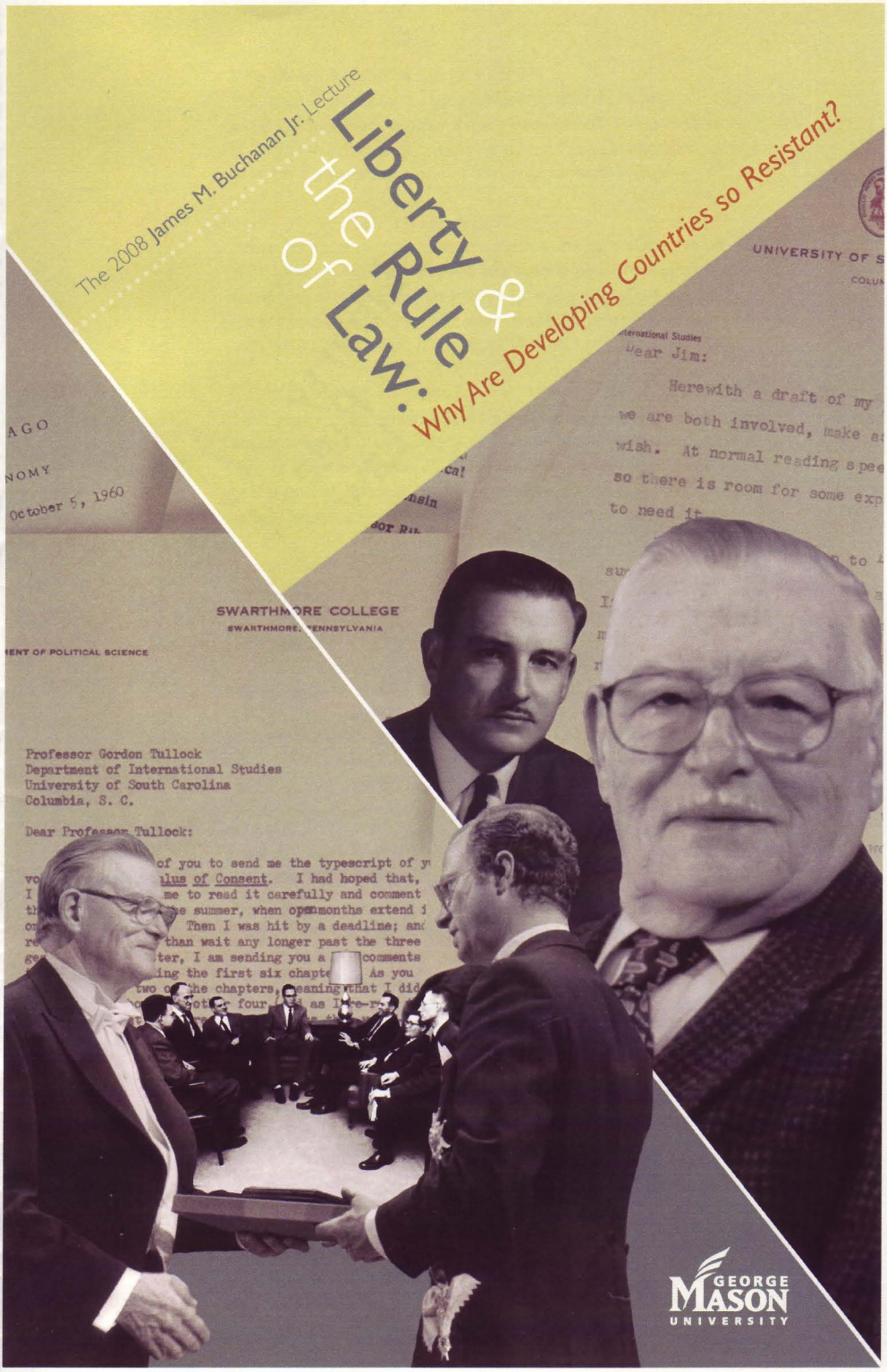
The 2008 James M. Buchanan Jr. Lecture

Liberty & the Rule of Law:

Why Are Developing Countries so Resistant?



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

The 2008 James M. Buchanan Jr. Lecture

Liberty & the Rule of Law: Why Are Developing Countries so Resistant?

Welcome ..... John Zenelis
University Librarian,
George Mason University

Daring to be Different: Reflections on the life and work of James Buchanan ..... Short Film
University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives
George Mason University

Introduction ..... Alex Tabarrok
Professor of Economics,
George Mason University

The 2008 James M. Buchanan Jr. Lecture
Liberty & the Rule of Law: Why Are Developing Countries so Resistant? ..... Barry R. Weingast
Ward C. Krebs Family Professor
Department of Political Science
Stanford University

Comments & Questions

Reception to follow directly after the lecture

The James M. Buchanan Jr. Lecture

The James M. Buchanan Jr. Lecture is dedicated to the public choice discourse and draws its inspiration from the pioneering scholarship of Professor James M. Buchanan, particularly his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision-making.

George Mason's Center for Study of Public Choice

Center for Study of Public Choice is a unique research institution providing a single location where eminent scholars conduct innovative research and teach the science of public choice. It builds on the groundbreaking economic and political science theories of its founder, Professor James M. Buchanan, and draws both visiting and resident scholars and students from all over the world.

George Mason University Libraries

The University Libraries, as a core academic function, serve as both a repository of and digital portal to the wider universe of knowledge. The Libraries foster innovation, originality, and imagination through managing and facilitating access to scholarship, providing expert consultation in the research process, and actively teaching the effective and critical use of information.

Appreciation

The Center for Study of Public Choice and the George Mason University Libraries would like to thank our donors and friends for the support that makes our work possible.

Barry R. Weingast

Barry R. Weingast is the Ward C. Krebs Family Professor in the Department of Political Science at Stanford University, as well as a Professor, by courtesy, of Economics at Stanford University. Professor Weingast is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. He was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences from 1993 to 1994. Weingast is currently in the network of scholars at George Mason University's Mercatus Center, having served as a visiting scholar.

Professor Weingast is an expert in political economy and public policy, the political foundation of markets and economic reform, U.S. politics, and regulation. His current research focuses on the political determinants of public policymaking and the political foundations of markets and democracy. Most recently, his research has been on democracy and its failure in twentieth-century Spain, nineteenth-century United States, seventeenth-century England, and modern Chile. Professor Weingast's new book (written with Douglass North and John Wallis), *Violence and Social Orders: A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded History*, will be published by Cambridge University Press, February 2009.

James M. Buchanan Jr.

James M. Buchanan Jr. is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics at George Mason University. He has been affiliated with Mason since 1983. A Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences in 1986, he is widely recognized for his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision-making.

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