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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Afghans want to fashion their destiny, Chayes writes

The people of Afghanistan want a role in determining their future, even though they may not know the meaning of the word “democracy,” according to Sarah Chayes, who will speak March 4 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln as part of the 2008-09 E.N. Thompson Lectures on World Issues.

The lecture will be simulcast at 7 p.m. in Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, in addition to remote sites in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kearney, Columbus and Wayne, with financial support from the Cooper Foundation.

“I have found that Afghans know precisely what democracy is—even if they might not be able to define the term,” Chayes writes in her book *The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban*. “They want to participate in some real way in the fashioning of their nation’s destiny.”

Chayes’ lecture is entitled “Notes from Afghanistan.” Chayes has lived and worked in Afghanistan since 2001, when she covered the fall of the Taliban for National Public Radio. In 2002 she left journalism to help rebuild the shattered country, working first with Afghans for Civil Society, and currently with Arghand, a cooperative producing skin-care products from local fruits, nuts and botanicals. The Washington Post described her book as “sharply observed, fearlessly told.”

Other remote simulcast sites include Room A113 of Harms Technology Center at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, Room 101 in the Communications Center at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Room 205 in the West Education Center at Central Community College in Columbus, and Connell Hall Auditorium at Wayne State College. All simulcasts are free and open to the public.

For more information about the Omaha simulcast, contact Paul Sather at (402) 554-3196 or psather@mail.unomaha.edu.

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