

## Jefferson Educational Society March 2021

All programs are held at times scheduled on the Jefferson Facebook Page, or [www.facebook.com/JeffersonErie](http://www.facebook.com/JeffersonErie).

For more information, visit [www.JESerie.org](http://www.JESerie.org), or our Facebook page, or call 814.459.8000. SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<i>Digital Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Programming</i>			
When	What	Who	Series
Monday, May 3 4 to 5 p.m.	<b>The Impact of Coronavirus on Higher Education</b>	<b>Dr. Hilary L. Link</b> <i>President of Allegheny College</i> <b>Dr. Ralph Ford</b> <i>Chancellor of Penn State Behrend</i> <b>Dr. Walter Iwanenko</b> <i>Provost and Vice President for Student Experience at Gannon University</i>	<b>JES Digital Programming</b>
Tuesday, May 4 12 to 1 p.m.	<b>Overcoming the Rural Digital Divide</b>	<b>Jeff Styborski</b> <i>JES Raimy Fellow and JCLA Graduate</i>	<b>JES Digital Programming</b>
Friday, May 7 12 to 12:30 p.m.	<b>Mindfulness and Grief (# 1): Acknowledging the Losses &amp; Grief of 2020-2021</b>	<b>Penny Mechley-Porter</b> <i>Founder of Thrive Therapy Space</i>	<b>Meditation and Mindfulness Series</b>
Monday, May 10 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Addressing Policy Reform and Racial Equity with Camille Busette and Rashawn Ray</b>	<b>Camille Busette</b> <i>Director of the Brookings Institution Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion Initiative</i> <b>Rashawn Ray</b> <i>David M. Rubenstein Fellow in Governance Studies at The Brookings Institution</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event</i> <i>Registration Required</i>
Tuesday, May 11 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>A Conversation with Ali Zaidi, Deputy National Climate Advisor to the Biden Administration</b>	<b>Ali Zaidi</b> <i>Deputy National Climate Advisor to President Biden</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event</i> <i>Registration Required</i>

Wednesday, May 12 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Extraterrestrial Life: Are We the Sharpest Cookies in the Jar?	<b>Avi Loeb</b> <i>Frank B. Baird, Jr., Professor of Science at Harvard University</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Thursday, May 13 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	A Conversation With Rev. Jeffrey Brown: Race in America and Today's Black Lives Matter Movement	<b>Rev. Jeffrey Brown</b> <i>President of RECAP (Rebuilding Every Community Around Peace)</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Friday, May 14 12 to 12:30 p.m.	Mindfulness and Grief (# 2): Caring for Yourself During Times of Grief	<b>Penny Mechley-Porter</b> <i>Founder of Thrive Therapy Space</i>	<b>Meditation and Mindfulness Series</b>
Friday, May 14 5 to 6 p.m.	The Iron Lady on Screen: Discussing Margaret Thatcher in Film and on Tv	<b>Nile Gardiner</b> <i>Director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at The Heritage Foundation</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Monday, May 17 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	We Should Have Seen It Coming: From Reagan to Trump -- a Front-row Seat to a Political Revolution	<b>Gerald Seib</b> <i>Washington executive editor for The Wall Street Journal and Columnist of the "Capital Journal."</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Tuesday, May 18 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	The Global Coronavirus Pandemic and America's Path Forward	<b>Dr. Michael Saag</b> <i>Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Associate Dean of Global Health</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Wednesday, May 19 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power	<b>Susan Page</b> <i>Award-winning author, columnist, and Washington Bureau chief for USA Today</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Thursday, May 20 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Nancy Reagan: Archives, Letters, Memoirs, and Interviews Offering a New and Revealing Look at the Former First Lady	<b>Penny Mechley-Porter</b> <i>Founder of Thrive Therapy Space</i>	<b>Meditation and Mindfulness Series</b>

