



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852  
E-mail: [nhc@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:nhc@nebraskahumanities.org)  
Website: [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org)

# **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

---

For release: August 30, 2011

Contact: Mary Yager, (402) 474-2131 ext. 103

## **Thompson lectures to be simulcast statewide**

The Nebraska Humanities Council will collaborate with seven colleges and universities across the state to simulcast the lectures of the 2011-12 E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

The lecture series, which is a cooperative project of the Cooper Foundation and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is held at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, will address water and global security.

In an effort to allow a greater number of Nebraskans to benefit from outstanding speakers on important topics, the lectures will be simulcast and followed by community conversations at Central Community College in Columbus, Hastings College, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, McCook Community College, North Platte Community College, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and in Scottsbluff at Western Nebraska Community College. Programs begin at 7 p.m. (6 p.m. Mountain Time in Scottsbluff).

The series begins Sept. 28 with Wangari Maathai, Nobel laureate and assistant minister for environment and natural resources in Kenya, speaking on “Environment, Democracy and Peace—A Critical Link.” After earning a doctorate degree in 1971—the first woman in east and central Africa to do so—Maathai launched the Green Belt Movement, a tree-planting initiative that empowered Africans, especially women and girls, to plant more than 30 million trees on farms and in school and church compounds across Kenya to address deforestation, soil erosion and lack of water.

Both students and community members are invited to join in viewing the lecture and discussing its implications. The events are free and open to the public. Free tickets are required only for the Lied Center in Lincoln and guarantee a reserved seat there.

The rest of the series: Nov. 1, Sandra Postel, founding director of the Global Water Policy Project and Pew Scholar in Conservation and the Environment, “Dividing the Waters: Global Security in a Water-Stressed World;” Dec. 6, Michael Forsberg, Nebraska native and acclaimed conservation photographer, “Pulse of the Plains: A Photographer’s Journey Connecting Water, Wildlife and Landscape;” Feb. 16, Mogens Bay and E. Robert Meaney, executive leadership for Valmont Industries Inc., “Is a Global Water Crisis Avoidable?”; March 28, Don Worster, a pioneer in the field of environmental history, “An Unquenchable Thirst: How the Great Plains Created a Water Abundance and Then Lost It;” and the Charles and Linda Wilson Dialogue on Domestic Issues, which is yet to be scheduled.

More information about the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues is available at <http://enthompson.unl.edu>. For more information about the simulcasts contact Mary Yager at the Nebraska Humanities Council, (402) 474-2131 or [mary@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:mary@nebraskahumanities.org).

###