



# The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area ([www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org))

November 2021

## ***Quick Takes: World Issues in the Age of Covid-19***

*Quick Takes* is a series of short video presentations by leading experts in international affairs. One new *Quick Take* will be produced each month, and is posted to our website. Once posted, *Quick Takes* are permanently available for you to view at your convenience. To access the latest video, go to [www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org), where you will immediately see it on the home page.

### **November 15, 2021: Anne Marie Baylouny, Naval Postgraduate School** ***Chronicle of a Crisis Foretold: Lebanon's Economic Collapse***



On August 4, 2020, an explosion at Beirut's harbor unleashed a force equivalent to 5 percent of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, killing more than 210 people, injuring 70,000, and leaving 300,000 homeless. No one has yet been held accountable for the criminal negligence that led to this disaster. Meanwhile, Lebanon's economy is in free fall, with 75 percent of its population now living in poverty.

In her *Quick Take*, Professor Anne Marie Baylouny outlines Lebanon's current political and economic situation, arguing that Lebanon's governmental dysfunction is long-standing and that the roots of its economic collapse began long ago. She examines Lebanon's confessional system and its minimalist state, both of which are riddled with corruption, and places the 2020 port explosion, along with ongoing protests against the state, in this context.

Anne Marie Baylouny is a Professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School. Her work focuses on refugees, the dynamics of protest, and Middle East politics. As head of the Crowd Dynamics Modeling Group at NPS, she is developing a theory-backed computer simulation for interactions between diverse types of crowds and security forces using less-lethal weapons. Her most recent book, *When Blame Backfires: Syrian Refugees and Citizen Grievances in Jordan and Lebanon* (Cornell University Press, 2020), examines the impetus for large-scale protests in these two refugee-hosting countries and the importance of daily necessities in spurring mobilization. Her first book, *Privatizing Welfare in the Middle East: Kin Mutual Aid Associations in Jordan and Lebanon* (Indiana University Press, 2010), analyzed how people created, altered, and adapted identities to establish social insurance institutions in the midst of neoliberal reforms. Dr. Baylouny received her PhD in Political Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, and is an affiliated scholar with the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies at Stanford University.



# WACMB in Profile: Doug Wilhelm

*“WACMB in Profile” is a series of occasional articles that profile the people who make our organization tick.*

Currently a member of the WACMB Board of Directors, Doug Wilhelm has a long and distinguished record of service to our organization: over the past twenty years, he’s been the President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and OLLI Liaison, in addition to serving on the Board. WAC has been a natural fit for Doug, given his longstanding interest in world affairs.

It all started in Colfax, WA, where Doug was born in 1939. Within the next fifteen years, Doug’s family moved to Stillwater, OK; West Lafayette, IN; and Libertyville, IL. During Doug’s senior year in high school, his family hosted a Swedish exchange student, reinforcing his interest in world affairs. In 1961, Doug graduated from Purdue University with a BS in Agricultural Economics. He then enlisted in the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant and served for two years.

In 1963, Doug was hired by Procter & Gamble, beginning a 33-year career with the company. The first half of his P&G career was in Purchasing, where he worked his way up to Associate Director for the Edible Oils Division, which produced mostly soybean oil for Crisco and Duncan Hines cake mixes. His job required him to keep track of edible oil developments around the world, including Brazil, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Doug then moved to P&G’s Chemicals Division, which makes chemicals from vegetable oils. These chemicals are used by companies all around the world in thousands of products. After working as the Marketing Manager for Glycerine, Doug was made Marketing Manager for Detergent Range Alcohols (which are *not* drinkable).

At about this time, Doug reconnected with a lovely lady whom he’d known as the “pesky little sister” of one of his best friends from childhood. Ann was no longer pesky; in fact, she was quite wonderful, and in 1985, Doug and Ann were married. Between them, they had four children: Gretchen, Holly, Brian, and Dan.

Early on in his work in the Alcohols Division, Doug realized that the global market was ripe for new capacity in the production of palm oil, and zeroed in on Malaysia as the best site for a new plant. FPG Oleochemicals, a joint venture between P&G and Malaysia’s largest palm

producer, was launched, with Doug as its Managing Director and CEO. Doug, Ann, and their two boys moved to Kuala Lumpur for three years while Doug oversaw the construction of the plant and ran the business. The girls were both college-age then and continued to live in the US, and the family spent holidays together in many places all across Asia. Although Doug enjoyed just about every stage of his career, this time in Malaysia was his favorite part.

