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Kosovo Crisis: ActiveDayton.com to Host Chat with UD Professor About Conflict in the Balkans

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**KOSOVO CRISIS: ACTIVEDAYTON.COM TO HOST CHAT
WITH UD PROFESSOR ABOUT CONFLICT IN THE BALKANS**

DAYTON, Ohio — R. Bruce Hitchner, director of the Center for International Programs (CIP) at the University of Dayton, will be a featured guest of local Web site ActiveDayton.com for a chat on the crisis in Kosovo. The event will take place live from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13.

"Instability in the Balkans can lead to instability in Europe, and we have to remember wars in Europe tend to get out of hand," Hitchner said. "Europe is the place where world wars begin." Hitchner believes the latest crisis in Kosovo poses very real dangers of a wider conflict for the United States.

Dayton and Hitchner have special ties to the current violence in Kosovo. Just four years ago, the Dayton community played host to many of those involved in the current crisis, including Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

The talks in 1995 over the issue of Bosnia led to the Dayton Peace Accords. Hitchner has gone to the Balkans twice in the past four years as part of his personal mission to continue the Bosnian peace process through citizen diplomacy. He has also organized forums and workshops about the Dayton Peace Accords. These events, held in Dayton in 1996, 1997 and 1998, were supported by grants from the Packard Foundation.

"It's uncommon to have a local resource like Dr. Hitchner," said Kevin Stephens, site manager for ActiveDayton.com. "The people of the Miami Valley have a rare opportunity to have their questions answered by someone who has been immersed in these issues for years. We invite the public to actively participate in the chat or simply observe to educate themselves about this issue."

Users can log on to ActiveDayton.com anytime before the event to explore some of Hitchner's writings or to submit questions for the chat.

Complete coverage of the Kosovo crisis including background, video reports, photos, refugee relief information and ongoing discussion forums can be found at <http://www.ActiveDayton.com/FEATURES/kosovo>.

Hitchner is director of the Center for International Programs at the University of Dayton and a member of the history faculty. He has served as head of the CIP since 1996. Under

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Hitchner's direction, the CIP has worked to promote human rights, peace and economic development around the world, especially in the Balkans. In April 1997, Hitchner was awarded the Exemplar Award by the University of Notre Dame for his community work in Bosnia.

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For media interviews, contact **Bruce Hitchner** at (937) 229-3652. For more information about the chat session, contact **Elizabeth Hill-Lloyd** at (937) 225-7453.