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.
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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.