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Contact: Jacob Brown- Chief of Staff (jdbrown3@buffalo.edu)
Alyssa Brouillet- Public Relations Manager (abrouill@buffalo.edu)

The Undergraduate Student Association is proud to once again continue our support and commitment to the Distinguished Speakers Series. The series is a vital tradition at the University at Buffalo that allows students, faculty and the UB community to engage with notable and historic change makers. The Student Association Executive Board is honored to announce that, this year, the Student Association is sponsoring two speakers as a part of the 2018-19 Distinguished Speakers Series. “I am excited for the diverse perspectives that the Distinguished Speakers Series brings to students. College is such a unique time and to be able to see such notable speakers is a great honor’ said SA Vice President Anyssa Evelyn.

“The Distinguished Speakers Series is a great program and serves as a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty and the community, to experience and hear from prominent individuals covering a wide variety of spectrums” said SA Treasurer Tanahiry Escamilla.

The Undergraduate Student Association is proud to announce that the Distinguished Speakers Series will be starting off with the first student choice speaker on Thursday, October 25th with Joe Biden, the 47th Vice President of the United States (2009-17).

As a senator from Delaware for 36 years, Biden was a leading architect of domestic and foreign policy. He served as chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 12 years.

Biden oversaw the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was integral to rescuing the economy from another Great Depression. The Recovery Act added two million jobs to the economy and made an unprecedented investment in America’s infrastructure. He chaired the Middle-Class Task Force and oversaw the administration’s Skills Initiative to improve federal workforce training programs. Biden also led the administration’s efforts to reduce gun violence.
In 2011, Vice President Biden introduced comprehensive guidance to help schools, colleges and universities better understand their obligations under federal civil rights laws to prevent and respond to the problem of campus sexual assault. The new guidance made clear the legal obligations under Title IX of any school, college or university receiving federal funds to respond promptly and effectively to sexual violence. The guidance also provided practical examples to aid educators in ensuring the safety of their students.

Since leaving the White House, Biden continues his legacy of expanding opportunity for all with the creation of the Biden Foundation, the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Biden Institute of Domestic Policy at the University of Delaware. Biden is the author of the #1 New York Times Bestseller “Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose.”

The second student choice speaker, 66th Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, will be closing the series on Wednesday, April 17th. The former Secretary of State (2005-2009) served under President George W. Bush, becoming the first African American woman and just the second woman to hold the post. She also served as Bush’s national security advisor from 2001-2005, the first woman to hold the position. From 1989-1991, she served on President George H.W. Bush’s National Security Council staff.

Currently, Rice is a professor of political science at Stanford University; she was the university’s provost from 1993-1999. She serves on the boards of Dropbox, C3 and Makena Capital, and is a founding partner at RiceHadleyGates, LLC, an international strategic consulting firm.

In 1991, Rice co-founded the Center for a New Generation, an innovative, after-school academic enrichment program which later merged with an affiliate club of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BCGA). Rice is vice chair of the board of governors of the BCGA and a board member of the Foundation for Excellence in Education.


SA President Gunnar Haberl states, “Vice President Biden’s decades long career in public service is incredibly inspirational for all University at Buffalo students as we each consider the impact we want to create in our respective fields and communities upon graduation. Additionally, Dr. Rice’s remarkable career offers a worldview perspective for students to examine the complexities and often unknown circumstances surrounding national security decisions. With notable speakers on both sides of the political spectrum, I would like to encourages my fellow students and the UB community to respectfully question their own
assumptions and carefully consider all the evidence and arguments supporting viewpoints that might differ from our own.”

Be sure to follow the Student Association on social media @ub_sa or check out the SA website at sa.buffalo.edu to get up to date information concerning each on each of these events including: ticket information, times, locations and much more!

About the University at Buffalo Undergraduate Student Association

We are your undergraduate student government. We exist to make your undergraduate student experience everything that it can be. We represent you before the university administration, continuously advocating for your best interests. We also provide a wide range of services, oversee an ever-growing roster of clubs and organizations, and put on memorable events all year long.

The University at Buffalo’s Student Association is unique amongst SUNY schools in that we are entirely student run. SA is funded through student fees and ultimately overseen by our executive officers, the SA Senate, and the SA Student Assembly all of which are comprised entirely of undergraduate students. We are your Student Association.

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