

# University Forum

A Free Lecture Series – Fall 2013 - 895-3401

University Forum is a public lecture series sponsored and funded by the UNLV College of Liberal Arts. All events are free, and no reservation is necessary; simply attend at the time and place shown. University Forum wishes to thank Nevada Public Radio for assistance with publicity. Visit the University Forum website at <http://liberalarts.unlv.edu/forum> for details.

## **Marginal Workers: The Politics of Workplace Reform**

**Thursday, September 5, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**Ruben J. Garcia, Professor, Boyd School of Law, UNLV**

How do workers organize to improve the laws that are supposed to protect them? This is the question addressed in Garcia's book *Marginal Workers: How Leval Fault Lines Divide Workers and Leave Them Without Protection* (NYU Press). In this lecture, Garcia examines current legislative efforts for labor law, immigration law and equal pay reform that are affected by workers' political marginality. He then suggests ways that the law might be reframed to improve workplace protections.

## **The Disneyfication of Brideland: Creating the Ultimate Feminine Fantasy**

**Tuesday, September 10, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**Erika Engstrom, Professor, Communications Studies, UNLV**

This presentation explores how Disney theme weddings create an image of weddings (and love and marriage) as wonderful, idealized, and perfect. The visual marketing of Disney weddings and its "Disney Princesses" line of merchandise aimed at girls combine to reify the idea of "Brideland", a utopian bridal fantasy. The speaker, author of *The Bride Factory*, discusses what the Disneyfication of weddings adds to the milieu of media portrayals of women, brides, and weddings.

## **Aspects of Duke Ellington**

**Saturday, September 14, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. – Doc Rando Recital Hall, Beam Music Center, UNLV**

**Arnold Jay Smith, Educator and Jazz Journalist, *Village Voice* and *New York Times***

The aspects include Ellington's **Train Songs** – Ellington hated to fly – excerpts from his Long Forms, or **Suites**, many of which were written with *Billy Strayhorn*, and his latter day **Concerts of Scared Music**. Mr. Smith will augment his lecture with audio & video from his personal collection.

## **Are Corporations People? The Supreme Court Case, *Citizens United* and the Constitutional Rights of Corporations**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**Adam Winkler, Professor of Law, UCLA**

In *Citizens United v. F.E.C.*, the Supreme Court held that corporations enjoy the same free speech rights as ordinary people. This controversial decision, which ignited a movement to amend the Constitution to end "corporate personhood," was not however the first Supreme Court ruling to recognize constitutional rights for corporations. In his

UNLV Constitution Day lecture, Professor Adam Winkler will reveal how the fascinating history behind *Citizens United*, places corporate personhood in context, and shows where the current reform movement goes wrong.

Co-sponsored by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, William S. Boyd School of Law, College of Liberal Arts, Department of History, and Department of Political Science, UNLV

**Chasing Butterflies: Endemic Butterflies of the Spring Mountain Range, Clark County, Nevada**

**Wednesday, September 25, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**Daniel Thompson, Professor, School of Life Sciences, UNLV and Paula Garrett, Research Scientist, Public Lands Institute, UNLV**

The Spring Mountain Range is considered a “sky island” due to its bio-geographic isolation from other mountain ranges of similar elevation. The highest point of the range is Mount Charleston peak. Surrounded on all sides by the Mohave Desert, the Spring Mountains provide the only remaining refuge to a variety of endemic species. These include a number of rare butterflies that occur nowhere else in the world.

**The Journalist as Fiction Writer: Best-selling Author Tom Barbash and *Stay Up With Me***

**Thursday, October 3, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**Tom Barbash, Associate Professor, English & Creative Writing, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA**

Tom Barbash is the best-selling author of *On Top of the World*, about the 9/11 attacks and mass tragedy at the firm of Cantor-Fitzgerald; and his first novel, *The Last Good Chance*, earned “best book of the year” acclaim from “Publisher’s Weekly”. Barbash will talk about his experiences as a journalist making a transition to writing fiction and then read from his new collection of short stories, *Stay Up With Me*.

Co-sponsored by the Department of English, UNLV

**The Amazing Saga of Albert Einstein’s Brain: Truth IS Stranger-Than-Fiction**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**Dean Falk, Professor of Anthropology, Florida State University/Tallahassee**

After his death in 1955, Albert Einstein’s brain was removed from his body (against his earlier wishes), photographed, and dissected. Although bits and pieces of the brain were distributed to a few scientists, most of the materials were lost to science until last year. Intended for non-specialists, this talk discussed the extraordinary saga of Einstein’s brain and surprising findings that scientists have learned from the new materials.

Co-sponsored by UNLV’s Department of Anthropology and the Anthropology Society

**How Thirsty Are You? Quenching the World’s Thirst with Wastewater**

**Tuesday, October 15, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. – Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**Daniel Gerrity, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction, UNLV**

Rapid population growth is placing a tremendous strain on water supplies, but water conservation is simply insufficient to solve this widespread problem. Communities are now turning to treated wastewater as a new water supply for their people, businesses, and local environment. This presentation explains why wastewater will – and should –

be coming to a tap near you. The presentation will also highlight numerous examples of water reuse projects throughout the world, including one of the largest, right here in Las Vegas.

**Silent Films to Silent Springs: The History, Ecology and Stories of the East Mojave Desert**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2013 - 7:30 p.m. - Barrick Museum Auditorium**

**David Lamfrom, California Desert Senior Program Manager, National Parks Conservation Association**

Millions of acres of pristine wilderness, rugged mountains, hidden springs, remnants of ancient peoples and an astonishing Joshua Tree forest lie just south of Las Vegas. It is an area where members of the Hollywood elite sought refuge, where gold made and broke miners' lives, and where wildlife thrives. Join us on a virtual journey along the historic Mojave Trail, through scenic areas of Nevada and California to sacred Native American sites, ghost towns and untouched natural areas.