

UNIVERSITY FORUM

A Free Lecture Series • Fall 2006 • 895-3401

University Forum is a public lecture series sponsored and funded by UNLV's College of Liberal Arts.
All events are free, and no reservation is necessary; simply attend at the time and place shown.

Yaddo: The History of America's Formative Artists' Community

Thursday, September 7, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Ben Alexander, Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

Yaddo is an artistic community located in Saratoga Springs, New York. According to John Cheever, Yaddo has seen more distinguished activity in the arts than any other piece of ground in the English-speaking community. Relying on manuscripts and photographs from Yaddo's archive Alexander will document its remarkable (and previously unstudied) history.

Earthquakes in Southern Nevada? "Don't Be Scared – Be Prepared"

Tuesday, September 12, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Barbara Luke and other members of the Southern Nevada Earthquake Research Team

Did you know?

- Nevada is the third most seismically active state in the country.
- Las Vegas is at high risk for casualties and damage due to its large population and continued growth.

Learn more about the local earthquake hazards, preparedness tips and disaster planning.

A Tour of the Solar System

Thursday September 21, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

George Rhee, Physics Department, UNLV

Professor Rhee will survey the solar system featuring recent discoveries and the latest images of the planets. He will start his journey at the sun and go out past Pluto to the outer reaches of the solar system to 'visit' the Kuiper belt and the Oort cloud of comets.

The Dinosaurs of Southern Utah: St George and the Dragon...Tracks

Tuesday, September 26, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Jerry D. Harris, Director of Paleontology, Dixie State College

199 million years ago, dinosaurs and other animals left a wealth of spectacular, well-preserved footprints on the shores of "Lake Dixie". Today these are preserved at the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm in southwestern Utah. Dr. Harris will discuss how the footprints reveal a wealth of information about prehistoric animal behavior, including very bird-like behavior by some early, carnivorous dinosaurs.

(Co-sponsored by the UNLV College of Sciences and the Department of Geoscience.)

The Arboretum at UNLV

Thursday, September 28, 2006 – 6:00 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Susan Jones, UNLV Arboretum

Join us on an early evening walk through the green heart of campus. Hear stories about our historical spaces, champion trees and special gardens. See a variety of landscapes, from the drought tolerant desert garden to the more traditional trees and lawn of the campus main mall. Total walking distance will be 1.5 miles. **Please note that this event will start at 6 p.m. Meet at the Barrick Museum Auditorium.**

A Western Perspective on America's Constitution

Monday, October 2, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Akhil Reed Amar, Professor of Law, Yale Law School

Akhil Reed Amar, universally recognized as one of this era's most accomplished constitutional-law scholars, will deliver the inaugural UNLV Constitution Day Public Lectureship. He will discuss his book *America's Constitution: A Biography*, and will pay particular attention to the role of the American West in shaping the nation's constitutional experience. (Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the College of Liberal Arts, the Departments of History and Political Science and the William S. Boyd School of Law)

The Music of Bill Evans

Wednesday October 4, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Beam Music Center, Doc Rando Hall

Bill Cunliffe, Assistant Professor, Jazz Studies, Temple University

Bill Evans was a pivotal jazz musician of the 20th Century. His music will be explored from various perspectives: his bebop that influenced recordings of the mid-fifties, his groundbreaking work with George Russell, his influence on Miles Davis to create "modal" jazz, and his first great trio with Scott La Faro and Paul Motian. Cunliffe will discuss these topics in detail and perform his music. (Co-sponsored by the UNLV Department of Music)

COWBOYS FULL: The Story of America's National Other Pastime – Poker

Monday, October 9, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

James McManus, Professor of Writing, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and poker writer for the New York Times

Tonight's lecture will describe the history of poker, from its emergence in New Orleans and on Mississippi steamboats around 1810 through the Iraqi-Most-Wanted deck and recent no-limit hold'em boom that has taken the casino and online gambling worlds by storm. Key figures to

Ancient Flutes of the New World

Tuesday, October 10, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Michael Graham Allen of Coyote Oldman, Recording Artist

In pursuit of ancient flutes of the New World, Michael Graham Allen has researched artifacts, fashioned replicas, composed music and enjoyed a 20-year career as a professional recording artist. In this lecture/performance, art and science will merge with the reintroduction of the extinct Anasazi flute, a truly significant musical instrument of ancient America. (Co-sponsored by CSUN, and UNLV's Departments of Anthropology, Music and Art)

Working With War: Henry W. Nevinson and the Changing Role of the War Correspondent

Wednesday, October 18, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Angela V. John, Honorary Professor of History, University of Wales, UK

