

**E.N. THOMPSON FORUM ON WORLD ISSUES  
HISTORY OF SPEAKERS**

**2016/2017**

9/27/16

**Sonia Nazario – Immigration – Enrique’s Journey and America’s Immigration Dilemma**

Sonia Nazario is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist whose stories have tackled some of this country’s most challenging problems, including hunger, drug addiction, and immigration. She spent 20 years reporting about social issues for newspapers including the Wall Street Journal and the Los Angeles Times. Her best-selling book “Enrique’s Journey” relates the story of a Honduran boy’s struggle to find his mother in the U.S. Originally published as a series in the Los Angeles Times, “Enrique’s Journey” has won more than a dozen prestigious journalism and book awards, including the Pulitzer, the George Polk Award for International Reporting, and the Grand Prize of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. It is required reading at hundreds of universities and high schools across the country.

10/4/16

**David Brooks – U.S. Election 2016 – It’s Better Than It Looks**

New York Times Op-Ed columnist David Brooks has a unique gift for bringing audiences face-to-face with the spirit of our times, and he does so with humor and insight. A regular analyst on PBS NewsHour and NPR’s All Things Considered, he is a keen observer and commentator on politics and foreign affairs. His newest book, “The Road to Character,” tells the story of ten great lives that illustrate how character is developed and models how we can all strive to build rich inner lives.

1/24/17

**Sonia Shah – Global Pandemics – Pandemic-From Cholera to Ebola and Beyond**

Sonia Shah is an investigative science journalist and author of critically acclaimed and prize-winning books on science, human rights, and international politics. Her most recent book, “Pandemic: Tracking Contagions from Cholera to Ebola and Beyond,” was selected as a New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice. Her critically acclaimed 2010 book, “The Fever: How Malaria Has Ruled Humankind for 500,000 Years,” was based on five years of original reportage in Cameroon, Malawi, and Panama and was called a “tour-de-force” by the New York Times.

**2015/2016**

9/15/15

**Jose Antonio Vargas – Immigration – Define American: My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant**

In 2011, journalist Jose Antonio Vargas “outed” himself as an undocumented immigrant in an essay published in The New York Times Magazine. The article stunned media and political circles and attracted worldwide coverage. Vargas has since testified at a United States Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on immigration reform, and has been at the forefront of challenging the media's coverage of undocumented immigrants. His film, “Documented,” chronicles his own journey while closely exploring the plight of other undocumented immigrants in America and the politics that surround the hotly contested issue of “legal status.” CNN debuted the film in June 2014. Vargas is the founder of Define American, a media and culture campaign that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship in a changing America.

10/6/15

**Bill McKibben – Environment – The Climate at Its Peak**

Bill McKibben is an author and environmentalist who in 2014 was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, which is frequently referred to as the 'alternative Nobel.' His 1989 book "The End of Nature" is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has been translated into 24 languages; he's gone on to write a dozen more books. He is a founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world in every country save North Korea, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone XL Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement.

1/19/16

**Wes Moore – Social Justice – The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates**

Author Wes Moore is a veteran, Rhodes Scholar and the founder of BridgeEDU. His most recent book, "The Work," is a New York Times bestselling collection of lessons about what it means to create lives that matter, which has been heralded as a model for how we can weave valuable lessons together from supremely different people in order to forge individual paths to triumph.

Moore's first book, "The Other Wes Moore," tells the tale of two kids with the same name living in the same decaying city. Burning with curiosity as to why he and the other Wes were so radically different, Moore investigated the man with the same name. The result was an instant New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller that explore the question, "What draws the line between success and failure in our communities?"

2/23/16

**Sheryl Wudunn – Women's Rights – Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide**

The first Asian-American reporter to win a Pulitzer Prize, Sheryl WuDunn has journeyed through several industries, from banking to journalism and book writing. Her latest book, "A Path Appears," is about spreading opportunity and making a difference in the world. Her previous book, the best-selling "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," (co-written with her husband, Nicholas Kristof,) had an immense impact on exposing the plight of oppressed peoples around the globe, sparking activism and a new sense of awareness worldwide. Thanks to the book's popularity and global impact, it soon grew into a multi-platform digital media effort that now includes a highly popular documentary series on PBS, mobile games and an online social media game on Facebook.

**2014/2015**

9/10/14

**Chris Abani – On Creativity**

Born in Nigeria to an Igbo father and English mother, Abani is well known as an international voice on humanitarianism, art, ethics, and our shared political responsibility. His critical and personal essays have been featured in books on art and photography, as well as Witness, Parkett, The New York Times, O Magazine, and Bomb. Abani is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the PEN/Hemingway Award for "Graceland," and the PEN Beyond the Margins Award, among many honors. His degrees include an MA in English, Gender and Culture from Birkbeck College, University of London, and a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. He has resided in the United States since 2001.

10/14/14

**Neil Gershenfeld – How to Make (almost) Anything**

Neil Gershenfeld is the director of MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms. His unique laboratory breaks down boundaries between the digital and physical worlds, from

creating molecular quantum computers to virtuosic musical instruments. Technology from his lab has been seen and used in settings including New York's Museum of Modern Art and rural Indian villages, the White House and the World Economic Forum, inner-city community centers and automobile safety systems. He is the author of numerous technical publications, patents and books including "Fab," "When Things Start to Talk," and "The Nature of Mathematical Modeling."

11/17/14 **British Debate Team vs. UNL Debate Team – Are Social Media a Threat to Creativity?**

Since 1922, the National Communication Association has sponsored international student exchange tours for the purpose of promoting debate, discussion, and intercultural communication. Renowned for their wit, humor, and eloquence, members of the United Kingdom's English-Speaking Union tour the United States each year, debating the best and the brightest at our institutions of higher learning. The list of tour alumni includes a British Prime Minister, a Leader of the Opposition, an Archbishop of Canterbury, and many senior politicians, journalists, and businesspeople.

12/05/14 **Yo-Yo Ma – Cultural Citizens**

The many-faceted career of cellist Yo-Yo Ma is a testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. He maintains a balance between his engagements as soloist with orchestras worldwide and his recital and chamber music activities. His discography includes over 90 albums, including more than 17 Grammy award winners. He is also Artistic Director of the Silk Road Project, an organization he founded to promote the study of cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions along the ancient Silk Road trade routes.

2/24/15 **Milton Chen – Creativity, Curiosity and Learning**

Milton Chen is senior fellow and executive director emeritus at the George Lucas Educational Foundation, a nonprofit operating foundation in the San Francisco Bay Area that utilizes its multimedia website, Edutopia.org, and documentary films to communicate a new vision for 21st century education. He served as executive director of GLEF for 12 years, and during his tenure, GLEF and Edutopia, greatly expanded their editorial publishing efforts, including the award-winning Edutopia magazine.

3/03/15 **Marlo Lewis, Jr. and Gilbert Metcalf – Cutting Carbon Emissions: Better Environment, Worse Economy?**

Marlo Lewis, Jr. is a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, writing on global warming, energy policy, and public policy issues. He has been published in the Washington Times, Investor's Business Daily, Tech Central Station and the National Review. He has appeared on various television and radio programs, and his ideas have been featured in radio commentary by Rush Limbaugh and G. Gordon Liddy. Prior to joining CEI in 2002, he served as director of external relations at the Reason Foundation.

