



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

LEARN LOCAL. THINK GLOBAL.



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HEALTH

JEFFERSON
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

WELCOME TO GLOBAL SUMMIT XVII

Dear Friends,

These days, it feels almost radical to just ask a question. Everything is so loud, so certain, so quick to be divided into “this versus that.” You start wondering aloud and suddenly you’re suspect — of the wrong camp, the wrong values, the wrong side. That’s why spaces that encourage thoughtful inquiry matter more than ever. Since its inception in 2008, the Jefferson Educational Society has embraced the idea of learning as an act of citizenship, and Global Summit XVII provides an opportunity to ask the real questions:



Why is this happening in my community?

What forces shaped this moment in our country?

Whose voices are missing from the conversation?

And arguably the most important: What do I not yet understand about the systems I live in?

With a focus on lifelong learning and civic curiosity, this year’s lineup explores some of the most pressing issues facing our region and nation — from political history and international affairs to race, gender, and even the evolving role of sports in society. Premier leaders of industry, politics, media, and medicine remind us that Erie is not on the sidelines of national and global discourse but an active participant in it. If we want

a functioning democracy, we must have a thinking democracy — one that resists hyperpartisanship and the comfort of echo chambers. This summit is more than a speaker series. It is an invitation to listen deeply, ask boldly, and engage fully.

In the pages ahead, you will find details about each exceptional presenter, thoughtfully assembled by our dedicated team and Steve Scully, whose commitment to this event as its chairman since 2012 has helped shape it into what it is today. We are also excited to welcome Christina Marsh, who will carry that momentum forward and continue building something truly meaningful for our community, as she takes over the chairmanship and Steve enters his new JES role as director of the Brock Institute and senior adviser of strategic development.

Of course, none of this would be possible without your support. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, including LECOM, Erie Insurance, Tom Hagen, Erie News Now, Bruce and Sarah McWilliams, Logistics Plus, Gannon University, PNC, and the many others you’ll see in the following pages, and to all who make this work possible. Whether you have been with us from the beginning or are just joining us, we look forward to learning, questioning, and growing alongside you in another inspiring year of the Jefferson Global Summit.

Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.
President
Jefferson Educational Society

Dear Friends,

As we approach our country’s 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, there is no better time to reflect on the defining events of our country while considering where it is headed. This year’s Global Summit speaker series, the JES’s 17th, builds a forum where we don’t just remember our history but are also able to engage with it and challenge it to shape a better future.



As this is my first year chairing the Global Summit, I can proudly say this is the most ambitious lineup yet and a testament to how far the event has come. I am incredibly honored to follow in the footsteps of Steve Scully, who chaired the Global Summit since 2012. Although I’m thankful that Steve remains involved with the important work of the JES in his new role as the director of the Brock Institute and a senior adviser of strategic development.

In true JES style, the range of topics this year covers those from the Great Lakes to across the pond, and its speakers are equally as diverse. They all have a common thread, though, telling the American story while sparking conversations that move us forward. The event kicks off with the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama (Sept. 16), a figure who came into office at a tumultuous time and made significant efforts to increase power to the people. The audience will have a chance to listen and learn, reflecting on the power of the presidency and its role in the fabric of a healthy democracy.

Historian Lindsay Chervinsky and author Chris Whipple will further discuss America’s presidency (Oct. 20), and veteran

journalist and political analyst Juan Williams explains the country’s second Civil Rights movement (Nov. 13). A panel of former mayors from across the nation will touch on local-level innovative thinking and doing (Nov. 3), and Emmy-winning and bestselling author Dr. Larry Sabato will speak about the media’s impact on American politics (Nov. 14). The lineup goes beyond the country, though, with former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul addressing international relations (Nov. 6) and astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson breaking down the latest developments in the cosmos (Oct. 29).

Vice President Mike Pence will have a conversation with former Grove City College President Paul McNulty about faith, religion, and politics on Nov. 5. Vice President Pence has become an active voice for democracy, standing against the Capitol riots on Jan. 6 and certifying the 2020 election results, even when it meant breaking from his political party in some cases. Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or Independent I hope you can hear the various perspectives at this summit and challenge your own assumptions, even if it is uncomfortable. In a time of intense division, this fall is a prime time to recommit to the civic responsibility our Founding Fathers laid before us.

Before retiring, I served as chief community and economic development officer at Erie Insurance, after a career of almost 30 years. I’m extremely thankful to Ferki Ferati and the Jefferson Educational Society for this opportunity and to the Erie community for its unwavering support. I can’t think of a better beginning than this year’s celebration of history and the promise of a better future in the Erie region and beyond. I hope to see you all at the summit.

Christina Marsh
Global Summit Chairwoman

A Conversation with President Barack Obama

President of the United States Barack Obama

Barack H. Obama is the 44th President of the United States.

Few presidents have walked a more improbable path to the White House. Born in Hawaii to a mother from Kansas and a father from Kenya, Obama was raised with help from his grandparents, whose generosity of spirit reflected their Midwestern roots. The homespun values they instilled in him, paired with his innate sense of optimism, compelled Obama to devote his life to giving every child, regardless of his or her background, the same chance America gave him.

After working his way through college with the help of scholarships and student loans, Obama moved to Chicago, where he worked with a group of churches to help rebuild communities devastated by the closure of local steel plants. That experience honed his belief in the power of uniting ordinary people around a politics of purpose, in the hard work of citizenship, to bring about positive change. In law school, he became the first African American president of the Harvard Law Review, then he returned to Illinois to teach constitutional law at the University of Chicago and begin a career in public service, winning seats in the Illinois State Senate and the United States Senate.

On Nov. 4, 2008, Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States, winning more votes than any candidate in history. He took office at a moment of crisis unlike any America had seen in decades -- a nation at war, a planet in peril, the American Dream itself threatened by the worst economic calamity since the Great Depression. And yet, despite all manner of political obstruction, Obama's leadership helped rescue the economy, revitalize the American auto industry, reform the health care system to cover another 20 million Americans, and put the country on a firm course to a clean energy future -- all while overseeing the longest stretch of job creation in American history. On the world stage, Obama's belief in America's indispensable leadership and strong, principled diplomacy helped wind down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, decimate al-Qaida and eliminate the world's most wanted terrorists, shut down Iran's nuclear weapons program, open up a new chapter with the people of Cuba, and unite humanity in coordinated action to combat a changing climate.

