2 postdocs join center in fall

Two post-doctoral fellows will take up residence at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies this fall.

Robert Rakove, who is expecting a Ph.D. in History from University of Virginia, will spend the year revising his dissertation for publication as a book.

His project, titled “Be-friending the Nonaligned: Kennedy, Johnson, and the Neutralist Powers,” will examine the efforts of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations to create lasting, constructive relations with leading states of the “non-aligned” world. Rakove defines non-aligned countries as those who declared neutrality during the Cold War.

The book will explore how U.S. policies of interaction with non-aligned powers helped define relations between the United States and its allies, many of whom had tense relations with the new post-colonial states in Africa and Asia.

See Postdocs on back page

Mershon supports 13 students with study abroad scholarships

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies announces 13 awards in the first annual Ralph D. Mershon Study Abroad Scholarship competition. These scholarships support students who aspire to careers related to international security.

Winners this year include students whose ambitions range from working for the State Department, the U.S. military or within the intelligence community, to positions with the United Nations. Students also hope to pursue work for global immigration services and non-governmental organizations fostering security and development.

Tim Hoffine, one student winner, is a senior majoring in Journalism and International Studies. He is attending the Arabic Language Institute in Fèz, Morocco, for nine months, studying Arabic to pursue his ambition to work in the intelligence community.

Another winner, Vince Selip, will spend seven months in Egypt completing a rigorous Arabic language program at the American University in Cairo, gaining skills for a potential security career with the U.S. government.

Alexa Bruder, a sophomore majoring in Linguistics, is a midshipman in the Navy ROTC. She will attend the Intensive Chinese Language Program in Quindao, developing the language skills needed as a future naval officer. Lydia Thomas, a sophomore Chinese and Arabic major, is preparing for a career in the intelligence field and will also study in an intensive Chinese language program.

Other scholarship winners will be studying for an academic quarter or longer in countries such as Switzerland, Russia, Israel, Senegal, China, Korea, and Egypt.

Sarah Gange, a junior majoring in Russian and Comparative Studies, will participate in the Russian Language and Area Studies Program at KORA Language Institute in Vladimir for 10 weeks. Her time in Russia will contribute to her honors thesis, identifying how the institutions created by the USSR solidified in Central Asia. One day, she hopes to work as an expert on Central Asia at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Another scholarship winner, Robert Snyder, is a senior majoring in International Studies with a concentration on Africa. He will participate in the Minnesota Studies International Development program in Senegal. Snyder volunteers at Community Refugee and Immigration Services in Columbus and has worked with NGOs in Namibia. He hopes to learn more about Muslim culture in Senegal and position himself for future development work.

The Mershon Center will fund another competition in the spring and hopes students from across campus will apply.
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Fall 2008 Calendar of Events

Friday, October 3, 2008
Mary Ellen O’Connell
Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law
University of Notre Dame
“The New Militarism”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Monday, October 6, 2008
Patrick James
Director, Center for International Studies
University of Southern California
“What Way Forward for Offensive Realism?”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Wednesday, October 8, 2008
Juan R.I. Cole
Professor of History, University of Michigan
“Can Ayatollah Sistani’s Alternative to Khomeinism Survive?”
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120
Sponsored by the Middle East Studies Center

Thursday, October 9, 2008
The Honorable Mary Robinson
Former President of Ireland
Former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights
“Women in International Politics”
4:30 p.m., Weigel Hall, 1866 College Road
Sponsored by the International Studies Program and John Glenn School of Public Affairs

Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Robert Rakove
Postdoctoral Fellow
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
“Getting the Worst of Both Worlds: John F. Kennedy and Decolonization”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Friday, October 17-18, 2008
China Plural: Local Identity, Contesting Visions, and Constructing Nation
Kwang-Kyoon Yeo, Organizer
9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Hagerty Hall Room 180
Sponsored by the East Asian Studies Center

Wednesday, October 22, 2008
Dick Combs
Former Foreign Service Officer, Moscow
“Inside the Soviet Alternate Universe”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Wednesday, October 29, 2008
Jeff McMahan
Professor of Philosophy
Rutgers University
“Killing Civilians in War”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Tuesday, November 4, 2008
Matthew Fehrs
Postdoctoral Fellow
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
“Are You Talkin’ to Me? The Domestic Politics of Government Signaling in International Conflicts”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Friday, November 7, 2008
Carol Anderson
Associate Professor of History
University of Missouri
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Allan Millett
Stephen Ambrose Professor of History
University of New Orleans
Director, Eisenhower Center for American Studies
“They Came From the North: The War for Korea, 1950-51”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Friday, November 21, 2008
Caroline Elkins
Hugo K. Foster Associate Professor of African Studies, Harvard University
“British Colonial Violence and the End of Empire”
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

For more information and to reserve your spot, please see the Mershon Center web site at mershoncenter.osu.edu
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201 (614) 292-1681
Mershon now offers podcasts of past events

As autumn quarter begins, you may see students and faculty listening to a Mershon Center lecture on their iPods. Users can now download audio podcasts of past Mershon speaking events onto their iPods or mp3 players and listen on the go, rather than having to access them online. Please feel free to download Mershon Center podcasts and promote them in your courses this fall. To access them, visit http://itunes.osu.edu and launch or download iTunesU. This will take you to the Ohio State section of iTunes, where you can access Mershon recordings under Centers – Academic. More than 200 audio recordings from the past five years are available.

You can also find video and audio streams from Mershon events held during the past five years on the Event Recordings page of our web site at http://mershoncenter.osu.edu. Streaming videos differ from podcasts in that podcasts can be downloaded while streaming videos cannot.

Finally, the Mershon Center is now archiving materials from all events, publications, web pages, and more in The Ohio State University’s Knowledge Bank. You can search by author, title, or subject to find resources since 2003. Just visit http://kb.osu.edu, and click on Mershon Center.

For more information, please contact Cathy Becker (becker.271) or Melanie Mann (mann.281).

Postdocs
Continued from Page 1

Rakove will examine how the United States used foreign aid to form international relationships during the 1960s. He will also investigate how policymakers addressed issues of incompatible goals between the United States and new international acquaintances while also dealing with regional rivalries within non-aligned states.

Matthew Fehrs, who received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University, will spend his time at Mershon working on articles for publication as well as revisions to his dissertation. His project, “Are You Talkin’ to Me? The Domestic Politics of Government Signaling in International Conflicts” explores three puzzles:

- What causes a country to have or perceive incomplete information and lead states to war?
- Why, despite high levels of transparency and freedom of information, are democracies still likely to be attacked?
- What is the role of opposition groups in military crises?

To answer these questions, Fehrs developed a theory that focuses on the unity and hawkishness of government in democratic states. He hypothesizes that the more unified a government, the less likely it is to send mixed signals to potential challengers; likewise, the more hawkish a country, the more likely it is to use military posturing and harsh rhetoric. Fehrs plans to pursue two articles, one that provides an alternative explanation for the Falklands War, and one that explains contradictions in British signaling prior to World War I.