Friday, May 21 12 to 12:30 p.m.	Mindfulness and Grief (# 3): Healing is Possible	<b>Penny Mechley-Porter,</b> <i>Founder of Thrive Therapy Space</i>	<b>Meditation and Mindfulness Series</b>
Friday, May 21 1 to 2 p.m.	<b>COVID-19: The Path Forward for Parents, Educators and Public Health Experts</b>	<b>Dr. Leana Wen</b> <i>Emergency Room Physician, CNN Medical Analyst</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Monday, May 24 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Russia, China and What You Need to Know about America's Greatest Foreign Policy Challenges</b>	<b>David Ignatius</b> <i>Author and Washington Post Columnist</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Tuesday, May 25 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Understanding America's 21st Century Diplomacy: Lessons from the Front Lines of Europe and Asia</b>	<b>Ambassador Christopher Hill</b> <i>George W. Ball Adjunct Professor at Columbia University in the City of New York</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Wednesday, May 26 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Front Row to History: Reporting from the Front Lines of the White House</b>	<b>April Ryan</b> <i>White House Correspondent</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Thursday, May 27 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>"Our Towns:" From the Pages to the Screen</b>	<b>James and Deborah Fallows</b> <i>National Correspondents for The Atlantic, Authors of "Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America"</i> <b>Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan</b> <i>Academy Award-nominated Directors, Directors of "Our Towns" HBO Documentary</i>	<b>Global Summit XII</b> <i>Free, Digital Event Registration Required</i>
Friday, May 28 12 to 12:30 p.m.	<b>Mindfulness and Grief (# 4): Recognizing and Healing Collective Grief</b>	<b>Penny Mechley-Porter</b> <i>Founder of Thrive Therapy Space</i>	<b>Meditation and Mindfulness Series</b>

## Digital Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Programming

5.3

### ***The Impact of Coronavirus on Higher Education***

Universities and college campuses are places where students live and study in proximity to each other. They are also buzzing cultural hubs where students are brought together from all corners of Pennsylvania, the U.S., and the world. The foundations of this unique ecosystem have been impacted significantly by Covid-19, creating uncertainty regarding the implications for higher education. In this panel discussion Dr. Hilary Link, President of Allegheny College, Dr. Ralph Ford, Chancellor of Penn State Behrend, and Dr. Walter Iwanenko, Provost and Vice President for Student Experience at Gannon University review how Covid-19 impacted each campus and how each college responded to the challenge. The panel also provides lessons learned from months of pivoting and adapting and a post-pandemic outlook to higher education. Moderators are Jefferson's Director of Operations Angela Beaumont and Dr. Baher Ghosheh, Professor of Geosciences at Edinboro University and Scholar-in-Residence at the Jefferson Educational Society.

- Hilary Link, Ph.D., Ralph Ford, Ph.D., Walter Iwanenko, Jr., Ph.D., O.T.R., S.A.S., & Baher Ghosheh, P.D.

5.5.

### ***Overcoming the Rural Digital Divide***

What is the rural digital divide? What are the connectivity issues affecting students living in rural areas as they attempt to learn at a distance during this time of pandemic? What are the public and non-public options for overcoming that divide to ensure all students equitable access to reliable, high-speed internet access? Join Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy 2020 alumnus

and Raimy Fellow Jeff Styborski, a tech industry professional and graduate of an Erie-region rural school district; Jefferson Educational Society Vice President Ben Spегgen, and Jefferson Educational Society Scholar-in-Residence Andrew Roth for a conversation about this timely and issue impacting Erie County students and their families. Jeff will share insights from his study of access to high-speed internet access in the Wattsburg Area School District and outline next steps for overcoming the rural digital divide.

- Jeff Styborski, B.A.

5.7

### ***Mindfulness and Grief (#1): Acknowledging Losses & Grief of 2020-21***

Healing from grief and loss starts with acknowledging the loss and its impact. In today's session, we recognize the varied and profoundly difficult aspects of life during 2020-21, a time of significant losses. We explore the impact of those losses on you and on others. Our mindfulness exercise will help you recognize you are not alone in your experience of grief.

- Penny Mechley-Porter, N.C.C., L.P.C.

5.10

### ***Addressing Policy Reform and Racial Equity with Camille Busette and Rashawn Ray***

Dr. Camille Busette, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, joins Brookings Fellow Dr. Rashawn Ray to discuss the need for public policy reform and racial equity in America.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website, JESerie.org, to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Camilly Busette, Ph.D. & Rashawn Ray, Ph.D.

5.11

### ***A Conversation with Ali Zaidi, Deputy National Climate Advisor to the Biden Administration***

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website, JESerie.org, to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Ali Zaidi, J.D.