In times of great challenge and change, President Obama's leadership ushered in a stronger economy, a more equal society, a nation more secure at home and more respected around the world. The Obama years were ones in which more people not only began to see themselves in the changing face of America, but to see America the way he always has -- as the only place on Earth where so many of our stories could even be possible.

Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of two daughters -- Malia and Sasha.



A Conversation with President Barack Obama

President of the United States
Barack Obama

Tuesday, September 16
6:30 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena
809 French St.
Erie, Pennsylvania

**Passes and JES Memberships
do NOT include JES Special
Events.*



The Power of Saying 'Yes': A Journey of Performing Surgeries on All Seven Continents

Dr. Jane Petro

**Tuesday, Oct. 14
7 p.m.**

**Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania**



'You are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not'

David LaMotte

**Thursday, Oct. 16
7 p.m.**

**Warner Theatre
811 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania**

**This is a Dr. David and MaryAnne Kozak Gannon READS event.*

The Power of Saying 'Yes': A Journey of Performing Surgeries on All Seven Continents

A trailblazer in the medical field, Dr. Jane Petro is the 2025 Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award recipient. Now a plastic surgeon and educator with over 20 years of practice, two books, 73 peer-reviewed publications, and a plethora of international medical missions under her belt, Petro got her start in Pennsylvania, gaining her master's degree in the second graduating class of the new medical school at the time, Penn State University at Hershey in 1973. From her humble beginnings, she knew the meaning of hard work, using scholarships and loans to pay for school and working as an antiques dealer for extra cash.

It's her humility and empathy that drives her work as her career spans across the public and community service sectors, serving otherwise underserved communities. A distinguished plastic surgeon, she used her skills to volunteer at Blythedale Children's Hospital, providing care to cleft lip and palate patients on Medicaid. She also was a champion for HIV-positive patients during the AIDS crisis, advocating for their care.

She has held various leadership positions and numerous firsts: the first woman plastic surgery resident at Hershey in 1978, the first microsurgical hand reattachment in Pennsylvania in 1978, the first woman professor of surgery at New York Medical Center in 1996, and was on the first all-women crew in the Marion to Bermuda Race on the vessel Cassiopeia. Harboring a passion for sailing, Petro captained or crewed sailboats from 1970 to 2025 on national and international trips. Outside of her retirement from surgery, she's taken on the position of historian and educator, highlighting the work of often unidentified women doctors in the 19th century. Her achievements and continued drive to serve others are what earned her the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award, which is awarded to individuals with ties to the region who have achieved greatness in their field and made a lasting impact on society.

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'You Are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not'

In a world where it's easy to feel powerless, David LaMotte wants to empower people and help them realize their potential. Author of "You Are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not," LaMotte examines how ordinary people can create change without feeling daunted or immobilized by the enormity of today's issues.

LaMotte is a songwriter, speaker, and author who draws from folk roots in his music and speaking career. He has released 13 albums and performed over 3,500 concerts with hits atop the folk charts in a career spanning over 30 years. His music, including the Folk Radio #1 hit "September Me," has been featured on "Our Town" (Broadway), "This American Life", and national television. As a speaker and author, he addresses peace and conflict resolution. He has delivered TEDx talks (one a TED Editor's Pick) and keynoted events at the U.N., Scottish Parliament, and Rotary International.

In 2009, he suspended his music career for two years to study international relations in Australia and India for his master's degree as a Rotary World Peace Fellow at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. He and his wife founded PEG Partners, a nonprofit that supports mentoring, education, and artistic expression in Guatemala. He has published four books, including two illustrated children's books. "You Are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not" is his fourth book and draws on his many international experiences, including personal interviews he conducted. It is used in college classrooms across the U.S. and abroad.

The event is part of the Dr. David and MaryAnne Kozak Gannon READS (Reading to Enhance the Awareness of a Diverse Society) program, in which Gannon University freshmen were given copies of the book to read and discuss in their freshman seminar courses.

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From Washington to Trump: The U.S. Presidency and America at 250

The power of the presidency has defined centuries of Americans, and as the country approaches the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Dr. Lindsay M. Chervinsky and Chris Whipple look back at how presidents have left their marks.

Chervinsky is a presidential historian and executive director of the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. Previously, she was a non-resident senior fellow at the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University, a historian at the White House Historical Association, and a fellow at the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. Her newest book, "Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents that Forged the Republic," was published in 2024 and examines how Adams' leadership left a legacy for decades to come. She is also the author of the award-winning book "The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution." She is also an editor and a regular name in national news outlets.

Joining her is Chris Whipple, an author, documentary filmmaker, and political analyst. He has been called "an indispensable observer of American power." His most recent book, "Uncharted: How Trump Beat Biden, Harris, and the Odds in the Wildest Campaign in History," chronicles the 2024 presidential campaign, tackling the more modern end of presidential power. He also takes a less direct approach to analyzing past presidents, keeping a close eye on those around them. Whipple wrote the critically acclaimed New York Times best-seller "The Gatekeepers: How the White House Chiefs of Staff Define Every Presidency" and "The Spymasters: How the CIA Directors Shape History and the Future." As a journalist, he lent his skills as a producer to CBS News' "60 Minutes" and is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning executive producer of documentaries for Discovery and Showtime. He has written for national outlets and appears frequently on MSNBC, CNN, and NPR.

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'A Journey of Perseverance': An Evening with Jim Kelly

Jim Kelly is a Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback who spent his entire NFL career as a Buffalo Bill. His hallmarks as a player were his accurate passing and his toughness.

Kelly grew up in East Brady, a small town in Pennsylvania, in a household that emphasized the importance of hard work and treating others with respect. He signed with the Miami Hurricanes as a fourth-string quarterback but quickly worked his way up to a starting position before he faced a career-threatening injury. Not one to back down from a challenge, he pushed on and was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in the first round of the NFL Draft in 1983.

He led the Buffalo Bills to an unprecedented four straight AFC championships, despite his toughness being tested time and time again. He is considered one of the elite quarterbacks in the history of the National Football League and established the Buffalo Bills as one of the NFL's most successful and dangerous offenses.

