Dear Friends of the Mortara Center:

I am pleased to present the Mortara Center for International Studies’ first annual report. From the inauguration of the Mortara Building in September 2005, the Center has sponsored numerous panels, conferences, and seminars, drawing faculty and students from throughout the University and beyond. Many of these activities are described in this report. We anticipate an even busier year for the Center in 2006–2007 as it moves toward becoming a place where faculty, students, and practitioners meet to discuss and debate international issues, and eventually, where visiting scholars and scholar-practitioners can expand our knowledge and understanding of these issues through their research and publications.

The Mortara Center and its activities could not have been possible without the extraordinary vision, dedication, and generosity of the Mortara Family. We are extremely grateful as we continue to build the Center that Michael Mortara envisioned.

Carol Lancaster
Director

The Mortara Center for International Studies, established in 2003 within the School of Foreign Service, is a focal point on the Georgetown campus for discussion, debate, and research on international studies, broadly defined. The Center places a special emphasis on the nexus between theory and practice within and across major disciplines.

In July 2005, the Center moved into the new Mortara Building, located just outside Georgetown University’s main gate. This facility with state-of-the-art telecommunications capabilities, has offices for faculty and staff, several conference rooms, and a student lounge. The Mortara Building also houses the Security Studies Program, the Center for Peace and Security Studies, and Women in International Security. The new building has provided a venue for bringing students, faculty, and international affairs practitioners together to discuss the issues of the day.

In 2005 the Center also inaugurated a new website (mortara.georgetown.edu) with information about its activities and those related to international studies on campus.

The new Mortara Center website can be found at: mortara.georgetown.edu
Major Activities

The year 2005–2006 began with the Goldman Sachs lecture, given in Gaston Hall by former Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin. The next major event was the dedication of the Mortara Building, which included talks by Senator Hillary Clinton and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the Mortara Distinguished Professor of Diplomacy, and warm remembrances of the late Michael Mortara (SFS ’71), who, together with his family, so generously funded the Mortara Center and the new Mortara Building.

The Center hosted several events by major scholars this past year: the first Distinguished Lecture in Diplomatic History by Professor John Lewis Gaddis of Yale University on The Cold War and the first Distinguished Lecture in Economics, given by Professor Douglass North of Washington University on “Why Economic Reform Is So Difficult”. The Center also hosted the Georgetown University Lepgold Book Prize ceremony and lecture for the year’s best book in International Relations. The winner was Ohio State Professor John Mueller, for his work The Remnants of War.

Presentations by prominent practitioners in international relations were co-sponsored by the Center, including a human rights conference with Georgetown Professor (and former Secretary of State) Madeleine Albright and Senator Sam Brownback titled, “Un-Common Leadership for Common Values: Bipartisan Action on Human Rights”, a presentation by the former president of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and a seminar by the former Prime Minister of Spain, José María Aznar.

Together with Georgetown’s program on Bio-hazardous Threat Reduction and the Center for Peace and Security Studies, the Mortara Center organized a panel on H5N1 Avian Influenza and Strategies to Prevent a Human Pandemic. Kumnuan Ungchusak, Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology at the Thai Ministry of Health, gave the keynote presentation.

Several experts and activists on human rights spoke at the Mortara Center in 2005 and 2006. Ayaan Hirsi Ali made a presentation titled “Muslim Women in Europe”, Sohini Chakraborty gave a talk co-sponsored by Vital Voices Global Partnership titled “Combating Human Trafficking: Approaches from India”, and Sergio Aguayo gave a lunch seminar on Mexican Democracy co-sponsored with the Center for Democracy and the Third Sector.

Audience members attending the Steven Krasner luncheon seminar.
Several prominent scholars gave luncheon seminars, including Professor Steven Krasner of Stanford University and current Director of Policy Planning of the U.S. Department of State, Anatol Lieven, Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation, and Evan Lieberman of Princeton University.

