

A Good Year for Dr. Jeffrey Engel

Written by student intern reporter, Julia Paslavska, February 3, 2009

On January 3, 2009, Dr. Jeffrey Engel, assistant professor at the Bush School and interim director of the Scowcroft Institute, attended the annual American Historical Association (AHA) meeting in New York City. At the meeting, Dr. Engel was honored for two of his recent scholarly achievements. Specifically, he was presented the prestigious Paul Birdsall Prize in European Military and Strategic History for his book *Cold War at 30,000 Feet: the Anglo-American Fight for Aviation Supremacy*, published in 2007 by Harvard University Press. Dr. Engel was also elected to the Executive Council for the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Only three days into the New Year and Dr. Engel has enough reasons to celebrate for the remainder of the year.

The Paul Birdsall Prize in European Military and Strategic History was established in 1985 and has been awarded by the American Historical Association every two years. The award honors the most important work in the past two years on European military or strategic history since 1870. Dr. Engel's *Cold War at 30,000 Feet* is the 11th book to receive the prize, joining other well-known works such as *Assuming the Burden: Europe and the American Commitment to War in Vietnam* by Mark Atwood Lawrence and *Blitzkrieg to Desert Storm: The Evolution of Operational Warfare* by Robert M. Citino.

Cold War at 30,000 Feet depicts the special Anglo-American relationship during the Cold War and the struggle between the US and Great Britain to gain supremacy in the aviation industry. Dr. Richard H. Immerman of Temple University is one of the many reviewers who praised the work, stating "This is a story of power and conflict brilliantly told. Engel reveals in unprecedented detail the bitter Anglo-American discord over policies to control the sale of the most technologically advanced aircraft of the Atomic Age. This book will change our perspective on the Cold War."

The same day that Dr. Engel received the Paul Birdsall Prize, he was elected to the Executive Council for SHAFR. Founded in 1967, SHAFR is the principal professional organization for scholars of American diplomatic history. Dr. Engel began serving his three year term on the Council last month.

"It's a privilege to work with Dr. Engel. The Bush School is very lucky to have such an outstanding diplomatic historian instructing students and researching here at Texas A&M" said Griffin Rozell, assistant director of the Scowcroft Institute. Mr. Rozell also commended Dr. Engel for all his work with the Institute since taking over as interim director last year, "He's had a firm hand on the wheel since day one".