After his retirement in 1997, not only did he lose his one and only son Hunter at the age of 8 to the disease Krabbe Leukodystrophy, Jim has also survived four battles with cancer. Kelly established an organization called Hunter's Hope Foundation to raise funds to fight the fatal disease that ended his son's life. He also runs an annual football camp for kids in which he and his NFL colleagues teach leadership, sportsmanship, responsibility, and the fundamentals of football. He is also the founder of the Kelly For Kids Foundation.

At this event, Kelly will tackle the power of the four F's – Faith, Family, Friends, and Fans and what it really means to make a difference. His story is "A Journey of Perseverance."

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LINDSAY M.
CHERVINSKY



CHRIS WHIPPLE

From Washington to Trump: The U.S. Presidency and America at 250

Lindsay M. Chervinsky and
Chris Whipple

Monday, Oct. 20
7 p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room
at Waldron Campus Center
124 W. Seventh St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



'A Journey of Perseverance': An Evening with Jim Kelly

NFL Hall of Famer Jim Kelly

Wednesday, Oct. 22
7 p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room
at Waldron Campus Center
124 W. Seventh St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



COLONEL KATIE
CROMBE



RET. GENERAL
JOSEPH VOTEL

Leading Through Turbulent Times – The Importance of Trust, Culture, and Feedback

U.S. Army Gen. Joseph L.
Votel, Ret.
and Colonel Katie Crombe

Thursday, Oct. 23
7 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



Europe with(out) the U.S. – the Future of NATO and the European Union

Ambassador Mark Gitenstein

Friday, Oct. 24
7 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania

Leading Through Turbulent Times – the Importance of Trust, Culture, and Feedback

Whether it's a natural disaster, a community tragedy, or a full-on war, there are turbulent times all over the world. Leadership can ignite fear and cause uncertainty, or it can provide clarity, empathy, and foster resilience. Nobody knows better how to react and move forward in times of crisis than top Army strategists Colonel Katie Crombe and Retired General Joe Votel. They understand that much of that leadership relies on clear and effective communication with others. Learn about the importance of trust, culture, and feedback in that mission as they draw on their time in the service to relay essential lessons to leadership.

Crombe is an Army strategist serving as Chief of the Joint Operational War Plans Division, Joint Staff J5. She previously led strategy and planning at U.S. Special Operations Command Central and served as Aide-de-Camp to General Joseph Votel at CENTCOM. Commissioned in 2003, she has held command and strategic roles across Iraq, Jordan, the UK, and Washington, D.C., including leading operations to counter ISIS and reform Army warrior care. She holds degrees from Lehigh University, the Institute of World Politics, and the U.S. Army War College.

General Joseph L. Votel is a retired four-star U.S. Army general and former commander of U.S. Central Command, where he led the 79-nation coalition that defeated ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Over his 39-year military career, he held top leadership roles in both special operations and conventional forces, with combat tours in Panama, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Post-retirement, he led Business Executives for National Security and now advises multiple defense and tech organizations. He is a Distinguished Chair at West Point's Combating Terrorism Center and a Fellow at the Middle East Institute.

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Europe With(out) the U.S. – The Future of NATO and the European Union

For years, NATO and the European Union have relied on the United States as a key player both to its economy and security. While the U.S. remains a member of NATO and a supporter of European security, there has been some strain on the transatlantic relationship under the Trump administration that calls into question what the future of NATO and the European Union would look like with and without the United States, especially in the face of the Ukrainian and Russian conflict. Ambassador Mark Gitenstein, a lawyer and diplomat who served as an ambassador to the European Union, will draw on his experience to explain how changes in global power dynamics would affect Europe.

Gitenstein began his role as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union in January 2022. A retired partner from Mayer Brown LLP, he previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Romania (2009–2012) and spent 17 years in the U.S. Senate, including 13 with then-Sen. Joe Biden on the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees.

Over the past decade, Gitenstein has focused on strengthening democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly Romania, through work on market transparency, anti-corruption, and rule of law initiatives. His work highlights the critical role of free media as a keystone of democracy. He also co-led Biden's transitions to the vice presidency (2008) and presidency (2020).

He holds a BA from Duke University and a JD from Georgetown Law. He was awarded Romania's highest civilian honor in 2012, a personal and professional achievement as the grandson of Romanian immigrants. He also received the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award in 1993 for his book "Matters of Principle" on the Supreme Court nomination of Robert Bork.

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The Future of College Athletics and Sports Media: Where They Are Now, Where They Are Headed

The future of college sports is in flux as it faces significant changes and opportunities. As legal and regulatory affairs reshape the rules of college athletics and athletes are compensated for NIL (name, image, and likeness), the potential new models for college athletics are intended to balance the interests of athletes, universities, and fans. Nobody knows that better than Adrian “Woj” Wojnarowski.

A sports journalist for many years in the New England area, then with Yahoo Sports, Wojnarowski joined ESPN in 2017 and worked at the network for over seven years, becoming one of the most well-known and respected names in the industry and sports world as a whole. He has been recognized as transforming the NBA's newsbreaking and reporting, covering the league, its teams, players, trade deadlines, free agency, the NBA Draft, and more. He became ESPN's Senior NBA Insider and was voted the National Sports Media Association's National Sportswriter of the Year three consecutive years in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Yet in 2024, he decided to jump ship and give back to the university he once called home, St. Bonaventure, becoming the first-ever general manager for the St. Bonaventure men's basketball team.

In his role as general manager, he serves the coaching staff in a wide range of responsibilities such as managing NIL opportunities, solidifying key relationships, leading fundraising efforts and professional player programs. Recognizing the rapidly evolving landscape of college athletics, many power conference and mid-major schools have added the role of general manager, especially for football and basketball programs. Bonnies head coach Mark Schmidt has called Wojnarowski's hire critical to navigate the landscape of college basketball in NIL, recruiting, and retention thanks to his knowledge of the industry and expansive networking connections.



