

Clarke Forum

for Contemporary Issues

DICKINSON

Fall 2025

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

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.

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.

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.

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



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