



The Jefferson & Debating Literary Society

The Vice President and her Programs Committee
are pleased to present the ...



Fall 2019

Distinguished Speaker Series

Professor Rita
Dove (above) was
the 3rd Speaker of
the Spring 2019
series.

Speaker Line-Up

Unless otherwise stated, all programs will begin at 7:29 pm and be held in Jefferson Hall, Hotel C, West Range and are free and open to the public. Speaker Dinners will be held, per tradition, immediately before the program and are open to Society members. Please contact vice.president@jeffersonsociety.org for more information or to attend these more intimate events.



Dr. Theresa McCulla

September 13, 2019

Historian, American Brewing History Initiative at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Dr. Theresa McCulla is a cultural and social historian of the 18th, 19th, and 20th-century United States. Dr. McCulla's work explores representations of race, ethnicity, and gender in consumer and material culture, especially in conjunction with food and drink. She will be presenting on American brewing history from a sociological perspective.



Mr. Alex Nyerges

September 20, 2019

Director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

In addition to working at VMFA, Mr. Nyerges served as director and CEO at the Dayton Art Institute from 1992 to 2006, and was the executive director of the Mississippi Museum of Art and the DeLand Museum of Art. Mr. Nyerges is active as a photographer, curator, author, and photo historian. Mr. Nyerges will be presenting on his experiences in art and museum curation.



Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss & Professor Kathleen Flake

September 27, 2019

Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Provost at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

In addition to serving in academia, Dr. Andrea Weiss has written a highly renowned female commentary on the Torah. She takes a special interest in the intersection of religion and American politics.

Richard Lyman Bushman Professor of Mormon Studies, University of Virginia

Professor Flake's research in American religious history focuses on the adaptive strategies of 19th and 20th century American religious communities and the effect of pluralism on religious identity.



These experts will be presenting their jointly authored publication "American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters." The publication, released after the 2016 presidential election, is comprised of 100 letters addressed to the president, vice president, and Congress from prominent religious scholars addressing concerns of deep divides in American culture.



Dr. Maryam Zaringhalam

October 11, 2019

2018 AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Co-Founder of Science Soapbox, Leader of 500 Women Scientists

Dr. Zaringhalam founded ArtLab, a blog focusing on the interaction between science and art, and co-founded the science and policy podcast Science SoapBox. She also serves in the organization 500 Women Scientists, and is active as a biochemist and journalist. Dr. Zaringhalam will be presenting on her experiences as a woman of color in STEM leadership.



Ms. Deidre Schmidt

October 18, 2019

President & CEO of CommonBond Communities, Expert in Charlottesville housing policy and affordable housing policy

Ms. Schmidt's prior positions include Principal at One Roof Global Consulting and Executive Director of the Affordable Housing Institute, where she helped entities all around the world develop policies, urban planning strategies, and new business ventures in housing development. She is an expert on Charlottesville and affordable housing policy, and will be presenting on issues of gentrification and housing policy in our community.



Mr. Andy Pollin

October 25, 2019

Co-Host of the Mid-Atlantic Sports Report on MASN, Sports Director of D.C. radio sports station WTEM

Mr. Andy Pollin is a sports radio and TV broadcaster. Mr. Pollin is the co-author of The Great Book of Washington, D.C. Sports Lists with Leonard Shapiro. He will be presenting on sports journalism.



Dean Allen Groves

November 15, 2019

University of Virginia Associate Vice President and Dean of Students

Mr. Groves also serves as a member of the University's Critical Incident Management and Threat Assessment Teams. Dean Groves received his juris doctor degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1990. In 2014, Dean Groves received the "Outstanding Virginian" award from Equality Virginia, an LGBT advocacy organization. He has also received the 2013 "Outstanding Administrator" award from the Black Student Alliance and UVA NAACP. He is a strong advocate of students' rights to freedom of speech and association.

Mr. Benjamin Rous was the 4th Speaker of the Spring 2019 series. From left: Mr. Benjamin Rous, Ms. Madison Roberts



In closing,

The Jefferson Literary and Debating Society strives to cultivate intellectual curiosity and exploration. The Distinguished Speaker Series functions as the Society's primary intellectual contribution to the University community at large, thus making it the cornerstone of the organization's effort to foster dialogue and debate. By bringing distinguished speakers to Grounds almost every Friday of the academic semester and hosting events that are free and open to the public, the series connects the University community with individuals at the forefront of their fields.

As a member of the Society, I can tell you first hand that the dynamic interaction between speakers and students fostered by this Speaker Series is truly remarkable. If you came to a speaker this semester, I want to thank you. The Jefferson Society helps make these programs a delight. It has been an honor to serve the Society as Vice President this semester, to host the spring 2019 speakers, and to recruit the speakers who will be featured in the fall of 2019. Finally, I would like to extend my immeasurable gratitude to my Programs Committee – Jane Ann Langford, Sahil Parikh, Veena Ramesh, Victor Liu, and Lou'ay Hussein – for helping me throughout the process: thank you!

Haec Olim Meminisse Iuvabit,

Madison Elizabeth Roberts

Vice President, Spring 2019
Jefferson Literary and Debating Society