The Future of College Athletics and Sports Media: Where They Are Now, Where They Are Headed

Adrian “Woj” Wojnarowski

**Monday, Oct. 27
7 p.m.**

**Gannon University Yehl Room
at Waldron Campus Center
124 W. Seventh St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania**

This Just In: Latest Discoveries in the Universe

Popularizing astrophysics through his writing, TV appearances, and lectures, Neil deGrasse Tyson is known for his out-of-this-world ideas. Tyson leads the world-renowned Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City where he is the first occupant of its Frederick P. Rose Directorship. He is also a research associate of the museum's Department of Astrophysics.

He is known for making complex scientific discoveries easy to learn, writing about it in regular columns, narrating TV programs, and now using his podcast, StarTalk, to speak with other experts and share the knowledge with listeners. Growing up in New York City, Tyson then studied at Harvard University, the University of Texas at Austin, and Columbia University. From 1991 to 1994, he was a research associate at Princeton University. He joined the Hayden Planetarium in 1994 as a staff scientist before becoming director in 1996 and oversaw a \$210 million reconstruction project. His focus is mainly on cosmology, stellar evolution, galactic astronomy, dwarf galaxies, and stellar formation. He is considered one of the most respected scientists of the early 21st century.

Tyson's latest books include “Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization,” containing his life's wisdom on the intersection of science literacy and culture and “To Infinity and Beyond: A Journey of Cosmic Discovery,” coauthored with Lindsey Nyx Walker. Both are New York Times bestsellers. In 2024, Tyson published Merlin's Tour of the Universe, a 21st century update of his very first book, a playful Q&A on the universe conducted by Merlin, a visitor from Andromeda whose task is to help Earthlings understand how the universe works. The book is illustrated by his artist brother, Stephen J. Tyson.



This Just In: Latest Discoveries In The Universe

Neil deGrasse Tyson

**Wednesday, Oct. 29
7 p.m.**

**Bayfront Convention Center
2 Sassafras Pier,
Erie, Pennsylvania**

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LECOM HEALTH





RICHARD
BERRY

GREG
FISCHER

WILLIAM
PEDUTO

American Progress from the Front Lines: Examining Local-Level Action, Innovation, and Solutions to Cities' Challenges in Chaotic Times

Former Mayors Richard J. Berry, Greg Fischer, and William Peduto

Monday, Nov. 3
7 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania

American Progress from the Front Lines: Examining Local-Level Action, Innovation, and Solutions to Cities' Challenges in Chaotic Times

Few people have a direct line into their constituents' daily lives the way that mayors do, in good and bad times. That's what makes them one of the foremost officials in how local action can make an impact. A panel of three mayors will talk about the action that happens when the state and federal governments don't step up during chaotic times.

Richard J. Berry served as mayor of Albuquerque from 2009 to 2017. Prior to his tenure, he was a two-term state representative in the New Mexico Legislature and owned a successful construction company serving the Southwest. During that time, Albuquerque was ranked the second-best run city in the U.S. and among the most technologically advanced. He was nationally recognized for launching "There's a Better Way," a program connecting the homeless with work opportunities and services.

Greg Fischer was elected Louisville's 50th mayor in 2010 and completed his third and final term on Jan. 1, 2023. Mayor Fischer was elected by the mayors of America to be president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2020. Governing Magazine named Mayor Fischer Public Official of the Year in 2013. A 2016 Politico survey named him the most innovative mayor in America. Louisville was named an International Model City of Compassion five times and a Top 15 city for attracting millennials.

William Peduto, the former mayor of Pittsburgh, is recognized for his transformative leadership and dedication to revitalizing the city through innovation, sustainability, and social equity. Serving as mayor from 2014 to 2022, Peduto spearheaded efforts to modernize Pittsburgh's infrastructure, attract tech, medical and green industries, and address the city's historical environmental challenges. His administration focused on creating a more inclusive and resilient economy, championing policies aimed at combating climate change and fostering community-based development.

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VICE PRESIDENT
MIKE PENCE

PAUL J. MCNULTY

Faith, Religion, and American Politics: A Conversation with Vice President Mike Pence and Paul McNulty

Vice President Mike Pence
and former Grove City
President Paul McNulty

Wednesday, Nov. 5
7 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center
2 Sassafras Pier,
Erie, Pennsylvania

Faith, Religion, and American Politics: A Conversation with Vice President Mike Pence and Paul McNulty

A firm believer that faith, family, and liberty are foundational American values, former Vice President Mike Pence will be joined by Paul McNulty to discuss how those core beliefs play into national politics today.

Pence was born in Columbus, Indiana, in 1959, into a family that epitomized the American Dream, instilling in him values of hard work, faith, and family. After graduating from Hanover College and Indiana University School of Law, he embarked on a multifaceted career, including law practice, hosting a talk show, serving as a congressman for six terms, and championing limited government and fiscal responsibility. Pence then was elected the 50th governor of Indiana, focusing on tax cuts, job creation, education reform, and infrastructure investment while maintaining fiscal responsibility. His accomplishments in Indiana led to his selection by GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump to be his running mate. Pence's conservative philosophy, which he said was inspired by Ronald Reagan, led to his founding Advancing American Freedom.

Paul J. McNulty recently retired after 11 years as president of Grove City College, his alma mater. A 1980 graduate of the college, McNulty spent over 30 years in Washington, D.C., as an attorney in public service and private practice before becoming the college's ninth president in 2014. In 2006, the United States Senate unanimously confirmed McNulty to the position of deputy Attorney General, the second in command at the U.S. Department of Justice and the Chief Operating Officer of the department's 100,000 employees. He previously served as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and was a leader in the U.S. response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He served as a senior attorney in the U.S. Congress, including as chief counsel and director of Legislative Operations for the House Majority Leader, and led the global corporate compliance and investigations practice for Baker McKenzie, one of the world's largest law firms.

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In Partnership With:



'Autocrats vs. Democrats: China, Russia, America, and the New Global Disorder'

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, there has been a sharp rise in the powers of autocratic Russia and China. Now, as they are rising in economic and military power, a new global order — or disorder — has emerged, and the United States must use innovative and democratic solutions to combat it. That's the basis of Michael McFaul's new book "Autocrats vs. Democrats: China, Russia, America, and the New Global Disorder."

The alliance between China and Russia, China's economic might, the rise of the far right in the United States, and growing isolationism in American society, taken together, represent new challenges for democracy, McFaul argues.

