

# College of Arts and Sciences

*Engaging the Heart, Mind and Spirit*



## Lecture Series: **\$250,000**

### Background

The College of Arts and Sciences is seeking \$250,000 to establish an endowed **lecture series**. An endowed lecture series is a major gift made to the university with the understanding that the “principal” amount of the donation will be invested in perpetuity.

As with the Cropper Memorial Writers Series, a distinguished lecture series provides academic departments with a unique opportunity to invite notable and distinguished guests to campus to speak to students about their work and, in turn, elevate the status of a department or program.

By hosting prominent guests on campus, USD enhances its stature within educational and regional communities. Guest lecturers may be USD alumni or parents, distinguished scholars or other noteworthy contributors in a given field. In short, a distinguished lecture series expands the reach of a USD education beyond a classroom and the campus, and bolsters the visibility and reputation of the university.

### Objective

Several departments have unofficial lecture series that are in need of structure and dedicated annual funding. We want to build upon the success of existing lecture series, as well as create new series, to ensure that all of our students are exposed to these important opportunities.

The College of Arts and Sciences would like to create several sustainable, ongoing lecture series — ideally one in each department — that would benefit both students and the San Diego community, as well as elevate the reputation and prestige of the university. The following examples are just a few of the lecture series that have been identified.

*Concert Series:* To firmly establish the College of Arts and Sciences as the center of music in the San Diego community, USD would like to create a concert series that will bring high-quality and renowned performers to campus. The series would produce two concerts a year — the Angelus Sacred Early Music Concert, and one concert that features a known and respected performer — to engage the campus and great San Diego community. A concert series in music would not only expose students and the local community to diverse artists, but to new compositions and genres of music. This series continues the long, established history of the Angelus concerts, and builds upon the success of the Tamir Hendelman concert, performed in Fall 2012, and the Priti Gandhi concert, performed in Spring 2014.

*Medieval and Renaissance Studies Lecture Series:* In 2012, the College of Arts and Sciences hosted Dr. Susan Boynton from Columbia University for a lecture about the resurgence of liturgical music during the Renaissance era, a topic that brought together students, faculty and the local community interested in religion, music and art for scholarly discussion. Building upon an exceptionally strong faculty in English, history, languages and literatures, theatre, and fine arts, the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program aims to become one of the West Coast’s preeminent centers for the study of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, two periods that greatly contributed to the formation of the Catholic intellectual tradition and social thought.

One of the ways to do this is to create a lecture series that encourages academic engagement and discussion, while touching upon a range of subjects, specifically the Catholic tradition in Medieval and Renaissance literature, art, history and culture.

*Mathematics and Computer Science:* The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science regularly welcomes alumni to campus to share insights about their career paths with current students. One such guest and

alumnus is an Imagineer at Disneyland, who uses his math and computer science knowledge to create innovative and groundbreaking technologies for “the happiest place on earth.” This lecture, among others in the department, was well received and well attended by students. With dedicated funding, these events can be consistent and can enhance the reputation and visibility of the department — both within USD, and throughout the greater community — and increase connections between alumni, students and the community.

## Impact

The University of San Diego is committed to providing every student — regardless of major — with a holistic, liberal arts based foundation. Establishing these lecture series provides a forum for external perspectives to be shared and come alive. Guest speakers share their

cutting-edge research, discuss their career paths, and offer advice and guidance to students.

A lecture series provides supplementary dimensions to the curriculum. Almost all lectures at USD are free and open to the public, thereby drawing the diverse San Diego community to campus. The public, as well as the students, have the opportunity to learn, grow and take part in scholarly discussions with guest lecturers.

## For More Information

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