Thomas Jefferson believed a citizenry that was educated on issues and shared its ideas through public discourse had the power to make a difference in the world. The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie is a strong proponent of that belief, 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.

3207 State Street
Erie, Pennsylvania
16508-2821

Global Summit XI
The Jefferson Educational Society

Monday, October 28 – Friday, November 15, 2019

Camille Busette
Patricia Glibert
Kelly Ann Shaw
Avi Loeb
Chuck Hagel
Sean Spicer
George Will
Mary Katharine Ham
Karen Tumulty
Alexi McCammond
Steve Scully
Michael Smerconish
Edna Greene Medford
Susan Page
Eleanor Smeal

Edna Greene Medford
Eleanor Smeal
Thomas B. Hagen
Dignitas Award Winner

George Will
Chuck Hagel
Dear Friends,

Welcome to what promises to be the most successful Jefferson Educational Society Global Summit yet! The topics and speakers selected represent a diversity of opinions and ideas and could not come at a more opportune time. During three weeks in late October and November, we will address some of the key issues facing the Erie community, our country, and the world.

As this lecture series enters its 11th year, we can reflect back on what began in 2009 as a two-and-a-half-day-long conference that since has grown to become a multi-week annual staple on Erie’s civic calendar. After this year’s Summit concludes, more than 100 of the world’s best and brightest will have come to Erie to present their cutting-edge research, their keen observations of history and how it impacts us today, and forward-thinking notions both examine the present and explore the future.

From E.J. Dionne headlining the first Global Summit, to Paul Kennedy presenting at the second installment, from Francis Fukuyama and Alice Rivlin at Global Summit III, to Karl Rove and David Brooks the next year, from Bill Kristol and Harry Markopolos to Sister Joan Chittister, Laura Bush, Michele Ridge. Bruce Katz, Cokie Roberts, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Governors Tom Ridge and Tom Wolf, Philip Rucker, Douglas Brinkley, Michael Eric Dyson, Elise Jordan, Howard Dean, James Fallows and Deborah Fallows, David Ignatius, and so many others in the years to follow, the Global Summit has become the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the region.

While the idea began as a simple one – invite the best and brightest to Erie to bring their ideas into the region – we did not anticipate the added benefit of what they would take from Erie back into the world. Some took to Twitter (you’ll find a small sampling of that on page 10 of this brochure) while others took to publications, such as when David Ignatius mentioned Erie and the Jefferson in the Washington Post column and how James and Deborah Fallows continue to feature Erie in their ongoing work for The Atlantic.

For many Global Summit presenters, getting an invitation from the Jefferson brings them to northwest Pennsylvania for the first time. What will be said about this year’s Summit, and what lessons from Erie will the speakers take back out into the world? You’ll have to attend the sessions, listen attentively, and come to your own conclusions. But I promise you, every speaker and every conversation will enlighten, engage, and enlarge your view of the world.

In the following pages, you will read about those joining us for the 11th annual Global Summit. Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist and author George Will is among the featured guests, along with several other media stars – some veterans, such as Susan Page, Karen Tumulty, and Michael Smerconish, and some on the sharp rise in their fields, such as Mary Katharine Ham and Alexi McCammond.

But many guests are known less for their national media profiles than for their profound accomplishments in science, history, and women’s rights, respectively. Dr. Avi Loeb is the Harvard astronomer and academician who shook up the scientific world when he identified a flying object currently outside Jupiter as possibly an extraterrestrial spacecraft; historian Edna Greene Medford is among the foremost experts on President Abraham Lincoln and African-American history; Patricia Gilbert, Professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, will explore “Harmful Algal Blooms: A Threat to the Waters of the World;” and women’s rights hero Eleanor Smeal comes home to accept the Jefferson’s highest honor, the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award.

Other impressive lecturers include two key aides to President Donald Trump, one current and one former: International trade policy expert Kelly Anny Shaw and former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer. Additionally, former U.S. Senator and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will be here, along with Camille Busette, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, where she directs the institution’s Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion Initiative. And, of course, I’m happy to say that this will make the ninth Global Summit appearance for me.

The Jefferson Educational Society is making its mark with the Global Summit, but we could not do it without your support. As we embark on the second decade, we sincerely appreciate your participation, and hope you will spread the word. I look forward to seeing you as we celebrate Global Summit XI from Monday, Oct. 28 to Friday, Nov. 15 in Erie, Pennsylvania – a place where the best thinkers in the world gather to share their insights, expertise, and knowledge with a community hungry to learn.

