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University Lectures records12141344

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Office of the Provost
Title:	University Lectures records
ID:	12141344
ID:	UA#0223
Date [inclusive]:	1972-2016
Physical Description:	2.5 linear feet 2 record cartons
Physical Description:	1.69 Gigabytes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); University Lectures records; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The University Lecture series was created to provide an opportunity for the Columbia community to hear from one of their own faculty members. Provost William Theodore deBary claimed that before the University Lectures were inaugurated, "there was no regular provision for the University community as a whole to gather to hear some of the most distinguished members discuss their own works... Many leading scholars and teachers were ... invited to give public lectures at other institutions around the world, but largely confined to their classrooms on the Columbia campus."

Lionel Trilling was the first University Lecturer. Trilling delivered the first Thomas Jefferson lecture of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, DC on April 26, 1972, and few days later, on May 1, he delivered the same lecture, "Mind in the Modern World,"

to the Columbia community at the Low Library Rotunda. The invitation from the President and the Provost called it "a lecture," but with that one talk, the series of University Lectures was born. In the fall, Provost deBary announced to the members of the faculty and staff that they were "planning further University lectures, which will present the views of distinguished members of the faculty on topics of general interest." The memo from October 1972 includes the names and dates for the 1972-1973 lectures as well as the speakers for the following academic year.

In his appeal to the Deans about possible speakers, Provost Jonathan Cole claimed that the University lecturer is "an outstanding faculty member whose record of achievement is of particular note," and "ideal candidates are able to speak in an interesting and engaging way to an audience of non-specialists." The University Lecture series, as he described it in 2002, was "intended to provide opportunities for the New York Community, and of course, more particularly the local Columbia folks to learn about the work of Columbia's most distinguished scientists and scholars. The lectures are designed to reach an audience that goes well beyond one's discipline or specialty." As such, the lectures cover a wide range of topics: Japanese culture, First Amendment rights, the El Nino phenomenon, the legality of pornography, Soviet-American relations during the Cold War, DNA and evolution, composers and librettists, the Amiens Cathedral in France, avant-garde architecture, and organ transplants.

From 1972-1973 to 1997-1998, there were usually three speakers each academic year (fall, winter and spring). The series changed to a semiannual event starting in 1998-1999. Originally, the Office of the Provost coordinated the event, which included a dinner, lecture and reception. Since 2003, the series has been managed by the President's Office, as part of the University Programs and Events office.

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Summary

The records document the University Lecture series, from its beginning in 1972 to 1998. The files contain information about the speakers (cv, bio, clippings, and articles), event press release, advertisement, flyer/poster, invitation, guest lists, rsvp cards, dinner seating charts, Provost's introductory remarks, correspondence and other details about the logistics of the event. For a few, there is a transcript of the lecture. The electronic files consist of programs, posters, guest lists, biographies, planning documents, and photographs covering the years 2002 to 2016.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Content list published (JR) Expired restrictions removed. (JR) 2021-02-10 2022-01-07

Restrictions on Access

All administrative records of the University are restricted for 25 years from the date of creation.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located offsite. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Conditions Governing Access

Digital files can only be viewed in the reading room at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library on a specially configured laptop. Please reserve a laptop by selecting the checkbox in the container list.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

2016.2017.M045, 2016.2017.M067 Digital: Source of acquisition--Office of the Provost. Faculty Affairs. Method of acquisition--Transfer; Date of acquisition--8/29/2016, 10/18/2017.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios (July 2016) and the finding aid was written by Joanna Rios (February 2021).

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Related Materials

Related Materials

The [Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs records \(UA#0083\)](#) include a number of the introductory remarks and related correspondence. Box 596 has most of Provost Cole's remarks, from Walter Mischel (1989) to Shree Nayar (2002). Additional remarks can be found in Box 584. Box 612 has the introduction to Andre Delbanco's lecture in 2003. The [Historical subject files \(UA#0002\)](#) contain announcements and invitations as well as more recent materials. The [Office of Public Affairs photograph collection \(UA#0109\)](#) has photos of the lectures and dinners, 1981-2006.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Lectures and lecturing
- Columbia University -- Faculty

Collection Inventory

Series I: University Lecture records, 1972-1998

Scope and Contents

The records document the University Lecture series, from its beginning in 1972 to 1998. The files contain information about the speakers (cv, bio, clippings, and articles), event press release, advertisement, flyer/poster, invitation, guest lists, rsvp cards, dinner seating charts, Provost's introductory remarks, correspondence and other details about the logistics of the event. For a few, there is a transcript of the lecture. There is one lecture missing (Zbigniew Brzezinski, 1982-1983). There are also files for cancelled lectures and some with information about potential speakers within the collection. The records were put together by those in charge of coordinating the event: Arlene Jacobs, Ruth Levenson, Harriette Nieves, and Mary Frances Schlichter.