McFaul is director of the Freeman Spogli Institute at Stanford University, where he also serves as professor of International Studies and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. A former U.S. Ambassador to Russia (2012–2014) and Senior Director for Russian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council under President Obama, McFaul is a leading expert on U.S.-Russia relations, democracy promotion, and foreign policy.

He is the author of several books, including the New York Times bestseller "From Cold War to Hot Peace", and is a regular analyst for NBC News and a columnist for The Washington Post. Born and raised in Montana, McFaul earned his B.A. and M.A. from Stanford and a D.Phil. in International Relations from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

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PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

'All Too Clear' — Exploring Invasive Species Beneath the Surface of the Great Lakes

Lights, camera, action — an invasive species changing the Great Lakes ecosystem is stealing the spotlight, and filmmakers Yvonne Drebert and Zach Melnick were there to film it all. "All Too Clear" uses cutting-edge underwater drones to explore how quadrillions of tiny invasive quagga mussels are re-engineering the ecosystem of the Great Lakes at a scale not seen since the glaciers. Part scientific exploration, part natural history adventure — the film shines a spotlight on freshwater wildlife and environments like never before. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the robot that Drebert and Melnick used in filming.

Quagga mussels, native to European waters, deplete food for native species and alter the entire food web. They were brought to the Great Lakes, like their cousins the zebra mussels, by trans-oceanic cargo ships. The mussels also contribute to harmful algae blooms, which have become a problem at Lake Erie for the past several years.

Drebert and Melnick are award-winning filmmakers, fellows of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and the co-founders of Inspired Planet Productions. This husband-and-wife team have produced more than 40 hours of nationally broadcast documentary content, spotlighting North America's natural wonders and cultural heritage. In their latest project, the hit documentary series "All Too Clear" — a 2025 Canadian Screen Awards nominee — Drebert and Melnick turned their cameras underwater, using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) to capture unique footage of life beneath the Great Lakes. Their groundbreaking work has led to the discovery of a historic shipwreck, captured extraordinary wildlife behaviors, and contributed directly to our scientific understanding of freshwater ecosystems.



'Autocrats vs. Democrats: China, Russia, America, and the New Global Disorder'

Michael McFaul

Thursday, Nov. 6
7 p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room
at Waldron Campus Center
124 W. Seventh St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



'All Too Clear' - Exploring Invasive Species Beneath the Surface of the Great Lakes

Yvonne Drebert and
Zach Melnick

Friday, Nov. 7
7p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



MIKE
THOMAS



JOURNEY
GUNDERSON

'Carson the Magnificent' - A Look at the Iconic TV Host and His Impact on Comedy Today

Mike Thomas and
Journey Gunderson

Monday, Nov. 10
7 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



Humanity 2050: The Future of Our World, Our Universe, and Ourselves

Charles Liu

Tuesday, Nov. 11
7 p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room
at Waldron Campus Center
124 W. Seventh St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania

'Carson the Magnificent' - A Look at the Iconic TV Host and His Impact on Comedy Today

Known as the entertainer who redefined late-night television and American culture, Johnny Carson takes center stage in "Carson the Magnificent." In 2002, Bill Zehme landed a coveted assignment — the only interview Carson granted since retiring from "The Tonight Show" a decade earlier. It was through the intimate insights into Carson's career and personal life that Zehme embarked on a journey to write the biography "Carson the Magnificent," but when Zehme died, his mentee Mike Thomas decided to finish the job.

Now Thomas paints a picture of Carson beyond the broad strokes of his TV career, adding color to his personal life and how he affected the comedy community in general. Thomas is a Chicago-based author and journalist whose work blends reporting with a passion for comedy and culture. A longtime staff writer for the Chicago Sun-Times, Thomas has interviewed some of the most iconic figures in comedy, including Jerry Seinfeld, Robin Williams, Phyllis Diller, and Jon Stewart, many with ties to the legendary Second City.

He will be joined by Journey Gunderson, executive director of the National Comedy Center in nearby Jamestown, New York, the nation's official cultural institution dedicated to comedy, where she has led the creation of a groundbreaking, technology-driven museum inspired by Lucille Ball's vision for Jamestown.

Recognized as one of Blooloo's Top 50 Museum Influencers, an "Innovator Who Changed Comedy" by The Interrobang, and the 2024 "Outstanding Tourism Executive of the Year," Gunderson has guided the center to national acclaim, including recognition by USA Today, Time, and People magazines. Gunderson also directs the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum, preserving and celebrating the legacies of these iconic entertainers.

In Partnership With:



Humanity 2050: The Future of Our World, Our Universe, and Ourselves

What if someone could predict the future? With advancements in science, it looks like more people might be able to. As we are a quarter of the way through the 21st century, Charles Liu, Ph.D., is looking to the halfway point, 2050. We already have limited space tourism, artificial intelligence, and self-driving cars, but what more about the universe might change? Liu draws on his scientific background to talk about the feasibility of conversations emerging over the future. He has been known to express optimism but temper expectations about the space industry, medicine, and AI. He predicted to Neil deGrasse Tyson that in 25 years there will be a professional sport played in outer space. He'll discuss those ideas and how humans will evolve, too.

Liu is a Taiwanese-born American astronomer, educator, author, and science communicator. He serves as professor and chairman of physics and astronomy at the College of Staten Island and the CUNY Graduate Center and is an associate at the Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History. His research focuses on galaxy evolution, including collisions, starburst systems, and active galactic nuclei, and he has contributed to major surveys such as COSMOS and the Sloan Digital Sky Survey's MaNGA project.

Dr. Liu has written accessible books on astronomy and physics and frequently appears in media and podcasts. He continues to engage in national science initiatives, including work with the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, and is focused on mentoring the next generation of scientists.

Sponsored by:



'New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of America's Second Civil Rights Movement'

From the Montgomery boycott to the Little Rock Nine and the Selma-Montgomery march, the stories of those involved in the American Civil Rights Movement were documented through "Eyes on the Prize" in 1987. Now, as backlash to inclusion brews, a second Civil Rights Movement is about to erupt and "New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of America's Second Civil Rights Movement" shines a light on the historic new moment and its heroes.