5.12

### ***Extraterrestrial Life: Are We the Sharpest Cookies in the Jar?***

The search for extraterrestrial life is one of the most exciting frontiers in Astronomy. First clues were identified close to Earth in the form of the weird interstellar object Oumuamua. Our civilization will mature once we find out who lives on our cosmic street by using our best telescopes for unusual electromagnetic flashes, industrial pollution of planetary atmospheres, artificial light or heat, artificial space debris or something completely unexpected. We might be a form of life as primitive and common in the cosmos as ants are in a kitchen. If so, we can learn a lot from others out there. The lecture will feature content from Dr. Loeb's book, "Extraterrestrial." A Pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Avi Loeb, Ph.D.

5.13

### ***A Conversation With Rev. Jeffrey Brown: Race in America and Today's Black Lives Matter Movement***

Rev. Brown, a Baptist minister, has for years helped cities and police departments across the country address youth violence and develop plans to make communities safer and fairer.

Today those stakes are as great as they have ever been. That's the backdrop of Rev. Brown's discussion of race and his current project to convene a second national conference of faith leaders and law enforcement and hold a national conversation on the importance of faith institutions in public safety.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Rev. Jeffrey Brown, M.A.

5.14

### ***Mindfulness & Grief (#2):***

#### ***Caring for Yourself During Times of Grief***

Self care strategies you can use during times of grief include 'finding a role model' and 'pacing yourself'. Learn all 10 strategies during this session. Our mindfulness exercise will help you have compassion for yourself as you experience grief.

- Penny Mechley-Porter, N.C.C, L.P.C.

5.14

### ***The Iron Lady on Screen: Discussing Margaret Thatcher in Film and on TV***

The focus of this presentation is Thatcher's impact in film and on television.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Nile Gardiner, Ph.D.

5.17

### ***We Should Have Seen It Coming: From Reagan to Trump — a Front-row Seat to a Political Revolution***

Gerald Seib examines history, politics, and trends in his presentation, "We Should Have Seen It Coming: From Reagan to Trump – A Front Row Seat to a Political Revolution," which is also the title of his noted book published in 2020.

In the book, he discusses major and formative events and issues during the 40-year political era bookended by the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Gerald Seib, B.A.

5.18

### ***The Global Coronavirus Pandemic and America's Path Forward***

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Dr. Michael Saag, M.D.

5.19

### ***Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power***

Susan Page's new book, "Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power," released April 6, features 150 exclusive interviews as it explores Pelosi's life and impact on American politics.

Page describes Pelosi's father as a big-city mayor (Baltimore) and her mother his political organizer. When Pelosi's mother encouraged her young daughter to become a nun, Page writes, Nancy told her mother that being a priest sounded more appealing. She said Pelosi didn't start running for office until she was 56 years old and after her five children were mostly out of the house.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Susan Page, M.A.

5.20

### ***Nancy Reagan: Archives, Letters, Memoirs, and Interviews Offering a New and Revealing Look at the Former First Lady***

Karen Tumulty, a political columnist for the Washington Post, spent four years interviewing the Reagans' closest friends and associates before writing her critically acclaimed new book on Nancy Reagan, "The Triumph of Nancy Reagan." Released April 13, the book draws on archives, letters, memoirs, and White House records.

The extensive biography covers tensions and breakthroughs with the former Soviet Union, Nancy's celebrated war on drugs, and the AIDS epidemic, which Ronald Regan ignored for several years before acknowledging it upon Nancy Reagan persuasion.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- Karen Tumulty, M.B.A.

5.21

### ***Mindfulness and Grief (# 3): Healing is Possible***

Sometimes grief and loss feel so overwhelming that we worry we won't heal, yet healing is possible. Specific tasks, such as visiting a meaningful place from your past, can help. Learn various healing options during this session. Our mindfulness exercise will help you reflect on what healing tasks might best help you.

- Penny Mechley-Porter, N.C.C, L.P.C.

5.21

### ***COVID-19: The Path Forward for Parents, Educators and Public Health Experts***

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your

unique Zoom webinar link.

- *Dr. Leana Wen, M.D.*

5.24

***Russia, China and What You Need to Know about America's Greatest Foreign Policy Challenges***

David Ignatius, the bestselling novelist and prize-winning columnist for the Washington Post, brings his expertise on Russia, China, the Middle East, and CIA back to the Jefferson after presenting at Global Summit X in 2018.

