



**The Seventh Annual
Triangle Institute for Security Studies**

**UNDERGRADUATES
IN SECURITY STUDIES
HONOR THESIS
PRESENTATIONS**

*Cosponsored by Duke's Program in
American Grand Strategy*

Marriott Residence Inn
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
April 26th, 2011
5:45 – 9:15 pm

Program

- 5:45 PM** *Buffet Opens: Please Be Seated by 6:00 PM*
- 6:10 PM** **Welcome**
- 6:15 PM** **Jack Zhang** (Duke, Political Science)

Chinese Soft Power
- 6:40 PM** **Christopher Jones** (UNC-Chapel Hill, Peace, War, & Defense, & History)

Confederate Intelligence Gathering
- 7:05 PM* *Refill*
- 7:10 PM** **Catherine Serex** [Elon, Political Science]

Political Elites and the Security Dilemma
- 7:35 PM** **Robert Schaaf** [Wake Forest University, History & Political Science]

World War II Grand Strategy Debate
- 7:55 PM* *Dessert Run*
- 8:05 PM** **Yaniv Barzilai** (UNC-Chapel Hill, Peace, War, and Defense)

Operation Enduring Freedom and Strategic Indecision
- 8:30 PM** **Megan Poole** (UNC-Chapel Hill, Peace, War, and Defense, and History)

North Carolina Homefront in World War II
- 8:55 PM** **Jennifer Rowland** [Duke, Political Science]

Allegiance to the al- Qaeda Network
- 9:20 PM** **Farewell**

Yaniv Barzilai is a senior Peace, War, and Defense major at UNC Chapel Hill and a Thomas R. Pickering Undergraduate Foreign Affairs Fellow with the State Department. He has traveled to Kenya, Thailand, Cambodia, Israel, and Egypt during his time at UNC. He is currently the co-chair of the Great Decisions Lecture Series, a 350-person student-led class on foreign policy. His thesis, advised by Wayne Lee, looks at "Strategic Indecision and the Tip of the Spear in Operation Enduring Freedom, September 11 - December 22, 2001."

Christopher Jones will graduate in May 2011 from UNC-Chapel Hill with a double major in Peace, War & Defense and Ancient & Medieval History. In the spring of 2011, he taught a seminar at UNC titled "History of Nuclear Weapons. His thesis, directed by William Barney, examines "Confederate Intelligence Gathering, Unconventional Warfare and Guerrilla Entrepreneurship in eastern North Carolina." Chris hopes eventually to go to graduate school to study ancient history.

Megan Poole will graduate in May 2011 from the UNC-Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts in Peace, War, and Defense and Political Science. She will earn her degree with highest honors. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha. Her honors thesis examines "An American Homefront: Alleghany County, North Carolina 1941-1953." Next year, she will give a year of service with Americorps in Miami, FL. Following this she will return to UNC to the Trans-Atlantic Masters Program, to pursue an MA in Political Science from UNC-Chapel Hill and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona.

Jennifer Rowland is a senior at Duke University who will graduate with a major in political science (international relations) and a minor in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Arabic). In an independent study project (2009) she conducted research into tribalism and democracy in Jordan (Amman, Jordan). Her current research, advised by Bahar Leventoglu, asks under what conditions and with what consequences do autonomous jihadist groups pledge allegiance to Osama bin Laden and join the al-Qaeda network.

Robert Schaaf is a senior at Wake Forest University with a minor in Political Science, where he focused on international relations, Russia and East Europe, intelligence and terrorism, and a major in history. His chief passion is for modern military history. The purpose of this senior thesis, advised by Michael Hughes, is to examine the Grand Alliance and the evolution of Grand Strategy both before and during the Second World War. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta and the History honor society.

Catherine T. Serex is an Elon University senior double majoring in Political Science and International Studies and seeking a minor in History. She is a member of Elon's Periclean Scholars Class of 2011 and a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha political science fraternity. She has presented previous research at Elon University Student Undergraduate Research Forum. Her current research, monitored by Jason Kirk, focuses on how states and societies, through the leadership of political elites, attempt to overcome the security dilemma in both intra- and inter-state conflicts.

Jiakun Jack Zhang is a senior at Duke University from Pittsburgh, PA. He will graduate with a political science major, a history minor, and a certificate in East Asian Studies. He is an alumnus of the Forum for American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford (FACES), the Duke American Grand Strategy Program (AGS) and was named a Presidential Fellow by the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) in 2010. His honors thesis, advised by Michael Ward, is titled "Seeking the Beijing Consensus in Asia: An Empirical Test of Soft Power." He hopes to pursue a Ph.D. degree in political science at a program strong in both International Relations and Comparative Politics.

