Coming up at the Mershon Center

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Warren Hoge
“The United Nations at a Time of Change”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Warren Hoge is the United Nations Bureau Chief for The New York Times. He came to The Times in 1976 as a metropolitan reporter and a year later became the deputy metropolitan editor. He covered South and Central America as the paper’s Rio de Janeiro bureau chief from 1978 until 1983 when he returned to New York as the foreign editor. In 1987, Hoge became the assistant managing editor for administration and personnel and in 1991 the editor of The New York Times Magazine. From 1993 until 1996 he was assistant managing editor for culture, the Sunday book review, style, sports and travel. Most recently he had been The Times’s London bureau chief since 1996. Hoge graduated from Yale University with a bachelor’s degree in English, and he did graduate work in political science at George Washington University. Read more and RSVP

Friday, October 26, 2007

Seana Shiffrin
“Promising, Intimate Relationships, and Conventionalism”
3:30 p.m., 347 University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall

Seana Shiffrin holds a joint appointment with the Department of Philosophy and the School of Law at the University of California-Los Angeles. She has taught courses on moral, political and legal philosophy in the UCLA Department of Philosophy since 1992. At the Law School, she has taught courses on Contracts, Free Speech Theory, Constitutional Rights and Individual Autonomy, and seminars on legal theory, contracts, distributive justice, remedies, and feminism. She is an associate editor of Philosophy and Public Affairs and on the advisory board of Legal Theory. Shiffrin’s talk is drawn from her paper of the same name. In it she argues that conventional accounts of the moral foundation for promise and obligation miss the mark. She gives an alternate account of promising behavior and argues that binding promises between agents are integral to individual autonomy and relations of intimacy and complexity. Without what she calls “the power to promise,” we cannot live freely on an equal basis with others. Read more
Friday-Saturday, October 26-27, 2007

International Conference on Women and War
Organized by Yana Hashamova, The Ohio State University, and Helena Gosciło, University of Pittsburgh
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

The International Conference on Women in War explores the role of women in war from World War II to the present. The conference focuses geographically on Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the Soviet Union, and the Balkans; and historically on World War II, the wars in Afghanistan (1979-1989) and secessionist Chechnya (1994-96, 1999-present), and the Bosnia/Croatia/Serbia war (1992-95). It engages political ideology, history, sociology, psychology, cultural studies, cinema, and literature, asking questions such as: What is the role of women in war or military conflicts beyond the well-studied victimization? Can the often contradictory expectations of women and their traditional roles be (re)thought and (re)constructed? What is the significance that two of the most conflict-wracked parts of the world in recent years -- the Balkans and Central Asia -- share the legacies of the Soviet system, and what is the consequence of these legacies for women in times of war? For more, see the conference website.

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007

Anja Jetschke
“Explaining Variation and Persistence: Asia’s Cultural Approach to International Cooperation”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Anja Jetschke is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. Jetschke, an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Freiburg, is working on her second book, Explaining Variation and Persistence: Asia’s Cultural Approach to International Cooperation. The project explores how and why cultural preferences among Asian states appear to consistently lead to a less institutionalized form of international collaboration. Jetschke argues that previous explanations of the Asian approach to international cooperation don’t take context into account, and she uses comparative case studies to explore the Asian approach in areas such as economics, security and human rights. Read more and RSVP

Monday, Nov. 5, 2007

Derek Penslar
“When May We Kill our Brethren? Jews at War in Europe, 1848-1918”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Derek Penslar is Samuel Zacks Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at University of Toronto. His publications focus on Jewish political, economic, and cultural life in modern Europe, particularly Germany, and on the history of the Zionist movement and state of Israel. Penslar’s books include Zionism and Technocracy: The Engineering of Jewish Settlement in Palestine, 1870-1918 (1991, Hebrew version 2001); In Search of Jewish Community: Jewish Identities in Germany and Austria, 1918-1933 (1998, co-edited with Michael Brenner); Shylock’s Children: Economics and Jewish Identity in Modern Europe (2001); Orientalism and the Jews (co-edited with Ivan Kalmar, 2004); Contemporary Antisemitism: Canada and the World (2005); and Israel in History: The Jewish State in Comparative Perspective (2006). Read more and RSVP
Dennis Thompson is Professor of Government and Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. He is also a professor of public policy in the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and founding Director of the University Center for Ethics and the Professions (now the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics). Thompson is the author with Amy Gutmann of Why Deliberative Democracy? (Princeton, 2004), which explores the most widely debated conception of democracy in recent years -- the idea that citizens or their representatives owe each other mutually acceptable reasons for the laws they enact. Read more and RSVP

