Tulane University kicks off its Tulane-Aspen Institute Values in America Speaker Series Thursday, April 19, with a conversation between Tulane history professor Walter Isaacson and renowned presidential historian Jon Meacham. Author Julia Reed will introduce the speakers.

The inaugural event, When America’s Values Are Tested: Lessons From Jefferson, Lincoln and Other Great Leaders in the Age of Trump, will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. at Rogers Memorial Chapel, 1229 Broadway. It is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

The series aims to spotlight differing viewpoints in today’s highly charged political atmosphere. Meacham will draw on his best-selling presidential biographies and answer questions from the audience to create an in-depth discussion about the inner strength of America.


Isaacson, a native New Orleanian, best-selling author and university professor in Tulane’s history department, is the former CEO and chair of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, D.C. He is also the former chairman and CEO of CNN and the former editor of *TIME* magazine.

His most recent biography, *Leonardo da Vinci*, is a No. 1 *New York Times* Best-seller. He is also the author of *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution; Steve Jobs; Einstein: His Life and Universe; Benjamin Franklin: An American Life; and Kissinger: A Biography*. He is also co-author of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made*. 