

Fall 2008

Vol. 3, Issue 1

Mershon Memo

A newsletter of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies

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.



Rakove

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,



Hoffine

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



Selip

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,



Bruder

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.



Thomas

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



Gange

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

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.

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23	SEPTEMBER 24 <i>Fall quarter begins</i>	25	26	27
28	29	30	OCTOBER 1	2	3 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Mary Ellen O'Connell	4
5	6 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Patrick James	7	8 <i>3:30 p.m. Mershon 120</i> Juan R.I. Cole	9 <i>4:30 p.m., Weigel Hall</i> The Hon. Mary Robinson	10	11
12	13 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Robert Rakove	14	15	16	17 <i>Conference Hagerty Hall 180</i> China Plural	18 <i>Conference Hagerty Hall 180</i> China Plural
19	20	21	22 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Dick Combs	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Jeff McMahan	30	31	NOVEMBER 1
2	3 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Matthew Fehrs	4	5	6	7 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Carol Anderson	8
9	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Allan Millett	20	21 <i>Noon, Mershon 120</i> Caroline Elkins	22
23	24	25	26	27 <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	28 <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	29
30	DECEMBER 1	2	3	4	5 <i>Fall quarter ends</i>	6

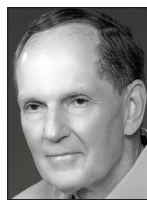
Fall 2008 Calendar of Events



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

O'Connell



Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Dick Combs
Former Foreign Service Officer, Moscow
"Inside the Soviet Alternate Universe"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Combs



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

James



Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Jeff McMahan
Professor of Philosophy
Rutgers University
"Killing Civilians in War"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

McMahan



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

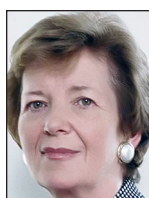
Cole



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

Fehrs



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

Robinson



Friday, November 7, 2008

Carol Anderson
Associate Professor of History
University of Missouri
"Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941-1960"
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Anderson



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

Rakove



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

Millett



Friday-Saturday, 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

Yeo



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

Elkins

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

1501 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201
<http://mershoncenter.osu.edu>

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 policy makers 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 Mer-

shon working on articles for publication as well as revisions to his dissertation.

His project, "Are You Talkin' to Me? The Domestic Politics of Government



Fehrs

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.