In 1996, Doug retired from P&G, and in 1997, he earned an Executive MBA in International Business from Xavier University (just for the fun of it). In 2000, he and Ann relocated to Carmel. Their happy retirement was badly shaken in 2003, when, while walking back from a day of trout fishing on a river in Alaska, their son Dan was attacked by a grizzly bear. Mauled and blinded, Dan nearly died from the attack, and spent years recovering from his injuries and learning to live without his sight. Doug, Ann, and Brian spent much time helping Dan through this difficult period. Once he recovered, Dan returned to Alaska, earned his MS, and went to work for a company that deals with at-risk children. He married, and he and his wife have two children. Dan even wrote a book about his experiences; *Beyond the Bear*, by Dan Bigley, is available in bookstores and on Amazon.

Ann passed away in 2019. Doug keeps his days full volunteering, reading, managing his finances, and spending time with his children and his nine grandchildren. After holding season tickets for thirty years, he remains an avid Cincinnati Bengals fan. He’s active in OLLI, Public Water Now, the Chowder Group, and – of course – the World Affairs Council, where his talents are very much appreciated!

## Discussion Group

On Monday, November 1, the WACMB Discussion Group will address the topic of Global Supply Chain Disruption. This subject has been much in the news lately and has affected just about everyone. The Discussion Group will meet on Zoom from 4:00-5:30 pm.

The WACMB Discussion Group is facilitated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. If you are interested in participating in the group, please send an email to [info@wacmb.org](mailto:info@wacmb.org) and let them know.

Come join the conversation!

## Affiliate Report: Monterey Peninsula College

David Martin, MPC Superintendent/President and WACMB liaison, reports the following items of interest at his campus.

- The MPC Governing Board voted unanimously to require full Covid-19 vaccination for all students, faculty, and staff. This requirement also applies to those who are taking only online courses, since they may need to be on campus to access resources such as the library or tutoring. Certain medical or religious exemptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- MPC and CSUMB have developed a series of 2+2 agreements that guarantee admission to certain CSUMB programs to students who complete “paths” of 60 units at MPC. Those students will receive an Associate’s degree from MPC, and will then complete 60 additional units at CSUMB to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in either Biology, Environmental Science, or Marine Sciences.
- MPC has received a \$4 million Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) STEM grant from the US Department of Education, which will be used to support STEM programs for the next five years. The grant competition was open to all 569 HSIs nationwide; MPC placed sixth overall, scoring 119.34 out of a possible 120 points!
- Need to have some basic service done on your car? Make an appointment with MPC’s Auto Tech Skills Lab! For a suggested donation that’s about 25 percent of standard service rates, MPC Auto Tech students will perform basic maintenance and light repair work, gaining valuable training in a closely supervised environment. Appointments are available on Fridays from 1:00-5:00 pm.

This will be David Martin’s final liaison report to WACMB, as he will shortly leave MPC to become the Chancellor of the San Francisco Community College District. The WACMB Board thanks Dr. Martin for his valuable service to both MPC and WACMB, and wishes him well in his new endeavor!

## What’s the Big Idea? WACMB and Monterey County Gives!

We are excited to report that your World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area has been accepted to participate in Monterey County Gives! Sponsored by the *Monterey County Weekly*, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, and the Community Foundation for Monterey County, MCGives! is a fundraising program for nonprofit organizations in Monterey County. Founded in 2009, MCGives! adds additional prorated funds to every dollar raised by a participating organization in support of its “Big Idea.”

So what’s the Big Idea? WACMB wants to bring Academic WorldQuest to Monterey County high schools. Academic WorldQuest is the flagship youth education program of the World Affairs Councils of America, our umbrella organization. Structured as a fun, fast-paced team competition, Academic WorldQuest tests players’ knowledge of current international politics, geography, global economics, history, and world cultures. The program fits nicely with WACMB’s longtime scholarship program for local college students who are pursuing international studies. WACMB will use funds raised through MCGives! to put on a county-wide high school Academic WorldQuest competition and then send the winning team to Washington, DC, to compete in the national championships in April.

How can you support this Big Idea through MCGives!? It’s easy! Beginning November 11, just go to [www.montereycountygives.com](http://www.montereycountygives.com) and follow the directions there to make a donation online in support of WACMB’s Big Idea.

If you’d rather send a check, make it payable to Community Foundation for Monterey County and write WACMB in the Memo line or on an attached note. (Please do NOT make your check out to WACMB.) Mail your check to CFMC, Attn. MCGives!, 2354 Garden Road, Monterey, CA, 93940.

Don’t delay! The program runs from November 11 through December 31. For further information, go to [www.montereycountygives.com](http://www.montereycountygives.com) or look for the fundraising brochure early in November in the *Monterey County Weekly*.

# The Passport November 2021

*This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.*

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