

Lecture to Examine AIDS and Terrorism in Africa

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The University of Scranton's International Center and WYOU TV-22 News will sponsor a lecture by Leon Fuerth, the former national security advisor to Vice President Al Gore, on Thursday, February 27. He will discuss AIDS and terrorism in Africa and other emerging threats to American foreign policy.

Offered to the public free of charge, the lecture, entitled "Is HIV/AIDS in Africa an American National Security Issue? A Discussion of America's National Security Interests in the Developing World," will be delivered in the second floor auditorium of the University's Brennan Hall, Madison Avenue, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The AIDS epidemic in Africa took center stage in U.S. politics this year when President Bush announced in his State of the Union address his plan to triple U.S. spending globally to combat the spread of AIDS.

Later that evening, the International Center will sponsor a Global FoodFest for university students and invited guests featuring African cuisine. The Global FoodFest will begin at 5 p.m. in the Pocono Northeast room of the Gunster Student Center. Menu items will include peanut soup, dora wat (chicken stew with ground nuts), yataklete kil kil (vegetable with garlic and ginger) and banana and coconut pudding.

The International Center will also sponsor a performance by the Kulu Mele African American Dance Ensemble. Offered free of charge and open to the public, the performance will begin at 7 p.m. in the Eagen Auditorium of the Gunster Student Center.

Kulu Mele, which means, "voice of our ancestors," has a repertoire that is a blend of West African ancestral tradition and African American creativity. The dance ensemble will perform the music and dance of Africa, Brazil, Haiti, Cuba and African America. All dances are authentically costumed and choreographed to convey the meaning of the dance and the authentic drumming of the African societies from which the traditions come. The performance will also include readings of African poetry.

As Vice President Gore's National Security Advisor, Mr. Fuerth served for eight years on the Principals' Committee of the National Security Council, alongside the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and President Clinton's own National Security Advisor. He served as a full member of the most senior policy-making committees of both the National Security Council and The National Economic Council. During that time, Mr. Fuerth led efforts to develop the International Space Station with Russia and other partners, to spur foreign investment in Egypt and to raise awareness and take action to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

After retiring from government service at the conclusion of the Clinton Administration, Mr. Fuerth served for two years as the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. He is currently preparing to lead a program for the study of long-range policy analysis at George Washington.

He holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree from New York University, as well as a master's degree from Harvard University.

The University of Scranton established the International Center to provide resources and initiatives for students, faculty, staff and members of the regional community. The center encourages an understanding and appreciation of our global society.

The University of Scranton currently enrolls more than 100 international students from more than 30 countries. In the past five years, undergraduate and graduate students from 55 different countries have studied at The University of Scranton.

Since 1987, more than 800 University of Scranton students have studied abroad in more than 50 countries.



Leon Fuerth, former national security advisor to Vice President Al Gore, will speak at The University of Scranton on Thursday, February 27.



The University of Scranton's International Center will sponsor a free, public performance by The Kulu Mele African American Dance Ensemble on evening of February 27.

For more information, call The University of Scranton's International Center at 570-941-7575.