

Hanover College Celebrates Constitution Day

In celebration of Constitution Day, the Center for Free Inquiry will host a panel discussion on Thursday September 21 at 3:00 in Classic 102 to discuss the Constitution post-9/11.

The panel will be using as a starting point John Lewis Gaddis' book: SURPRISE, SECURITY, AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. "September 11, 2001," the distinguished Cold War historian John Lewis argues, "was not the first time a surprise attack shattered assumptions about national security and re-shaped American grand strategy. We've been there before, and have responded each time by dramatically expanding our security responsibilities." "The pattern began in 1814, when the British attacked Washington, burning the White House and the Capitol. This early violation of homeland security gave rise to a strategy of unilateralism and preemption, best articulated by John Quincy Adams, aimed at maintaining strength beyond challenge throughout the North American continent. It remained in place for over a century. Only when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941 did the inadequacies of this strategy become evident. As a consequence, Franklin D. Roosevelt devised a new grand strategy of cooperation with allies on an intercontinental scale to defeat authoritarianism. That strategy defined the American approach throughout World War II and the Cold War." The terrorist attacks of 9/11, Gaddis writes, made it clear that this strategy is now insufficient to ensure American security. The Bush administration has therefore devised a new grand strategy whose foundations lie in the nineteenth-century tradition of unilateralism, preemption, and hegemony, projected this time on a global scale. How successful it will be in the face of twenty-first-century challenges is the question that confronts us. This book, informed by the experiences of the past but focused on the present and the future, is one of the first attempts by a major scholar of international relations to provide an answer. A copy of this book will be on reserve in the library.

Panelists will include Hanover College professors G.M Curtis and Daniel P. Murphy '81 and Hanover alumnus, Professor Chris Bryant '91 from the University of Cincinnati Law School.

Chris Bryant '91 is a prolific scholar and a popular teacher. Prior to joining the faculty here, he spent three years on the faculty of the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he was voted Law Professor of the year in 2001-02. After earning his JD from the University of Chicago Law School, Professor Bryant clerked for James L. Buckley of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He was a litigation associate at Shea & Gardner in Washington, D.C. and Assistant Senate Legal Counsel in the U.S. Senate Office of Legal Counsel.

Professor of history at Hanover College, Curtis is the recipient of the Arthur and Ilene Baynham Award for Outstanding Teaching 1986, 1990, 1994. G.M. Curtis came to Hanover in 1980, after teaching at Montana State University and the College of William and Mary and working as a Research Associate at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Papers of John Marshall. His courses include American Constitutional and Legal History, The American Bill of Rights, and The Prophetic Voice in the American Religious Past. Curtis recently published an article review on the biographical study of Thomas Jefferson, "Sphinx Without a Riddle: Joseph Ellis and the Art of Biography," in *The Indiana Magazine of History*. His edition of Nicholas Creswell's Journal appeared in *The Indiana Magazine of History*.

Daniel P. Murphy '81 joined the Hanover College faculty in the fall of 1988 after earning his Ph.D. from Northwestern University. No stranger to Hanover College, Dan earned a BA here in 1981. In 1996 Dr. Nichols, President of Hanover College, enlisted Dan to be the Founding Director of the Center for Free Inquiry, a position he held until 1999 when he became an Associate Director in order to return to full-time teaching at the College. He recently resumed duties as CFI Director. Murphy teaches many courses on American history and culture, and is currently exploring the cultural underpinnings of the debate over American intervention in the Second World War. He continues work on a book about Theodore Roosevelt. Subsidiary products include interest in the symbolic resonance of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the 1920s and 1930s, and the Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimages to Europe of 1930- 1933.

This discussion is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marsha Ahrens, Administrative Director of the Center for Free Inquiry at Hanover College at cfi@hanover.edu or 812 866 6848. Details can be found on the web site at <http://cfi.hanover.edu>.

Founded in 1997, The Center for Free Inquiry® is an interdisciplinary institute of Hanover College; it is dedicated to exploring fundamental and enduring issues of human social and spiritual life through the lens of the liberal arts. CFI addresses itself to a broad public and seeks to advance knowledge and shape public debate through lectures, symposia, and publications. For more information about CFI and its programs, call 812-866-6848 or email cfi@hanover.edu. Visit CFI on the web at cfi.hanover.edu.