



# FRIENDS OF THE COLBY SYMPOSIUM NEWSLETTER

Norwich University | Spring 2016



## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The New Year brings opportunities for the Friends of the Colby Symposium to grow and support one of our University's key programs. It is important for several reasons which affect both the student body and those outside the Norwich community. Symposium programs have addressed past and current issues impacting our society. They have also exposed participants to authors of repute and allowed our students to attend networking events, both formal and informal.

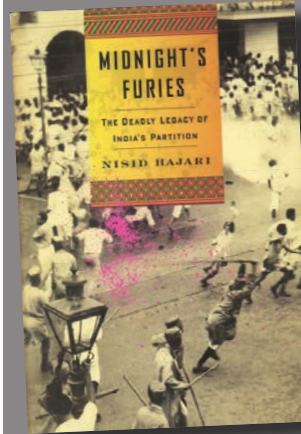
As you can see, this April's symposium program addresses the challenges facing our veterans, their families and communities. This subject is not just relevant to a military audience. Issues facing veterans and their families impact all of us, and are all of our responsibility. This topic is timely for those attending the symposium, whether civilian or military guests or students. Many issues have been ignored or inadequately addressed in the past—yet have been present for decades.

Our program in April will introduce you to individuals well qualified to address this important topic. We hope you will join us.

We look forward to seeing you in April.

## RON LOTZ

Reinhard M. Lotz '60



## NISID HAJARI WINS THE 2016 WILLIAM E. COLBY AWARD FOR *Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy Of India's Partition*

Now in its 17th year, the Colby prize is awarded annually by

Norwich University to a first-time author in recognition of a work of fiction or non-fiction that has made a major contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations, or international affairs.

Nisid Hajari oversees Asia coverage for Bloomberg View, the editorial page of Bloomberg News. *Midnight's Furies*, his first book, has been named one of the best books of 2015 by NPR, Quartz, the Daily Beast, the Seattle Times, and Amazon.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be named the recipient of the 2016 Colby Award," Hajari said. "To join the company of such distinguished military and historical writers as Jon Meacham and Dexter Filkins is a tremendous honor, and it's particularly gratifying that the judges chose to highlight a subject that may be unfamiliar to many American readers."

Carlo D'Este, the executive director of the Colby Symposium describes *Midnight's Furies* as "noteworthy, superbly readable, and very timely."

D'Este says Hajari's book explores not only one of the "most historic events of the twentieth century but one that has powerful implications for the vital interests of the United States in one of the most unstable and dangerous regions of the world, where extremism and terrorism prevail."

The award includes a \$5,000 honorarium provided through a generous grant from the Tawani Foundation in Chicago.

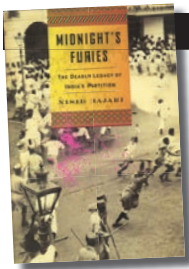
**The award will be presented at the Meet the Authors Dinner on Thursday, April 7, 2016.**



[colby.norwich.edu](http://colby.norwich.edu)

802-485-2811

[colby@norwich.edu](mailto:colby@norwich.edu)



# An Interview with Nisid Hajari

## What did you get out of your experience of writing *Midnight's Furies*, as it's your first book?

I've been a journalist for 25 years now, as a writer and editor in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore, and I can easily say that this has been my most satisfying professional experience. Especially in this day and digital age, it's nearly impossible for a journalist to be able to focus deeply on a single subject for this long and at this length. In that sense, the process of research and writing was both a privilege and a great joy. But the best part above all has been the reception for the book—especially in India, where at least in some circles, it seems to have sparked a bit of a rethinking about the still deeply contested history of Partition. To have a single piece of writing provoke that kind of debate is immensely gratifying, both professionally and personally.

## What do you hope Norwich's undergraduates and other young people gain from reading *Midnight's Furies*?

I hope they can gain a sense, first of all, of how the actions of individual men and women can sway the fate of nations. There was nothing inevitable about the enmity between India

and Pakistan—that rivalry was built in the span of a few short months out of the decisions and mistakes made by leaders on both sides of the new border. However well-meaning they may have been, they allowed personal feelings and foibles to affect what would be critical decisions for their peoples and for future generations. And secondly, I hope the book helps make clear that some of these hatreds that we believe are ancient and immutable—between Hindus and Muslims, say, or Sunnis and Shias—really aren't. There may be a deep well of memory that demagogues on both sides can call upon for political purposes, but these are modern phenomena, and they require modern solutions.

## What are you looking forward to most about coming to Norwich University and the Colby Symposium?

I'm very excited to meet the students at Norwich above all. I don't consider myself old yet, but I'm constantly awed and energized by the young people I've met while publicizing the book. Their curiosity about the world and devotion to service is tremendously inspiring. I'd love to learn more about how Norwich undergrads see this part of the world and its relevance to the U.S.

