

The Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience - Fall Events 2018

Wednesday, September 5

Thursday, September 6

**Two nights of student presentations on the Explore America Summer Internship Program (EASI)
5:00 p.m. each night, The Egg, Hodson Hall**

The Starr Center's Explore America Summer Internships provide outstanding Washington College students with summer jobs at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions. Hear students discuss their work at places ranging from the Apollo Theater to several Smithsonian museums.

Thursday, September 13

The Heart of American Darkness: Savagery, Civility, and Murder on the Eve of the American Revolution

A talk by Robert Parkinson, the Starr Center's 2018-19 Patrick Henry Fellow

5:30 p.m., Hynson Lounge, Hodson Hall

Join in welcoming the new Patrick Henry Writing Fellow to Washington College. Parkinson will introduce his work-in-progress, *The Heart of American Darkness*. The book investigates a 1774 massacre, telling a story of rising empire, of exploitation and cruelty, of a strange river and fertile valley. Parkinson is associate professor of history at Binghamton University and author of *The Common Cause: Race, Nation, and the Consequences of Unity in the American Revolution*, which won the James A. Rawley Prize for the best book on U.S. race relations. During his yearlong stay in Chestertown, he will work on the book and teach a Washington College course.

Thursday, September 27

****Trapped in a Vice: The Consequences of Confinement for Young People***

A talk by Alexandra Cox

5:30 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, Toll Science Center

Book signing to follow

In her new book, sociologist Cox reveals a juvenile justice system that aims at promoting change in the lives of young people, yet ultimately enmeshes them in a cruel web. Blending firsthand narration with powerful scholarship, her talk will show how the system, more than the crimes themselves, is both a vise and a vice.

Thursday, October 4

****The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke***

A talk by Andrew Lawler, the Starr Center's 2016-17 Hodson Trust-John Carter Brown Library Fellow

5:30 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, Toll Science Center

Book signing to follow

A small band of men, women, and children arrived on the coast of North Carolina in 1585, establishing the first English colony in the New World. But within a few years, the settlers vanished, leaving behind a single clue: a "secret token" etched into a tree. In his new book, which the *Washington Post* has hailed as "fascinating ... fresh and powerful" and was written in part at the Starr Center, Lawler sets out to discover the fate of the lost colony.

Tuesday, October 23

***George Washington: A Life in Books**

Featuring Kevin Hayes, Winner of the 2018 George Washington Prize

5:15 p.m., Hynson Lounge, Hodson Hall, book signing before the talk; reception to follow

In a public conversation, Hayes will discuss how his prize-winning book *George Washington: A Life in Books* dispels misconceptions of the Revolutionary leader as a man of action but not ideas. Hayes reveals the leader's evolving views on politics, slavery, marriage, and more — and how his reading life shaped the young nation.

Monday, November 12 - POSTPONED to February 7, 2019

***Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom**

A talk by David Blight

6:00 p.m., Hynson Lounge, Hodson Hall

Book signing to follow

Master historian David Blight shares his major new biography — the first in more than a quarter century — of a brilliant author, activist, orator, and statesman. Douglass, born enslaved on the Eastern Shore, escaped bondage to become one of the greatest Americans of his era. Blight is Professor of American History at Yale University, as well as Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. His books and online courses have won him widespread acclaim and earned the Bancroft Prize and the Lincoln Prize, among other honors.

Thursday, November 15

***Tigerland, 1968-1969: A City Divided, a Nation Torn Apart, and a Magical Season of Healing**

A talk by Wil Haygood, the Starr Center's 2017-18 Patrick Henry Writing Fellow

5:30 p.m., Hynson Lounge, Hodson Hall

Book signing to follow

Acclaimed journalist and author Haygood will discuss his new book, hailed by *Kirkus Reviews* as “an engrossing tale of one shining moment in dark times.” Written largely during his sojourn at the Starr Center, *Tigerland* traces the story of a racially segregated high school which — amid the turmoil following Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968 — won state baseball and basketball championships. *Tigerland* is hot off the press, and Haygood is excited to revisit the town and campus that energized his yearlong writing process.

*At these events, autographed copies of the book will be available at half the regular cover price for Washington College students.

The Starr Center explores the American experience in all its diversity and complexity, seeks creative approaches to illuminating the past, and inspires thoughtful conversation informed by history.

The Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience

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