Williams is a veteran journalist, political analyst, and author known for his work across major media platforms. He currently serves as a senior political analyst for Fox News Channel, where he previously co-hosted The Five and appears regularly on political programming.

Williams began his career at The Washington Post, where he spent over two decades covering politics and civil rights. He has also written for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Time. A former NPR political analyst and frequent PBS contributor, he has received an Emmy Award for television documentary writing.

He is the author of several acclaimed books, including "Eyes on the Prize," "Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary," and "Muzzled: The Assault on Honest Debate." Throughout his career, Williams has been a prominent voice on issues of race, politics, and American democracy.

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The Medium Is the Message: Media's Impact On National Politics

Between social media platforms and 24/7 broadcast news, there is more political coverage than ever, and more people can voice their opinions. President Donald Trump has even been able to bypass traditional gatekeepers, creating his own social media platform, Truth Social, to directly engage and spread information. How did we get here? Dr. Larry Sabato will discuss the digital advent from the first TV ad to the current 24-hour news cycle and its impact on national politics.

Citizens often learn about politics through television, newspapers, and social media. No matter the medium, each impacts our understanding of politics and can shape our thinking and voting behavior. A lifelong political analyst, Sabato harnesses the power of media alongside other predictors to forecast political outcomes.

He leads Sabato's Crystal Ball, one of the most accurate political forecasting platforms in the U.S., praised by outlets including The Daily Beast, Harvard Political Review, and Pew Research. Sabato is also a frequent commentator on CNN, BBC, and major networks, and has written over two dozen books on American politics. His latest, "Campaign of Chaos: Trump, Biden, Harris and the 2024 American Election," analyzed the unique November 2024 election with the late exit of President Biden from the campaign and the resurgence of President Donald J. Trump for his second term.

Sabato is a respected political analyst, best-selling author, and founder of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. A Rhodes Scholar and four-time Emmy winner, he has taught over 20,000 students and earned UVA's highest honor, the Thomas Jefferson Award.

Sponsored by:



'New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of America's Second Civil Rights Movement'

Juan Williams

Thursday, Nov. 13
7 p.m.
Gannon University Yehl Room
at Waldron Campus Center
124 W. Seventh St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



The Medium is the Message: Media's Impact On National Politics

Larry J. Sabato

Friday, Nov. 14
7 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania



An Evening 'Discovering Your Roots' with Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Thursday, Dec. 4
7 p.m.
Warner Theatre
811 State St.,
Erie, Pennsylvania

An Evening 'Discovering Your Roots' with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

With just a photo or a name, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. can change someone's life. His ability to track down someone's history and give them insights into their past has transformed many lives, and his research has transformed the Black History landscape. Now, he's giving Erie a glance into his genealogical empire and the pillars of heritage that built it.

Gates, Jr. is the Alphonse Fletcher University professor and director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University. An Emmy, Du Pont, and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, and institution builder, he has published numerous books and produced and hosted an array of documentary films about Black History, most recently "Great Migrations" (PBS, 2025). Gates's groundbreaking genealogy and genetics series, "Finding Your Roots," which received an Emmy nomination, just concluded its 11th season. His latest book, "The Black Box: Writing the Race" (Penguin Random House, 2024), was named one of the New York Times 100 Best Books of the Year. Most recently, he was awarded the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the NAACP and was elected an Honorary Fellow by the Royal Academy of Arts in England.

Gates is a recipient of a number of honorary degrees, including from his two alma maters, the University of Cambridge, and in May from Yale. He was a member of the first class awarded "genius grants" by the MacArthur Foundation in 1981, and in 1998 he became the first African American scholar to be awarded the National Humanities Medal. In 2001, he discovered the first novel written by a Black female author, "The Bondwoman's Narrative," by Hannah Craft.

A native of Piedmont, West Virginia, Gates earned his B.A. in History, summa cum laude, from Yale University in 1973, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature from Clare College at Cambridge in 1979, where he is also an Honorary Fellow.

A former chairman of the Pulitzer Prize board, he is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and serves on a wide array of boards, including the New York Public Library, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Aspen Institute, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Library of America, and The Studio Museum of Harlem. In 2011, his portrait, by Yuqi Wang, was hung in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. In 2023, his portrait, by Kerry James Marshall, was hung at the Fitzwilliam Museum at The University of Cambridge.

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THE JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: GLOBAL SUMMIT XVII

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4



A Conversation with President Barack Obama

Tuesday, September 16 | 6:30p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena

Featuring: President Barack Obama



The Power of Saying 'Yes': A Journey of Performing Surgeries on All Seven Continents

Wednesday, October 14 | 7:00p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Featuring: Jane Petro



'You Are Changing the World Whether You Like It or Not'

Thursday, October 16 | 7:00p.m.

Warner Theatre

Featuring: David LaMotte



From Washington to Trump: The US Presidency and America at 250

Monday, October 20 | 7:00p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room

Featuring: Chris Whipple & Lindsay Chervinsky



'A Journey of Perseverance': An Evening with Jim Kelly

Wednesday, October 22 | 7:00p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room

Featuring: Jim Kelly



Leading Through Turbulent Times - The Importance of Trust, Culture, and Feedback

Thursday, October 23 | 7:00p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Featuring: Gen. Joe Votel, Ret. & Col. Katie Crombe



Europe With(out) the U.S. - The Future of NATO and the European Union

Friday, October 24 | 7:00p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Featuring: Mark Glittenstein



The Future of College Athletics and Sports Media: Where They Are Now, Where They Are Headed

Monday, October 27 | 7:00p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room

Featuring: Adrian "Woj" Wojnarowski



This Just In: Latest Discoveries In the Universe

Wednesday, October 29 | 7:00p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center

Featuring: Neil deGrasse Tyson



American Progress from the Front Lines: Examining Local-Level Action, Innovation, and Solutions to Cities Challenges in Chaotic Times

Monday, November 3 | 7:00p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Featuring: Richard Berry, Greg Fischer, and William Peduto



Faith, Religion, and American Politics: A Conversation with Vice President Mike Pence and Paul McNulty

Wednesday, November 5 | 7:00p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center

Featuring: Vice President Mike Pence and Paul McNulty



'Autocrats vs. Democrats: China, Russia, America, and the New Global Disorder'

Thursday, November 6 | 7:00p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room

Featuring: Michael McFaul



'All Too Clear' - Exploring Invasive Species Beneath the Surface of the Great Lakes

Friday, November 7 | 7:00p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Featuring: Zach Melnick and Yvonne Drebert



'Carson the Magnificent' - A Look at the Iconic TV Host and His Impact on Comedy Today

Monday, November 10 | 7:00p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Featuring: Mike Thomas and Journey Gunderson



Humanity 2050: The Future of Our World, Our Universe, and Ourselves

Tuesday, November 11 | 7:00p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room

Featuring: Charles Liu



'New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of Americas Second Civil Rights Movement'

Thursday, November 13 | 7:00p.m.