Gilbert Metcalf is a professor of economics at Tufts University and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is also a research associate at MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change and an associate scholar in the Harvard Environmental Economics Program. He has frequently testified before Congress, served on expert panels including a National Academies of Sciences panel on energy externalities, and recently serves as the deputy assistant secretary for environment and energy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

## 2013/2014

9/24/13

### **David Wessel – On Capital & the Capitol**

Journalist David Wessel is economics editor of The Wall Street Journal and writes the newspaper's weekly "Capital" column. His book, "In Fed We Trust: Ben Bernanke's War on the Great Panic," was a New York Times notable book in 2009. Wessel has shared two Pulitzer prizes, one for a series on the persistence of racism in Boston (Boston Globe, 1983) and the other for a series on corporate wrong-doing (The Wall Street Journal, 2002). He frequently appears on National Public Radio and WETA's Washington Week. A 1975 graduate of Haverford College, Wessel is also the co-author of "Prosperity," a 1998 book on the American middle class.

10/8/13

### **Susan Glasser – Washington and the World in the Age of Obama**

Susan Glasser is editor of POLITICO. Prior to this position, she was editor-in-chief of Foreign Policy, the magazine of global politics, economics and ideas. During her short tenure at its helm, the magazine has won numerous awards for its innovative coverage, including three digital National Magazine Awards. Previously, Glasser covered the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as a foreign correspondent and editor at the Washington Post. She was also editor of Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill, and with her husband Peter Baker, co-authored the book "Kremlin Rising: Vladimir Putin's Russia and the End of Revolution." She is a graduate of Harvard University.

11/6/13

### **Hedrick Smith – Who Stole the American Dream**

Reporter Hedrick Smith spent 26 years at the New York Times, where he was among the team that produced the Pulitzer Prize-winning Pentagon Papers. He also spent several years as the Times' Moscow bureau chief, for which he won a Pulitzer for international reporting from Russia and Eastern Europe. That experience also yielded his bestselling book "The Russians." Another of his books, "The Power Game: How Washington Works," is considered a modern classic and essential reading for DC's power players. Since 1989, Smith has created more than two dozen primetime specials for PBS, on topics ranging from Duke Ellington's Washington to "Inside the Terror Network." He has won numerous awards—among them two Emmys—for this television work.

2/11/14

### **Andrew Bacevich and Derek Chollet – The American Military: War and Peace, Spending and Politics**

Andrew Bacevich is a professor of international relations and history at Boston University. Time magazine calls him "one of the most provocative—as in thought-provoking—national security writers out there today." His book, "Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed their Soldiers and their Country" critiques the gulf between America's soldiers and the society that sends them off to war. A graduate of the West Point Academy, Bacevich received his doctorate in American diplomatic history from Princeton University. In the U.S. Army, he served in the Vietnam War, as well as stints in Germany and the Persian Gulf. In addition to several books on American militarism and diplomacy, his articles have appeared in the Atlantic, Foreign Affairs and the New York Times.

Lincoln native Derek Chollet is the Obama administration's Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. He is the principal advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense on international security strategy and policy issues related to Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Prior to being confirmed in

2012, Chollet served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Strategic Planning on the National Security Council staff. He has been a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution and an adjunct associate professor at Georgetown University. He is the author or co-author of six books, including "The Road to the Dayton Accords: A Study of American Statecraft" and "America Between the Wars: From 11/9 to 9/11."

3/18/14

**Yong Zhao – Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization**

Yong Zhao is an internationally recognized scholar on the impacts of globalization and technology on education. He currently serves as Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education at the University of Oregon, where he is also Weinman Professor of Technology and a professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy and Leadership. Over the course of his career, he has designed schools that cultivate global competence and developed computer games for language learning. Zhao is the author of more than 20 books, including "Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization" and "World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students." A winner of the early career award from the American Educational Research Association, Zhao is a graduate of Sichuan Institute of Foreign Languages and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**2012/2013**

10/2/12

**Robert Putnam - American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us**

Unique among nations, America is deeply religious, religiously diverse and remarkably tolerant. But in recent decades, the nation's religious landscape has been reshaped. In his lecture, acclaimed author and political scientist Robert Putnam will trace what he defines as three seismic shocks that have affected the current American religious landscape: plummeting religious observance in the 1960s, a rise of evangelicalism and the Religious Right in the 1970s and 80s, and increased abandonment of organized religion from the 1990s on by young people turned off by the link between faith and politics. Growing polarization has resulted. Putnam will explore how the denser web of personal ties brings surprising interfaith tolerance.

Acclaimed author and political scientist Robert D. Putnam has helped influence the way people think about the fabric of American society. Putnam, who is Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, has written more than a dozen books, including "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community," and "Making Democracy Work." Both are among the most cited publications in the social sciences in the last half century. His most recent book, the award-winning "American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us," co-authored with Notre Dame's David Campbell, focuses on religion's role in American public life.

Putnam is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the British Academy, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a past president of the American Political Science Association. He has served as an adviser to presidents and national leaders around the world.

10/17/12

**Charles Villa-Vicencio - Violence, Religion, Financial Muscle and Liberation: Can Africa Heal Itself?**

Contemporary Africa is a victim of colonial and neo-colonial violence. Africa is also its own worst enemy, with several intrinsically viable states engulfed in a destructive synthesis of military aggression, economic chaos, cultural animosity and religious warfare. This lecture will address the encounter between positive and negative forces

and ideologies in African states. It will include consideration of 'lessons to be learned' from the South African transition for other situations of conflict in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Regarded as a global authority in the area of transitional justice, distinguished theologian, and political scientist Charles Villa-Vicencio has used his expertise to advise several countries dealing with the challenges of rebuilding their societies after periods of internal strife, including Peru and various African nations.

He divides his time between Washington, D.C., where he is a visiting conflict resolution professor and research fellow at Georgetown University — and Africa, including in his native South Africa.

Villa-Vicencio is also a senior research fellow in the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation based in Cape Town, having founded the Institute in 2000 and served as its executive director for eight years. The institute encourages cooperation between groups in South Africa and beyond that have been divided by social conflicts.

He is the author or editor of 18 books, including his most recent, "Walk with Us and Listen: Political Reconciliation in Africa."

11/28/12

### **J. Kirk Brown & Michael L. Radelet - The Death Penalty: Justice, Retribution and Dollars**

The death penalty continues to generate intense debate, including in Nebraska — one of 33 states that authorize capital punishment. In this lecture, Nebraska Solicitor General J. Kirk Brown and University of Colorado Boulder professor Michael Radelet will explore such questions as whether the death penalty is humane, fairly applied, reduces violent crime, or is cost effective. They'll also examine impacts on the condemned person, the legal and judicial systems, victims' loved ones, and the taxpaying society at large.

J. Kirk Brown has served as Nebraska's Solicitor General since 2003. He previously served as the Nebraska Department of Justice's Chief of the Criminal Bureau, Chief of the Criminal Appellate Section, and Chief of the Civil Litigation Section. For more than 28 years, Brown has been Nebraska's primary counsel in capital cases and was counsel of record in Nebraska's three, most recent executions: State v. Otey (1994); State v. Joubert (1996); and State v. Williams (1997).

Brown also spent six years as the general counsel to the Texas Department of Corrections. There he witnessed more than 20 executions. While in Texas, he also was seated as a juror in a capital murder trial, State of Texas v. Jesse Dewayne Jacobs.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska College Of Law (1973), Brown has lectured nationally on the death penalty, appellate practice, federal habeas corpus, and corrections law.

