



Summer 2015 UIS Speaker Series Event Schedule*

All Events are Free & Open to the Public

June 9
Tuesday
10:00AM
PAC G

An RSVP is requested for this event. Please make your reservations by emailing speakerseries@uis.edu by June 4.

Constructing Culture Workshop



Lorena Johnson

All of us make sense of the world through our cultural orientations. Culture shapes how we communicate, how we approach our work and play, how we interact with one another, how we learn, what we expect from relationships, what customs we follow, and how we view the world. Yet, as Edward Hall states, "Culture hides much more than it reveals and strangely enough what it hides, it hides most effectively from its own participants". One of the fundamental elements in developing cultural competency is understanding others and ourselves as cultural constructs. In this event, participants will explore culture and examine how culture shapes identity, learning, communication, conflict resolution and childrearing practices.

Lorena Johnson, M.A., M.P.A., is the Director of the Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois, a nationally accredited professional development program for Illinois public managers located at the University of Illinois-Springfield. Ms. Johnson has a M.A. in Communication and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Illinois., and a BSW in Social Work from Loyola University of Chicago. Ms. Johnson has been an adjunct faculty member for interdisciplinary courses in Humanities and Social Sciences at Parkland College in Champaign IL. She has worked for over 20 years in the field of diversity and multicultural education providing professional development workshops on creating culturally inclusive learning environments to K-12, community college, and university faculty and staff across the country.

June 23
Tuesday
7:00PM
Studio Theatre

Challenges to Americans and American Journalists' Understanding of the Middle East in the Age of Jihad and ISIS



Nina D. Burleigh

Co-sponsored by UIS Brookens Library

Since 9/11, Americans have struggled to understand the Middle East and to agree on an appropriate role for the United States in that region. This lecture, in throwing light on the region and the vexing issues of jihad and the rise of ISIS, will elicit greater understanding of the cultures and peoples of the Middle East and the economic, political, social and religious systems that contribute to the current situations "on the ground" in Middle Eastern countries.

Burleigh will speak about her experience as a journalist and researcher in the Middle East and will reflect on her own cultural knowledge and experiences as the daughter of an Assyrian Christian Iraqi immigrant. She will also share her experiences during her research travel in Israel for her book on Biblical archeology, *Unholy Business*, and in Egypt for her book on the historic interaction between the French and early modern Islam, *Mirage*.

Nina D. Burleigh is an American writer and journalist who is currently a national political correspondent for *Newsweek*. She has written for *Time*, the *New York Times*, the *New York Observer*, *People*, *Slate* and other newspapers and magazines. She is the author of five books, including *The Fatal Gift of Beauty*, about the murder trial in Italy of American college student Amanda Knox. Burleigh was born in Chicago and has a Masters Degree in Creative Writing from the University of Chicago. She also has a master's degree from the Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) program at UIS, and has been inducted into its Hall of Fame.

Photo is from <http://www.ninaburleigh.com/essays/>.

July 16
Thursday
6:00PM
Brookens Auditorium

Enemy Mine (1985)

Film Screening and Discussion



Moderator: Ed Myers

In the distant future, as the galaxy is being colonized, humanity goes to war against the Dracs, a reptilian race from the planet Draco as both races fight over the control of many worlds. During a space battle, space pilot Willis Davidge crashes on Fryine IV, a volcanic planet. Willis finds he isn't alone and finds a Drac named Jeriba Shigan has also crashed on the planet. Both stranded on Fryine IV...Davidge and Jeriba both put aside their differences and their hatred for each other as they both try to survive on the planet, where they learn of each other's cultures and form a friendship. (<http://www.imdb.com/>)

Ed Myers is the author of several short stories, plays, and novels, including the first volume in a sci-fi/comedy series, *The Totally Gnarly Adventures of the Galactically Bitchin' Comet Sweat!* He serves as an instructor for UIS's Speaker Series and as an English instructor for various other colleges in the Springfield area.

*** Please Note:**

- This schedule is current as of May 21, 2015.
- Visit our website at www.uis.edu/speakerseries/ for the most up-to- date event schedule.
- For additional event information contact speakerseries@uis.edu or Dr. Rivera-Beckstrom at 217.206.8171
- Video on Demand recordings available for some events at <http://www.uis.edu/informationtechnologyservices/connect/webcasting/webcasting-ecce/>.