**Mershon Center appoints next Mason Chair in Military History**

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Department of History at The Ohio State University are proud to announce that they have selected Col. Peter R. Mansoor as the next Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair of Military History.

Mansoor, currently serving as executive officer to Gen. David Petraeus in Iraq, will begin his duties at The Ohio State University in September 2008. He will assume a joint appointment between the Mershon Center and the History Department, teaching classes, conducting research, and organizing speaking and conference events in the fields of military history and national security studies.

Mansoor is a highly decorated officer with more than 25 years of distinguished military service. He currently serves as executive officer to Gen. David Petraeus in Iraq, assisting Petraeus with strategic planning for the U.S. war effort in Iraq, and helping to prepare Petraeus for key meetings with top leaders in the Executive Branch, Congress, and in the Iraqi government. Mansoor was one of the major authors of the report on the situation in Iraq, delivered by Petraeus to Congress on Sept. 10-11, 2007.

While working for Petraeus in his previous assignment, Mansoor was hand-picked in the fall of 2006 to serve on a “Council of Colonels” that assisted the Joint Chiefs of Staff in reassessing the strategy for the Iraq War. The outcome of this effort was the “surge” strategy currently being employed in Iraq.

Mansoor is also the founding director of the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Under his leadership, the Counterinsurgency Center helped to revise the final version of the new Counterinsurgency Field Manual 3-24, which was published jointly by the Army and Marine Corps in December 2006. This document was the first revision of U.S. counterinsurgency operations in more than 20 years, incorporating lessons learned during conflicts throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.

In 2003-04, Mansoor served as Commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, in Iraq, which was responsible for security and stability in the Rusafa and Adhamiya districts of Baghdad, an area of 195 square kilometers and 2.1 million people. After the April 2004 uprising of militia loyal to the Shiite cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr, Mansoor’s brigade combat team restored the holy city of Karbala to coalition control within three weeks, an operation that earned the organization a Presidential Unit Citation for collective valor in combat.

In 1997-99, Mansoor was Special Assistant to the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy on the Joint Staff.
History Department launches ‘Origins’

In October, the Ohio State History Department launched its first online issue of Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective. The monthly periodical is published by eHistory and is a part of the department’s Public History Initiative.

Each month, an academic analyzes a current issue – political, social, or cultural – in a broader, deeper historical context. Essays are accompanied by maps, graphs, and timelines, and are available to download as podcasts. This makes Origins a powerful tool to supplement classroom learning and inform any inquiring citizen about the historical forces behind our news.

The December issue featured “Conflict Termination: How to End — and Not to End — Insurgencies” by John Guilmartin. It examines the “endgame” of several 20th century conflicts to see what lessons we might learn.

In the January issue, Peter Conn of the University of Pennsylvania discusses the politics of international adoption.

Origins is online at http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/origins

Book on nuclear proliferation wins 2006 Furniss Award

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies has awarded the 2006 Edgar S. Furniss Book Award to Jacques E.C. Hymans. Hymans’ book, The Psychology of Nuclear Proliferation: Identities, Emotions, and Foreign Policy, explains why few states have acquired nuclear weapons even though dozens have long been capable of doing so.

Hymans finds that the key to this surprising historical pattern lies not in externally imposed constraints, but in state leaders’ conceptions of national identity. Using case studies of France, India, Argentina, and Australia, as well as scholarship from the humanities, social sciences, experimental psychology, and neuroscience, Hymans builds a rigorous model of decision-making that links identity to emotions and ultimately nuclear policy.

Hymans is Assistant Professor of Government at Smith College, and an affiliate of the Center for European Studies and associate of the Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, both of Harvard University. His research focuses on international relations and foreign policy, with an emphasis on the impact of collective identities.

Each year, the Mershon Center gives the Furniss Book Award to an author whose first book makes an exceptional contribution to the study of national and international security. The award commemorates the center’s founding director, Edgar S. Furniss.

The winning author receives a cash award and is invited to address the Mershon Center. Hymans will speak at noon on Monday, Feb. 25, 2008.

Conference to examine online democracy

Mershon affiliate Peter Shane from the Moritz College of Law and his collaborator Stephen Coleman from the University of Leeds are curious about the potential for electronic democracy. They are not alone. With participants from Australia, England, France, Israel, Italy, Korea, Slovenia, and Sweden, the two have organized an international conference on “Online Consultation and Public Policy Making: Democracy, Identity, and New Media.” The conference will explore the unrealized potential for online participation in politics and public policy.

