Dear Friends of the Mortara Center,

Georgetown University is graced with an extraordinary group of scholars and students, all focused on understanding, analyzing and acting on challenges in the international realm. The Mortara Center for International Studies has become a central focal point for interdisciplinary research, dialogue and outreach across all the fields of study of the School of Foreign Service.

In the academic year 2013-14, we hosted dozens of public talks, small research workshops, and book launches in areas from global internet governance, to the Clean Air Act and climate change, to the organizational culture of terrorist groups, to the role of hip hop in Iraqi political development. We hosted roundtables with Georgetown scholars on the Russian incursion into Crimea and other breaking news events. We expanded our innovative undergraduate research program, which pairs exceptional students with faculty mentors, and hosted our first Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellow conference.

The Mortara Center continues to buzz with debate and curiosity, and we hope that you will find your way inside the doors of our townhouse to one of our events soon!

Best wishes,

Kathleen R. McNamara
Director, Mortara Center for International Studies
Associate Professor, Government and International Affairs
About the Mortara Center

Officially opened in January 2003, the Mortara Center for International Studies was founded through the generosity of the late Mr. Michael P. Mortara and his wife, Mrs. Virginia Mortara. At the time of his death in November 2000, Michael Mortara was president and chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs Ventures and a dedicated volunteer leader at Georgetown.

Mission: The Mortara Center for International Studies seeks to advance scholarship and inform policy by combining the expertise of scholars and the experience of international affairs practitioners to illuminate the fundamental forces — political, economic, and cultural — that shape international relations. To realize this mission, the Center organizes and cosponsors lectures, workshops, and conferences; provides support for research and publications; and generates communities of research.

The Mortara Building is home to the Mortara Center for International Studies, as well as the Center for Security Studies. The building features a conference room, small group meeting space and offices.
The Mortara Center’s programming supports the entire research life cycle, from preliminary brainstorming, through the presentation of rough drafts in workshops, to the unveiling of published books. These activities contribute to the development of “thought communities” between faculty and students on campus and promote interaction with scholars, practitioners and experts outside of Georgetown.

The Center also supports undergraduate and graduate student research endeavors, including the Georgetown Diplomacy and International Security Conference and the Georgetown Undergraduate Research Symposium.

MORTARA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

2013-2014 was the third year of the Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows Program (MURFs) sponsored by the Mortara Center and the SFS Dean’s Office. As part of the University’s commitment to undergraduate research, a select group of students in the School of Foreign Service have the opportunity to partner with professors as research assistants and potential coauthors on research projects throughout their undergraduate career. By empowering students as generators, not just consumers, of knowledge, we hope that MURFs emerge from the program with the in-depth skills and training to tackle a range of issues in foreign affairs. The group now includes three representatives from the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior classes.

The Sophomore and Junior MURFs presented their research and shared their experiences in the MURF program at the first annual MURF Symposium. This was an excellent opportunity to hear firsthand the impact of the program. Nearly all emphasized what makes the MURF program unique on campus: community, faculty mentorship and the opportunity to do in-depth research. Erin Sielaff and Rahul Kaul also presented their research to the SFS Board of Visitors in the spring who were highly impressed with their work.
BOOK TALKS

The Mortara Center sponsored seven book talk events in the 2013-2014 academic year. By inviting authors to discuss their work and methods of research, the Mortara Center opens discussions with the community at the end of the research cycle: publication.


Another talk that sparked lively discussion was *The Terrorist’s Dilemma: Managing Violent Covert Organizations* by Jacob Shapiro. Shapiro (Princeton) addressed his research into the organization of covert terrorist groups. He asserted that the seemingly mundane organizational factors have the power to derail the success and impact of terrorist groups as they grow larger and more bureaucratic.

In the spring, Gary Bass (Princeton) discussed his book *The Blood Telegram*. He took a fresh look at diplomatic failures by Nixon and Kissinger that led to a genocide in Bangladesh and the ongoing conflict in India and Pakistan.