Best regards,
Steve Scully
Global Summit XI Chairman
Thinking Differently about Race and Belonging

Globally, 1.7 billion adults lacked a bank account in 2017, according to the World Bank. In the United States, an astounding 18 million adults don't own an account, a phenomenon predominantly to be found in lower- and middle-income populations and minority households. While access to a financial account is undeniably a prerequisite to economic participation, it is not the only indicator of a steadily growing racial and ethnic wealth gap since the Great Recession of 2008.

Busette will be joining a line of distinguished Brookings Institution scholars, such as Darrell West, John Hudak, and Bruce Katz, who have spoken at previous Global Summits and Jefferson events and whose research focuses on transformational and analytical concepts. This year, Busette leads the conversation with her thought-provoking analysis of how Americans can move out of poverty, protect their economic gains, and advance broader development goals in an inclusive and responsible financial system.

Prior to joining Brookings, Busette, a financial sector specialist, held executive positions in the nonprofit sector and various public and private groups such as Consultative Group to Assist the Poor; Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; E.A.R.N., a nonprofit that establishes innovative asset-building programs; PayPal; and Intuit.

Busette holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago.

Harmful Algal Blooms: A Threat to the Waters of the World

Patricia Glibert, a phytoplankton ecologist broadly interested in effects of nutrients and algal blooms, is a Professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. She studies aquatic nutrient cycling, with particular emphasis on phytoplankton nutritional physiology, harmful algal blooms (HABs), and ecological stoichiometry and its effects on food webs.

Why does her research on unicellular plants and chemical elements matter to consumers, marine life, and the economy alike? For one, the biological impact of HABs includes fish mortalities, seafood contamination, and illness in humans from the consumption of contaminated shellfish or fish. Second, HABs’ direct impact includes lost revenue in the marine business caused by shellfish closure, costs of medical treatments for cases of sickness in humans, expenses to remove algae from the water or dead fish from the beaches, and investment costs in preventing and monitoring HABs. Indirect effects comprise a significant reduction in tourist flow to the areas affected by HABs, lost revenue from businesses that serve the hotel industry, a decrease in recreation use of lakes, seas and oceans, and also an increase in spending of residents.

Professor Glibert earned a Ph.D. in Organismal and Evolutionary Biology from Harvard in 1982. She spent her postdoctoral years at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts before she joined the faculty at The University of Maryland’s Horn Point Laboratory on the banks of the Choptank River on Maryland’s Eastern Shore in 1986. Her work currently centers on issues related to nutrients and harmful algal blooms in the Chesapeake Bay, Florida Bay, and in various waters of China. Her work ranges from the global, addressing such questions as how are nutrient loads changing with changing land use/fertilizer use practices, to the physiological, as she investigates such questions as how do different species of phytoplankton respond to different forms and loads of nutrients and why.

A prolific scientific writer, Glibert has published 40 papers and book chapters and co-authored two books: Aquatic Microbial Ecology and Biogeochemistry and Global Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms.
**Trump’s International Trade Policies and How They Affect the Erie Region**

A former special assistant and senior director for international trade for President Donald Trump, Kelly Ann Shaw is now in the center of America’s trade relations as Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council.

Shaw, originally from Seattle, plans to tell the Jefferson Global Summit XI audience how international trade and changes in trade policy affect commerce in the Erie region. She is also expected to address the trade disputes between the United States and China, and the United States withdrawal from trade deals such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that had been created during the presidency of Barack Obama and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which had been crafted and agreed upon by previous presidential administrations dating to the late President George H.W. Bush.

In March, Shaw succeeded Clete Williams in the top role under President Trump’s top economic adviser Larry Kudlow, after accumulating extensive trade experience as the former trade counsel for the House Ways and Means Committee and assistant counsel at the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

Before she joined the House Ways and Means Committee, Shaw served as Assistant General Counsel in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), working in Washington, D.C. and Geneva, Switzerland. While at USTR, she worked to protect the rights of American workers and businesses as the lead litigator for the United States in World Trade Organization disputes with China, India, Canada, and Mexico. Shaw also served as Assistant Legal Adviser and Assistant General Counsel at the U.S. Mission to the WTO in Geneva.

Shaw holds a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia University, an M.S. from the London School of Economics, and B.A. and B.S. degrees from the University of Washington.

Extraterrestrial Life: Are We Alone?