As professor of sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder, Michael L. Radelet has focused his research on capital punishment, problems of erroneous convictions, racial bias, and ethical issues faced by health care personnel involved in capital cases and executions. His work on erroneous convictions (with Hugo Adam Bedau, emeritus professor of philosophy at Tufts University) is widely credited with introducing the "innocence argument" into contemporary death penalty debates.

Radelet has testified in dozens of death penalty cases, before congressional committees, and in legislatures in seven states. He has worked with scores of death row inmates and gone through "last visits" with 50. He also works closely with families of homicide victims in Colorado. At the request of then-Illinois Governor George Ryan,

he completed a study of racial biases in the death penalty in Illinois that Governor Ryan used in his 2003 decision to commute 167 death sentences.

2/4/13

### **Felice Gaer - Protecting the Human Rights of Religious Minorities Worldwide: International Religious Freedom in U.S. Policy**

Since the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 was adopted, the U.S. government has paid more attention to human rights violations committed against members of religious minorities in hot spots throughout the world. Implementing this policy has encountered both resistance and assistance from traditional diplomats, foreign governments, and NGO representatives. In this lecture, Felice Gaer, director of the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, will discuss what has been accomplished and what is needed to bolster this vital human rights concern.

Felice Gaer is the director of the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights. For more than 40 years, the institute has worked to advance human rights worldwide.

She is currently the chair of the Leo Nevas Task Force on Human Rights of the United Nations Association of the USA; vice chair of the U.N. Committee against Torture (the first American to serve as an independent expert on that treaty monitoring body); and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

She has served more than a decade on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, including three terms as chair.

Gaer is the author of more than 40 articles on international human rights. She has been active in ensuring that women's rights are addressed as human rights, and that violence against women, including rape, has been addressed effectively by UN human rights bodies.

2/26/13

### **Shirin Ebadi - True Islam: Human Rights, Faith, and Women**

In her presentation, Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi will tie the efforts she's made on behalf of women and religious minorities to the world of religious freedom, all while focusing on the importance of human rights throughout. This unique program will help the audience understand the importance of tolerance, perseverance, and belief in human rights for all; and most importantly share easy tools anyone can use to make a difference.

Human right activist Dr. Shirin Ebadi is the first Iranian and Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The 2003 accolade recognized her significant and pioneering efforts in democracy and human rights, especially for the rights of women, children and refugees.

Ebadi argues for an interpretation of Islamic law which is in harmony with vital human rights such as democracy, equality before the law, religious freedom and freedom of speech.

As a lawyer, Ebadi has been involved in many controversial political cases and as a result, has been imprisoned on several occasions.

Ebadi earned a law degree from the University of Tehran. From 1975-79 she served as president of the city court of Tehran. After the revolution in 1979 she was forced to resign. Previously a professor at the University of Tehran, she now works as a lawyer.

## 2011/2012

9/28/11

### **Cancelled: Wangari Maathai - Environment, Democracy & Peace - A Critical Link**

The Forum had worked for years to bring Nobel Laureate Dr. Wangari Maathai to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and had eagerly anticipated her visit in 2011. We were saddened to learn that she passed away just three days before her scheduled address at the Forum. Below is a brief obituary provided by her family.

#### **Wangari Muta Maathai (1940-2011)**

"It is with great sadness that the family of Professor Wangari Maathai announces her passing away on 25th September, 2011, at the Nairobi Hospital, after a prolonged and bravely borne struggle with cancer. Her loved ones were with her at the time.

Professor Maathai's departure is untimely and a very great loss to all who knew her—as a mother, relative, co-worker, colleague, role model, and heroine; or who admired her determination to make the world a more peaceful, healthier, and better place.

Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai started the Green Belt Movement in 1977, working with women to improve their livelihoods by increasing their access to resources like firewood for cooking and clean water. She became a great advocate for better management of natural resources and for sustainability, equity, and justice. Prof. Maathai leaves her three children—Waweru, Wanjira, and Muta—and a granddaughter, Ruth Wangari. They are truly very grateful for all the prayers and support they have received."

11/1/11

### **Sandra Postel - Dividing the Waters: Global Security in a Water-Stressed World**

Water is essential to life. It is finite, and has no substitute. As the human population climbs beyond 7 billion, competition for water is increasing - within countries, between countries, and between people and nature. As demands for food and material goods rise, water will increasingly define economic, social and ecological security. The future of human civilization may well depend on new ways of using, valuing and sharing Earth's finite supply of water.

Sandra Postel is an acclaimed author, consultant and lecturer as well as a leading authority on international freshwater issues. Postel founded the Global Water Policy Project in 1994 to foster ideas and inspiration for redirecting society's use and management of fresh water toward conservation and ecosystem health. Today, she continues as the project's director.

In 2010, she was appointed Freshwater Fellow of the National Geographic Society, where she is lead water expert for the Society's freshwater initiative. Postel is the author of several acclaimed books, including "Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity." She also has authored more than 100 articles for popular and scholarly publications, including Science, Natural History, Scientific American, Ecological Applications and Foreign Policy. She is a Pew Scholar in Conservation and the Environment. In 2002, she was named one of the "Scientific American 50" for her contributions to water policy.

12/6/11

### **Michael Forsberg - Pulse of the Plains: A Photographer's Journey Connecting Water, Wildlife and Landscape**

Water permeates nearly every natural history and conservation story in North America's Great Plains. Photographer Michael Forsberg reflects on his last 15 years of

documenting the natural environment and the ever-changing water resources found at the heart of this continent. His pursuits have led to projects including Sandhill cranes, the Great Plains ecosystem, and a new time lapse photography project focused on the Platte River Basin. Through words and images, Forsberg shares with us what he has discovered: why this elegant yet compromised ecosystem and its creatures matter to us here at home and around the world.

Michael Forsberg is a Nebraska native and acclaimed conservation photographer who has focused much of his work in North America's Great Plains, once one of the greatest grassland ecosystems on Earth. Forsberg's work has appeared in publications including Audubon, National Geographic, National Wildlife, Natural History, and NEBRASKAland and recognized in the Pictures of the Year and Wildlife Photographer of the Year competitions. In 2001, his image of a Nebraska tallgrass prairie was selected for use on an international postage stamp. In 2004, he was awarded a Conservation Education Award from The Wildlife Society. Recently, he was featured in the PBS documentary Crane Song, and was the 2009 recipient of the North American Nature Photographer's Association Mission Award. He is also a 2010 recipient of the Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize from the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is currently in production with NET on a documentary following his work in the Great Plains, to be out spring 2012. Mike is a charter member of the North American Nature Photographer's Association and a fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers.

Forsberg earned a degree in geography with an emphasis in environmental studies at UNL. He is currently an assistant professor of practice within the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL.

2/16/12

### **Mogens Bay & E. Robert Meaney - Is a Global Water Crisis Avoidable?**

Lewis E. Harris Lecture on Public Policy

Mogens C. Bay and E. Robert Meaney will present a lecture on the global crisis in the supply and quality of water for agriculture. They will frame the issues through a discussion of population growth, required food and fiber production and total water and land available. They will provide examples of how the crisis in fresh water is manifested in various locations and in issues such as food security, water and quality and soil health. They will discuss solutions ranging from scientific advances to governance and economic development.

**Mogens C. Bay** is chairman and chief executive officer of Valmont Industries, Inc., an Omaha-based company that manufactures irrigation equipment and other metal structures and components. He was born in Vejle, Denmark, studied law at Aarhus University and graduated from the EAC College of International Business in Copenhagen. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

Bay joined Valmont in 1979 as a regional vice president based in Hong Kong. He assumed his current title in 1997.

