Coming up at the Mershon Center

Other events

Feature group: Brookings Institution

Coming up at the Mershon Center

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

Friday, Nov. 9, 2007

Dennis Thompson

“Deliberative Democracy in Action: The Case of the Citizens Assembly”

3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science

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

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007

Birgit Brock-Utne
“Women Protesting Against War, Writing and Acting for Peace”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Co-sponsored by OSU Women in Development

**Birgit Brock-Utne** is a Professor of Education and Development and Director of the M.Phil. in Comparative and International Education at the University of Oslo. Her research interests include peace education from a gender perspective, education in Africa, language in education, higher education in Africa and donor influence on education in the developing world. Brock-Utne is author of *Educatings for Peace* (Pergamon Press 1985; translated into Korean, Italian and Norwegian), *Feminist Perspectives on Peace and Peace Education* (Pergamon Press 1989) and *Whose Education for All?* (Falmer Press 2000; reprinted by africanabooks.org 2006). Read more and RSVP

**Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007**

Undergraduate Research Forum

“Recipe for Success: Basic Ingredients for Undergraduate Research”
3:30 p.m., Page Hall Policy Forum, 1810 College Road
Co-sponsored by Undergraduate Research Office

Undergraduates are invited to join a panel of Mershon Center professors for an interdisciplinary discussion on the basic ingredients of a good undergraduate research project. Panel members will cite examples of good undergraduate research projects and address such questions as: How do you develop good research questions? What types of methodologies should you use in your research? What foundation do you need to have before undertaking a research project? What theories and facts do you need to know? What classes do you need to take? How can undergraduates work with the Institutional Review Board? How can undergraduates make connections with faculty members? Read more and RSVP

**Friday, Nov. 16, 2007**

Struggle for the Soul of Islam: Inside Indonesia

Film and discussion
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Islam in Indonesia has a centuries-old tradition of being tolerant, compassionate, and inclusive. Despite this history of pluralism and moderation, in recent years Indonesia has become both a target and breeding ground for Islamic militants. The bombing of two night clubs in Bali in October 2002 was a stunning wake-up call that Al Qaeda-style terrorism had spread to Southeast Asia. Paradoxically, the coming of democracy to Indonesia in 1998 was a factor in the rise of Islamist violence and terrorism. The new democratic freedoms allowed Muslim militants who had fled the country to return and rekindle their movement. **Struggle for the Soul of Islam: Inside Indonesia** explores this conflict between Indonesia’s long tradition of tolerance and the dramatic rise of fundamentalist forces. The film runs for 58 minutes, with a discussion afterward moderated by resident Mershon Indonesia expert Bill Liddle. Read more

**Other events**

*Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007*
Tom O'Donnell
“Oil in the Global Economy: American Foreign Policy in the Persian Gulf and Venezuela”
5:30 p.m., Mendenhall Labs Room 100, 125 S Oval Mall
Sponsored by the Middle East Studies Center, Center for Latin American Studies, and Center for International Business Education Research (CIBER)

Tom O'Donnell will be a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Venezuela beginning January 2008. He is also a graduate of The New School Program in International Affairs. He has been Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, with appointments in the Center for Middle East and North African Studies; Science, Technology and Society Program; Michigan Center for Theoretical Physics; and Residential College. O'Donnell makes frequent presentations on global oil trade, energy technologies, and their role in world politics.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007
International Photography Exhibition Opening Reception
5:30 p.m., Bricker Hall First Floor Lobby, 190 N. Oval Mall
Sponsored by the Office of International Affairs

The 7th Annual International Photography Exhibition displays the winning photographs of the 7th Annual International Photography Contest. Winning photos are on display from three categories: People, Places, and OSU Spirit. All the photographs were taken outside the United States by current Ohio State faculty, staff, students and visiting scholars. The exhibit will from until Dec. 31, 2007, or later.

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007
Peter Materu
“Higher Education for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Africa”
Noon, Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center, 153 W. 12th Ave.
Sponsored by the Center for African Studies

Peter Materu is a Senior Education Specialist in the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he focuses on tertiary education in Africa. He joined the World Bank in 2000, initially with the African Virtual University project. Prior to that, Materu was a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he later served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and as Director for Postgraduate Studies. A light lunch will be served. For more information, contact cas@osu.edu or 292-8169.

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007
Connie Schultz
Barbara K. Fergus Women in Leadership Lecture
4 p.m., Weigel Hall Auditorium, 1866 College Road
Sponsored by the John Glenn School of Public Affairs

Connie Schultz won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2005 as a columnist for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland. In June 2007 Schultz published ...and His Lovely Wife: A Memoir from
the Woman Beside the Man, which chronicles her experiences on the campaign trail with Sen. Sherrod Brown, her husband. In 2003, she was a Pulitzer finalist and won the Robert F. Kennedy Award for social justice reporting for her series “The Burden of Innocence,” which chronicled the ordeal of Michael Green, who served 13 years in prison for a rape he did not commit. Don’t miss this informative and engaging speaker’s look at life on the political trail. Reservations are required. Please visit http://glennschool.osu.edu/schultzlecture.php by November 8, 2007.

Friday, Nov. 14, 2007

International Scholar Research Exposition Opening Reception
5:30 p.m., Bricker Hall Second Floor Lobby, 190 N. Oval Mall
Sponsored by the Office of International Affairs

2nd Annual International Scholar Research Exposition showcases some of the world-class research being undertaken by a few of the almost 900 international visiting scholars currently at The Ohio State University, and recognizes their presence on campus and the significant contribution they make to Ohio State and the global community. President E. Gordon Gee will make a few comments, present certificates to international scholars showcasing their research posters, and have a few photographs taken with the international scholars. The exposition will run until Dec. 31, 2007, or later.

Feature group: Brookings Institution

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.

The Brookings Institution is a private nonprofit organization devoted to independent research and innovative policy solutions focused on three broad goals: strengthening American democracy; fostering the economic and social welfare, security, and opportunity of all Americans; and securing a more open, safe, prosperous, and cooperative international system.

Under this mandate, the Brookings Institution supports more than 200 resident and non-resident fellows at 11 distinct policy centers. Their experts conduct and publish research, testify before congressional committees, and participate in dozens of public events each year.

The organization is also known for its Executive Education program, which offers career development courses in public leadership, government, and current critical issues to professionals in business, government, and non-profit sectors.

Finally, the Brookings Institution supports internships and fellowships through its policy centers, and maintains an in-house press with an extensive catalogue of publications.

Brookings Institution President Strobe Talbott spoke at the Mershon Center on Oct. 9.