Professor Avi Loeb, the longtime leader of Harvard’s Astronomy Department, has lectured on personal and cosmic modesty – the idea that it is arrogant to assume we are alone in the universe. When he comes to Erie, Professor Loeb will help the audience better understand the theory that an extraterrestrial spacecraft, or at least a piece of one, may be at this moment flying past the orbit of Jupiter and that we should examine carefully any unusual object that arrives to our vicinity from outside the Solar System, such as Oumuamua.

At age 24, Professor Loeb received a Ph.D. in plasma physics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and was subsequently a long-term member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (1988-1993), where he started to work in theoretical astrophysics. Born in Beit Hanan, Israel, where he spent his childhood on a farm with interests in philosophy, he later became the author of four books and more than 700 papers on a wide range of topics, including black holes, the first stars, the search for extraterrestrial life, and the future of the universe.

In 1993, he moved to Harvard University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Astronomy, where he became tenured just three years later. Now, he serves as Chairman of Harvard’s Department of Astronomy, Founding Director of Harvard’s Black Hole Initiative, and Director of the Institute for Theory and Computation (ITC) within the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. In 2012, TIME magazine selected Loeb as one of the 25 most influential people in space.

Professor Loeb, named “Superstar of Astronomy” by the media, has received many academic honors and science awards in the United States, Israel, Australia, and Europe over the years but none greater than being elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012. In April 2016, Stephen Hawking visited Loeb’s home and attended the inaugurations of the Starshot and Black Hole Initiatives that Loeb leads.
An Evening with Chuck Hagel

As a two-term U.S. Senator from Nebraska and the nation's Secretary of Defense in the Obama administration, Chuck Hagel experienced record-setting moments in his many years of public service. In 1996, he became the first Republican in 24 years to win a Senate seat in Nebraska and was reelected two years later with the largest margin of votes in any statewide race in Nebraska history. For another first, his nomination to Secretary of Defense in 1993 was filibustered in the U.S. Senate and was force-ended by a vote for cloture. In addition, he is the only Vietnam veteran and the first enlisted combat veteran to serve as Secretary of Defense.

As a U.S. Senator, Hagel served on committees in foreign relations, international economic policy, and the Senate Climate Change Observer Group. Prior to his election to the Senate, Hagel was a successful business founder and economic adviser, including Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration under President Ronald Reagan and Deputy Commissioner General of the 1982 World's Fair.

Although Hagel maintained a traditional Republican voting record, his voice was one of caution and fact-based argument. Awarded with two Purple Hearts in the Vietnam War, he supported military use of force more for tactical than long-term strategic reasons in Afghanistan and Iraq. A major critic of the Iraq war, he also advised President Obama to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Hagel and his wife, Lilibet, have a daughter (Allyn) and son (Ziller), and live in McLean, Va.

The Briefing: Politics, the Press, and the President

Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, a veteran political strategist and communicator, has been a top figure in national Republican Party politics since February 2011 when he became communications director of the Republican National Committee.

Spicer went on to become a household name in 2017 during his eight months as President Donald Trump's top spokesman. He is now the author of a New York Times bestselling book, *The Briefing: Politics, the Press, and the President*.

Spicer is the founder and President of RigWil LLC, a strategic consulting firm that provides insights to corporate and association executives. Since leaving the White House on Aug. 31, 2017, he has traveled the world addressing groups, and served as a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Institute of Politics during the 2017-18 academic year.

While at the RNC, Spicer was credited with "enlarging the organization's social media operations, built an in-house TV production team, and created a rapid response program to reply to attacks," according to a 2016 profile by Reuters international news service.

As described in his official biography, Spicer and his often contentious exchanges with the White House Press Corps were lampooned by actress Melissa McCarthy and became part of Saturday Night Live lore. But Spicer’s often noted sense of humor came shining through when he subsequently told a festive crowd at the 2017 Emmy Awards, "This will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys, period. Both in person and around the world." The gag, which was the brainchild of comedian and Emmy host Stephen Colbert, referred to Spicer’s remark admonishing the press corps the day after Trump’s inauguration, arguing the inaugural ceremony had drawn the "largest audience to ever witness an inauguration, period – both in person and around the globe."

Born in Manhasset, N.Y., and raised in the East Bay area of Rhode Island, Spicer earned a Bachelor’s degree in Government at Connecticut College, a Master’s degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., and serves as a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He lives in Virginia with his wife Rebecca and their two children, and remains a loyal fan of the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots.
An Evening with George Will

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George Will has been one of the leading conservative voices in the United States since the 1970s.