Bay serves as a director on a number of corporate boards and non-profit agencies including ConAgra Foods, Inc., the Omaha Zoological Society and the Nebraska Medical Center.

**E. Robert Meaney** is senior vice president at Valmont industries, Inc. where he is responsible for oversight of corporate legal and compliance activities, coordination of international growth initiatives and government affairs. During his 16 years with Valmont, Meaney has been deeply involved in development of the international organization and in the company's market entries into China, Brazil and India.

Meaney received his MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Among other involvements, he serves on the boards of the Groundwater Foundation and the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry where he chairs the Manufacturing Council. He is also a director of the Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Manufacturers.

3/28/12

**Don Worster - An Unquenchable Thirst: How the Great Plains Created a Water Abundance and Then Lost It**

Co-sponsored by the symposium "1862-2012: The Making of the Great Plains"

Water usage and food production in the Great Plains have global implications. This lecture will present the current issues relating to water, agricultural production, the natural environment, economic development, and global food security within the historical context of the 1862 legislation that shaped the Great Plains.

Donald Worster is a prize-winning author, professor and world-renowned lecturer regarded as one of the pioneers of environmental history. Worster currently holds the Hall Distinguished Professorship Chair in American History at the University of Kansas. The California native who grew up in Hutchinson, Kan., studied American history and literature at Yale University, where he earned his Ph.D. He has served as president of the American Society for Environmental History, sits on several editorial boards, and is advisory editor for the Cambridge University monograph series, "Studies in Environment and History."

Worster has received several honors, fellowships, and awards, including being the first nonscientist to receive the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Society for Conservation Biology.

His research interests primarily address the emerging field of environmental history, the rise of conservation and environmentalism, and the impact of the natural world on human society.

**2010/2011**

9/30/10

**E. Benjamin Skinner – A Crime So Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern Slavery**

E. Benjamin Skinner is the first person in history to witness negotiations for the sale of human beings on four continents. In his book "A Crime so Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern Day Slavery," Skinner tells the story of individuals who live in slavery, those who have escaped from bondage, those who own or traffic in slaves, and the mixed political motives of those who seek to combat these crimes.

In 2003, as a writer on assignment on the frontlines of the Sudanese civil war, Skinner met a survivor of slavery for the first time. Like Skinner, Muong Nyong was 27 years old. After meeting Nyong, Skinner began traveling the globe to find others like him.

Recently named National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, Skinner is a graduate of Wesleyan University. He is a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and previously served as a research associate for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. His articles have appeared in Newsweek International, Travel and Leisure, the Los Angeles Times, the Miami Herald, and Foreign Policy.

10/24/10

**Christine Todd Whitman – Staying Ahead While Going Green**

Christine Todd Whitman is the president of the Whitman Strategy Group, a consulting firm that specializes in energy and environmental issues. WSG offers a comprehensive set of solutions to problems facing businesses, organizations, and governments; they have been at the forefront of helping leading companies find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Whitman is also co-chair of the Republican Leadership Council, which she founded with Senator John Danforth. The RLC's mission is to support fiscally conservative, socially tolerant candidates and to reclaim the word Republican. She is also the author of "It's My Party Too: The Battle for the Heart of the GOP and the Future of America," which was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Whitman served in the cabinet of President George W. Bush as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from January 2001 until June 2003. Prior to that appointment, she was the 50th governor of the New Jersey, serving as its first woman governor from 1994 until 2001.

11/10/10

**Chuck Hagel and Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yesui – China rising: Good News or Bad News for U.S. Workers, Consumers and Investors?**

Chuck Hagel served two terms in the United States Senate, from 1997-2009, representing the state of Nebraska. He was a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and Intelligence committees. He also served as the chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and the Senate Climate Change Observer Group.

Hagel is a distinguished professor at Georgetown University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is co-chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board; Chairman of the Atlantic Council; a member of the Secretary of Defense's Policy Board and Secretary of Energy's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future; and is a member of Public Broadcasting Service board of directors. He is also the author of "America: Our Next Chapter," an examination of the current state of the nation that provides substantial proposals for the challenges of the 21st century.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Hagel was president of McCarthy & Company, an investment banking firm in Omaha, Nebraska. He is a Vietnam combat veteran and former Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

Mr. Zhang Yesui was born in Hubei Province in October 1953. He graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University. Since 2010, he has served as Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States. He has also been Ambassador to the United Nations and China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

2/23/11

**Cancelled: Mark Danner – Torture, Obama and Us: The Moral Costs of the War on Terror**

Mark Danner is a writer and reporter who for twenty-five years has written on politics and foreign affairs, focusing on war and conflict. He has covered Central America, Haiti, the Balkans, Iraq and the Middle East, among many other stories. Danner is Professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley and James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs, Politics and the Humanities at Bard College. Among his books are, *Stripping Bare the Body: Politics Violence War, Torture and Truth*, *The Secret Way to War*, and *The Massacre at El Mozote*. Danner was a long-time staff writer at *The New Yorker* and is a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books*. His work has appeared in *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, *Aperture*, and many other newspapers and magazines. He has co-written and helped produce two hour-long documentaries for the ABC News program *Peter Jennings Reporting*, and his work

has received, among other honors, a National Magazine Award, three Overseas Press Awards, and an Emmy. In 1999 Danner was named a MacArthur Fellow. He speaks and lectures widely on foreign policy and America's role in the world.

3/9/11

**Laurie Garrett – Betrayal of Trust: Critical Issues in Global Healthcare**

Laurie Garrett is one of America's premier authorities on healthcare and disease prevention, and a powerful advocate for a forceful response to threats to human health. Currently the senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, she is the author of "The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World out of Balance" and "Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health." She is the only person ever to have been awarded all three of the Big "Ps" of journalism: The Peabody, The Polk (twice), and The Pulitzer.

Garrett has written for many publications, including Foreign Affairs, Esquire, Vanity Fair, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, and Current Issues in Public Health. She appears frequently on ABC Nightline, The Jim Lehrer NewsHour, The Charlie Rose Show, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and Dateline. She has the unique ability to make plain the science behind new threats to public health-both natural and man-made-and the political background that shapes the debate on this issue in America and around the world.

4/12/11

**Pietra Rivoli – Who's Afraid of International Trade?**

Pietra Rivoli is a professor at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University. She teaches finance and international business in the undergraduate, graduate, and executive programs. Her main interests are social issues in international business and in China, and she was recently honored by the Aspen Institute as a Faculty Pioneer, an award that recognizes leadership in integrating social issues into business education.

Rivoli's recent book, "The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy," has been widely acclaimed by both the popular press and the academic community as a path-breaking study of globalization. It was named one of the best business books of the year by the Financial Times, Booz Allen Hamilton, Foreign Affairs and Amazon.com. It was also designated by the American Association of Publishers as the best scholarly book of 2005, in the category of Finance and Economics. The book has been translated into 14 languages and the second edition was published in 2009.

**2009/2010**

9/14/09

**Doug Bereuter - China's Trade and Soft Power Relationships with Asia and the United States - Reason to Worry?**

The persistent issue of the United States' trade deficit with China is becoming more controversial as American manufacturing jobs are lost. Within that controversy lies the less-examined issue of the role of foreign investment in and the contribution of China's Asian neighbors to Chinese exports. Couple that with China's increasing focus on enhancing its soft power - often defined as the ability of a country to persuade others to do what it wants without force or coercion - and interesting questions arise. Is increasing Chinese soft power a zero sum game for the U.S.? Is the Chinese model of economic growth and political stability increasing attractive to the developing world? Doug Bereuter is uniquely qualified to provide insights into these questions and more.