In his new presentation, Ignatius analyzes the foreign policy challenges facing the Biden administration, including a recent focus of his columns on America's pending pullout from Afghanistan after 20 years.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- *David Ignatius, B.A.*

5.25

***Understanding America's 21st Century Diplomacy: Lessons from the Front Lines of Europe and Asia***

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- *Ambassador Christopher Hill, M.A.*

5.26

***Front Row to History: Reporting from the Front Lines of the White House***

April Ryan's latest book, "Under Fire: Reporting from the Front Lines of the Trump White House," is the focus of her presentation at Global Summit XII.

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- *April Ryan, B.S.*

5.27

***"Our Towns" From the Pages to the Screen***

James and Deborah Fallows, authors of the national bestseller "Our Towns" and national correspondents for The Atlantic, have teamed up with filmmakers Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan for a just-released HBO documentary based on the book, on "Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America."

A Global Summit XII event, pre-registration is required. Register on our website to receive your unique Zoom webinar link.

- *James Fallows, B.A., Deborah Fallows, Ph.D., Jeanne Jordan, & Steven Ascher*

5.28

***Mindfulness and Grief (# 4): Recognizing and Healing Collective Grief***

At times grief is very individual, but when large scale difficulty or disaster strikes, entire communities or countries are impacted. This collective grief can bring us together in new ways, though we can't predict ahead of time what those ways will be. Our mindfulness exercise will help you trust more in your own grieving process.

- *Penny Mechley-Porter, N.C.C, L.P.C.*

## JES Presenter Biographies

**Steven Ascher**, is an Academy Award-nominated director and writer who directed "Our Towns" the documentary. He's the author of **The Filmmaker's Handbook**, and has taught filmmaking. *The Boston Globe* calls his work "filmmaking at its finest."

**Rev. Jeffrey Brown, M.A.**, a Baptist minister, has for years helped cities and police departments across the country address youth violence and develop plans to make communities safer and fairer. Today those stakes are as great as they have ever been.

Rev. Brown, who has presented to the Jefferson several times, including in 2020, was a central figure in the "Boston Miracle," which succeeded in significantly lowering youth crime and gang violence in Boston's most troubled neighborhoods. His message of working within stressed communities rather than from an authority perspective has resonated with people of all faiths, races, and occupations. Famously, he once said he learned some of his most important life lessons, not in the "hallowed halls of a seminary," but from drug dealers, prostitutes, and gang members.

He is co-founder of the Boston Ten Point Coalition, the group that inspired a 79 percent drop in violent crime in the 1990s.

**Camille Busette, Ph.D.**, received her academic training at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Chicago, then embarked on a career at the World Bank, where she confronted issues of extreme poverty, lack of access to health, education, sanitation, and the labor market. She now heads the Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion initiative at Brookings.

Dr. Busette is also a friend to the Jefferson, having appeared several times in Jefferson programs, including a digital presentation in 2020 and 2019's Global Summit when she discussed new approaches to addressing race and belonging. She is currently working as a project

consultant with Erie-based advocacy groups on a new policy strategy titled "Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion."

**James Fallows & Deborah Fallows**, frequent presenters and longtime supporters of the Jefferson, were named honorary Erie citizens by Mayor Joe Schember in 2018 as they were presented the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award at Global Summit X. Their national coverage of news, culture, and trends included Erie as part of the "Our Towns" book that put a spotlight on America's smaller cities, their struggles, and proactive efforts to reinvent themselves.

In addition to a storied career as a journalist, essayist, book author, commentator, and analyst for NPR's "Weekend All Things Considered," James Fallows was the chief speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter for two years. Deborah Fallows, James' wife and partner, is a Harvard graduate and later earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics. She researches and writes on many subjects, though primarily on education, and her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, the former *Atlantic Monthly*, *National Geographic*, and *Newsweek*.

Together their work on "Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America" has been transferred to documentary film

**Ralph Ford, Ph.D.**, is Chancellor of Penn State Behrend. He joined the college in 1994 as a faculty member where he then served as department chair, before he was named director of the School of Engineering. He served as interim chancellor beginning in July 2015 and became Chancellor in January 2016. He is the author of more than 40 publications. He holds a bachelor's degree in

electrical engineering from Clarkson University and master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Arizona.

