Coming up at the Mershon Center

Thursday, October 28, 2010

John Ferejohn
The Countermajoritarian Opportunity
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

John Ferejohn is professor emeritus of political science at Stanford University, a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution, and Charles Seligson Professor of Law at New York University. His interests focus on political institutions, political behavior, theory of social choice, formal theories of politics, public law, comparative constitutions, legislative studies, and philosophy of social science. He has written on political institutions and behavior, including social choice theory, electoral processes, and theories of legislatures and of legislation. His latest paper discusses problems and opportunities with the ability of courts to overturn legislation passed by a democratically elected body. Read more and register

Friday, October 29, 2010

James Caron
Taliban and Participative Small Media in Pashtun Society, 1920-2010
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

James Caron is lecturer in South Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His interests include modern South Asia and Afghanistan; alternative historiography through popular arts; nationalism, public spheres, and circulation technologies; and Pashto language and literature. Caron has done fieldwork on Pashtun identity, nationalism, and social history in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Peshawar and Islamabad, Pakistan. He is an honorary member of the advisory board at Baacha Khan Research Centre in Peshawar, Pakistan. Read more and register

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

Elizabeth Kassab
What is Enlightenment? Arab and Postcolonial Perspectives
Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Elizabeth Kassab is a research fellow at the University of Erfut in Germany. Her interest is in the philosophy of culture, both Western and non-Western, with a particular focus on postcolonial debates. Her latest book, Contemporary Arab Thought: Cultural Critique in Comparative Perspective (Columbia University Press, 2009), is an examination of critical thinking in Arab and postcolonial debates on culture in the second half of the 20th century. Her current research centers on the notion of enlightenment in these debates, especially among post-Ottoman Arab, Greek and Turkish intellectuals. Read more and register
Friday, November 5, 2010

Thomas Schwartz

*Henry Kissinger and the Dilemmas of American Power*

Noon, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.

Thomas Schwartz is professor of history, political science and European studies at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of *America's Germany: John J. McCloy and the Federal Republic of Germany* (Harvard, 1991), which won the Stuart Bernath Book Prize of the Society of American Foreign Relations and the Harry S. Truman Book Award, given by the Truman Presidential Library. He is currently working on two books: a biography of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and *The Long Twilight Struggle: A Concise History of the Cold War*. Read more and register.

Other events

Monday, October 25, 2010

Artemy Troitsky

5:30 p.m., Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave.
Sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies

Artemy Troitsky is well known Russian rock-journalist, music critic, actor and broadcaster. In addition to hosting a popular weekly radio show, *Echo of Moscow*, Troitsky runs a concert event agency and a record label. Described as "the leading Soviet rock critic," Troitsky is the author of several books, including *Back in the USSR: The True Story of Rock in Russia, Tusovka: Who's Who in the New Soviet Rock Culture*, and most recently *Let Me Take You Down to the World of Pop*. In 1980, Troitsky organized a rock festival in the Soviet Union, considered the "Soviet Woodstock." Currently he teaches in the Journalism Department at Moscow State University. For more information, please contact the Slavic Center at csees@osu.edu or (614) 292-8770.

Monday, November 8, 2010

Larry Rohter

Brazil on the Rise: The Story of a Country Transformed

11:30 a.m., COSI, Gallery 1 (first floor), 333 W. Broad St.
Sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies

Larry Rohter served as a correspondent in Rio de Janeiro for 14 years for *Newsweek* and later as *The New York Times* bureau chief. He is widely considered a top expert on Brazil. Currently he is a culture reporter for *The New York Times* and a commentator for Brazilian media. His new book, *Brazil on the Rise*, has obtained critical acclaim. Two decades ago Brazil had a substantial debt, but today it has the world's eighth-largest economy, poised to overtake France. It has achieved energy independence and, with the discovery of the largest oil field in the last century, is becoming a major exporter of crude oil to the United States. With its successful bid for the 2016 Olympics, Brazil, at last, is ready to take its place on the world stage. In this richly narrated and textured look at the country today, Rohter provides an authoritative account of the culture and politics of a country that endlessly fascinates Americans. To register, visit http://www.columbusworldaffairs.org.