As President and CEO of The Asia Foundation, Bereuter oversees an organization with 17 offices across Asia focused on improving civil society, women's empowerment, economic reform and development, international relations and more. Bereuter joined The Asia Foundation in 2004 following his resignation as Congressman representing Nebraska's First District, a position he held for 26 years. While in Congress, Bereuter co-founded the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and chaired a task

force on the transition of Hong Kong and the House Delegation to the 40-country NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

10/6/09

**Kaiser Kuo - Shouting Across the Chasm: Chinese and American Netizens Clash in Cyberspace**

Tibet, the Olympic Torch Run, the Olympics . . . the year 2008 offered unprecedented opportunities for Chinese and Anglophone Internet users to communicate. They were standing nose to virtual nose, but they were not, by any means, seeing eye-to-eye. Using the Internet as a starting point, Kaiser Kuo delves into a number of issues at the heart of disagreements on the people-to-people level.

Born in the U. S. to Chinese parents, Kuo lives in China and identifies equally as American and Chinese. Formerly director of digital strategy for the Beijing office of a global advertising agency, Kuo has worked as a technology and business writer for publications such as Time, TimeAsia, China Economic Review, Asia Inc., and the South China Morning Post, and currently serves as an advisor for Youku.com, a leading video sharing company in China. Kuo co-founded China's most famous rock band, Tang Dynasty, and continues to be active in the Chinese music scene.

11/12/09

**Dr. Susan Shirk - China: Fragile Superpower**

Once a sleeping giant, China today is the world's fastest growing economy-- a dramatic turn-around that alarms many Westerners. Shirk's 2007 book, *China: Fragile Superpower*, explored the troubling paradox faced by China's leaders: the more developed and prosperous the country becomes, the more insecure and threatened they feel. Shirk, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State responsible for China, knows many of today's Chinese rulers personally and has studied them for three decades. In her Thompson Forum lecture, Shirk will give an update on the state of China's internal politics and the fears that motivate its leaders. Susan L. Shirk is Director of the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, and Professor at UC-San Diego's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies. A leading authority on China, she has written numerous books and articles on this subject, including pieces that have appeared in Washington Post, Financial Times, and Wall Street Journal.

1/26/10

**Richard Behar - China in Africa: The New Scramble?**

Europe's rapid colonization of Africa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries came to be known as the "Scramble for Africa." Is China's increasing involvement in Africa the 21st century version? From Algeria to Zambia, from aluminum up the resource ladder to zinc, Behar, an award-winning investigative journalist, will discuss an economic model that is at once formidably efficient and tragically flawed and how China's new "scramble for Africa" is interlocked with America's economy.

Richard Behar has garnered 20 journalism awards over a career spanning 25 years. He was called "one of the most dogged of our watchdogs" by the late syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. Behar spent nine years with Fortune magazine, preceded by six years at Time and six years at Forbes. Prior to that, he was a stringer/researcher at the New York Times. Behar has also done assignments for BBC, CNN, FoxNews.com, Fast Company, and PBS.

4/1/10

**Rob Gifford - China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power**

Rob Gifford first went to China in 1987, as a 20 year old undergraduate, to study the Chinese language. He has spent much of the last twenty years living in and reporting on the rise of China, most recently as Beijing Correspondent of National Public Radio. In his recently-published book, *China Road*, he records a two month journey along Route 312, the Chinese equivalent of Route 66. The road flows three-thousand miles from east to west, passing through the factory towns of the coastal areas, through the rural heart of China, then up into the Gobi Desert, where it merges with the old Silk

Road. The highway witnesses every part of the social and economic revolution that is turning China upside down.

Gifford tells the story of his journey through the lives of the colorful Chinese characters he meets along the way: garrulous talk show hosts and ambitious yuppies, impoverished peasants and tragic prostitutes, cell phone salesmen, AIDS patients and Tibetan monks. Using the road trip as a prism to view modern China, he asks bigger questions too: about where China is going, about who the Chinese people are, and about whether we in the West should be concerned about China's rise.

Now NPR's London correspondent, Gifford served as NPR's China correspondent from 1999-2005. Gifford holds degrees in Chinese Studies from Durham University (UK) and Regional Studies (East Asia) from Harvard University.

### **2008/2009**

9/19/08

#### **David Gergen – Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership**

Commentator, editor, teacher, public servant, best-selling author and adviser to presidents, David Gergen has been an active participant in American national life. He served as director of communications for President Ronald Reagan and also held positions in the Nixon, Ford and Clinton administrations. Gergen currently serves as editor-at-large at U.S. News & World Report and as a regular television commentator. He is also a professor of public service at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and director of its Center for Public Leadership. In 2000, he published the best-selling book "Eyewitness to Power: The Essence: of Leadership, Nixon to Clinton."

10/28/08

#### **Ronald Dworkin – Democracy and Religion: America and Israel**

Ronald Dworkin has a unique ability to tie together abstract philosophical ideas and arguments with concrete everyday concerns in law, morals and politics. Dubbed "Mr. Justice" by the Times of London, Dworkin's pioneering scholarly work has had worldwide impact. He is a Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University and a Professor of Law at University College London. In 2007, Dworkin was awarded the prestigious Holberg International Memorial Prize by the University of Bergen, Norway for outstanding scholarly work in the humanities. Dworkin has written influential articles on matters of public political controversy for many years. Among his many acclaimed books are: "Taking Rights Seriously," "Justice in Robes" and "Is Democracy Possible Here? Principles for New Political Debate."

11/18/08

#### **Theodore C. "Ted" Sorensen – America and the World, 1962 to 2008: Contrasts and Contradictions**

Theodore C. 'Ted' Sorensen, former special counsel and adviser to President John F. Kennedy and a widely published author on the presidency and foreign affairs, practiced international law for over 36 years as a senior partner, and now of counsel, in the prominent U.S. law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Former chairman of the firm's International Practice Committee, he has represented U.S. and multinational corporations in negotiations with governments all over the world and advised and assisted a large number of foreign governments and government leaders, ranging from the late President Anwar El Sadat of Egypt to former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. Sorensen is a Lincoln native and graduate of UNL and the University of Nebraska College of Law. His memoirs, "Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History," were published in May, 2008.

2/10/09

#### **F.W. deKlerk – Bridging the Gap: Globalization Without Isolation**

During his time as president of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk released Nelson Mandela from prison, and initiated and presided over the dismantling of apartheid, the adoption of South Africa's first fully democratic constitution and the first-ever multiracial elections. In 1993, Mandela and de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize. One of the most influential statesmen of our time, de Klerk founded and is currently chairman of

the Global Leadership Foundation, a consortium of former heads of state dedicated to promoting peace, democracy and development worldwide by providing confidential peer-to-peer advice to governments around the world.

3/4/09

**Sarah Chayes – Notes from Afghanistan**

Sarah Chayes has been living and working in Kandahar, 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 whose fate will help determine the shape of the 21st century, working first with Afghans for Civil Society, and currently with Arghand, a cooperative producing fine skin-care products from local fruits, nuts and botanicals. The Washington Post described her book, "The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban," as "sharply observed, fearlessly told." Prior to her assignment in Afghanistan, Chayes reported for NPR in the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East. Along with members of her NPR team, she was recognized by the Foreign Press for her reporting in Kosovo.

