

Life-Long Learning Series - Spring 2018

All presentations are in Noble Hall, Rm. 130
from 7-8:30 p.m. unless *noted otherwise.

JANUARY 18: FACTS, OPINIONS, AND ETHICS EDUCATION

Justin McBrayer, FLC associate professor of philosophy and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Political Science. Many American children are taught that facts are one thing, opinions are another, and that ethics is purely a matter of opinion. McBrayer will argue that this dichotomy is both conceptually confused and harmful.

JANUARY 25: MUSICAL INNER WORKINGS OF ARGENTINE TANGO

***ROSHONG RECITAL HALL**

M. Brent Williams, FLC assistant professor of violin, viola, and chamber music, San Juan Symphony concertmaster, and colleagues will present an interactive lecture-recital that will explore specific techniques and terms central to authentic Argentine Tango. Excerpts will be performed from Tango Nuevo masterpieces to exciting and accessible versions of standard works.

FEBRUARY 1: THE FEUDAL ROOTS OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

Viktor Shmagin, FLC assistant professor of history. Most people identify the late 19th century combination of Japan's westernizing reforms and the growth of State Shinto as the inception of Japanese imperialism. This phenomenon can actually be traced back to the political and commercial arrangements of the 17th century. Prof. Shmagin describes what this reveals about the projection of Japanese power and world history.

FEBRUARY 8: BRIDGING THE PERSONAL AND THE SCHOLARLY

Jesse Peters, dean of the FLC School of Arts and Sciences, will discuss how he came to study Native American literature and the ways it impacted him personally and professionally. Peters believes this body of literature is important to the world today and in the future. It all comes down to telling stories.

FEBRUARY 15: TRUMPENOMICS – NOT NECESSARILY A RETURN OF REAGANOMICS

Robert "Tino" Sonora, FLC professor of economics. Under discussion will be the economic policy of both the GOP dominated Congress and the Trump Administration during the first year of the Trump presidency. Tax and trade policies, regulation, immigration, and the "supply side" arguments will be covered, plus a greater historic perspective. Research findings point to the pros and cons of the policies.



FEBRUARY 22: ALL ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS

George L. San Miguel, branch chief for natural resources stewardship, Mesa Verde National Park, has studied and enjoyed birds his entire adult life. With a dedicated team of local volunteers, he bands hummingbirds for the Hummingbird Monitoring Network.

MARCH 1: EPIGENETICS: WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

Joseph Gambone, doctor of osteopathy, master public health, will review classic genetics and then discuss epigenetics. Since a person's genes can be manipulated, even before birth, by external events and exposures, how you got to be the way you are is complicated. The changes, which occur without changing a person's DNA sequence, are called "epigenetic" and such alterations can cause important health effects.

MARCH 8: TRAVELING THE WORLD WITH ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT

Rick Rottman has had a complex career ranging from work in the aerospace industry to gold exploration in Russia. Speaking Russian, German, and Spanish, he has long been interested in world history and travel. It's no surprise he's fascinated by Humboldt's extraordinary life (1769-1859). In the 19th century, Humboldt used his personal fortune to travel the world on scientific expeditions. He helped establish what we think of today as the "New Geography."

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 22: THE GREATNESS OF THE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

**CO-SPONSORED BY THE CENTER OF SOUTHWEST STUDIES FOR THE
ANNUAL DUANE SMITH LECTURE.**

***STUDENT UNION BALLROOM**

Charles F. Wilkinson, distinguished professor of law, University of Colorado, Boulder, will discuss the first-time Indian tribes have led a campaign for a national monument and succeeded in establishing a system of collaborative management between tribes and federal agencies. In December 2016, President Obama proclaimed monument status on the area. In December 2017, President Trump reduced the size by 85 percent. The tribes have sued.

MARCH 29: THE BOUNDS OF DIVERSITY AND THE MIRAGE OF MULTI-CULTURALISM

Tom Givón, Colorado rancher and retired professor of linguistics and cognitive science. Diversity is a core ingredient of evolution through natural selection. As counterbalance, homogeneity, both genetic and behavioral, is necessary for the survival of coherent, internally-compatible populations. Givón will discuss the close parallel between biological and cultural populations and survey the rise of agriculture, surplus food production and ever-larger social units, and close by looking at the current left-leaning academic obsession with diversity and multi-culturalism.

APRIL 5: CHOOSING A CHILD-FREE LIFE

Writer Nicole Hardy will read from her 2013 memoir "Confessions of a Latter-day Virgin" and discuss her experience of not wanting to have children. Recognizing that we all live in a belief system which asserts that every woman is - inherently, and by design - a mother, Hardy will question that system and those beliefs. Discussing a child-free life, a term that didn't exist until very recently, she will examine religious, societal, political, and cultural expectations.

APRIL 12: FLC AND A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT: THREE MAJOR CHANGES

Dene K. Thomas, president of Fort Lewis College, will retire at the end of this term after eight years in office. In the final Life-Long Learning presentation of the academic year, she will comment on resolving three major issues which have significance for the present and future of the College: The Old Fort and the State Land Board, the curriculum, and establishing equilibrium between STEM and the liberal arts.