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CNN National Security Analyst to Present Premier Voyages Lecture at ECU

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Sept. 15, 2015) — CNN National Security Analyst Peter Bergen will present “Making Sense in a World of Trouble” on Sept. 29 at 7:30 pm in Wright Auditorium at East Carolina University. Bergen is the Premier Lecturer of the 2015-16 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. The lecture is free and open to the public.

One of the few Westerners to interview Osama bin Laden face-to-face, Bergen is a print and television journalist, documentary producer and the author of four books that have been translated into 20 languages. He is the director of the national security studies program at the New America Foundation in Washington, D.C., and a fellow at Fordham University's Center on National Security. He has held teaching positions at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Bergen has reported on al-Qaeda, Afghanistan, Pakistan, counterterrorism, homeland security and countries around the Middle East for a range of American newspapers and magazines. He is a contributing editor at The New Republic and writes a weekly column for CNN.com. He has also written for newspapers and magazines around the world, and he has worked as a correspondent or producer for multiple documentaries that have aired on National Geographic, Discovery and CNN.

Bergen co-produced the CNN documentary Terror Nation, which traced the links between Afghanistan and the bombers who attacked the World Trade Center. The documentary, which was shot in Afghanistan during their civil war and aired in 1994, concluded that the country would be the source of additional anti-Western terrorism. In 1994, he won the Overseas Press Club Edward R. Murrow award for best foreign affairs documentary for the CNN program Kingdom of Cocaine, which was also nominated for an Emmy. In 1997, Bergen produced bin Laden's first television interview in which he declared war against the United States for the first time to a Western audience.

His most recent book, a New York Times bestseller, “Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for bin Laden, from 9/11 to Abbottabad,” is being translated into nine languages and was produced as a documentary for HBO. The film, for which Bergen is the executive producer, was in the Sundance Film 2013 competition and won the Emmy award for Best Documentary.

Bergen is on the editorial board of Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, a leading scholarly journal in the field, and has testified before multiple congressional committees about Afghanistan, Pakistan and terrorism issues. He is a member of the Homeland Security Project, a successor to the 9/11 Commission, and also of the Aspen Homeland Security Group. He is the editor of the AfPak Channel, a joint publication of Foreign Policy magazine and the New America Foundation.
Bergen was born in Minneapolis in 1962 and was raised in London. He received his M.A. in modern history from New College, Oxford University, and is married to the documentary director/producer Tresha Mabile.

Co-sponsors of Bergen’s lecture include ECU’s Division of Academic Affairs, Division of Health Sciences, Honors College, Division of Research and Graduate Studies and Division of Student Affairs. A question and answer session will immediately follow the presentation, and Bergen will sign copies of two of his books, “The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict between America and Al-Qaeda,” and “Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for bin Laden from 9/11 to Abbottabad,” which will be available for purchase in the lobby of Wright Auditorium.

The Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series is made possible through contributions from Harriot College’s Dean’s Advancement Council, various university organizations, and many friends and supporters. To make a contribution to the series, contact Major Gifts Officer Jennifer Tripp at 252-737-4201, or via email at trippj@ecu.edu.

For additional information about the Voyages series and its speakers, visit www.ecu.edu/voyages. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

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