3/25/09

**Dr. Michael Olivas and Dr. Vernon Briggs – Illegal Immigrants: Path to Citizenship?**

Estimates of the number of illegal immigrants in the United States range from 11 million to more than 20 million. Most recommendations for immigration reform center on the issue of a path to citizenship for these people. Opponents say this is amnesty, a strategy which proved ineffective in previous immigration legislation. Supporters say legalization is both a necessity and a moral obligation. In the second annual Wilson Dialogue, Dr. Michael Olivas, William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law at the University of Houston, and Dr. Vernon Briggs, Professor Emeritus in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, will discuss the issue of a path to citizenship.

4/14/09

**Colin G. Campbell – Citizenship in a Global Age**

The idea of "global citizenship" is old as Athens. But, to this day, it remains a political ideal, not a practical reality. The "world" does not issue you a passport or guarantee you rights. Yet, the values implied by global citizenship - broad awareness, intelligent engagement - have become more compelling than ever. In the final lecture of the Thompson Forum's 20th Anniversary season, Colin G. Campbell will discuss citizenship and its history, the development of American citizenship and the challenges (and potential) of citizenship in the era of globalization. Colin G. Campbell is Chairman and President of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation which, in 2007, convened the World Forum on the Future of Democracy. Since then, the Foundation has used both technology and face-to-face contact to engage thousands of people worldwide in a conversation about the roles, responsibilities and rights of citizens in a democracy.

**2007/2008**

9/13/07

**Joel Sartore - Grounded: A Reflection on the Use of Life and Land**

A life-long Nebraskan, photographer Joel Sartore has covered everything from the remote Amazon rainforest to beer-drinking, mountain-racing firefighters in the United Kingdom. He has produced 17 articles for National Geographic magazine, focusing on endangered species and land use issues and his work has been featured in Time, Life, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, and numerous books. Sartore and his work have been the subject of several national broadcasts including National Geographic's Explorer, the NBC Nightly News, NPR's Weekend Edition and CBS Sunday Morning, as well as an hour-long PBS documentary, At Close Range.

10/15/07

**Douglas Durante and Jerry Taylor - Ethanol**

Douglas A. Durante is president and chief operating officer for Durante Associates, a Washington, DC based consulting firm and is the founder and executive director of the

Clean Fuels Development Coalition (CFDC), a non-profit organization supporting clean transportation fuels such as renewable alcohols and ethers.

Jerry Taylor is a senior fellow of the Cato Institute. He challenges the "market failure" critique of free markets as they pertain to energy policy and environmental protection. He has served on numerous congressional advisory bodies and has testified over a dozen times at hearings on Capitol Hill. He is the author of numerous studies and journal essays on energy and environmental issues, and has contributed to several anthologies, including *Market Liberalism: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century*, *The Cato Handbook for Congress*, and *China as a Global Economic Power: Market Reforms and the New Millennium*, and *Earth Report 2000: Revisiting the True State of the Planet*.

11/12/07

**Cancelled: Sunita Narain - Changing Nature in an Unequal World**

Sunita Narain is the director of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in Delhi, India, and director of the Society for Environmental Communications and publisher of Down To Earth magazine. Since joining the Centre in 1982, Narain has studied the relationship between environment and development and worked to create public consciousness of the need for sustainable development and the role of local, participatory democracy in that development. Her recent work focuses on water-related issues especially water harvesting.

2/12/08

**Amory Lovins - Winning the Oil Endgame**

Amory Lovins is the co-founder, chairman and chief scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute, an independent, market-oriented, nonprofit and nonpartisan think-and-do tank. Much of its work on the efficient and restorative use of resources as well as innovative business strategies is detailed in the book *Natural Capitalism*. Lovins, a MacArthur Fellow, has advised the energy industry and other businesses as well as the U.S. Department of Energy and the Department of Defense. Lovins' latest book, *Winning the Oil Endgame*, was co-sponsored by the Pentagon.

2/25/08

**Reverend Richard Cizik - For God's Sake**

The Reverend Richard Cizik, vice president for governmental affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals (NEA), calls climate change a crisis of "biblical proportions." His responsibilities include setting NEA's policy direction on issues before Congress, the White House, and the Supreme Court, as well as serving as a national spokesman on issues of concern to evangelicals. He is the author of over 100 published articles, editorials and books, including *The High Cost of Indifference: Can Christians Afford Not to Act*

4/22/08

**Bruce Babbitt – Nebraska's Water Future: Feast or Famine**

Bruce Babbitt was Governor of Arizona from 1978-87 and Attorney General of Arizona from 1975-78. As governor, he brought environmental and resource management to the forefront in the state. He negotiated and steered to passage the Arizona Groundwater Management Act of 1980, which remains the most comprehensive water regulatory system in the nation. He was also responsible for creation of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Clinton, Babbitt led the creation of the forest plan in the Pacific Northwest, restoration of the Florida Everglades, passage of the California Desert Protection Act, and legislation for the National Wildlife Refuge system. As a certified fire fighter, he brought his front line experience to creating a new federal wild land fire policy that emphasized the role of fire in maintenance and restoration of natural ecosystems. He pioneered the use of habitat conservation plans under the Endangered Species Act and worked with Clinton to create 22 new national monuments. He is the author of "Cities in the Wilderness," recently issued by Island Press, in which he lays out a new vision of land use in America. He currently serves as a director of the World Wildlife Fund.

## 2006/2007

- 9/08/06 **Ambassador John Bolton**  
Appointed by President George W. Bush as United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations on August 1, 2005. Served as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security from 2001- 2005; Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs at the Department of State, 1989-1993; Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 1985-1989; Assistant Administrator for Program and Policy Coordination, U.S. Agency for International Development, 1982-1983; and General Counsel, U.S. Agency for International Development, 1981-1982.
- 9/20/06 **Azar Nafisi - Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books**  
Author of the national bestseller *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*. Director of the Dialogue Project at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C., and professor of aesthetics, culture, and literature. She held a fellowship from Oxford and taught English literature at the University of Tehran, the Free Islamic University and Allameh Tabatabai University in Iran.
- 11/09/06 **George McGovern - America: the Road Ahead at Home and Abroad**  
United States Congressman, Senator, and the Democratic nominee for the 1972 presidential election. Visiting professor at including Columbia University, Northwestern University, Duke University, Cornell University and the University of Berlin. President of the Middle East Policy Council from 1991-1998; appointed by President Bill Clinton as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. In 2001, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan named him honorary United Nations Global Ambassador on World Hunger.
- 2/08/07 **Clyde Prestowitz**  
Founder and President of the Economic Strategy Institute; served as counselor to the Secretary of Commerce in the Reagan Administration, leading many U.S. trade and investment negotiations with Japan, China, Latin America, and Europe. Author of *Rogue Nation* and *Three Billion New Capitalists: The Great Shift of Wealth and Power to the East*.
- 3/22/07 **Sherwin Nuland, M.D.**  
Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine and a Fellow at Yale's Institute for Social and Policy Studies. Author of nine books, including *Doctors: The Biography of Medicine*, *The Wisdom of the Body*, *The Mysteries Within*, *Lost in America: A Journey with My Father*, and *The Doctors' Plague: Germs, Childbed Fever, and the Strange Story of Ignác Semmelweis*. His book *How We Die: Reflections on Life's Final Chapter* won the National Book Award and spent thirty-four weeks on the New York Times best-seller list.

