



# SPEAKER SERIES

**THE IOP'S SPEAKER SERIES PROVIDES A FORUM FOR LEADERS AND OTHER POLITICAL ACTORS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS ON KEY ISSUES OF THE DAY WITH THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC.**

Recent guest speakers include U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, former Attorney General Eric Holder, Leader Nancy Pelosi, Jon Stewart, Edward Snowden, Alicia Garza, Jorge Ramos, Senator Claire McCaskill, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Garry Kasparov, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, Arthur Brooks, and Chance the Rapper. IOP events are free to attend and most are open to the public.

The IOP hosts around 100 Speaker Series events per year, ranging from larger, on-the-record events at venues around campus to more intimate, off-the-record sessions at the IOP House. Recent special events include a live taping of MSNBC's Hardball with guest Sen. Bernie Sanders; a panel and photo exhibit commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Chicago Freedom Movement; and a series of panels examining the 2016 presidential election.

The Speaker Series also includes a number of student-led programs, such as Chicago Style, News & Views, and the International Policy Program. Students plan these programs in their entirety, from identifying topics of interest and booking guests to moderating the events.

Since launching in 2013, the IOP has welcomed more than 500 speakers from across the political spectrum, with the goal of expanding and elevating the public conversation and inspiring others in the process. During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Speaker Series attracted over 4,000 unique attendees. Most events are filmed and posted on the IOP website.

*Generous support for the IOP Speaker Series comes from the Zell Family Foundation.*

"I'm always hopeful that this country, as good as it is, can be made better. It's what I've tried to commit my life to. It's what I think you have to commit your lives to. You can't be passive in this fight for progress. You've always got to ask tough questions, be able to face hard truths, and be prepared to engage. You can't sit back. You just can't sit back because if you sit back, people who are less qualified, less idealistic, less concerned about the welfare of the nation, will be the ones who will be pulling the levers of power."

**- ERIC HOLDER**