



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

For release: Oct. 28, 2009

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Nov. 12 Shirk lecture to be simulcast statewide

The 2009-10 E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues continues with a Nov. 12 lecture entitled “China: Fragile Superpower,” which originates from the Lied Center for Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and will be simulcast in Columbus, Kearney, North Platte, Omaha, Scottsbluff and Wayne.

The 2009-10 Thompson Forum on “Encountering China” presents speakers from a variety of backgrounds to explore China from diverse perspectives. On Nov. 12 Susan Shirk will expound on the thesis of her 2007 book of the same title, exploring the paradox faced by China’s leaders—the more developed and prosperous the country becomes, the more insecure and threatened they feel.

Shirk served as U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Mongolia from 1997 to 2000, knows many of today’s Chinese rulers personally and has studied them for three decades. A leading authority on China, she is the Ho Miu Lam endowed chair in China and Pacific relations in the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California San Diego, and director of the University of California’s Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, whose mission is to educate the next generation of international problem-solvers and peace-makers through research and teaching activities.

Shirk’s lecture will be simulcast and followed by community conversation at the following locations:

- Columbus, Central Community College, West Education Center, Room 205. For details contact Karen Mroczek at (402) 562-1249.
- Kearney, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Communications Center Building, Room 101. For details contact John Anderson (308) 865-8171.
- North Platte, North Platte Community College, North Campus, 1101 Halligan Drive. For details contact Tom Gorman at (308) 535-3714.
- Omaha, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Milo Bail Student Center, Chancellor’s Room. For details contact Wei Rowe at (402) 554-2812.
- Scottsbluff, Western Nebraska Community College, Harms Advanced Technology Center, Room A111. For details contact Carla Stein at (308) 635-6050.
- Wayne, Wayne State College, Library, Room 201. For details contact David Graber at (402) 375-7272.

The lecture begins at 7 p.m. (6 p.m. MST in Scottsbluff) and is free and open to the public.

The series is named in honor of E.N. “Jack” Thompson, president of the Cooper Foundation from 1964 to 1990 and chairman from 1990 until his death in 2002. He established the series to promote understanding of world events and issues for all Nebraskans. The series resumes on Jan. 26.

The simulcasts, sponsored by the Cooper Foundation, Nebraska Humanities Council and the local college or university, allow more Nebraskans to have the opportunity to benefit from outstanding speakers and community discussion. Details about the E.N. Thompson Forum are available at <http://enthompson.unl.edu>.