

[Best-selling biographers Walter Isaacson, Jon Meacham kick off speaker series at Tulane](#)

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bbronst@tulane.edu

(504) 314-7444



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.

Meacham is contributing writer to *The New York Times Book Review*, contributing editor at *TIME* and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. His book *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, was a *New York Times* best-seller as well as winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for biography. His other *New York Times* best-sellers include *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*; *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*; and *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*.

His *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*, published in November 2015, was a No. 1 *New York Times* best-seller and named one of the 10 best books of the year by *The Washington Post* and one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times Book Review*, *Time*, National Public Radio, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

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*.