## We asked the students: Who are you excited to meet? What would you like to ask them?

*"The most interesting person to me is Jon Coffin. The question I would ask him is: what was the most difficult experience with a soldier you ever faced as a staff psychologist and why was it so difficult?"*

Erin Gats '17

*"I am interested in Karl Marlantes. If I could ask one question, I would ask how can you capture the raw feeling and emotion through a novel in order to tell a war story? Tim O'Brien used metafiction in order to try and capture that feeling, but how did you and what challenges did you face with it?"*

Alec Forezzi '17

*"The most interesting to me would be Jason Redman. This type of reading and storytelling is interesting to me as it is oftentimes very raw and full of emotion. In addition, the speaking that this author would do in front of an audience would hold the interest more of the people in attendance due to ties to former military family members or students who are currently serving.*

*I would ask why he decided to write his book the way he did, as there is always a decision made of a story with real facts and how you want to tell it."*

Rebecca Friend '18



# 2016 Colby Symposium, April 6-7

## Going to War: The Cost to Families, Communities, and Nation



**Jon Coffin** is a retired U.S. Army Colonel with 49 years of military service. A Vietnam veteran, COL Coffin commanded the 3/172nd Infantry Battalion (Mountain) and spent most of the recent wars on active duty traveling to demobilization sites and meeting and debriefing soldiers and units

returning from Theater of Operations.



**Karl Marlantes** is a former U.S. Marine and the author of *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War*, a New York Times Top 10 bestseller based on his combat experience. His 2011 non-fiction *What It Is Like To Go To War* explores the experience of modern veterans upon returning to civilian life.



Documentary filmmaker **Benjamin Patton** is executive director of the Patton Veterans Project and I WAS THERE Film workshops, a program that empowers veterans through the therapeutic act of storytelling with video. Patton is the author of *Growing Up Patton: Reflections*

*on Heroes, History, and Family Wisdom*, a memoir about his family's legacy.



An expert on women in combat, journalist **Kirsten Holmstedt** is the author of *The Girls Come Marching Home* and *Band of Sisters*. Her latest book, *Soul Survivors* is slated for release in early 2016 and tells the stories of women veterans upon returning from combat.



**Jason Redman** is a retired U.S. Navy SEAL and founder and spokesperson of nonprofits Combat Wounded Coalition and Wounded Wear, organizations that seek to provide networking, direction, balance, and tranquility and to improve the confidence of combat-wounded veterans. Redman is the author of *The Trident: The Forging and Reforging of a Navy SEAL Leader*.



2016 Colby Award winner **Nisid Hajari** is the author of *Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition*. Hajari oversees Asia coverage for Bloomberg View, the editorial page of Bloomberg News, and writes and edits on Asian politics and economics.

## 2016 Symposium Schedule

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016

- **8–8:50 a.m. • Presentation by Karl Marlantes**, author of *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War* and *What It Is Like To Go To War*. • Multipurpose Room, Kreitzberg Library
- **9:00–9:50 a.m. • Presentation by Jason Redman**, author of *The Trident, the Forging and Reforging of a Navy SEAL Leader*, founder and spokesperson of the Combat Wounded Coalition and Wounded Wear. • Multipurpose Room, Kreitzberg Library
- **11–11:50 a.m. • Presentation by Kirsten Holmstedt**, author of *Band of Sisters* and *The Girls Come Marching Home*. • Multipurpose Room, Kreitzberg Library
- **1–2:00 p.m. • “Collaborative Filmmaking: A New Therapeutic Intervention for Veterans Coping with Post-traumatic Stress,” by Benjamin Patton**, executive director of the Patton Veterans Project and I WAS THERE Film workshops, author of *Growing Up Patton: Reflections on Heroes, History, and Family Wisdom*. • Multipurpose Room, Kreitzberg Library

### THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016

- **8–9:15 a.m. • Presentation by Jon Coffin**, retired Vermont National Guard staff psychologist. • Multipurpose Room, Kreitzberg Library
- **9:25–10:40 a.m • Presentation by Nisid Hajari**, 2016 Colby Award winner. • Multipurpose Room, Kreitzberg Library
- **11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m • Friends of the Colby Symposium Spring Meeting** • Multipurpose Room, Kreitzberg Library
- **1:00–3:00 p.m • Panel Discussion: “Going to War: The Cost to Families, Communities, and Nation.”** Panelists: Karl Marlantes, Benjamin Patton, Jason Redman, Kirsten Holmstedt, Jon Coffin. • Plumley Armory
- **3:15–4:30 p.m • Book Signing featuring** Karl Marlantes, Benjamin Patton, Jason Redman, Kirsten Holmstedt, Carlo D’Este, and Nisid Hajari. • Milano Ballroom
- **6:00 p.m. • Meet the Authors Reception & Dinner** Pre-registration and ticket required. • Plumley Armory



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158 Harmon Drive  
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\_\_\_\_ I will attend the 2016 William E. Colby Military  
Writers' Symposium, April 6-7, 2016.  
\_\_\_\_ I will attend the Friends of the Colby Fall Meeting.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Members of the Friends of the Colby Symposium give  
at all levels—every gift supports this one-of-a-kind  
program.*

**FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Norwich University,  
Kreitzberg Library, Multipurpose Room**

**Thursday, April 7, 2016  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Friends of the  
Colby Symposium  
Spring Meeting