**Nile Gardiner, Ph.D.**, a leading authority on Brexit, is the director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at The Heritage Foundation. He previously served as a foreign policy aide to the late Prime Minister Thatcher in her private office in London, assisting her with her last book, "Statecraft: Strategies for a Changing World," and advising her on a number of international issues. Dr. Gardiner is credited with helping to shape her foreign policy, which included urging Great Britain to consider leaving the European Union and laying the foundation for Brexit several years after her death in 2013.

Dr. Gardiner received his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. degrees in History from Yale University, and B.A. and M.A. in Modern History from Oxford University. He has also served as a foreign policy adviser to three American presidential candidates.

**Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D.** holds a Ph.D. in Economic Development from SUNY-Buffalo and has been a Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, cultural and economic Geography at Edinboro University since 1989. He has graduate degrees in International Relations/Middle Eastern Studies, International Trade, and Comparative Economic Development. A native of Jerusalem, Dr. Ghosheh has lived in eight countries, traveled to fifty-nine countries, and has taught in Japan, China, Russia, Italy, and Morocco. He has authored one book, book chapters or Russia and the Middle East and 60+ articles on the Middle East, Asia, and Japan. He was awarded a Fulbright to conduct research in Malaysia and Singapore and was selected as the Pennsylvania Geographer of the Year and Edinboro University's Educator of the Year. He is a

Professor of Geosciences at Edinboro University and Scholar-in-Residence at the Jefferson Educational Society.

**Ambassador Christopher Hill, M.A.,** Christopher Hill credits his work with the Peace Corps in the mid-1970s for teaching him his first lessons in diplomacy and he went on to become one of the more accomplished diplomats in modern American history.

Fluent in five languages, Hill speaks English, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian, and Albanian. He needed all of those skills as he served as U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia from 1996 to 1999; Special Envoy to Kosovo in 1998 and 1999; Ambassador to Poland from 2000 to 2004; and Ambassador to the Republic of Korea from 2004 to 2005 before being appointed as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Although Hill is not widely known in the United States, he became a celebrity in China as chief envoy in talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program. He is currently the George W. Ball adjunct professor at Columbia University in the City of New York.

Hill received a master's degree from the Naval War College in 1994.

**David Ignatius,** the bestselling novelist and prize-winning columnist for the Washington Post, brings his expertise on Russia, China, the Middle East, and CIA back to the Jefferson after presenting at Global Summit X in 2018.

Ignatius' rare career includes a number of bestselling spy novels that feature his understanding of the CIA and a number of foreign nations and their operations. He once explained to an interviewer that his novel-writing career started when "it was obvious that the only way I could share this world of fact was through fiction. ... I realized that what makes a novel seem real, paradoxically, is its departure from actual life: The way it's re-imagined in the mind of the writer gives it a

reality and power that it wouldn't have otherwise. Otherwise, you'd just be reading a 120,000-word newspaper story."

**Walter Iwanenko Jr., Ph.D., O.T.R., S.A.S.,** Provost and Vice President for Student Experience at Gannon University. Iwanenko was named Vice President of Academic Administration at Gannon University in fall 2016 and was named Provost and Vice President of Student Experience in 2020. He has Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Occupational Therapy from D'Youville College. He earned a Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health from the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Medicine and his School Administrator Certification from State University of New York at Buffalo.

**Jeanne Jordan,** is an independent director, producer and editor who directed "Our Towns" the documentary. She was nominated for an Academy Award and has received the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.

**Hilary L. Link, Ph.D.,** is President of Allegheny College. She served for six years as dean of Temple University at Rome and then became vice chair of the American Overseas School of Rome Board of Trustees and a member of the Centro Studi Americani Board of Directors. She also serves on the Climate Leadership Steering Committee of the Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitments. She is a graduate of Stanford University and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from Yale University in Italian language and literature.

**Avi Loeb, Ph.D.,** nicknamed "Superstar of

Astronomy" by the news media, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012. He is founding director of Harvard's Black Hole Initiative and serves as director of the Institute for Theory and Computation within the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He is the author of four books and more than 700 papers.

**Penny Mechley-Porter, N.C.C, L.P.C.,** is a licensed professional counselor in private practice serving adults and children. After receiving her M.A. in counseling from Edinboro University, she worked at Sarah Reed Children's Center and in the Dean Ornish Program. Earlier in her career, Penny was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa, then used her computer science degree from Indiana University as a trainer in businesses across the United States.

