January 25, 2010

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Coming up at the Mershon Center

Monday, February 1, 2010

George Gavrilis
"State Failure and Regional Containment: The Case of Afghanistan"
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Read Gavrilis’ paper in Foreign Affairs.

George Gavrilis is assistant professor of government at the University of Texas-Austin and an International Affairs Fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations. His interests include border management, judicial politics, strategies of conflict, and state failure and international cooperation. Gavrilis' first book, The Dynamics of Interstate Boundaries (Cambridge, 2008), explains why some borders deter insurgents, smugglers, bandits and militants while most suffer from infiltration and crisis. During this lecture, Gavrilis will explore the strategic role that states play toward the recovery of a failed neighbor. The talk is based on his recent work in the field and with international organizations. It will focus on the case of Afghanistan as a way to explore broader hypotheses on state failure and regional containment. Read more and register

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Richard Ned Lebow
"Why We Fight? Past and Future Motives for War"
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Richard Ned Lebow is James O. Freedman Presidential Professor of Government at Dartmouth College and Centennial Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He was formerly a professor of political science, history, and psychology at The Ohio State University and served as director of the Mershon Center. Lebow's research interests include international relations theory, conflict management, psychological models of learning, philosophy of social science, conflict prevention, regional conflict, bargaining and negotiation, and methodologies including case studies, psychological experiments, and scenario generation. His most recent books are A Cultural Theory of International Relations (Cambridge, 2008) and The Tragic Vision of Politics: Ethics, Interests and Orders (Cambridge, 2003). Forbidden Fruit: Counterfactuals and International Relations
But What About Culture? Alexander Stephan's Interdisciplinary Project
Symposium and Tribute
1:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Alexander Stephan came to The Ohio State University in 2000 as the first Ohio Eminent Scholar in the Humanities. He was professor of German in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and senior fellow at the Mershon Center. Stephan's research on the Weimar Republic, anti-fascist exile, and the postwar period did much to establish German Studies as it exists today both here and abroad. During his years at Ohio State, Stephan's attention to transatlantic studies, European-American relations, and international responses to American culture and politics greatly enriched the interdisciplinary conversations of the Mershon Center and the College of Humanities. We remember Alex with talks by two of his friends and colleagues whose interdisciplinary breadth mirrors his own. There will be an opportunity during the tribute for those who wish to speak briefly about Alex. A reception will follow.

Amin Tarzi
“The Internal and Regional Dimensions of the Afghan Conflict”
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Amin Tarzi is director of Middle East Studies at Marine Corps University in Quantico, Va. His research and teaching interests focus on the Middle East with emphasis on Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. His areas of expertise include counter- and nonproliferation, history and historical narratives, the impact of regional politics in the greater Middle East on U.S. interests and national security, the role of justice in state-building, and Track II diplomacy. His most recent publications include Taliban and the Crisis of Afghanistan (Harvard, 2008), a co-edited volume with Professor Robert D. Crews of Stanford, and The Iranian Puzzle Piece: Understanding Iran in the Global Context (MCU Press, 2009).

Lisa Martin
“International Institutions as Signaling Devices”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Lisa Martin is professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research is focused on the role of institutions and international organizations in world politics. She views institutions through a strategic lens, examining how their functions and design influence state interaction. Her current interests include examination of the signaling and commitment properties of international institutions; comparative analysis of the international financial institutions; and the application of political economy models of trade to trade in services. Martin is editor of Global Governance (Ashgate Publishing, 2008) and International Institutions in the New Global Economy (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2005). She is the author of Democratic Commitments: Legislatures and International Cooperation (Princeton, 2000) and Coercive Cooperation: Explaining Multilateral Economic Sanctions (Princeton, 1992).
and register

Other events

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

**Sen. Tom Daschle**

*"Perspectives on Health Care Reform"

4 p.m., Fawcett Center Assembly Hall, 2400 Olentangy River Road

Sponsored by the **John Glenn School of Public Affairs** and **The Ohio State University Medical Center**

Is health care a right for every U.S. citizen? Join former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle for an insider's look at one of the largest changes in national health policy in recent history. Thomas Daschle, a representative and a senator from South Dakota, served in Congress from 1978 to 2005. An outspoken advocate for health care reform, he is author of *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis*. Seating is limited and RSVPs are required: please visit [http://glenn.osu.edu/news/muroff2010/](http://glenn.osu.edu/news/muroff2010/) or call 614-688-3206, ext. 1 by Friday, February 5.

