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Powerful Voices

09.19.2013 | Students, Hot Topics, Campus and Community, Culture and Society

Two Nobel Peace Prize winners and the first female president of Ireland are coming to the University of Dayton as part of the 2013-2014 University of Dayton Speaker Series.

In all, seven powerful voices in human rights make up this year's series, "Human Rights: A Global Challenge." All talks are free and open to the campus community and the public.

"We have a line-up of seven speakers from around the globe who are truly outstanding as compelling, expert voices on our theme. We couldn't be more excited about the yearlong conversation ahead," said Sheila Hassell Hughes, chair of the University of Dayton's English department, who directs the series.

The schedule includes:

• Alex de Waal, executive director of the World Peace Foundation and research fellow at the Fletcher School, Tufts University, speaks at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4, at the 1700 South Patterson Building. His talk is part of the Oct. 3-5 international conference, "The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy," sponsored by the University of Dayton's human rights program. de Waal is considered one of the foremost experts on Sudan and the Horn of Africa, with work in humanitarian crisis and response, human rights, HIV/AIDS and governance in Africa, and conflict and peacebuilding.

• S. James Anaya, United Nations special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, offers an address at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 28, in the Kennedy Union east ballroom. Anaya serves as the Regents Professor and the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. He wrote the acclaimed book, Indigenous Peoples in International Law.

• Leymah Gbowee, who shared the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for leading a women's peace movement that helped end a civil war in Liberia, will keynote the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. She's the president of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, which she founded.

• Krzysztof Wodiczko, artist, professor and director of art, design and the public domain at Harvard Graduate School of Design, will address "Art and the Culture of War: Toward the Un-War Memorial," at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. Wodiczko is renowned for his large-scale slide and video projections on architectural facades and monuments around the world. He uses images and voices of the homeless, immigrants, survivors of domestic violence, war veterans and other marginalized people in his work. The talk, part of Human Rights Week, is co-sponsored by the department of visual arts.

• Jody Williams, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize and chair of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, speaks at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. Williams is the author of Banning Landmines: Disarmament, Citizen Diplomacy, and Human Security and a recently released memoir, My Name is Jody Williams: A Vermont Girl's Winding Path to the Nobel Peace Prize.

• Mary Robinson, the first female president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, will keynote the annual Brother Joseph W. Stander Symposium, at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 7, in the RecPlex.


Co-sponsors for the University of Dayton Speaker Series include the Bob Ross Auto Group Ross and Markey's Audio Visual.

For more information, contact Andrea Wade, academic events coordinator for the office of the provost, at 937-229-2245.