**Susan Page, M.A.,** the Washington bureau chief for USA Today and author of a bestselling biography of Barbara Bush and a new book on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Page, a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, went on to earn a master's degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism, where she was a Pulitzer Fellow.

**Rashawn Ray, Ph.D.,** is a professor of Sociology and executive director of the Lab for Applied Social Science Research (LASSR) at the University of Maryland in College Park, is a David M. Rubenstein Fellow at Brookings. He is a prolific writer and author, having published more than 50 books, articles, and op-eds.

**April Ryan, M.A.,** has a unique vantage point as the only black female reporter covering urban

issues from the White House – a position she has held since the Clinton administration. Her position as a White House correspondent has afforded her unusual insight into the racial sensitivities, issues, and political struggles of past presidents.

Ryan can be seen almost daily on CNN as a political analyst. She is also the Washington bureau chief on The Grio. Her work has been featured in *Essence*, *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Elle* magazines, and she is on the board of the White House Correspondents Association.

Ryan is the author of the award-winning book, “The Presidency in Black and White,” and “At Mama’s Knee: Mothers and Race in Black and White (December 2016),” in which she discusses race relations through the lessons and wisdom that mothers have given their children.

She is a graduate of Morgan State University.

**Dr. Michael Saag, M.D.**, physician and prominent HIV/AIDS researcher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Dr. Michael Saag is and as well as novel treatments for opportunistic infections that occur more frequently and are more severe in people with HIV.

Far more personally, Dr. Saag contracted and ultimately recovered from COVID-19 in 2020 and has since spoken out publicly about the need to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

He has published more than 260 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has contributed more than 50 chapters to medical textbooks. Dr. Saag has also served on the editorial boards of *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses* and the *American Board of Internal Medicine*.

Dr. Saag holds the Jim Straley Chair in AIDS Research and serves as director of the Center for AIDS Research at UAB. He is also the founder of

the 1917 Clinic, UAB’s AIDS treatment and research center, and frequently lectures at AIDS conferences around the world.

**Gerald Seib, B.A.**, the Washington executive editor for *The Wall Street Journal* and author of, “We Should Have Seen It Coming: From Reagan to Trump – A Front Row Seat to a Political Revolution.”

Seib, who appears often on networks such as CNBC, Fox Business Network, and the BBC as a commentator on Washington affairs, was formerly the *Journal’s* Washington bureau chief. His weekly column, “*Capital Journal*,” analyzes politics, national affairs, and foreign policy.

Seib has won numerous awards for his journalism and was part of the team from the *Journal* that won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize in the “breaking news” category for its coverage of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In 2004, the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas – his alma mater – named him the 2005 William Allen White Foundation’s national citation winners. He also won the Loeb lifetime achievement award for contributions to business and financial journalism in 2012.

**Jeanne Jordan**, is an independent director, producer and editor who directed “Our Towns” the documentary. She was nominated for an Academy Award and has received the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.

**Jeff Styborski, B.S.**, a tech industry professional and himself a graduate of an Erie-region rural school district .

**Karen Tumulty, M.B.A.**, is a political columnist for the *Washington Post* holds a journalism degree from the University of Texas and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. She appeared at the Jefferson Global Summit in 2019.

**Dr. Leana Wen, M.D.**, an emergency room physician, has become a leading voice on America’s fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as a CNN medical analyst, columnist for the *Washington Post*, and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Dr. Wen, who lives with her husband and their toddler and baby in Baltimore, previously served as Baltimore’s Health Commissioner.

She obtained her medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine and studied health policy at the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar. She completed her residency training at Brigham & Women’s Hospital & Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was a clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School.

**Ali Zaidi, J.D.**, a Pakistani-American lawyer, is the new first deputy National Climate Advisor to President Biden.

The Harvard and Georgetown-educated advisor is working with National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, the former Environmental Protection Agency director, with duties that include advising President Biden on domestic climate change policy.

An experienced executive, Zaidi helped negotiate the Paris Climate Agreement and the Obama administration’s climate change plan. He previously served as the New York deputy secretary for energy and environment and a policy aide to U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

Zaidi recently discussed in a Columbia University program “an urgent need to create jobs that rely on clean energy for communities that have been negatively impacted by fossil fuels.”

Zaidi lived with his family in Edinboro and was a 2004 graduate of General McLane High School.