Thursday-Saturday, March 11-13, 2010

**Transfoming Race: Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama**

The Hyatt on Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus

Sponsored by the **Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity**

February 15 is the Early Bird Registration deadline for the Kirwan Institute’s upcoming conference, **Transforming Race: Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama**. Some 600 advocates, activists, scholars, students, spoken-word performers, and practitioners from all stripes will engage in roughly 50 plenary sessions and panels, workshops and performances, tackling the pressing issues of our time with a focus on race. As optional Friday-evening entertainment, Sarah Jones, Tony-award winning Broadway performer, will be on hand with an insightful one-woman performance. For more information, go to [transforming-race.org](http://transforming-race.org).

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

**Research Across Continents: The OSU-India Connection**

6 p.m., 020 Page Hall, 1810 College Road

Sponsored by the **Undergraduate Research Office**

Featuring Samantha Agarwal, senior in Environmental Policy and Management and Political Science, speaking on "Seeds of the Possible: Insight into an Indian Farmer's Struggle for Land and Livelihood," and Jonathan Hall, PhD candidate in Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, on "Ecological Dynamics of Western Rajasthan." Also speaking will be Venkat Gopalan, Department of Biochemistry, and Amanda Simcox, Department of Molecular Genetics, on building scientific networks between Ohio State and India with a role for undergraduate research exchange. The event is free, but seating is limited; RSVP to mailto:uro@osu.edu with "India" in the subject line. For more information, see the [event flier](http://event-flier.pdf).

**Mershon Center offers faculty, student research grants**

Each year, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies holds a competition for Ohio State faculty and students to apply for research grant funds. Applications must be for projects related to one of our areas of focus: the use of force and diplomacy; the ideas, identities, and decisional processes that affect security; and the institutions that manage violent conflict. We will also consider projects related to Ohio State's global gateways in China, India and Brazil, as well as policy issues in biosecurity and cybersecurity. For more, including an application form and instructions, please see [http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/grants/grants.htm](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/grants/grants.htm). The deadline is January 29, 2010.
Mershon Center event recordings available

Don't forget that the Mershon Center videotapes most lectures that it sponsors, provided that we get permission from the speakers. The panel we sponsored with the Center for Slavic and East European Studies on Trafficking and Civil Society: Denial, Distress, Danger is now available as a streaming video in two parts. You can access this on the event web page or from this year's event recordings page.

We will also soon have an audio podcast of this event available. Podcasts differ from streaming videos in that you can download a podcast and copy the file to your iPod and burn it on a CD for listening at another location. Please check the OSU Public Podcasts page under Centers - Academic, or launch the Ohio State section of iTunesU and look under Centers - Academic. You may need to download iTunes, which is a free application. You can access this and many other Mershon events in this manner.

Enroll Ohio seeks community input on university system

Monday, February 1, 2010

**Enroll Ohio**

1-5 p.m., Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road

RSVP: [http://enrollohio.ning.com/events](http://enrollohio.ning.com/events)

Please join us in partnering with the University System of Ohio on **February 1** for the kick-off of "Enroll Ohio," a University System of Ohio initiative designed to encourage more Ohioans to pursue higher education. Be part of an important community-wide conversation that will shape Ohio's strategies to promote college enrollment and learn innovative techniques to help prospective students.

The event begins at 1 p.m. with a high-energy training session demonstrating how universities and schools are using social media to engage students, parents and other important stakeholders. Called **Beyond the Mainstream: Thriving in a Digital Media World**, the presentation will be led by Debra Jasper and Betsy Hubbard from The Ohio State University's John Glenn School of Public Affairs. They will offer thought-provoking insights on social media as innovative and effective tools for student recruitment, retention and relationship-building.

Beginning at 3 p.m., Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut will focus on strategies for successfully enrolling and retaining students by hosting an open conversation based on three critical questions: What ideas/programs are working when it comes to student recruitment? What challenges or obstacles persist that deter students from college or additional training? What can the state do to promote successful programs and overcome key challenges? Your input will be instantly captured and shared through new technologies—and your feedback will help shape the state's future approaches.

All of this work advances Ohio's 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education, which aspires to make Ohio home to one of the most educated and innovative workforces in the world.

We're delighted to help organize central Ohio’s involvement in this important initiative. Please join us.

Sincerely,

Mabel Freeman, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience
Tally Hart, Senior Advisor, Economic Access Initiative
Darrell Johnson, Director, Office of Continuing Education

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