

# Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues

DICKINSON

Fall 2025

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As school shootings have become tragically routine in the US, young people are leading a national push for evidence-based solutions, from promoting safe storage laws and permit-to-purchase systems to advocating for red flag legislation and community violence intervention. This panel will discuss visions for a future beyond gun violence and complacency.

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025 ▪**

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

*Mirages and Archived Landscapes*

**Sarah Nance**, Binghamton University, SUNY

Artist Sarah Nance will discuss her creative practice as a cross-disciplinary investigation of landscape that explores geologic processes and human experience in archived, constructed, and speculative terrains. Her interests span a range of related topics, among them complex visual phenomena that can change our perception of a landscape, such as mirages.

Nance's lecture complements an exhibition of her artwork on display from October 14 through November 12, 2025, at Dickinson's Goodyear Gallery.

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025**

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

**The Morgan Lecture**

*Love, Joy, Creativity & the Brain: The Heart of Culturally Responsive Education*

**Bettina L. Love**, Columbia University

Love's research explores the transformative power of love in education—within the classroom and beyond. Rooted in the belief that love and joy are the foundations of meaningful learning and human connection, she blends compelling storytelling, evidence-based research, and practical strategies to show how emotionally grounded teaching can radically reshape educational spaces.

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025**

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

*U.S. China Policy: How We Got Here and Where We're Headed*

**Matthew Turpin**, Stanford's Hoover Institution

Turpin, former national security council director for China, will discuss the history of U.S. policy towards China, the debates that have shaped administrations since the end of the Cold War, and the risks and opportunities that policymakers weigh as they construct policy towards America's most capable competitor.

**Monday, September 29, 2025 + ▪**

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

*Music, Math, and Mind*

**David Sulzer**, Columbia University

Neuroscientist and performing musician David Sulzer will discuss how music is heard and understood in the nervous system by humans and other animals with a cortex. In this lecture, he'll also introduce us to non-human animals who can play music, particularly the Thai Elephant Orchestra.

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

*Never Enough: What the Neuroscience of Addiction Can Teach Us About Living Our Best Lives*

**Judith Grisel**, Bucknell University

Grisel studies how the brain adapts to addictive drugs by creating the states of craving, tolerance, and dependence that characterize addiction. She will discuss the synergistic influences of genetic predispositions, childhood trauma, and drug exposure during periods of brain development that make some people especially vulnerable.

**Thursday, September 18, 2025 + \***

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

*Organizing Against Gun Violence: Gen Z in Action*

**Andrew Ankamah Jr.**, The Accountability Initiative; Advisor for Pennsylvania State Representative Amen Brown

**Jaclyn Corin**, Survivor of the 2018 Parkland shooting; Executive Director of March For Our Lives

**Larren Wells**, Group Lead for Students Demand Action, University of Pittsburgh

**Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

Althouse Hall, Room 106, 5 p.m.

**Film Screening of *King Coal***

A lyrical tapestry of a place and people, *King Coal* meditates on the complex history and future of the coal industry, the communities it has shaped, and the myths it has created. Elaine McMillion Sheldon reshapes the boundaries of documentary filmmaking in a spectacularly beautiful and deeply moving immersion into Central Appalachia where coal is not just a resource, but a way of life.

**Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

Anita Tuvín Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

***A Conversation on the Making of the Film, King Coal***

**Elaine McMillion Sheldon**, Filmmaker

**Sherry Harper-McCombs**, Dickinson College

Award-winning filmmaker McMillion Sheldon will reflect on her 2023 film *King Coal* in conversation with Dickinson professor emerita Sherry Harper-McCombs. She will discuss her creative goals and the choice of the film's hybrid form—a blend of vérité, poetic narration, dance, and sound design—that echoes the mythic power coal still holds over Appalachian communities.

**Thursday, November 13, 2025 \***

Anita Tuvín Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

***Muslims and the Global War on Terror: How the Racialization of Muslims Justifies the Expansion of Policing and Surveillance***

**Saher Selod**, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

Sociologist Saher Selod will present the findings from her latest co-authored book, *A Global Racial Enemy: Muslims and 21st-Century Racism*. She will discuss how the Global War on Terror has led to an increase in policing and

surveillance of Muslims in the United States and other countries that shows almost surprisingly similar globally shared characteristics of anti-Muslim racism.

**Thursday, November 20, 2025**

Anita Tuvín Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

**Rescheduled from 2/20/25**

***We Are Called to Be a Movement***

**Rev. William J. Barber II**, Repairers of the Breach, The Poor People's Campaign, and best-selling author

For years the Rev. William J. Barber II of the Poor People's Campaign has been one of the most gifted moral fusion organizers, strategists and orators in the country. As an indispensable figure in the public policy and public theology landscape, he believes it's time for everyone who cares about the state of our nation to heed the call and join forces to redeem the soul of America. It's time to come together and renounce the politics of rejection, division and greed, and to lift up the common good, move up to higher ground and revive the heart of democracy. During this inspiring keynote, the Rev. Barber makes an impassioned argument with a message that could not be clearer: It's time for change and the time needs you.

**All Events are Free and Open to the Public**

For more information about our events, and to access interviews and past lectures visit:  
[www.clarkeforum.org](http://www.clarkeforum.org)



This schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, so please refer to the website for the most updated information.

**STUDENT INITIATED PROGRAMS +**

Each semester the Clarke Forum student employees propose program ideas that address contemporary issues. Two programs are then selected by a group vote to be developed as events for the following semester.

+ Denotes a student-initiated program

**2025-26 THEME**

**THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS -**

"Thought experiments" reach back to ancient philosophy, when thinkers employed hypothetical reasoning to explore abstract ideas. These "devices of the imagination," as they were sometimes described, became popular again in 19th century science. They have since been used in a range of imagined scenarios across disciplines that were created specifically to gain deeper insight into complex problems. In an era marked by multifaceted environmental, humanitarian, and geo-political crises, thought experiments provide an invaluable tool for conceptualizing innovative solutions by sparking creativity, deepening understanding, and facilitating effective models for collaboration.

▪ Denotes a program that is part of the theme

**LEADERSHIP IN AN AGE OF  
UNCERTAINTY SERIES \***

The Clarke Forum established a series of programmatic events dedicated to the theme of leadership in an age of uncertainty. This initiative is grounded on the reality that today's generation of Dickinson students confronts a large number of intractable political, economic, and social problems. How Dickinsonians respond to these challenges presents us with an opportunity for reflection on the meaning of leadership in the contemporary world. This series is partially supported by a fund created by Betty R. '58 and Dan Churchill.

\* Denotes a program that is part of the series