Gannon University Yehl Room

Featuring: Juan Williams



The Medium is the Message: Medias Impact on National Politics

Friday, November 14 | 7:00p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society

Featuring: Larry Sabato



An Evening 'Exploring Your Roots' with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Thursday, December 4 | 7:00p.m.

Warner Theatre

Featuring: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



GLOBAL SUMMIT XVI RAISES THE BAR (AGAIN) IN QUALITY SPEAKER LINEUPS

Every year the Global Summit brings internationally renowned speakers who share their expertise on a variety of timely subjects. In 2024, we welcomed 23 speakers, three moderators, and over 8,397 attendees across 14 events. Our largest Global Summit so far!

Global Summit XVI kicked off with the single largest ticketed event in the history of the Bayfront Convention Center with a powerful conversation between Former U.S. Rep. (2017 – 2023) Liz Cheney and theologian and author Sister Joan Chittister. Legendary sportscaster Stephen A. Smith discussed much more than the “Future of Sports” with Jon Wertheim, while Historian Heather Cox Richardson, known for her “Letters from an American” newsletter, joined Tom Nichols, a staff writer at The Atlantic for a poignant conversation about the state of our democracy. The series

featured a diverse lineup of distinguished speakers and concluded with a soberly optimistic look at America’s future with Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.

Planning for Global Summit XVII is already well underway. Thanks to the experience of the Jefferson that speakers have, they become strong allies in helping secure future Global Summit speakers. The JES team is building on relationships built during Global Summit’s past to bring more world-class programming to Erie. 2025 promises to be another incredible year to think global, learn local!

GLOBAL SUMMIT I (2009)

- E.J. Dionne, Kevin Fickenscher, M.D., George S. Howard, Stephen Porter, William A. Smith.

GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

- Paul Kennedy, Elaine C. Kamarck, Harvey A. Bender, G. Terry Madonna, Dave Porter, Alan J. Russell.

GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

- General Michael Hayden, Joel Barker, Freddie H. Fu, M.D., Francis Fukuyama, Alice M. Rivlin, Steve Scully, Michael J. Songer.

GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

- Karl Rove, David Brooks, Ira Byock, M.D., Barry Casselman, Tom Flynn, Robert Kirschner, Norman Ornstein.

GLOBAL SUMMIT V (2013)

- Harry Markopolos, Howard Dean, M.D., Crislyn D’Souza-Schorey, David Gergen, William Kristol, Brian Lamb, Thomas E. Mann, Ian Morris, Richard Norton Smith, Edith Widder.

GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

- Sister Joan Chittister, Donna Brazile, Stephen Burt, Laura Bush, Bruce Katz, Charles C. Mann, Michele Ridge, Gregory Skomal, Michael Steele.

GLOBAL SUMMIT VII (2015)

- Cokie Roberts, Danielle Allen, Anthony Atala, M.D., Nile Gardiner, Norman Gevitz, Bas Lansdorp, Aaron David Miller, Eric Raimy, Darrell West, Gov. Tom Wolf.

GLOBAL SUMMIT VIII (2016)

- Doris Kearns Goodwin, Antoine von Agtmael, Fred Barnes, Rev. Jeffrey Brown, Lesley Lee Francis, Robert Hass, Andres Lozano, M.D., M.R. O’Connor, David Orr, Gov. Tom Ridge, Donald Sheehy.

GLOBAL SUMMIT IX (2017)

- Andrew Card, Bruce Katz, Jay Cost, Steve Scully, Philip Rucker, Tara Palmeri, Byron York, Douglas Brinkley, Jackson Janes, Caitlin Welsh, Ellen Jorgensen, Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



E.J. DIONNE



PAUL KENNEDY



ALICE M. RIVLIN



KARL ROVE



HARRY MARKOPOLOS



SISTER JOAN CHITTISTER



COKIE ROBERTS



DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN



ANDREW CARD

GLOBAL SUMMIT X (2018)

- David Ignatius, Ashley Swearingen, Ian Morris, Leonard Calabrese, D.O., Sebastian Gorka, Gen. Michael Hayden, Michael Eric Dyson, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Howard Dean, Elise Jordan, Bill Plante, Ann Compton, Steve Scully, James Fallows, Deborah Fallows, Chris Matthews.



MICHAEL ERIC DYSON

GLOBAL SUMMIT XI (2019)

- Camille Busette, Patricia Glibert, Nile Gardner, Avi Loeb, Chuck Hagel, Tom Ridge, Sean Spicer, George Will, Karen Tumulty, Alexi McCammond, Mary Katharine Ham, Steve Scully, Michael Smerconish, Edna Greene Medford, Susan Page, Eleanor Smeal



SUSAN PAGE

GLOBAL SUMMIT XII (Digital 2021)

- Camille Busette, Rashawn Ray, Ali Zaidi, Avi Loeb, Jeffrey Brown, Nile Gardiner, Gerald Seib, Dr. Michael Saag, Steve Scully, Susan Page, Karen Tumulty, Dr. Leana Wen, David Ignatius, Christopher Hill, April Ryan, James Fallows, Deborah Fallows, Steven Ascher, Jeanne Jordan.



APRIL RYAN

GLOBAL SUMMIT XIII (2021)

- George W. Bush, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Jeffrey Rosen, Andrew Card, Camille Busette, Thomas “Mack” McLarty, Barbara Perry, Stacy Cordery, Anita McBride, Steve Scully, Clayola Brown, DeWitt Walton, Robert Pape.



