



UCF Global Perspectives and International Initiatives

Maintaining Global Dialogue



View from Kabul: Afghan People Weren't Ready for U.S. Departure

By Owen Kirby

Owen Kirby writes in the Orlando Sentinel on his recent visit to Kabul. During his 14-hour journey home, he reflects on the Afghanistan he just left 10 days before the collapse of the government on August 15.

Owen Kirby is a non-resident fellow at UCF's Global Perspectives and International Initiatives (GPII). He is a former director of USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) and in 2009 he served as senior governance adviser for the U.S. Department of State in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

[Read the full article](#)

Upcoming Events



Afghanistan: What's Next?

September 15, 2021 from 10:00AM – 11:30AM EST

This discussion will highlight the latest development in Afghanistan: what the Taliban's return will mean for the country's citizens and the implications and lessons for the U.S. as we pass the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. UCF GPII is pleased to host **Dr. Omar Sharifi** of the American University of Afghanistan and **Ambassador Rick Barton** of Princeton University. Join us for this in-depth discussion and analysis moderated by **Owen Kirby**, Former Director of USAID Office of Transition Initiatives and GPII Non-Resident Fellow.

[More Info](#) | **All are welcome** | [Register here](#)



Diplomatic Fellowships -

UCF Information Session

September 8, 2021 from 3:00PM - 4:00PM

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend this information session to learn more about fellowships for the U.S. Department of State and U. S. Agency for International Development.

The fellowship programs will offer 105 fellowships worth over \$100,000 per person for students to pursue graduate school and careers as Foreign Service Officers, representing the U.S. government and people overseas. This event is brought to you in collaboration with the Office of Diplomatic Fellowships at Howard University.

[More Info](#) | **All are welcome** | [Register here](#)



Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15, 2021 through October 15, 2021

Together with the Puerto Rico Research Hub we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and you are invited to join us. During this month, we pay tribute and honor the culture and heritage of all the Hispanic and Latino Americans. Browse our events and much more, there is plenty for you to partake in.

Estamos Aquí (Virtual)

September 16, 2021 from 11:00AM to 12:30PM

Discussion on the Hispanic population in the Central Florida region, 2020 Census results, significance of the HSI designation for UCF, current programs supporting Latino students, the importance of investing in Latino student success, and vision for the future.

[Register here](#)

PR Day Parade & Festival (Downtown Orlando)

September 18, 2021 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM

UCF Puerto Rican Student Association and Puerto Rico Research Hub walk the Puerto Rican Day Parade and Festival.

[Register here](#)

Four Years After Hurricane Maria: How Climate Change Impacts Latinos (Virtual)

September 22, 2021 from 11:00AM to 12:30PM

Discussion on climate change, climate migration trends, and what various Latino led groups are doing in this space.

[Register here](#)

Latinx Film Festival (VAB 132 - Visual Arts Building Auditorium)

September 23, 2021 from 6:00PM to 8:30PM

Los Extra Terrestres by Carla Cavina. In Spanish/English subtitles.

View the trailer, [here](#).

[Register here](#)

Latinos in the Media/Arts (Virtual)

September 27, 2021 from 12:00PM to 1:00PM

Discussion highlighting accomplishments of Latinos and the importance of these

sectors, etc.

[Register here](#)

Two Puerto Rican scholars discuss their recently published books (Virtual)

Oct 1, 2021 from 1:00PM to 2:30PM

In partnership with Alianza Center.

[Register here](#)

Federal Issues and Legal Disputes Impacting Puerto Rico (Virtual)

Oct 5, 2021 from 11:00AM to 1:30PM

Discussion on past and current litigation regarding social benefits programs for Puerto Rico including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. Panelists will discuss how legal decisions and federal issues affect access to these programs and other rights for the people of Puerto Rico.

[Register here](#)

Diverse Student Voices (Virtual)

Oct 12, 2021 from 3:00PM to 4:30PM

Personal reflections around diversity, identity, immigration and migration experience.

[Register here](#)

Mujeres de la Diaspora Puertorriqueña (Virtual)

Oct 14, 2021 from 12:00PM to 1:30PM

Authors across generations share how their identities have inspired their work.

[Register here](#)

To view all Hispanic Heritage Month events and register, please click [here](#).

TV Show



Global Perspectives Hosts Professor Jean Eddy Saint Paul

Jean Eddy Saint Paul, Founder of the Haitian Studies Institute at Brooklyn College, discusses the recent assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and calls for international solidarity amid recent political turmoil.

[Start Watching](#)



Global Perspectives Hosts Former Ambassador Gordon Gray

In this episode, former U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia, Gordon Gray, discusses the current Tunisian power struggle amid the President's seizure of government over the Prime Minister and Parliament. He also discusses emerging democracy, women's rights, and the Tunisian education system as it relates to the modern day workforce.

[Start Watching](#)

GPII Podcasts

Listen to GPII's latest podcasts to get insights and news from around the globe. Check out these titles and much more:



Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas

In this episode, she reconnects with Richard Haddock, the Ambassador's former research assistant who is the current Program Associate for George Washington University's East Asia National Resource Center and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. from George Washington University.

The two discuss how his experience at UCF shaped his current career, the role oral history plays in everyone's lives, and the power of music and pop culture to bridge cultural divides.

[Start Listening](#)

Important News



The KEROUAC Project of Orlando Visits GPII

The president of the KEROUAC Project of Orlando, Janna Benge, and Vice President, Mona El Alaoui, visited GPII August 28, 2021. They met with Mirvate El Jerdi, Senior GPII Coordinator, and Dr. Rochelle Hurt, UCF Assistant Professor with the English Department, to discuss mutual collaboration. "The KEROUAC Project supports writers through residency and other programs that seek to enrich the greater Orlando community."

[Read more](#)



Webinar: A Modern History of the Kurds

Dr. Hakan Ozoglu, Director of the Middle Eastern Studies, will moderate a stimulating discussion around the new edition of David McDowall's A Modern History of the Kurds. "David McDowall, the author, will make introductory remarks while David Romano, Thomas G. Strong Professor of Middle East Politics at Missouri State University, will provide his reflections on the book and the evolution of Kurdish studies."

[Read more](#)



The Corruption of Progress: What Caused the Riots in South Africa?

Desiree Winns, GPII's intern for the Diplomacy, Peace, and Securities Studies Program writes on Haiti's controversial president Jovenel Moise. She explores how his assassination has ignited a spark fire of political unrest in the Caribbean over the past month.

[Read more](#)



UCF Global

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AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

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