Preliminary research has shown that meaningful online deliberation on political themes can affect participants’ sense of identity, commitment to other forms of civic participation, trust in government, and regard for fellow citizens. However, “eDemocracy” initiatives have yet to be tied in any meaningful way to policy formation.

To realize the electronic possibilities to promote social inclusiveness and strengthen trust and responsiveness between citizens and their governments, governments will have to be persuaded to support eDemocracy initiatives with significant real-world effects.

Members of the International Working Group on Online Consultation and Public Policy Making will present and discuss their papers at the conference.

The International Working Group is supported by a grant from the Center for Technology and Government at SUNY Albany, which, along with Mershon and the Moritz College of Law, is a sponsor of the conference.

To attend the conference, please contact Mandy Fowler Aquilina at the Moritz College of Law at fowler.221@osu.edu.
Winter 2008 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Odd Arne Westad  
Professor of International History  
London School of Economics  
“The Global Cold War”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Monday, February 11, 2008
Col. Marc Warren  
Former Senior Attorney for Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez,  
Commander of Coalition Forces in Iraq (2003-04)  
“Legal Support in Wartime: Reflections of a Judge Advocate”  
Noon, Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law

Thursday, January 17, 2008
Zachary Zwald  
Post-Doctoral Fellow  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Gen. John P. Abizaid  
Former Commander (2003-07)  
U.S. Central Command  
“Strategic Challenges in the Middle East”  
3:30 p.m., Wexner Center Film/Video Theater

Thursday, January 24, 2008
Peter Liberman  
Professor of Political Science  
Queens College, New York  
“Just Deserts in Iraq: Vengeance for 9/11 and American Public Support for the Iraq War”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Monday, February 25, 2008
Jacques E.C. Hymans  
Assistant Professor of Government  
Smith College  
“The Psychology of Nuclear Proliferation: Identity, Emotions, and Foreign Policy”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Monday, January 28, 2008
Leonard Smith  
Frederick B. Artz Professor of History  
Oberlin College  
“Who Gets to be a People?: Reconfiguring the Ottoman Empire in the King-Crane Commission Report of 1919”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

Friday, February 1, 2008
Michael Tomz  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Stanford University  
“The Credibility of International Commitments”  
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

Monday, March 3, 2008
Gen. John D. Altenburg  
Former Appointing Authority for Military Commissions (2003-06)  
Noon, Barrister Club, Moritz College of Law

Monday, February 29, 2008
Christina Davis  
Assistant Professor of Politics  
Princeton University  
3:30 p.m., Mershon Center Room 120

Thursday, March 6, 2008
Anita Bucknam  
CIA Officer in Residence  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
“Historical Origins of the CIA”  
Noon, Mershon Center Room 120

For more information and to reserve your spot, please see the Mershon Center website at http://mershoncenter.osu.edu

Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201, (614) 292-1681
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**January**

- Winter quarter classes begin
- 12 p.m., Mershon 120
- Odd Arne Westad
- 12 p.m., Mershon 120
- Zachary Zwald
- Martin Luther King Holiday
- 12 p.m., Mershon 120
- Leonard Smith
- 12 p.m., Moritz College of Law
- Col. Marc Warren
- 3:30 p.m., Wexner Center
- Gen. John P. Abizaid
- 12 p.m., Mershon 120
- Jacques E.C. Hymans
- 12 p.m., Moritz College of Law
- Gen. John D. Altenburg
- 12 p.m., Mershon 120
- Anita Bucknam
- Last day of winter quarter classes
The Mershon Center is proud to support 18 graduate student research projects in 2007-08:

- **Richard Arnold** (Political Science) – “Ethnic Violence Disaggregated: Explaining Skinhead Violence in Russia”
- **Soundarya Chidambaram** (Political Science) – “Why do People Riot? Implications of Hindu-Muslim Riots in India”
- **Michael Ewers** (Geography) – “Locational Decisions and Perceived Risk of U.S. Multinationals in the New Gulf Development States”
- **Denice Fett** (History) – “Invasion as a First and Last Resort: Europe in the Sixteenth Century”
- **Seth Goldstein** (Political Science) – “‘Image-ing’ Credibility: Signaling, Perception, and Domestic Politics in International Bargaining”
- **Ursula Gurney** (History) – “The United States and European Détente: Nixon, Ford, and the Helsinki Accords”
- **Edward Gutierrez** (History) – “Sherman was Right: The Experience of World War I AEF Soldiers”
- **Marguerite Hernandez** (Sociology) – “Problem Definitions: Understanding the NGO Response to Sex Trafficking”
- **Eliza Ho** (History of Art) – “War, Propaganda, and Photography: The Chinese Photographer Sha Fei (1912-50)”
- **Danielle Langfield** (Political Science) – “Local Competition in a Dominant Party Democracy: Challenge or Release Valve?”
- **David Lansing** (Geography) – “Farming Carbon, Sequestering Territory: The Property and Livelihood Dynamics of Carbon Credits in Costa Rican Indigenous Communities”
- **James Lenaghan** (History) – “Ethnic Identities, Ecclesiastical Control and Religious War in Ireland and Lithuania”
- **Dag Mossige** (Political Science) – “The Perils of Movement Parties: An Investigation of Political Parties in Mexico, Argentina, and Chile”
- **Rohit Negi** (Geography) – “Re-negotiating the Postcolonial Sub-Saharan State: Capitalist Development and Conflicts over Land in Zambia”
- **Mark Rice** (History) – “The Alliance City: NATO and Berlin, 1958-63”
- **Srdjan Vucetic** (Political Science) – “The ‘Angloshpere’: A Genealogy of an Identity in International Relations”
- **Christina Xydias** (Political Science) – “Women At/On the Ballot: Examining the Effects of Tokenism and Quotas”

**Conference highlight: What is War?**

How should we define war? This is not just an academic question. The most basic human rights -- including the right to life, right to a trial, and right to own property -- all depend on whether a conflict is legally definable as war or not.

In September 2007, the Mershon Center sponsored a conference on the meaning of war with the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Notre Dame Law School.

The conference included panels of political scientists, war correspondents, historians, ethicists, peace researchers, and military personnel.

The panel of political scientists included (left to right) George Lopez, Professor of Peace Studies at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies; Mershon Center Director Richard Herrmann; Michael Doyle, Harold Brown Professor of International Affairs at Columbia University; and John Mueller, Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies at the Mershon Center.

Mary Ellen O’Connell, Robert and Marion Short Professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School, organized the What is War conference with John Mueller. She is a former Mershon faculty associate.

For more information or to watch streaming video of the panels, please see http://kroc.nd.edu/events/07meaningofwar.shtml

Photos by Peter Bauer

Former Mershon Center Journalist in Residence Darrin Mortenson spoke about covering the Iraq War in the war correspondents panel.

The panel of political scientists included (left to right) George Lopez, Professor of Peace Studies at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies; Mershon Center Director Richard Herrmann; Michael Doyle, Harold Brown Professor of International Affairs at Columbia University; and John Mueller, Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies at the Mershon Center.
Mansoor

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responsible for research and planning that supported ongoing peace operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the withdrawal of United Nations weapons inspectors from Iraq, and U.S. and NATO operations during the Kosovo campaign.

In addition to his military service, Mansoor has a long record of academic experience. He was an assistant professor of history at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., teaching such courses as Weapons and Warfare in the 20th Century, West Point and the American Military Experience, and the History of Military Art. His research interests include modern U.S. military history, World War II, and counterinsurgency operations.

Mansoor is author of The GI Offensive in Europe: The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941-45 (University Press of Kansas, 1999), which won the Society for Military History Distinguished Book Award and the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Book Award.

He has also recently completed Baghdad at Sunrise: A Brigade Commander’s War in Iraq, to be published by Yale University Press in Fall 2008.

Mansoor graduated first in his class from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1982, and received master’s and doctoral degrees in military history from The Ohio State University in 1992 and 1995.

He also has a master’s in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. In 2005-06, Mansoor also served as a Senior Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

The Mason Chair in Military History is endowed by Maj. Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr., a 1941 graduate of The Ohio State University who retired from military service in 1976 after holding several high-ranking Pentagon positions, including Assistant Deputy Chief for Operations and Special Assistant to Deputy Chief of Logistics.

The previous holder of the Mason Chair was Allan R. Millet, now Stephen B. Ambrose Professor of Military History and director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies at the University of New Orleans.

Visitors

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Zhang is anti-proliferation policies of the United States and China, and has written articles on national separatism, conservatism and interventionism, transnational crime and nuclear materials, and the religious roots of threats from non-state actors. He will be with the center in early 2008.

Mershon Memo

Mershon Memo is a publication of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, whose mission is to advance the understanding of national security in a global context. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter, please send your name and address to:

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