Friday, November 12, 2010

Gen. Lester L. Lyles

*Preparing a Stronger America: Perspectives on National Security, Aerospace Technology and Diversity in the Military*

11 a.m., 020 Page Hall, 1810 College Road
Sponsored by the President and Provost's 2010-11 Diversity Lecture & Cultural Arts Series

In 2009, four-star Gen. Lester L. Lyles served on the NASA's Augustine Space
Committee developing the agenda for the human space flight missions, chaired the National Research Council’s Roles and Rationale Study of the U.S. Civil Space Programs and chaired the U.S. Department of Defense Military Leadership Diversity Commission. He entered the Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program, and after a 35-year career, Lyles retired in 2003 as Commander of Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Lyles serves on many boards, including General Dynamics Corp., Battelle Labs and United Service Automobile Association. For more information about this event, contact Edie Waugh at waugh.2@osu.edu or (614) 688-3638.

Monday, November 15, 2010

Donna Brazile
3:30 p.m., Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St.
Sponsored by the John Glenn School of Public Affairs

The John Glenn School of Public Affairs invites you to attend the Barbara K. Fergus Women in Leadership Lecture series. Political strategist Donna Brazile is a university professor, author of the best-selling book *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*, a columnist, a political contributor on CNN and ABC as well as “This Week with Christiane Amanpour” and the Democratic National Committee's vice chair of Voter Registration and Participation. In 2000, Brazile made history when she served as campaign manager for Vice President Al Gore, becoming the first African-American woman to manage a presidential campaign.

Read more and register

Legislative fellows visit Mershon

Legislative fellows from Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Pakistan visit with Richard Herrmann (fourth from left), director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. The fellowship is a program of the international exchange organization *World Learning*. Participants, who work in legislatures in their home countries, are spending one month in Columbus and Washington, D.C.

Mershon News

Mershon co-sponsors Undergraduate Research Forum

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Undergraduate Research Office will co-sponsor *Recipe for Success: Basic Ingredients for Undergraduate Research*, a symposium for undergraduates on Wednesday, November 3, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 130 Page Hall, 1810 College Road.

An interdisciplinary panel of Mershon affiliated faculty will discuss 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?

Panelists include William "Chip" Eveland Jr., professor of communication; Dorothy Noyes, associate professor of English, comparative studies, and anthropology; and Alexander Thompson, associate professor of political science.

This is one of the most successful undergraduate events sponsored by the Mershon Center every year, with more than 70 percent of respondents rating it as extremely valuable. Undergraduates can register by Monday November 1 by sending an email to uro@osu.edu with "11/3" in the subject line.

Glenn School to hold 2010 Election Night Extravaganza

The John Glenn School of Public Affairs and the Politics, Society, and Law Scholars Program cordially invite you to the 2010 Election Night Extravaganza. This event will provide a nonpartisan viewing environment where students, faculty, and staff can come together to watch the reporting of the election results and have some fun in the process. Join us on Tuesday, November 2, from 7 to 10 p.m., on the first floor of Page Hall, 1810 College Road. Food and drinks will be provided, guest speakers will be on hand, and a number of games and contests will take place throughout the night. Questions? Contact Chris Adams at adams.615@osu.edu.

'Origins' look at history of immigration policy in America


This summer, Arizona's efforts to implement a controversial new local immigration statute fueled passions and mobilized all sides of the immigration debate. For the moment, the law remains in limbo after the United States filed suit and the U.S. District Court enjoined the most significant provisions of the new law.

As Americans struggle to define a 21st century immigration policy, Yale Law Professor Michael J. Wishnie examines the long history of disagreements over immigration measures between the federal government and the states (and among the states). The history tells us, Wishnie finds, that many punitive state laws are likely to be struck down by the courts. But the local conflicts themselves will likely pressure Congress to reform the United States's antiquated immigration statutes.

'Origins' is a free, non-commercial publication from the Public History Initiative and eHistory in Ohio State University's History Department. Each month, an academic expert analyzes a particular current issue -- political, cultural, or social -- in a larger, deeper historical context. In addition to the analysis provided in each month's feature, Origins also includes podcasts, images, maps, graphics, timelines, and other material to complement the article.

Origins can be found at http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/. The podcast is found at http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins/podcasts.cfm. You can also follow Origins on Twitter: OriginsOSU

Recent topics include student loans, the global food crisis, marriage rights, women in Zimbabwe, the legacy of 1989 in Eastern Europe, and Darwin's American reception. Next month: "South America's 'Sleeping Giant' Wakes: Brazil's 2010 Election," by Sarah Brooks.

About Mershon Memo
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