

NEWS RELEASE
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Contacts:

Lisa Porter, Asst. Dir., Communications
434.243.4096; lporter@virginia.edu

Kim Curtis, Communications Asst.
434.243.2985; kcurtis@virginia.edu

Priorities for a New President: The Miller Center National Debates, Season 2

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. — The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, in partnership with MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, proudly announces “Priorities for a New President,” the second season of The Miller Center National Debates. The debates, which will take place throughout Spring 2009, will focus on infrastructure policy, American foreign policy, affirmative action, and energy.

Modeled on Oxford-style debates, the Miller Center National Debates look at issues surrounding America’s role in the world, its responsibility to its citizens, and the way its policies fulfill its founding principles. *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* airs highlights from each debate. They are webcast live, and video, audio, transcripts, research, and middle- and high-school lesson plans on each issue will be online at www.millercenter.org/debates.

The 2009 Season:

- **Infrastructure** – How should the federal government balance a comprehensive infrastructure policy with energy, environmental and economic priorities?
MODERATOR: **Robert MacNeil**, Founder and former Co-anchor, *MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*
PANELISTS INCLUDE: **Gov. Edward G. Rendell**; **Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger**; **JayEtta Hecker**, Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and former GAO Director of Physical Infrastructure; **Douglas Foy**, former Secretary of Commonwealth Development, Massachusetts. The debate will take place as part of the 2009 National Governors Association Winter Meeting, before an audience of the nation’s governors. This is another in PBS’s *Blueprint America* programs: www.pbs.org/wnet/blueprintamerica/.
- **Curbing Iran’s Nuclear Ambitions** – How should the U.S. prevent a nuclear Iran?
MODERATOR: **Margaret Warner**, Senior Correspondent, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*

PARTICIPANTS: **Elliott Abrams**, former Deputy National Security Advisor for Global Democracy Strategy and Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; **Joshua Muravchik**, Visiting Scholar at John Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies; **Martin Indyk**, Director, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution, and former Ambassador to Israel; **Karim Sadjadpour**, Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

- **The Future of Affirmative Action** – Should affirmative action policies focus on class and wealth, rather than race?

MODERATOR: **Ray Suarez**, Senior Correspondent, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*

PARTICIPANTS: **Dalton Conley**, Chair, Sociology Department, New York University; **John McWhorter**, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute; **Julian Bond**, Chairman, NAACP; **Lee Bollinger**, President, Columbia University

- **America's Energy Future** – Must the U.S. end its dependency on carbon-based fuels?

MODERATOR: **Jim Angle**, Chief Washington Correspondent, Fox News Channel

PARTICIPANTS: **John Podesta**, President, Center for American Progress, former White House Chief of Staff; **James Woolsey**, former Director of Central Intelligence; **Christie Todd Whitman**, Co-chair, CASEnergy Coalition, former EPA administrator, former Governor, New Jersey; **Karen Alderman Harbert**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The debaters, two on each side, are drawn from the ranks of practitioners, public intellectuals, business and religious leaders, and academics. While the issues are vitally important to voters and key to the national dialogue, the debates remain focused on policy, not partisan politics. The five debates of the 2007–2008 season focused on U.S. troops in Iraq, privacy in post-9/11 America, religion in public life, health care, and immigration. Debaters included Frederick W. Kagan, Jessica Tuchman Mathews, Douglas W. Kmiec, Marc Rotenberg, Rev. Barry Lynn, Chuck Colson, Dick Armey, Regina Herzlinger, Tamar Jacoby, and Mark Krikorian.

The Miller Center's web site, www.millercenter.org/debates, is the series' home for research and supporting materials. The Center calls upon its own scholars and others at the University of Virginia and other institutions to provide comprehensive background and information for the debaters, the moderator, and the public—including a "white paper," primary source documents, links to journal articles, news clips, and other video and audio. The Center has created pages on YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, Google, and Yahoo as well – to encourage further participation

by students and interested citizens nationwide to talk about the issues covered in the series.