Other events

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

United Nations Day Conference

“The U.N.: Uniting the World Against AIDS”
1-3 p.m., Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road
Sponsored by the Columbus Chapter of the United Nations Association

Speakers include Angela An, WBNS 10-TV Commentator; Carol Welch, North American Coordinator, Millennium Campaign, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations; Dr. Susan Koletar, Principal Investigator, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, AIDS Clinical Trials Unit; Joel Vanderburg, Consultant, World Health Organization, United Nations, New Zealand; and Dr. Walter Hull, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Find out where we are, what is being done, and what you can do. Enter to win a trip for two to New York and a tour of the United Nations. Admission is $10, free for students.

Monday, Oct. 29, 2007

Nemata Eshun-Baiden

Founder, Sierra Leone Women’s Working Group, The 50/50 Group
4 p.m., Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law, 55 W. 12th Ave.
Sponsored in part by the Institute on Women, Gender and Public Policy

The 50/50 Group, a women’s group in Sierra Leone working for equitable participation in politics, won this year’s Madeleine K. Albright Award given annually by the National Democratic Institute. This award “honors the achievements of a small grassroots organization that has worked effectively to promote women’s participation in politics and that is committed to addressing the dramatic under-representation of women in political leadership positions.” Nemata Eshun-Baiden, one of the founders of 50/50, will speak about the organization, its activities and role in the recently passed legislations in Sierra Leone on the
Mueller honored for public opinion research


With War, Presidents and Public Opinion, Mueller established himself as a leader in analyzing the effects of war on public opinion, the influence of casualty reports on public support for wars, and how various elements of conflict over time sway support for American presidents. Many basic concepts in public discourse today, such as the “rally around the flag” effect, owe much to Mueller’s seminal work. The book was also named one of “Fifty Books that Significantly Shaped Public Opinion Research, 1946-1995” by the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Mueller will be honored at an awards dinner on November 8, 2007, at Bryant Park Grill in New York.

Columbus International Festival

A message from Chad Alger, Mershon Professor of Political Science and Public Policy Emeritus

Mershon Colleagues:

The Columbus International Festival, Nov. 3-4, is the most significant international event in this area. It is presented every November by the Columbus Chapter of the United Nations Association USA. Its great importance for those at the Mershon Center is that it offers personal contact, at several hundred booths, with virtually all of the international activities and cultures in Central Ohio.

I remember my own experience, when I first attended the festival. Until that time, after arriving from Chicago, I had thought that Columbus was quite isolated from the world. My festival experience changed my mind. This experience was one of the items that stimulated my development of my Mershon project: Columbus in the World and The World in Columbus. In addition, there are very enjoyable stage performances at the festival by groups from an array of cultures.

The festival will take place on Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.—10 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 4, 11 a.m.—6 p.m., at Veteran’s Memorial Hall, 300 West Broad St., Columbus. Tickets sell for $7, but as a member of the Columbus UNA Board, I can make them available to you for $5, cash only. You can obtain them from Beth Russell in Mershon Center Room 105. I look forward to seeing you at this very important event!

Chad
Feature group: Trudeau Centre

Editor’s note: Mershon Memo will periodically feature stories about peer groups and organizations that engage in scholarly and academic study of issues related to national security. If you would like to see a particular organization discussed, please email Laura Tompkins at tompkins.46.

Named after former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, The Trudeau Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Toronto supports advanced research and undergraduate education in peace and conflict studies. The center maintains three full-time faculty and two senior fellows, and awards several undergraduate and doctoral research fellowships each year.

The center aims to be a world leader in research focusing on the root causes of violence, and the premier institution educating young peacemakers in practical knowledge to advance peace causes. Its undergraduate program in particular stands apart for the rigor of instruction, ability of students to personalize their degrees through interdisciplinary coursework, and importance placed on independent research.

The center’s former director and current George Ignatieff Chair is Thomas Homer-Dixon, a leading authority on environmental security and social adaptation to complex stresses. He was the inaugural lecturer for the Mershon Center’s National Security Speaker Series for 2007-08. For more information, see the Trudeau Centre’s website at http://www.trudeaucentre.ca.

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