## 2005/2006

- 9/15/05 **Elaine Pagels - Beyond Belief: A Different View of Christianity**  
Harrington Spear Pain Professor of Religion at Princeton University. Author of *The Gnostic Gospels* and *Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas*. Co-sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Cotner College.
- 11/02/05 **Michael Walzer - The Paradox of National Liberation: India, Israel and Algeria**  
Professor of social science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. Author of *Arguing About War* and *Politics and Passion*.
- 2/15/06 **T.R. Reid - The United States of Europe**  
Rocky Mountain bureau chief for The Washington Post, formerly bureau chief in Tokyo and London. Author of books in both English and Japanese, including *The United States of Europe: The New Superpower and the End of American Supremacy*.
- 4/12/06 **Peter G. Peterson - America and the World Economy**  
Chairman and co-founder of The Blackstone Group and founding president of The Concord Coalition, a bi-partisan citizen's group dedicated to building a constituency of fiscal responsibility. Assistant to President Nixon for International Economic Affairs and appointed Secretary of Commerce in 1972. Author of *Running on Empty: How the Democratic and Republican Parties are Bankrupting Our Future and What Americans Can Do About It*.

## 2004/2005

- 9/09/04 **David Halberstam - War and the Modern American Presidency**  
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for his reporting on Vietnam, and author of 19 books, including *The Best and the Brightest*, *The Powers That Be*, and *The Reckoning*.
- 10/12/04 **Leon Wieseltier - Power and Virtue: American Foreign Policy in the Middle East After September 11**  
Literary editor of the New Republic since 1983, author of *Nuclear War Nuclear Peace*, *Against Identity*, and *Kaddish*.
- 11/08/04 **Roy Gutman - Afghanistan and Lessons Learned**  
Foreign editor for Newsday and Jennings Randolph senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Former Washington-based correspondent for Newsweek, Pulitzer-prize winner for international reporting on "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 3/25/05 **Samantha Power - U.S. Foreign Policy and Human Rights**  
Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and adjunct lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Author of *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction and National Book Critics Circle Award.
- 4/07/05 **John Gerard Ruggie - American Exceptionalism, Exemptionalism and Global Governance**  
Kirkpatrick Professor of International Affairs and Weil Director, Center for Business and Government at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and chief advisor for strategic planning to Secretary-General Kofi Annan from 1997-2001. Author of six books, including *Winning the Peace: America and the World Order in the New Era* and *Constructing World Policy*.

## 2003/2004

- 10/15/03 **Benjamin Barber**  
Gershon and Carrol Kekst Professor of Civil Society at the University of Maryland. Author of 15 books, including *Jihad Vs. McWorld*, *A Passion For Democracy*, and *The Truth Of Power: Intellectual Affairs In The Clinton White House*. Awarded the Berlin Prize of American Academy of Berlin (2001), and the chair of American Civilization at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, and the Palmes Academiques (Chevalier) from the French Government.
- 11/18/03 **Amos Oz**  
Israeli author and essayist. Professor of literature at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Visiting fellow at Oxford University, author-in- residence at the Hebrew University and writer-in-residence at Colorado College. Received the French Prix Femina and the 1992 Frankfurt Peace Prize.
- 1/26/04 **Thomas Borstelmann**  
E.N. and Katherine Thompson Professor of Modern World History at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. A specialist in American diplomatic history, he has written *Apartheid's Reluctant Uncle: The United States and Southern Africa in the Early Cold War* which received the Stuart L. Bernath Prize of the Society for American Foreign Relations, and *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena*.
- 2/17/04 **Mary Robinson**  
President of Ireland (1990 - 1997) and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997 - 2002). Before her election as President in 1990, Mrs. Robinson served as Senator, holding that office for 20 years. In 1969 she became the youngest Reid Professor of Constitutional Law at Trinity College, Dublin. She was called to the bar in 1967, becoming a Senior Counsel in 1980, and a member of the English Bar (Middle Temple) in 1973. She also served as a member of the International Commission of Jurists (1987-1990) and of the Advisory Commission of Inter-Rights (1984-1990). Educated at Trinity College, Mrs. Robinson also holds law degrees from the King's Inns in Dublin and from Harvard University.

## 2002/2003

- 9/23/02 **Thomas Friedman – The Middle East and American Foreign Policy**  
Pulitzer Prize winning public affairs columnist for *The New York Times*. Author of "From Beirut to Jerusalem" and "The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization."
- 10/11/02 **Paul Farmer - Infectious Diseases and Poverty: A View from Haiti**  
Co-director of the Program in Infectious Disease and Social Change at Harvard Medical School and member of scientific committee of the World Health Organization working on tuberculosis. Received a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius award" in recognition of his work. In addition to his research, Dr. Farmer runs health clinics in Haiti, Peru and Russia.
- 11/13/02 **Mary Pipher - The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Nebraska**  
Dr. Mary Pipher is an author and clinical psychologist in Lincoln, Nebraska. Author of numerous books, including the New York Times Best Seller *Reviving Ophelia* and *The Middle of Everywhere - The World's Refugees Come to Our Town*.
- 12/1/02 **Bono, Ashley Judd, Lance Armstrong, Agnes Nyamayaro: Africa's Future,**

## **America's Future**

World AIDS Day presentation to address AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

- 3/6/2003 **Cancelled: Ahmad Chalabi - A Vision for the Future of Iraq and the Middle East**  
President of the Iraqi National Congress, the leading opposition group against Saddam Hussein.
- 3/27/03 **Clifford D. May and Qubad Talabany - War Against Hussein: Necessary, Just and Winnable**  
May is President of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a bi-partisan anti-terrorism think tank. He was a reporter and editor for the New York Times and director of communications for the Republican National Committee. Talabany is deputy representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the PUK-led Kurdistan Regional Government's Washington office.
- 4/30/03 **Peter Gleick - Water and War: Issues for the 21st Century**  
Co-founder and President of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security. Dr. Gleick is an internationally recognized expert on global freshwater resources, including the impacts of climate change, sustainable water use, privatization and globalization, and international conflicts over water resources.
- 2001-2002**
- 9/24/01 **Meave Leakey - The Search and Discovery of our Earliest Ancestors**  
Paleoanthropologist, head of the Paleontology Division at the National Museums of Kenya.
- 11/02/01 **Senator Chuck Hagel - Terrorism: Where Do We Go From Here?**  
A panel discussion on global events featuring U.S. Senator Hagel (Ne.), with Thomas E. Gouttierre, Dean of International Studies and director of the Center of Afghanistan Studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha; Dr. Steven H. Hinrichs, director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory at the University of Nebraska Medical Center; Dr. Patrice McMahon, assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska Lincoln; and Peter Tomsen, Special Envoy on Afghanistan with the rank of Ambassador from 1989 - 1992.
- 3/7/02 **Anna Rosmus - Growing Up Where Hitler Lived**  
As a teenager, discovered Nazi past of hometown of Passau, Germany. Author of five books on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. Winner of 1995 Galinski Prize; subject of feature film and documentary.
- 3/14/02 **Mikhail Gorbachev - Russia: Retrospect and Prospects**  
President of the Soviet Union from 1990-91; General Secretary of the Communist Party from 1985-199; 1990 Nobel Peace Prize winner. President of the Gorbachev Foundation, and also Green Cross International, an environmental organization.
- 4/11/02 **Andrew Nathan - Is It Any of Our Business? Human Rights as an Issue in US-China Relations**  
Professor, political science at Columbia University. Author of *The Tiananmen Papers* and *Negotiating Culture and Human Rights: Beyond Universalism and Relativism*.