Will, the son of a philosophy professor dad and a children's encyclopedia editor mom, came on the national scene in 1973 as the Washington editor of the conservative magazine National Review and a columnist for The Washington Post. Within a year his column would be syndicated nationally to papers across the country, including the Erie Times-News. Since May 2017, Will has been a paid contributor to MSNBC cable news network and NBC News, and a leading conservative critic of President Donald Trump.

His criticism of President Trump has sharpened to the point that in an interview with CBS News’ Sunday Morning in June 2019, Will urged all Americans to vote against Trump in November 2020. "I have written approaching 6,000 columns since 1973," he then cautioned. "And if power is properly defined as the ability to achieve intended effects, I've got no power that I can see. The country resolutely refuses to do what I tell it to do!"

Most conservatives would argue, however, that Will has been among their most articulate voices for decades, and, as his CBS profiler Ted Koppel described it: "When President and Mrs. Reagan came to dinner at Will's house, which they did with some regularity, it marked the near-perfect intersection between Republican power and conservative ideology."

Ever the prolific author, Will is currently promoting his latest book, The Conservative Sensibility, though his greatest love is perhaps baseball, as evidenced by this three books on the subject. Known as one of the greatest fans of the Chicago Cubs, he also can be frequently seen at Washington Nationals home games, and played a key role in Ken Burns’ famous 1994 documentary, Baseball.

A respected scholar, Will earned bachelor’s degrees at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and Magdalen College, Oxford. He went on to receive a Master’s degree and Ph.D. in politics from Princeton University.

Will lives in the Washington, D.C. area with his wife Mari Maseng Will, and they are the parents of an adult son. He has three children from a previous marriage.

Campaign 2020: Trump, Democrats, and Road to the White House

November 3, 2020 will mark the 59th quadrennial U.S. presidential election. Compared to the abbreviated parliamentary elections overseas, winning the White House appears to be a battle fought hard in all media, and the very nature of the presidential election process adds challenging layers of complexity.

So who better to bring perspective to the 2020 presidential campaign, incumbent President Donald Trump, and the many people vying for the Democratic Party nomination than journalists, political commentators, and columnists Mary Katharine Ham, Karen Tumulty, and Alexi McCammond. Steve Scully, the voice of C-SPAN and Chairman of Global Summit XI, will serve as moderator.

Mary Katharine Ham is a journalist, author, and noted speaker. As a CNN Political Commentator, she brings a conservative perspective mixed with a humorous take on politics and pop culture. Ham was formerly a Fox News contributor from 2007 to 2015, most often seen as a libertarian foil to Bill O’Reilly’s populism on his prime-time show. Ham has written for USA Today, The Weekly Standard, and USA Today. She covered Marco Rubio’s campaign during the 2016 New Hampshire primary for the Sarasota Tribune.

Karen Tumulty is a columnist for The Washington Post. In her previous role as a national political correspondent for the newspaper, she received the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting. She joined The Post in 2010 from TIME magazine, where she had held the same title. During her more than 15 years at TIME, Tumulty wrote or co-wrote more than three-dozen cover stories. She also held positions with TIME as congressional correspondent and White House correspondent.

Alexi McCammond is a political reporter who covered the 2018 midterms for Axios, reported from the Democratic National Convention, the presidential debates, and President Trump’s inauguration. Her work has also appeared on Bustle’s Instagram, MSNBC, Fox Business, WJLA, WNYC, among others. Before Bustle, she covered Marco Rubio’s campaign during the 2016 New Hampshire primary for the Sarasota Tribune.

Steve Scully, born and raised in Erie, is the political editor and host of C-SPAN’s popular daily show, Washington Journal. In addition to his extensive experience in journalism, Scully interned for U.S. Senator Joe Biden and served as staff assistant in Sen. Edward Kennedy’s media affairs office. He earned his Master’s degree in Journalism at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. Steve and his wife, Katie, have four children, Mary Cate, Danny, Cristen, and Natalie Cathleen.
American Life in Columns

Listeners tuning in to the POTUS channel on SiriusXM at 9 a.m. Mondays through Fridays are greeted by the earworm refrain of arguably Stealers Wheel’s most popular song: “Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right. Here I am: Stuck in the Middle with You.”

It is a befitting song for “The Michael Smerconish Program,” as the show’s namesake often works issues from many angles in search of what lies at their center. And we’re along for the ride with him. The Doylestown, Pa. native, who also hosts CNN’s “Smerconish” on Saturdays at 9 a.m., has seen success in the political, legal, and media worlds – sometimes with those worlds overlapping.

