pm

*December 2

China's Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy by Peter Martin

Check out the W.A.C.C.I. website (www.mywacci.org) Consider joining the conversation. Engage the world. Become a member.

Our speakers are paid for primarily by members' dues, so we count on you and others like you to maintain the high quality of our series. We are hoping that you will support WACCI programs by filling out and returning the form below by mail. Thank you.

Upcoming Programs

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NOVEMBER 21

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DECEMBER 2

China's Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy by Peter Martin

----- Please detach and mail -----

WACCI Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please indicate your membership level:

_____ Benefactors - \$500 _____ Sustainers - \$250 _____ Supporters - \$100 _____ Friends - \$50 _____ Students - \$10

Send form, checks, and/or requests for information to WACCI. Box 2233, Springfield, 62705



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