Exactly 150 years ago, one of the most gifted and original of all war correspondents was born in England. Henry Nevinson reported on many conflicts that are still in today's news, from the Balkans, the Middle East and the Caucasus to Ireland, Africa and India. He made three trips to the United States. Through the perspectives of this intrepid journalist and revealing diarist, Angela John will explore how the role of the war correspondent has changed, casting the demands and pressures of today's correspondents in a fresh light. (Co-sponsored by the UNLV History and English Departments)

The Novel as Modern Myth

Friday October 20, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

John Bender, Director, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University

What do the early modern novel and human myth-making share? Looking at Robinson Crusoe, Frankenstein, and Dracula, Bender will argue that they hold in common a sense of being there at the beginning, and more. Both forms invoke the supernatural, both dissolve style into a rough-hewn substance, and both make the extraordinary aspect of reality seem somehow ordinary. (Co-sponsored by Nevada Humanities)

The Great American Sideshow: 100 Years of Freakish Spectacle as Viewed from Postmodern Las Vegas

Wednesday, October 25, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Dana Marie Miller, UNLV Library

Long before Las Vegas was the entertainment capital of the world, millions of visitors flocked to destinations like Coney Island to see fantastic new shows and spectacles. One of the stranger entertainments of the late nineteenth century was the exhibit of human curiosities, or freaks. What might the three-legged man have in common with the Strip as it is today? Let's find out.

STUD, DUD, THUD: The Evolution of Human Male Reproduction

Thursday, November 2, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Richard Bribiescas, Department of Anthropology, Yale University

In this lecture Dr. Bribiescas, author of *Men: Evolution and Life History*, will explore patterns of human growth, reproduction and aging with data from studies of men in Japan, Paraguay, and the United States. The results have implications for the understanding of the role hormones play in such health issues as prostate cancer. (Co-sponsored by the UNLV Department of Anthropology)

The Quran and Peace

Monday, November 6, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Aslam Abdullah, Director, Islamic Society of Nevada

Is violence part of Islam? Does the Quran, the scripture Muslims believe was divinely revealed, promote terror, killing and destruction? Since September 11, 2001, these questions have been raised all over the world. Join us in exploring this fascinating subject as Dr. Abdullah argues that the Quran promotes pluralism, human dignity, and, above all, peace. (Co-sponsored by the Islamic Society of Nevada)

Vikings, Eskimos, and Mongolians: Frozen 'Empires' of the Arctic

Thursday, November 16, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

William W. Fitzhugh, Director of the Arctic Studies Center, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Better known for Eskimos than empires, the Arctic has actually been the birthplace of some of the most influential cultures in world history – Vikings, Thule Eskimos, and Genghis Khan's Mongolians. These northern cultures came to dominate large areas of the world within a few centuries of each other during a period of pronounced climatic warming. This lecture presents recent archaeological and historical data that bring the cultures, individuals, and events of these times to life, revealing an Arctic impact on the global history that is only just beginning to be appreciated today. (Co-sponsored by the UNLV Department of Anthropology)

Patients and Prisoners – The Ethics of Lethal Injection

Friday, November 17, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Gerald Dworkin, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Davis

In the U.S., prison doctors supervise the administration of lethal injections. We will explore the ethics of physician participation in the administration of capital punishment. Does it violate medical ethics for a doctor to participate in lethal injection? Does it ultimately matter what the nature of that participation is? (Co-sponsored by the UNLV Department of Philosophy and the Boyd School of Law)

Intelligence Testing: A Matter of Life or Death?

Thursday, November 30, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium

Chad W. Buckendahl, Director, Buros Institute for Assessment and Consultation Outreach, University of Nebraska

A 2002 Supreme Court ruling eliminated capital punishment for mentally retarded individuals. As researchers and judges consider the implications of this decision, methods for evaluating a defendant's IQ have been scrutinized. Tonight's speaker will discuss uses of standardized intelligence tests in situations that now could mean life or death. (Co-sponsored by the Department of Educational Psychology and the College of Education, the Boyd School of Law and the Department of Criminal Justice)

Electronic Prospecting: Techniques and Tools for Mining Government Information

Wednesday, December 6, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – UNLV Lied Library, Amargosa Room

Sidney Watson and Susie Skarl, UNLV Library

Government agencies regularly publish reports and statistics that cover a wide range of topics, but finding what you are looking for can be confusing and time consuming. Learn to untangle the secrets of searching online for government information on diverse subjects such as business, consumer health, and the environment.

University Forum wishes to thank Nevada Public Radio for assistance with publicity.

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