A Lehigh University grad who went on to earn his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Smerconish spent his early years working in the GOP, including an appointment at age 29 in the George H.W. Bush administration to serve as the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Regional Administrator for Philadelphia Region III under Secretary Jack Kemp. But after three decades of supporting candidates to the right, Smerconish publicly broke ranks with Republicans and endorsed then-candidate Barack Obama in a 2,000-word essay for Salon in October 2008. Less than two years later in February 2010, Smerconish made the break official in a column, citing cable TV and talk radio’s stronger push towards political polarization while he found most folks were, well, somewhere in the middle.

A newspaper columnist for the Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer, his columns are routinely reprinted in newspapers nationally. His most recent book, Clowns to the Left of Me, Jokers to the Right: American Life in Columns, includes the most memorable of those columns – a hundred of them. The Daily Beast praised them, noting they “make for enjoyable reading and remind us that journalism properly practiced requires a good deal of nerve, honesty, and insight, along with openness to dialogue and the determination not to live in a bubble.” These will be the subject of his Global Summit talk in Erie.

Smerconish wrote six books prior to Clowns, five of which deal in politics and news. The other, his only novel to date, TALK, has had the television rights optioned by Warner Brothers.

A man of many talents – and a proud Pennsylvanian – Smerconish lives in the Philadelphia suburbs where he and his wife, Lavinia, raised four children.

Understanding Lincoln: Life and Legacy of Our 16th President

Edna Greene Medford, one of the nation’s foremost historians on President Abraham Lincoln, is a professor of history at Howard University. She also specializes in 19th century African-American history and remains a member of the board of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, which honors the president who championed emancipation.

Medford, who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Hampton University and the University of Illinois, earned a Ph.D. in History from the University of Maryland. She is the author of Lincoln and Emancipation (2015) and co-author of The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views (2016). Medford also compiled and wrote the introductions to the edited two-volume work The Price of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War - Volume I, and The Price of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War - Volume II, both published in 2000.

Additionally, Medford is well-known for taking principled positions, based on research, and historical analysis that doesn’t always fit neatly into the preconceived views of historic figures, Lincoln included. In a 2009 interview with C-SPAN, Medford discussed the views of race regarding Lincoln and the power structure of the time.

“I think he would have still been very surprised at (President Barack Obama’s election),” she said. “(Lincoln) indicated that he would like to see the vote extended to those African-Americans who were very intelligent, and the soldiers and sailors who had fought to preserve the Union (but not voting rights overall for people of color). Certainly there were people, Lincoln included, who would have thought that slavery would have damaged African-Americans in terms of enabling them to think logically and to vote.

“And so he would have anticipated a greater period of time in which they would have learned to be good citizens,” Medford continued. “Certainly African-Americans would have disagreed with that perception of them, but that certainly was the position of many Americans during that period, and Lincoln was no exception. But the fact that he was even suggesting that the very intelligent and Black Union veterans should vote was extraordinary.”
Barbara Bush: The Making of an American Dynasty

Susan Page, the Washington Bureau chief of USA TODAY, has interviewed the past eight American presidents, has reported news from five continents, and is covering her 10th presidential campaign. Perhaps her greatest lifetime accomplishment, however, came in April 2019 with the publishing of her critically acclaimed book, *Matriarch: Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty*. Also in 2019, she signed a deal to write a biography of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, tentatively titled *Madame Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Arc of Power*.

Page formed a great friendship with the late First Lady Barbara Bush but that did not stop her from addressing the more painful portions of Barbara Bush's biography, including the death of the Bush's young daughter, Robin, and the highs and lows of two presidencies, those of her late husband, George Herbert Walker Bush, and son, George W. Bush.

Now through her writing and as a frequent guest on MSNBC and other news shows, Page offers insights on politics, government, as well as those in power and those standing behind power.

Page's personal story also reflects her eclectic interests. A native of Wichita, Kan., she is a 1973 graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, where she was editor-in-chief of the Daily Northwestern. She earned a Master's degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where she was a Pulitzer Fellow.

As a child, Page had two passions: music and journalism. She began studying oboe in the third grade and played it in school orchestras throughout her public school education. She was also the editor-in-chief of her high school yearbook, and served as a reporter and editor for her high school newspaper.

Among her numerous professional achievements, Page has twice served as a juror for the Pulitzer Prize. She is married to Carl Leubsdorf, a syndicated columnist and former Washington Bureau Chief for The Dallas Morning News. They have two children.