Title/Description	Instances
Lionel Trilling, 1972	box 1
Robert K. Merton, 1972-1973	box 1
Jacques Barzun, 1972-1973	box 1
Meyer Schapiro, 1972-1973	box 1
Ernest Nagel, 1973-1974	box 1
Tsung-Dao Lee, 1973-1974	box 1
Walter Gellhorn, 1973-1974	box 1
Sol Spiegelman, 1974-1975	box 1
Ronald Breslow, 1974-1975	box 1
Robert Nisbet, 1974-1975	box 1
Cyril Harris, 1975-1976	box 1
Donald Keene, 1975-1976	box 1
Charles Frankel, 1975-1976	box 1
James Marston Fitch, 1976-1977	box 1
Robert G. Davis, 1976-1977	box 1
William E. Lechtenburg, 1976-1977	box 1
Eli Ginzberg, 1977-1978	box 1
Michael Riffaterre, 1977-1978	box 1
Diana Trilling, 1977-1978	box 1
University lectures nominations, 1978-1979	box 1
Fritz Stern, 1978-1979	box 1

Mario Salvadori, 1978-1979	box 1
Louis Henkin, 1978-1979	box 1
Wm. Theodore deBary, 1979-1980	box 1
Edith Porada, 1979-1980	box 1
Cyrus Levinthal, 1979-1980	box 1
Robert Owen Paxton, 1980-1981	box 1
Quentin Anderson, 1980-1981	box 1
Chien-Shiung Wu, 1980-1981	box 1
Stanley Schachter, 1981-1982	box 1
William Kenneth Jones, 1981-1982	box 1
Eric R. Kandel, 1981-1982	box 1
Richard Axel, 1982-1983	box 1
Edward Said, 1982-1983	box 1
David J. Rothman, 1983-1984	box 1
Marshall D. Shulman, 1983-1984	box 2
Malvin A. Ruderman, 1983-1984	box 2
Richard Brilliant, 1984-1985	box 2
Joseph F. Traub, 1984-1985	box 2
Seweryn Bialer, 1984-1985	box 2
Arthur C. Danto, 1985-1986	box 2
Keith Reemtsma, 1985-1986	box 2
Carolyn Heilbrun, 1985-1986	box 2
Carl Woodring, 1986-1987	box 2
Kenneth Frampton, 1986-1987 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 2
Maurice Rosenberg, 1986-1987	box 2
Robert Austerlitz, 1987-1988	box 2
Argiris Efstratiadis, 1987-1988	box 2
Jack Beeson, 1987-1988 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 2
University Lectures - suggested candidates, 1979-1980	box 2
Robert Towers, 1988-1989	box 2

Kenneth Jackson, 1988-1989	box 2
Louis Lowenstein, 1988-1989	box 2
Walter Mischel, 1989-1990	box 2
Vincent Blasi, 1989-1990	box 2
Alfred Stepan, 1989-1990	box 2
Lewis P. Rowland, 1990-1991	box 2
Bernard Tschumi, 1990-1991	box 2
Steven Marcus, 1990-1991	box 2
Kent Greenawalt, 1991-1992	box 2
Thomas M. Jessell, 1991-1992	box 2
Eric Foner, 1991-1992	box 2
Jagdish Bhagwati, 1992-1993	box 2
Koji Nakanishi, 1992-1993	box 2
Scope and Contents (cancelled due to illness, rescheduled)	
David Rosand, 1992-1993	box 2
Koji Nakanishi, 1993-1994	box 2
Nancy Wexler, 1993-1994	box 2
Caroline Bynum, 1993-1994	box 2
Carol Gluck, 1994-1995	box 2
Vincent R. Racaniello, 1994-1995	box 2
Robert A.M. Stern, 1995-1996	box 2
Stephen Murray, 1995-1996	box 2
Simon Schama, 1995-1996	box 2
Richard Axel, 1996-1997	box 2
Ann Douglas, 1996-1997	box 2
Scope and Contents (cancelled)	
Ricardo Dalla-Favera, 1996-1997	box 2
Scope and Contents (cancelled)	
James Schamus, 1996-1997	

box 2

Ann Douglas, 1997-1998

box 2

Scope and Contents

(cancelled)

Karen Antman, 1997-1998

box 2

Alan Brinkley, 1997-1998

box 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II: Digital records, 2002-2016****Scope and Contents**

The electronic files consist of programs, posters, guest lists, biographies, planning documents, and photographs covering the years 2002 to 2016.

Title/Description**Instances**

Digital records, 2002-2016

item Laptop

Conditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

This set of digital files is only available in the Reading Room on a laptop where researchers can keyword search, browse, and view the records. Please reserve a laptop by selecting the checkbox.

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