

# Spring 2025

## Distinguished Speaker Series

### February 14 – Dr. Marc Edwards

Marc Edwards is most renowned for his work uncovering the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. In 2015, Edwards formed a team to test the water in Flint and discovered dangerously high levels of lead. The following year, he testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform regarding his findings. He was appointed to Michigan's Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee to help address the crisis. Edwards first gained national recognition in 2004 for exposing elevated lead levels in Washington, D.C.'s municipal water supply. As a result of his research, Congress launched an investigation and found that the CDC had falsely claimed the contaminated water was safe.



His professional accolades include a Presidential Faculty Fellowship awarded by the White House (1996) and recognition by Time magazine as one of the most innovative scientists in the United States (2004). Edwards also received a MacArthur “Genius Grant” in 2007 for “playing a vital role in ensuring the safety of drinking water and exposing deteriorating water-delivery infrastructure in America’s largest cities.” Edwards earned his B.S. in biophysics at the University of Buffalo and his M.S. and Ph.D. in environmental engineering at the University of Washington. He is currently a University Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech.

### February 21 – Dr. Margo Smith



Margo Smith has served as the director and curator of the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum in Charlottesville since its founding in 1999. With over 3,600 works, the Kluge-Ruhe houses the largest collection of Aboriginal artwork outside Australia.

Since joining Kluge-Ruhe in 1995 as a graduate student, Smith has played a pivotal role in shaping the museum’s vision, securing major grants, and forging deep relationships with Indigenous Australian artists. Her commitment to cross-cultural exchange has led to groundbreaking exhibitions, international collaborations, and academic courses on Aboriginal art at UVA.

From 1991 to 1993, she conducted fieldwork in central Australia, focusing on Aboriginal art and cultural practices. Her scholarship includes the co-edited volume *Art From the Land: Dialogues with the Kluge-Rube Collection of Australian Aboriginal Art* (1999) with Dr. Howard Morphy. In recognition of her contributions, Smith was made an honorary Member of the Order of Australia in 2015 and received the Thomas Jefferson Award for Service in 2023. She earned her B.A. from William & Mary and her M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Virginia.

### **April 11 – Todd DeSorbo**

Todd DeSorbo has served as the head coach of the University of Virginia swimming and diving program since 2017. He has transformed UVA into a dominant force in collegiate swimming, leading the Cavaliers to four consecutive NCAA Women's Team Championships (2021–2024) and multiple ACC titles.

In 2024, DeSorbo served as the head coach of the U.S. Women's Olympic Swimming Team in Paris, where Team USA earned 19 total medals, including six golds. His leadership has been instrumental in the success of UVA swimmers on the international stage, with multiple athletes setting American, NCAA, and world records.



Since taking over at UVA, DeSorbo has amassed numerous accolades, including four consecutive CSCAA Women's Coach of the Year awards (2021–2024). Under his guidance, the Cavaliers have won over 28 NCAA individual and relay titles, set numerous school and national records, and consistently ranked among the top programs in the country. Before joining UVA, DeSorbo spent six seasons as associate head coach at NC State, helping the Wolfpack secure multiple ACC championships and develop Olympic talent. He also coached at UNC Wilmington, where he began his coaching career after a successful collegiate swimming career of his own. DeSorbo holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting from UNCW.