University Forum is a public lecture series sponsored and funded by the UNLV College of Liberal Arts, the College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Associates, and the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art. All events are open to the public, and will be held in the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art at 7:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

For details visit the University Forum website at https://www.unlv.edu/liberalarts/universityforum.

Friday, September 08
Open City: Negotiating Memories at Las Vegas’ Mob Museum
Sara C. VanderHagen
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, UNLV
This presentation discusses how the Mob Museum’s exhibits use rhetoric to tell stories about the Mob that address the needs of both tourists and locals.

Thursday, September 14
Please note location change: Bigelow Physics Building, 102
Human Curiosity
Mario Livio
Astrophysicist and Bestselling Author
In a fascinating and entertaining lecture, Mario Livio surveys and interprets cutting-edge research in psychology and neuroscience that aims at exploring and understanding the origin and mechanisms of human curiosity.

Monday, September 18
The Tumultuous Road to the Constitution
George William Van Cleve
Professor of Law, Seattle University School of Law
When the Revolutionary War ended, America’s victorious Articles of Confederation government had majority support. But the Confederation soon collapsed, and the Philadelphia Convention proposed the creation of a dramatically more powerful government under the Constitution. How and why did that happen?

Wednesday, September 20
Captives and the Creation of Power
Catherine M. Cameron
Professor of Anthropology, University of Colorado
Ancient societies that archaeologists study engaged in warfare and took women and children captive. This presentation explores the impact that captives had on the cultures they joined.

Tuesday, October 10
I Follow the Forest Flame Bird: A Tropical Birding Adventure
Stephen G. Brown
Professor of English, UNLV
This presentation, based on the semester Professor Brown spent in Costa Rica, takes the audience on a stunning visual and narrative odyssey of Costa Rica’s exotic flora and fauna, with a particular focus on the flame birds of the rain-forest.

Wednesday, October 11
Following the Ninth: In the Footsteps of Beethoven’s Final Symphony
Kerry Candaele
Film Director, Writer, and Producer
“Following the Ninth” traces the impact of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony across space and time, taking us on journeys to the Berlin Wall, Pinochet’s Chile, China’s Tiananmen Square, and Japan in the wake of the 2011 tsunami.

Wednesday, October 18
The Science of Stories and Stories about Science
Emma Frances Bloomfield
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, UNLV
This presentation examines the relationship between science and storytelling and how the human preference for stories offers both challenges and opportunities for science communication.

Friday, October 20
The Sonic Color Line
Jennifer Lynn Stover
Associate Professor of English, SUNY Binghamton
Is race a visual phenomenon, or can we hear it? This lecture explores how sound and listening not only register the racial politics of our world, but actively produce them.

Tuesday, October 24
Desert Cathedrals: Rhetorical Structures That Make America
Adam Bateman
Artist and Curator
Artist and Utah native Adam Bateman will discuss his art practice and ritualized architectural spaces of the American West. His Glen Canyon Dam inspired sculpture, “Monolith” is on view in the Barrick Museum gallery.

Monday, October 30
The Significance of the Russian Revolution 100 Years On
Sergei Nikitich Khrushchev
Professor of Intercultural Studies, Brown University
7 November brings the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik seizure of power, an event that altered Russian and world history. This lecture features reflections on this seminal event by Sergei Nikitich Khrushchev, son of the Cold-War premier of the USSR.

Friday, November 03
Where Will the Millennials Take Us? A New Generation Wrestles with the Gender Structure
Barbara J. Risman
Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago
Are young people gender rebels? Or are they returning to traditional roles? Professor Risman shows that both are true. Millennials range from being “true believers” in our gender structure to being rebels against it.

Monday, November 06
Should My Child Get Measles Vaccination? Can’t I Just Rely on Herd Immunity?
John Christiana Besser
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, UNLV
Because high rates of measles vaccination creates a population protection effect called herd immunity, some parents or physicians may be tempted to forgo vaccination for the individual child to instead rely on herd immunity protection. This presentation will examine the validity of arguments for relying on herd immunity and forgoing vaccination.

Tuesday, November 14
Relationships in a Digital Age: Obstacles and Opportunities
Katherine M. Hertlein
Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy, UNLV
Attendees will learn how technology affects the roles, rules, and boundaries in relationships and how relationships are initiated, maintained, and terminated in a digital age.

Friday, November 17
Disneyland and the Revolution of Themed Space
Todd James Pierce
Professor of English, California Polytechnic University
The talk will focus on how Walt Disney, in 1955, ushered in the era of themed, interactive space and also discuss how the legacy of the Disney efforts continue to shape contemporary environments.

Monday, November 20
Bright Light City, Bright Light University: Viva Las Vegas and UNLV
Larry Gragg
Professor of History and Political Science, Missouri University of Science & Technology
This presentation examines the relationship between science and storytelling and how the human preference for stories offers both challenges and opportunities for science communication.

Tuesday, November 28
Sensory Inflation: The Bidding War for Your Perceptions
Joseph Svensen
Assistant Professor of Music, UNLV
Examine how increasing competition for our sensory stimulation is changing the way we experience day to day life. See how this “sensory inflation” is changing the way we value and interact with creative arts.
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