



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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E. N. Thompson lecture series to be simulcast statewide

With a grant from the Cooper Foundation, the Nebraska Humanities Council will collaborate with colleges and universities statewide to simulcast the 2007-08 E.N. Thompson Forum lectures on World Issues.

Remote sites for the series include the Harms Advanced Technology Center at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, the McDonald-Belton Building at the South Campus of the Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, the Communications Building at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Wayne State College, and the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. All lectures begin at 7 p.m. (CST)

National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore will give the first lecture Sept. 13 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where all lectures originate. The year's theme is "Changing Nature," with speakers exploring a cross-section of subjects related to the science and politics of environmentalism.

Other lecturers in the forum's 20th season are Sunita Narain, director of the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi, India; Amory Lovins, co-founder, chairman and chief scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute; Richard Cizik, aka the "Green Evangelist," vice-president for governmental affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals; and William K. Reilly, president and CEO of Aqua International Partners.

An addition to the Thompson Forum schedule this year is the Charles and Linda Wilson Dialogue on Domestic Issues Oct. 15. Through a moderated debate between two recognized experts on ethanol, Douglas Durante and Jerry Taylor will explore varying viewpoints of an issue with significant impact on Nebraska and the world.

For 19 years, the Thompson Forum has brought a diversity of viewpoints on international and public policy issues to the citizens of Nebraska at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The series was named in honor of E.N. "Jack" Thompson, who served as president of the Cooper Foundation from 1964 to 1990 and as its chairman from 1990 until his death in 2002. Thompson established the series in the hopes that it would promote better understanding of world events and issues for all Nebraskans. With the simulcast option in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kearney, Wayne, and Omaha, even more Nebraskans will have the opportunity to benefit from outstanding speakers who are world-class experts on the subject of "Changing Nature."

The lecture schedule is as follows:

Sept. 13: Joel Sartore, "Grounded: A Reflection on the Use of Life and Land." A native Nebraskan, Sartore began his career with the National Geographic Society in 1991. Since then, he has completed 17 stories for National Geographic magazine, all focusing on natural history and wildlife. Sartore has been recognized for his work by the National Press Photographers Association, the Inland Daily Press Association, and the Pictures of the Year International contest. Sartore's photographs also have run in Audubon Life, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated and Time magazines, and in numerous books. He has been featured on

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several TV and radio programs, including “National Geographic Explorer,” “NBC Nightly News,” National Public Radio’s “Weekend Edition” and CBS’s “This Morning.” Sartore was recently featured in the PBS documentary “At Close Range.”

Oct. 15: Wilson Dialogue, with Douglas Durante and Jerry Taylor, “Ethanol: Fueling Debate.” Durante, who has worked in the fields of energy, transportation, and the environment since 1977, is executive director and Washington representative of the Clean Fuels Development Coalition, a nonprofit organization he helped found in 1987. The coalition works to support renewable alcohols and has a broad-based membership, including automotive agricultural, and other alternative energy interests. Taylor is the most widely cited and influential right-of-center critic of federal energy and environmental policy in the nation. He is a frequent contributor to *The Wall Street Journal* and *National Review*, has published op-ed columns in the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*, and is a regular guest on international broadcast programs. Taylor has served on numerous congressional advisory bodies and has testified on Capitol Hill on energy and environmental policy.

Nov. 12: Sunita Narain, “Changing Nature in an Unequal World.” In addition to serving as director of the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi, Narain is also director of the Society for Environmental Communications and publisher of the magazine *Down To Earth*. Since joining the Centre for Science and Environment in 1982, she has worked to analyze and study the relationship between the environment and development, and to create public awareness about the need for sustainable development with particular attention to the issue of water. Narain is an active participant, both nationally and internationally, in civil society, serving on the board of various organizations and on governmental committees.

Feb. 12: Amory Lovins, “Winning the Oil Endgame,” Lewis E. Harris Lecture on Public Policy. Lovins is the co-founder, chairman, and chief scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute. A MacArthur Fellow and consultant physicist, Lovins has advised the energy industry as well as the U.S. departments of energy and defense for more than three decades. Published in 29 books and hundreds of papers, his work in more than 50 countries has been recognized by many honorary doctorates and awards. Among other honors, he was named *Time* magazine’s “Hero for the Planet.” His book, “Small Is Profitable,” an *Economist* book of the year, was published in 2002. His most recent book is “Winning the Oil Endgame.”

Feb. 25: Richard Cizik, “For God’s Sake.” Cizik is vice president for governmental affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals. His primary responsibilities include setting the association’s policy direction on issues before Congress, the White House and the Supreme Court, as well as serving as a national spokesman on issues of concern to evangelicals. A conservative both politically and religiously, Cizik is on a mission to convert millions of Americans to the cause of conservation, using a right-to-life framework and spreading the doctrine of “creation care” to evangelical Christians. Cizik holds degrees from Whitworth College, the George Washington University School of Public and International Affairs, and Denver Seminary. He has also studied at the National Political Science University in Taipei, Taiwan, and at the Taipei Language Institute.

April 22: William K. Reilly, “Corporate Environmentalism—Bridging the Communications Gap.” Reilly is president and chief executive officer of Aqua International Partners, an investment group that finances the purification of water and wastewater in developing countries and invests in projects and companies that serve the water sector. He served as the first Payne visiting professor at Stanford University’s Institute for International Studies and lectured on the challenges to the global community. From 1989 to 1993, he served as the seventh administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to becoming EPA administrator, he held five environment-related positions over two decades. An alumnus of Yale University, Reilly holds a law degree from Harvard University and a master’s degree in urban planning from Columbia University. He served in the U.S. Army to the rank of captain in 1966 and 1967.

All Thompson Forum lectures begin at 7 p.m. (CST) and are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Aimee Poor at the Nebraska Humanities Council at (402) 474-2131 or by e-mail at aimee@nebraskahumanities.org