The Mortara Center supports six ongoing research seminars. Directly addressing the Center’s core mission, these working groups foster intellectual exchange and scholarly research in some of the key academic disciplines of the School of Foreign Service.

The research seminars unite faculty and students in ongoing and sustained dialogue on cutting-edge research in the fields of international relations, international political economy, international development studies, comparative government, international history, and energy & climate change policy.

The Mortara Center would like to thank the Department of History, the Department of Government and the McCourt School of Public Policy for their partnerships on these seminars.

**GUITARS**

Chaired by Professor Abraham Newman, The “Georgetown University International Theory and Research Seminar” series (GUITARS) gathered approximately every other week to discuss in-progress IR research of Georgetown faculty and visiting scholars. Of the fourteen seminars held this past year, highlights included “Uncertainty, Risk, and the Financial Crisis of 2008” by Peter Katzenstein (Cornell) and Steve Nelson (Northwestern), “Making a Strong First Impression: Identifying the Effects of Concern for Reputation through Leader Time in Office” by Allan Dafoe (Yale) and “(Unintended) Electoral Effects of Foreign Aid: The Politics of Credit-Claiming in the Philippines” by Christina Schneider (UC San Diego), as well as practice job talks by PhD students.
CRITICS

The “Current Research on Issues and Topics in Comparative Scholarship” series (CRITICS) met every other week to discuss working papers in the study of comparative government. Chair Matthew Carnes hosted seven guests for the series including Mala Htun (University of New Mexico), who presented two chapters from her forthcoming book, *Politics of Inclusion: Gender Quotas and Ethnic Reservations in Latin America*, and Ahn Tranh (Indiana University) who presented his paper, “One Mandarin Benefits the Whole Clan: Hometown Favoritism in an Authoritarian Regime.”

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

The International Political Economy Workshop brings together Georgetown faculty from various disciplines to discuss political economy research over informal working lunches. Hosted by Professor Marc Busch, the group met seven times over the course of the year to discuss papers such as, “The Carrot without the Stick: BITs and International Property Rights,” by Jennifer Tobin (Georgetown) and Noel P. Johnson (Oxford).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH SERIES

The McCourt School of Public Policy joined with the Mortara Center to hold nine sessions of the International Development Seminar this past year. Professors Jennifer Tobin and James Habyarimana led discussions such as “A Global Field Experiment on Microfinance Institutions” with Dan Nielson (William and Mary/ BYU), “Can Subjective Questions on Economic Welfare be Trusted?” by Martín Ravallion (Georgetown) and “Asymetry of Information within Family Networks” by Garance Genicot (Georgetown).

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

With support from a grant received by Professor Charles Kupchan, the Center hosted a postdoctoral research fellow. The 2013–14 Mortara Research Fellow, Kyle Lascurettes, focused his research on global order and international security. He looked at when and why powerful countries address changes to the original rules and which institutions that inform order.

He has worked with Professor Kupchan on related projects looking at the idea of “order” in world politics and the normative underpinnings for changes in world power structures in the 21st century.
INTERNATIONAL HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES

The International History Seminar Series, cosponsored by the Georgetown Institute for Global History, brought scholars from across the country to present working papers and discuss their research with Georgetown faculty and students.

Convened by Professors Aviel Roshwald and John McNeill, the series featured five presentations, including, “The First Final Solution,” by Tara Zahra (University of Chicago), “A Short History of Decolonization,” by Dane Kennedy (George Washington University), and “1968 as International Year of Human Rights” by Sarah Snyder (American University).

ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY RESEARCH SEMINAR

Cosponsored by the Mortara Center and McCourt School of Public Policy, the Energy and Climate Policy Research Seminar held seven seminar meetings in its second year. This seminar series, led by STIA Professor Joanna Lewis and McCourt Professor David Konisky, aims to enhance intellectual exchange among faculty and students whose research focuses on the international and domestic dimensions of energy and climate change policy.

