



NEWS RELEASE
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March 6: Assessing America's Global Standing

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., Feb. 25, 2009— The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia is proud to host “**U.S. Standing in the World: Causes, Consequences, and Obama,**” the second Ambassador William C. Battle Symposium on American Diplomacy, on **Friday, March 6, from 10:30 a.m. to noon**. The panel will be presented by the Miller Center's Governing America in a Global Era (GAGE) program.

America's global standing has become a central concern of U.S. leaders and citizens. President Obama has pledged to "restore U.S. standing" as a central goal of his foreign policy agenda. Yet fundamental issues have been relatively ignored: What is “standing,” and how can we measure it? What causes standing to rise and fall? What impact do variations in standing have on U.S. foreign policy? This session will discuss the interim findings of the American Political Science Association's “Task Force on U.S. Standing in World Affairs,” an initiative of APSA President Peter J. Katzenstein of Cornell University, which brings together experts on international relations, foreign countries, and U.S. politics to illuminate a topic of clear national and international importance.

In this discussion, **Martha Finnemore**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University, will join **Jack Snyder**, the Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Relations in the Political Science Department and the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University, and **Peter Trubowitz**, Associate Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin and Senior Fellow at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law. **Moisés Naím**, Editor-in-chief of *Foreign Policy* magazine, and **Melvyn Leffler**, GAGE Faculty Associate and Edward Stettinius Professor of American History at U.Va., will comment. **Jeffrey Legro**, GAGE Faculty Associate, Compton Professor of World Politics and Chair of U.Va.'s Politics Department, and Chair of the APSA Task Force, will moderate.

In recognition of the important and distinguished service rendered to the nation by Ambassador Battle and in gratitude for the significant philanthropic support of both Ambassador and Mrs. Barry Webb Battle, the Miller Center and the University of Virginia are pleased and honored to associate the name of Ambassador Battle with this annual series.

“The Miller Center would not be able to bring together this group of distinguished scholars without the support of the late Ambassador Bill Battle, who passed away earlier this year, and his wife Barry,” said Gov. Gerald L. Baliles, Director of the Miller Center. “We believe that the thoughtful conversations on U.S. foreign policy engaged in by the symposium’s participants will serve as a fitting legacy for Ambassador Battle’s own distinguished service as an emissary for the United States.”

William “Bill” Battle was a native of Charlottesville, Va., and a graduate of U.Va. Law School. His service in the Pacific Theater during World War II earned him the Silver Star, and he later joined the law firm of McGuire, Woods and Battle, becoming a partner in 1950. He became Ambassador Battle when President Kennedy appointed him Ambassador to Australia, serving from 1962 to 1964. He ran William B. Spong’s successful U.S. Senate bid in 1966, and mounted a campaign for Virginia’s Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1969. From 1972 to 1983, he was President and CEO of Fieldcrest Mills, Inc., as well as President of the American Textile Manufacturers Association. Ambassador Battle served as Chairman of the W. Alton Jones Cell Science Center and of the reconstituted Ivy Foundation. He served on several corporate boards, was a member of the State Council of Higher Education and U.Va. Board of Visitors, and was President of the U.S. Golf Association.

“U.S. Standing in the World: Causes, Consequences, and Obama” will take place at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. The panel is free and open to the public. More information is available online at www.millercenter.org, where the panel will be webcast live and archived.

The Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution aimed at bringing together engaged citizens, scholars, members of the media, and government officials to focus on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with a special interest in the American presidency.

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