GEORGE W. BUSH

GLOBAL SUMMIT XIV (2022)

- John Calipari, Jon Wertheim, Karl Rove, Elizabeth Strickler, Rashawn Ray, Anahita Panahi, José Muñoz, Reuben Jacobson, Fiona Hill, Jay Cost, John C. Austin, James Fallows, Rev. Charles Brock, Tom Bodett, John Dickerson, Allen Carroll, Al Hunt, Judy Woodruff, Avi Loeb, Dawn Wright, Josh Fryday, Baher Ghosheh.



JUDY WOODRUFF

GLOBAL SUMMIT XV (2023)

- Peter Baker, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Brian Freedman, Richard Florida, Bruce Katz, Matt Weidinger, David Urban, Rich Lesser, Richard Reeves, Della Clark, Tom Nichols, Robert Garland, Maj. General Edward Bolton, Jr., Ret., Laura Coates, Karen Tumulty, Val Demings, and Michael Steele.



VAL DEMINGS

GLOBAL SUMMIT XVI (2024)

- Liz Cheney, Sr. Joan Chittister, Stephen A. Smith, Jon Wertheim, Charles Marohn, Tristan Hoag, Heather Cox Richardson, Tom Nichols, Lara Schwartz, Michael Strain, Joe Davis, Marian L. Tupy, Fred Biletnikoff, Maj. General Ed Bolton Jr., Ret., Angela G. Neal, Dr. Karen J. Bolton, Lia Van Liew, Harold Holzer, Chris Matthews, Tara Setmayer, David Urban, Steve Scully, Eddie Glaude, Jr.



LIZ CHENEY

THOMAS B. HAGEN

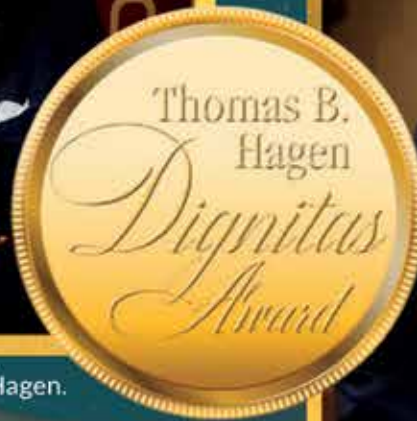
Dignitas Award

Each year since 2011 during the Global Summit, we recognize an Erie native, or someone who has spent significant time in the community, with the **Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award**. The award, named for one of Erie's leading citizens, Thomas B. Hagen, honors individuals who have achieved greatness in their fields, made significant contributions to the vitality of American democracy, and have a lasting impact on society.



Rev. Charles Brock (left), 2022 Honoree, with Thomas B. Hagen.

OUR 2025 HONOREE DR. JANE PETRO



PREVIOUS HONOREES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2011 Steve Scully | 2018 James Fallows & Deborah Fallows |
| 2012 Barry Casselman | 2019 Eleanor Smeal |
| 2013 Harry Markopolos | 2021 Robert Pape |
| 2014 Sister Joan Chittister | 2022 Rev. Charles Brock |
| 2015 Drs. John and Silvia Ferretti | 2023 Maj. Gen. Edward L. Bolton, Jr. Ret. |
| 2016 Hon. Tom Ridge | 2024 Fred Biletnikoff |
| 2017 Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret. | |



“

THE GLOBAL SUMMIT IS LIKE SOMETHING PEOPLE CANNOT ACCESS UNLESS THEY GO OUTSIDE OF ERIE. THIS IS WHAT THEY LOOK FOR AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES OR ON YOUTUBE, **WHEN IT'S RIGHT HERE.**

- ANGELIA S., JES MEMBER

”



Above: Sister Joan Chittister joined U.S. Representative Liz Cheney and Steve Scully in conversation for the largest single ticketed event in Bayfront Convention Center history for Global Summit 2024.

Clockwise: JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati posed with President George W. Bush, the first U.S. President the JES hosted for a Global Summit during 2021.

JES Vice President Ben Speggen moderated a conversation with Fiona Hill at Global Summit 2022.

Heather Cox Richardson and Tom Nichols engaged our Global Summit audience in a critical pre-Presidential Election conversation in 2024.

Michael Eric Dyson evoked several standing ovations throughout his Global Summit 2018 lecture.



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Take your seat at the table — become a JES member today.



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REGULAR PRICING *(after October 10)*

General Admission (single event) - \$35

General Admission Pass (all events*) - \$250

Preferred Seating (single event) - \$60

Preferred Seating Pass (all events*) - \$500

PLEASE NOTE: PRICING DOES NOT INCLUDE PROCESSING FEES OR ENTERTAINMENT TAX.

PREFERRED TICKETS AND PASSES INCLUDE SEATING CLOSER TO THE STAGE.

*PASSES AND JES MEMBERSHIPS DO NOT INCLUDE JES SPECIAL EVENTS.

Tickets & Check-In: There are no physical tickets for events with the exception of Sept. 16, and Dec. 4. Registrants' names will appear on a master list at check-in tables. A valid ID (such as a driver's license or state-issued ID) will be required.

Registration Policy: All registrations must be completed online or by phone prior to the day of the event. There will be NO ticket sales day of at the venue spaces.

Admission for Students: Free for all Erie County students with valid enrollment verification (e.g., student ID). Advance registration required.

Scholarships: Don't let cost stand in the way of learning! The JES offers scholarships covering up to 100% of tuition for those in need.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
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The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie believes in offering courses, seminars, and lectures that explain the ideas that formed the past, assist in exploring the present, and offer guidance in creating the future of the Erie region.

JES MISSION

The Jefferson Educational Society was created as a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization on September 29, 2008 and on that same date received tax-exempt status by the federal Department of the Treasury under Employment Identification Number 26-3460486. The Jefferson operates under a 501 (c) (3) educational nonprofit charter, though it does not offer degrees or programs for formal academic credit. The Jefferson was founded to stimulate community progress through education and research activities. Its mission also includes a commitment to operate in a nonpartisan, nondenominational manner without a political or philosophical bias. As such, the Jefferson follows the examined truth wherever it leads and is neither liberal nor conservative, Democratic nor Republican in philosophy or in action.

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