An Evening with Eleanor Smeal

Eleanor Smeal, one of the leading figures of the American Feminist Movement, is returning to Erie, the city she once called home, to accept the Jefferson Educational Society's highest honor, the Hagen Dignitas Award.

Smeal's accomplishments are known across the nation: co-founder of The Feminist Majority Foundation; former three-term president of the National Organization for Women; publisher of *Ms.* Magazine; and inductee into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2015. Most noteworthy is that she dedicated her life to the fight for women's equality and human rights.

According to her Hall of Fame biography, Smeal is respected as a political analyst, strategist, and grassroots organizer of the Feminist Movement and played a key role “in defining the debate, developing the strategies, and charting the direction of the modern day women's movement. In her more than 40 years as a leader in the United States women's movement, she has changed the landscape of women's involvement in national life and culture.”

Smeal, who was born in nearby Ashtabula, Ohio and raised in Erie, led state and national campaigns for women's rights legislation, including the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell just short of passage. She helped lead women to several keystone legislative victories, including the Equal Credit Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, and stronger enforcement of Title IX.

After graduating from Strong Vincent High School in Erie in 1957, Smeal, then Eleanor “Ellie” Cutri, earned a Bachelor’s degree from Duke University and Master's degrees in political science and public administration from the University of Florida.

In 1980, Smeal coined the term “gender gap,” observing the difference in the voting patterns of women and men, and she popularized the term in her analysis of polling data and election returns in the spirit of fighting for women's rights.

Smeal, who married Charles Smeal in 1963, is the mother of two adult children.
The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie is a strong proponent of that belief, 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.

Thomas Jefferson believed a citizenry that was educated on issues and shared its ideas through public discourse had the power to make a difference in the world.

Maureen Plunkett and Family Anonymous Jefferson Trustee
GLOBAL SUMMIT THROUGH THE DECADE

From a humble start as a two-day conference in 2009, the Jefferson's annual Global Summit has grown to become an annual staple on Erie’s civic calendar. Over its first 10 years, the Summit has become the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the region, featuring 93 of the most respected scholars, writers, and leaders in the nation.

The idea is simple: Invite some of the best thinkers to Erie to tell us about their cutting-edge studies or insightful work on important issues, and point the focus on Erie and its challenges. The Global Summit has grown in number of speakers and attendees each year and remains the signature series of events for Jefferson members and the entire Erie regional community.

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)

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 Rainey, Darrell West, Gov. Tom Wolf.

GLOBAL SUMMIT VIII (2016)

GLOBAL SUMMIT IX (2017)

GLOBAL SUMMIT X (2018)
Steve Scully interviews Doris Kearns Goodwin at Global Summit X.


“Nationalism is the belief that no matter what one’s country does—whether racist, homophobic, sexist, xenophobic, or the like—it must be supported and accepted entirely. Patriotism is a bigger, more uplifting virtue.”

Michael Eric Dyson (author, orator, professor), captivated a Global Summit X crowd at Northwest PA Collegiate Academy. Dyson’s talk prompted several standing ovations, such as this one led by Paul Gambill and Mayor Schember (center).

Steve Scully interviews Doris Kearns Goodwin at Global Summit VIII.

THOMAS B. HAGEN DIGNITAS AWARD HONOREES

- 2011 Steve Scully
- 2012 Barry Casselman
- 2013 Harry Markopolos
- 2014 Sister Joan Chittister
- 2015 Drs. John and Silvia Ferretti
- 2016 Hon. Tom Ridge
- 2018 Shown left to right: Ferki Ferati, County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Mayor Joe Schember, Dignitas Award winners James Fallows and Deborah Fallows, along with Tom Hagen and Ben Speeggen.
The Jefferson Educational Society was created as a nonprofit organization with the Pennsylvania Department of State on September 29, 2008. This Institution was founded to stimulate community progress through education and research activities. The Jefferson Educational Society’s mission also includes a commitment to operate in a non-partisan, non-denominational manner without a political or philosophical bias.

The Agora Society for Planned Gifts:
The Athenian Agora served as the fertile ground from which Democracy and Western Thought were born. The Jefferson Educational Society continues the Agora tradition of public discourse to seek civic enlightenment and to generate the discussion of ideas. Planned gifts provide for the future of the Jefferson Society and are not only a critical source of funds for future students, faculty, and programs, but they provide you with the opportunity to define your legacy. For more information or to make a gift, please call 814.459.8000 or visit The Agora Society website at jeserie.plannedgiving.org.