## 2000/2001

- 10/25/00 **R. James Woolsey - National Security at the Dawn of the 21st Century**  
Attorney, former director of Central Intelligence 1993 - 1995.
- 11/28/00 **David P. Forsythe - Justice After Injustice: What Response After Atrocities**  
Charles J. Mach Distinguished Professor of Political Science, University of Nebraska Lincoln.
- 3/5/01 **Sarah Blaffer Hrdy - How Maternal Instincts Shaped the Human Species**  
Author, cultural anthropologist, Guggenheim fellow.
- 4/3/01 **Rick M. Foster - Agriculture and Food Systems from an International Perspective**  
Vice President for Programs, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

## 1999/2000

- 10/16/99 **Walter McDougall - Atlanticism, the New Atlantis: Euro-American Reveries and Realities**  
Pulitzer Prize-winning Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania and the Foreign Policy Research Council
- 11/9/99 **Eugenia Zukerman - Arts at the Millennium**  
Flutist, author and television commentator for "CBS Sunday Morning"
- 2/8/00 **Robert McNamara, James Blight, Robert Brigham - Argument Without End: In Search of Answers to the Vietnam Tragedy**  
McNamara: Former Secretary of Defense to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson; Blight: Professor, International Relations, Brown University; Brigham: Director, Program in International Relations, Vassar College. Co-authors of "Argument Without End: In Search of Answers to the Vietnam Tragedy"
- 3/7/00 **Theodora Emily Colborn - Endocrine Disruption: From Wildlife to Humans**  
Senior Scientist and Director, Wildlife and Contaminants Program, World Wildlife Fund
- 4/18/00 **Justice Michael Kirby - Human Rights in the New Millennium**  
Justice, High Court of Australia
- 4/26/00 **Archbishop Desmond Tutu - Crying in the Wilderness: Struggle for Justice in South Africa**  
South African anti-apartheid leader, 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Robert W. Woodruff Visiting Professor, Emory University

### 1998/1999

- 9/9/98 **Dorothy Ridings - As the World Turns: Global Giving Goes Center Stage**  
President and Chief Executive Officer, The Council on Foundations
- 10/13/98 **Edward O. Wilson - Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge**  
Pellegrino University Professor and Curator in Entomology,  
Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University
- 11/12/98 **Robert K. Hitchcock - Africa: Environmental Conservation, Development and Human Rights**  
Chair and Associate Professor, Anthropology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 3/9/99 **Anthony Lake - Superpower or Supercop: Dangers and Opportunities in the Post Cold War Era**  
Former National Security Advisor to President Clinton
- 4/14/99 **Peter Arnett - Live from the Battlefield: From Vietnam to Baghdad to Bosnia**  
Pulitzer Prize-winning CNN International Correspondent

### 1997/1998

- 9/16/97 **Camilia Sadat - Hate and Forgiveness: The Difference Between War and Peace**  
President and Founder, Sadat Peace Institute; Senior Professor,  
Bentley College
- 10/21/97 **Reverend Peter Gomes - The Religious Dimension that Will Not Quit: The Persistence of Belief in a Secular World**  
Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Minister in the Memorial  
Church, Harvard University
- 11/12/97 **Thomas Gouttierre - Drugs, Thugs and U.S. Interest on the Historic Spice Roads**  
Dean of International Affairs, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 3/4/98 **Richard Burkholder - The Mind of the Chinese Consumer: Polling the World's Most Populous Nation**  
Vice President and Director of International Operations, Survey  
Research, The Gallup Organization
- 4/9/98 **Hedrick Smith - Russia's Rocky Road to Freedom**  
Pulitzer Prize-winning former *New York Times* correspondent;  
author; principal panelist, "Washington Week in Review"; special  
correspondent "News Hour with Jim Lehrer"

### 1996/1997

- 9/19/96 **Daniel W.Y. Kwok - China: The One and the Many  
An End-of-the-Century View of Culture & Polity in China**  
Professor, Chinese history and world history, University of Hawaii
- 10/22/96 **Col. Nancy Jaax and Col. Jerry Jaax - Lethal Viruses, Ebola and the Hot  
Zone: Worldwide Transmission of Fatal Viruses**  
U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases; leading specialists on  
"hot" viruses
- 11/20/96 **Diane Wilkens - International Development: Global Vision in Myopic Times**  
President and founder, Development Finance International Inc.
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Present, and Future**  
Featured in the PBS series, *The Africans*; Director, Institute for Global Cultural Studies,  
Binghamton University
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and Relationships**  
Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

### 1995/1996

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Storytelling as it Brings International Issues Home**  
Essayist for the PBS MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour; Editor-in-chief, *Columbia Journalism  
Review*; award-winning author.
- 11/15/95 **Francis T. Seow - Singapore -- The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**  
Author, *To Catch a Tartar -- A Dissident in Lee Kuan Yew's Prison*; attorney; professor,  
East Asian Legal Studies, Harvard Law School
- 1/25/96 **Anthony T. Bryan - The Caribbean and the United States: Close Cousins,  
Troubled Neighbors**  
Director, Caribbean Program, North-South Center of the University of Miami; former  
director, Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies,  
Trinidad; editor
- 3/6/96 **Elizabeth Fernea - Islamic Women Today: New Challenges, Changing Roles**  
Author, *Guests of the Sheik: an Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*; editor, *Middle Eastern  
Women Speak*; professor, Middle East Studies Center, University of Texas at Austin
- 4/16/96 **Elie Wiesel - The Seduction and Danger of Fanaticism**  
Nobel Peace Prize winner and Boston University professor; author of 35 books,  
including *La Nuit (Night)* about his experience as an inmate in Nazi death camps;  
founder of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity to advance human rights and  
peace throughout the world

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the 21st Century**

Founder and President, The Institute for Global Ethics; former senior columnist for *The Christian Science Monitor*

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Asia Pacific Policy Center; former diplomat; correspondent and bureau chief, *Far Eastern Economic Review*
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Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; Georgetown University professor of diplomacy and international affairs
- 3/9/95 **Martin E. Marty - Fundamentalisms Around the World: Killing in the Name of God, Healing in the Name of God**  
Director, six-year American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fundamentalism Project; University of Chicago professor; author
- 4/6/95 **Jessica Tuchman Matthews - Trade, Development and the Environment Global Issues and Global Policies**  
Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow; *Washington Post* columnist; former World Resources Institute vice president

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Nicaraguan (Sandinista) foreign minister; winner of international peace awards
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Former Moscow correspondent for UPI and U.S. News & World Report
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Author of best-selling *Vietnam: A History*; Pulitzer Prize winner for history; chief correspondent for PBS' *Vietnam: A Television History*
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National political coordinator and columnist, *The Wall Street Journal*
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*New York Times* chief White House correspondent and former chief diplomatic correspondent

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U.S. Secretary of Education (1985-88); "Drug Czar", 1989-90
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Former Ambassador to the United Nations
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Nobel Laureate in Physics; Caltech professor
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Professor, Georgetown University; frequent commentator on "Good Morning America"

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Noted author; prisoner during Cultural Revolution
- 1991/1992**
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World Bank authority on tropical development
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News commentator, Notes Moscow
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Pulitzer Prize winning author
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Director, Norwegian Nobel Institute
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TV journalist; MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour panelist
- 1990/1991**
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Prize-winning author and diplomat
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Former Under Secretary of State
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Diplomat and art collector
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Daughter of South African president and civil rights leader Nelson Mandela
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Correspondent in Middle East and Africa; author of several books on Islam
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Senior columnist for *The Christian Science Monitor*
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Co-founder and past President, Daewoo Corporation, Korea
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and the USSR under Gorbachev**  
Journalist and former Assistant Secretary of State