



Distinguished Lecture Series

Presented by the Honors College

Select Speakers, 2000s



Terry Waite (2001)

The inaugural speaker, Waite successfully negotiated the release of several hostages from Iran in the early 1980s. He later was taken captive, spending 4 years in solitary confinement.

Topic: Resolving Conflict - The Test of Humanity

Horst L. Stormer (2002)

Stormer is a 1998 Nobel Prize laureate in physics, was the research director at Bell labs, and a professor at Columbia University.

Topic: Physics in the Communication Industry



Michael Cunningham (2003)

Cunningham is an American novelist and screenwriter who won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *The Hours*.

Topic: Wrestling With a Genius- My Life and Virginia Woolf's

Karen Armstrong (2005)

Armstrong, a former nun, is a British author and commentator on the role of religion in the modern world.

Topic: Battle for God



Jonathan Kozol (2006)

Kozol is a public education advocate who has worked in and written about education.

Topic: Federal Intervention in Public Education: Facing the Challenges

About

Origin: The Honors College sponsored guest lecturers starting in the early 1970s. Later, they hosted a "Casual Conversations" luncheon series. That series plus similar series at other universities inspired the creation of The Distinguished Lecture Series.

Mission: The Distinguished Lecture Series provides intellectual enrichment to the Boise State and Treasure Valley communities by presenting eminent lecturers from a range of disciplines who deliver speeches on topics of contemporary relevance.

Selection: Each lecturer has earned national or international prominence by making a significant impact in his or her field that has shaped contemporary life.

Full List of Speakers

September 26, 2018	Antony J. Blinken, former Deputy Secretary of State
April 9, 2018	Werner Herzog, award-winning filmmaker, director and writer
September 25, 2017	Azar Nafisi, Iranian-American bestselling author
April 17, 2017	Sarah Lewis, bestselling author and assistant professor at Harvard University
September 27, 2016	David Brooks, political analyst and columnist for The New York Times
April 14, 2016	Carl Wieman, award-winning physicist and professor in the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University
October 5, 2015	Julia Gillard, Australia's first woman Prime Minister
April 8, 2015	Margaret Atwood, acclaimed author who has received numerous international literary awards including the prestigious Booker Prize
Nov. 20, 2014	Salman Rushdie, author and winner of many of the world's top literary prizes
April 8, 2014	Richard Heinzl, founder of the first North American chapter of Doctors Without Borders
October 3, 2013	Jonathan Spence, the world's foremost authority on Chinese civilization and the role of history in shaping modern China
April 18, 2013	Louis Menand, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and scholar of American studies
October 4, 2012	Steven Pinker, cognitive scientist one of the world's foremost writers on language, mind and human nature
March 6, 2012	Susan Solomon, climate scientist internationally recognized as a leader in atmospheric science, 2007 Nobel Laureate, and Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
October 6, 2011	Raj Patel, award-winning writer, food activist and academic
March 10, 2011	Martha Nussbaum, philosopher and author of <i>Fragility of Goodness</i> and <i>Cultivating Humanity: A Classic Defense of Reform in Liberal Education</i>
December 1, 2010	Jody Williams, humanitarian and Nobel Laureate
February 16, 2010	Steve Fainaru, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting and author of <i>Big Boy Rules: America's Mercenaries Fighting in Iraq</i>
April 16, 2008	William McDonough, internationally renowned designer and one of the primary proponents and shapers of what he and his partners call "The Next Industrial Revolution"
October 16, 2007	Louis Sullivan, former secretary of health and human services under President George H.W. Bush
March 12, 2007	Hans Blix, former chief UN weapons inspector in Iraq and author of <i>Disarming Iraq</i>
October 10, 2006	Jonathan Kozol, public education advocate, author and winner of the National Book Award for <i>Death at an Early Age</i>
April 12, 2006	Joseph Stiglitz, winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics and bestselling author of <i>Globalization and Its Discontents</i>
February 13, 2006	Seymour Hersh, investigative reporter who won the Pulitzer Prize for exposing the My Lai Massacre in Vietnam. He is the author of <i>Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib</i> and other books
October 4, 2005	Karen Armstrong, religion scholar and author who wrote <i>A History of God</i> , <i>The Battle for God</i> , the memoir <i>The Spiral Staircase</i> and a number of other well-received books
March 15, 2005	Christopher Hogwood, internationally acclaimed conductor and musicologist
April 14, 2004	E.O. Wilson, a world-renowned biologist and two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize
October 19, 2004	Mary Robinson, president of Ireland from 1990-1997 and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002
October 9, 2003	Michael Cunningham, author who won the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award for <i>The Hours</i>
October 2, 2002	Lech Walesa, former president of Poland and winner of the 1983 Nobel Prize for Peace
April 25, 2002	Horst Stormer, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Physics
October 9, 2001	Jose Ramos-Horta, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Peace for "his sustained efforts to hinder the oppression of a small people" in his homeland of East Timor
April 10, 2001	Terry Waite, humanitarian and hostage negotiator

Select Speakers, 2010s

Martha Nussbaum (2011)

Nussbaum is a philosopher and author who previously taught at Harvard and Brown, and currently teaches at the University of Chicago.

Topic: Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs Humanities



Richard Heinzl (2014)

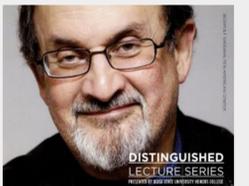
Heinzl founded the first North American chapter of Doctors Without Borders in 1988, just out of medical school.

Topic: Creating Opportunity in a World Without Borders

Sir Salman Rushdie (2014)

Rushdie is a British Indian novelist and essayist known for his controversial novel *The Satanic Verses*.

Topic: Literature and Politics in the Modern World



Margaret Atwood (2015)

Atwood is a Canadian poet, novelist, and literary critic. She is known for her novels *The Edible Woman* and *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Topic: Expression and the Power of Words

David Brooks (2016)

Brooks is a journalist and an award winning author for *The New York Times*. Brooks's was the best-attended event in the history of the series.

Topic: Character and the Common Good



By: Colin Branham and Emily Verheijen