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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONFERENCE FEATURES PRESENTATIONS ON POLITICS AND THE MEDIA

CHARLESTON, IL.--Roger Simon, columnist with The Baltimore Sun, will deliver the keynote address, "The Press and the President," at the 12th annual Illinois Political Studies Conference at Eastern Illinois University April 6-8.

Simon's presentation is at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, in the University Union Grand Ballroom. Simon has been invited to Eastern by the University Board as part of the annual Journalism Day events.

Prior to his speech, a press conference will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Schaher Room of the Union.

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Simon's column, syndicated since 1981 by The Los Angeles Times Syndicate, appears in newspapers nationwide. A staff columnist for The Baltimore Sun since 1984, Simon gained renown as an investigative reporter and columnist during his 12 years with The Chicago Sun Times.

He has contributed articles to national magazines and has authored "Simon Says: The Best of Roger Simon," a collection of 95 of his favorite columns during the past 10 years.

"Politics and the Media" is the theme of the conference, sponsored by the EIU political science and journalism departments, featuring more than 20 topics of discussion. All events are scheduled in the Union and are open to the public.

"The United States is celebrating the 200th year of the Constitution and the First Amendment is the cornerstone of American freedoms, and we wanted to address that in this conference," said Dr. Thomas Scism, EIU political science professor and conference co-director. Dr. James Tidwell from the EIU journalism department is also coordinating the event.

The program events cover five areas, including "Professional Moral and Ethical Values of Media Institutions," "The Relation Between the Media and Government Outside the United States," "The Impact of the Media," "The Relations Between Government and Media," and "The Relations Between the Media and the Political Public."

At noon Wednesday in the Rathskellar, a person representing the Israeli government will speak on the relation between the media and the government of Israel. Also on Wednesday, Petar Soljak, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of SFR Yugoslavia, will discuss the role of the media in Yugoslavia at 2 p.m. in the Charleston-Mattoon Room.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

On Friday, April 8, Khalil Jahshan, Chair of the Council of Presidents of National Arab-American Organizations and Assistant Director, Palestinian Research and Educational Center, Washington, D.C., will point out that Israeli censors the Palestinian press, "only," the Israelis say, "to keep out articles that might incite a riot." Jahshan contends that the Palestinian press is entitled to as much freedom to report news as is the Israeli press. His speech is at 9 a.m. in the Charleston-Mattoon Room.

Also on Friday, Dr. Floyd Merritt, EIU speech communication professor, will present "Religion, Morality and Media News: Is the Media the New Inquisition?" at 11 a.m. in the Effingham Room. He will be joined by David Shaul, news director at WCIA TV, Champaign; Pastor Ray Notgrass of the South Philo Road Church of Christ, Urbana; and Tom Blount, an editor at The Decatur Herald and Review.

For further information about the conference, contact Scism at 581-6219 or the EIU Political Science Department at 581-2523.