The Center also hosted “welcome” and “welcome back” lunches for faculty, including International Relations Professor Victor Cha, currently serving on the National Security Council, Michael Green, coming to Georgetown from the NSC, Professor Angela Stent, returning from the post of National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eastern Europe, and Andrew Natsios, former Administrator of USAID and now Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy.

Several events celebrating new books by Georgetown faculty took place in 2005–6, including Robert Lieber’s The American Era, Adjunct Professor David Goldwyn’s Energy and Security: Towards a New Foreign Policy Strategy, Pietra Rivoli’s The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy, and John Kline’s Ethics for International Business.

Two new seminars were established as annual events: a junior faculty lecture and a seminar based on the most intriguing course of the academic year. The first junior faculty lecture was given by Paul Heck and titled “Islam and Martyrdom”. Georgetown University Provost James O’Donnell and Professor Jaques Berlinerblau gave the year’s lecture on the most intriguing course titled, “How Jews and Christians Invented the Bible”.

The Mortara Center sponsored a monthly seminar by Ph.D. students in International Relations, enabling them to present and refine their research. Additionally, the Center, together with the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, The Georgetown Public Policy Institute, and the Master of Science in Foreign Service Program sponsored “Dinners with Georgetown Illuminati”—four dinners with Georgetown professors who are also prominent practitioners or public intellectuals, including Tom Daschle, Andrew Natsios, Tony Lake, and E.J. Dionne.

Additionally, under the Center’s auspices, a study group on China was led by Professor Carl Dahlman and, together with the Berkley Center on Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, the Mortara Center sponsored a year-long faculty seminar on Religion and Development.

For a complete list of the Center’s activities in 2005–2006, see mortara.georgetown.edu/events.
The Center expects to undertake two major initiatives in academic year 2006–2007. The first is to encourage and support faculty organized study groups, focused on specific topics in international studies. We anticipate that at least two new groups will meet in the coming year and possibly produce working papers or reports on their discussions:

- A study group on international trade, led by Professor Marc Busch.
- A study group on culture and international relations, organized by Professor Daniel Nexon.

The second major initiative for 2006–2007 is the preparation of an Initiative on International Development within the Mortara Center. In 2005, at the request of Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia, a group of faculty issued a report on the University’s considerable resources in this area and the steps which could strengthen those resources. President DeGioia asked the Mortara Center to incubate an “Initiative on International Development” that would begin to create a community of scholars in this area. (This initiative coincides with the launch of an undergraduate Certificate in International Development in the School of Foreign Service, open to all Georgetown undergraduates.) We expect that this new initiative will eventually be spun off as an independent center within the University.

In 2006–2007, this initiative will undertake a number of tasks, including:

- Creating a website listing all faculty engaged in international development, development events and activities on campus, information on the new certificate, information on development-related activities in the Washington area, and news on international development worldwide.
- Establishing a “faculty and friends of Georgetown” advisory committee for the new initiative.
- Organizing two prominent speakers to give lectures on development issues: one practitioner and one scholar.
- Sponsoring a research fund for Georgetown scholars working on development issues.
- Organizing periodic seminars on development issues, one co-sponsored with World Vision on key debates in development today and one on “Innovations in Development” co-sponsored with the Brookings Institution.
- Sponsoring one or more study groups on development topics.
Looking back on the past year of the Mortara Center and into the future, Robert Gallucci, Dean of the School of Foreign Service, remarked:

"The mission of the Mortara Center is to provide a venue for, and to promote, scholarly discourse on a broad range of policy and intellectual issues in the area of international studies. As a relatively new center in a newly renovated building, it has already established a reputation for doing just that through an extraordinary program of events, symposiums, conferences, and speeches involving senior policy makers and cutting-edge academics from within the Georgetown community, the Washington area, and the world at large. The Mortara Center has enriched the intellectual life for students and faculty on campus, as well as for the broader community outside the university through its outreach activities. Over time, we can expect the center to become an important source of ideas and critical analysis on such issues as international security, international development, globalization, the role of religion in society, the impact of democratization on regional development and security, matters of governance in the international community, and the importance of trends."

It is towards these goals that the Mortara Center will continue its work.


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