Some of the highlights from this past year included: “Protecting Future Generations from Carbon Pollution and Climate Change: Taking the First Big Steps under the President’s Climate Action Plan and the Clean Air Act,” by David Doniger (Policy Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council), “Nuclear Policy and Politics in the United States,” with Gregory Jaczko (Former Chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission), and “Recommendations for Effective US-China Cooperation on Clean Coal and Shale Gas Technologies,” by Sarah Forbes (Senior Associate at World Resources Institute).
The Lepgold Committee awarded the 2012 Lepgold Prize to Professor Fotini Christia (MIT) for her book *Alliance Formation in Civil Wars* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Christia’s book analyzes the factors that motivate wartime alliances during civil conflicts. Religious leanings, race, and ideological differences are often seen as uniting factions within civil conflict, but Christia argues that power considerations are the primary mechanism behind alliance formations. As the power balance between warring groups evolves during a conflict, the changes in power distribution can lead to the reconfiguration of coalitions, and the volatility of these relationships is often linked to the degree of balance established between groups.

Christia described her research methods, which drew on interviews, primary sources, and data that conveyed shifts in relative power within Afghanistan. She tested her theory against different types of multiparty civil wars by looking into the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina before more broadly analyzing other civil conflicts by statistical means to determine the general applicability of her theory.

In awarding her the book prize, the Lepgold Prize Committee noted, “This is a terrific piece of scholarship with both a sophisticated theoretical argument and exemplary empirics. Christia presents a model for how to do multi-method work, combining intensive qualitative research on Afghanistan and Bosnia with careful quantitative analysis.”

In 2013–2014, Mortara Distinguished Professor and former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright taught America’s National Security Toolbox to both graduate and undergraduates. Students participated in dynamic role-play exercises that culminated in day long simulations at the Mortara Center.

During this annual tradition, students portrayed representatives from different countries to argue and debate a current issue in world affairs. This year’s theme focused on the ongoing crisis in Syria and how the international community should respond. With direct interaction with Secretary Albright, students gained an understanding of the process of real world decision making and the metrics used at high levels of government.
In 2013-2014, the Mortara Center continued its tradition of offering annual speeches by distinguished scholars, authors, dignitaries, and practitioners in the field of international studies.

**ILLUMINATI DINNER SERIES**

The Illuminati Dinner Series provides an opportunity for students to spend an intimate evening conversing over dinner at Mortara with distinguished, high profile visiting professors at Georgetown.

On November 4th, 2013, Mortara Director Kathleen McNamara hosted former FBI Director and Georgetown Executive in Residence, Robert Mueller, for a dinner with both graduate and undergraduate students from the School of Foreign Service. He discussed some of the challenges that he faced while serving as FBI Director and particularly how the FBI has changed in the time period after the September 11th attacks. He also talked openly about other phases of his career development and how they led him to where he is today. His candor in response to students’ questions made this an exceptional event.

**COSPONSORSHIPS**

The Mortara Center also cosponsored a number of high-caliber events across campus. Through cosponsorship, we are able to collaborate with other departments on campus to combine resources and audiences to deepen discussions and broaden event scope.

In early-September, with MSFS the Center brought Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Dean Pittman, to address US priorities at the UN General Assembly. In November Robert Barnidge, (Centre for International Legal Studies at Jindal Global University) spoke at another event cosponsored with MSFS on the role and future of drones and recent attacks in Pakistan.

With the Security Studies Program, the Mortara Center sponsored a talk with Eugene Gholz on threats to oil flows through the straight of Hormuz. Other events included Senator Russ Feingold with African Studies, a UNICEF conference, a conference with the History Department, and a book talk with the Asian Studies and STIA departments on scarcity and the population growth of China.
Emerging Issues of the 21st Century Series

In the 2013-2014 academic year, the Mortara Center hosted three year-long thematic lecture series. These series are designed to bring focus to a specific topic of international relations connecting academics with topics outside of the usual academic sphere.

CULTURE AND POLITICS

This popular series focused on ways culture reflects and shapes political life. Professor Shiloh Krupar began the 2013-2014 series with her book talk on “Hot Spotter’s Report: Military Fables of Toxic Waste.” In January, at a screening of Eva Orner’s documentary, “The Network,” Orner (Oscar winning producer), Saad Mohseni (head of Afghanistan’s MOBY Media Group), and Amb. Cynthia Schneider (Georgetown) discussed the documentary and the effect media has had on Afghan politics and society. The third event showcased hip-hop artists, The Narcycist (Iraq) and Poetic Pilgrimage (U.K.), at “One Mic: Revolution, Diplomacy, and the Global Sound of Hip-hop.”

IN THE NEWS

This timely series highlighted current events and issues in international affairs. In September, Professors Charles King, Kathleen McNamara, James Vreeland, Diana Kapiszewski discussed the summer’s protests in Egypt, Turkey, and Brazil, emphasizing how each country’s response indicated their unique brand of democracy. In March, King and McNamara joined Professor Angela Stent, for a conversation on the Russian takeover of Crimea in early 2014.

Ambassador Cynthia Schneider hosted an event with Poetic Pilgrimage and The Narcycist as part of the Kennedy Center’s One Mic: Hip-hop Diplomacy event and the Mortara Center’s Culture and Politics series.

Professor Charles King answers questions on the history of regional conflict between Ukraine and Russia at In the News: Ukraine. Professor Angela Stent served as a panelist and discussed current policy implications for the Balkans. Professor Kate McNamara moderated and responded to the effect of the crisis on Europe.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Cosponsored by the Master of Science in Foreign Service Program, the Global Governance Speaker Series addressed cross-national issues that challenge governments and multilateral institutions. The series’ solo event of the year, “ICANN and Global Internet Governance: Challenges and Opportunities in 2014,” addressed the future of global internet governance and its implications for contemporary society, from economic development to free speech.

The panel featured Professor Michael Nelson, principal technology strategist at Microsoft; James Lewis, Director and Senior Fellow of the Strategic Technologies Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; and Christopher Mondini (SFS ’88), Vice President for Global Stakeholder Engagement in North America at ICANN.

OTHER SFS EVENTS

The Mortara Center conference room serves as one of the main event spaces for the School of Foreign Service and other groups on campus. Every week throughout the academic year, the room is used to bring together faculty, policy makers, and students.

The Center values the opportunity to support other departments. The Security Studies Program hosts weekly talks on topics of international peace and security. The SFS Board of Visitors holds their semi-annual meetings in the conference room. Others have included ambassadors, policy leaders, authors, and journalists, all of whom bring expertise to campus and broaden student experiences.
Events in Summary

Distinguished Lecturer Events
- November 4, 2013—Illuminati Dinner, Robert Mueller, Former FBI Director
- November 11, 2013—Lepgold Lecture 2012: Alliance Formations in Civil Wars, Fontini Christia
- February 27, 2014—Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows Symposium

In the News
- September 4, 2013—Democracy Under Fire? Egypt, Turkey, and Brazil, Charles King, Kathleen McNamara, James Vreeland, Diana Kapiszewski
- March 25, 2014—Ukraine, Charles King, Kathleen McNamara, and Angela Stent

Culture and Politics Series
- January 13, 2014—Film Screening of “The Network”, Eva Orner and Saad Mohseni

Global Governance Series
- April 17, 2014—ICANN and Global Internet Governance, Michael Nelson, James Lewis, and Christopher Mondini

Book Talks & Other Events
- September 12, 2013—The Way of the Knife, Mark Mazzetti
- October 2, 2013—Making Citizens in Africa, Labra Smith
- October 10, 2013—The Terrorist’s Dilemma, Jacob Shapiro
- November 21, 2013—Hot Spotter’s Report, Shiloh Krupar
- February 6, 2014—Blood Telegram, Gary Bass
- February 20, 2014—Petro-Agresssion, Jeff Colgan
- April 28, 2014—A Time to Attack, Matthew Kroenig
- April 17, 2014—Orders of Exclusion: Power Politics and International Organization in the American Century, Kyle Lascuriettes

Research Seminars
- Almost fifty events spanning the six key international studies research areas of the School of Foreign Service
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Mortara Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy

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