

For Immediate Release

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GSU ANNOUNCES THE 2013-2014 DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES GUESTS

Atlanta, August 26, 2013 – Georgia State University’s (GSU) Campus Events is excited to host Judy Smith, Nev Schulman, Richard Blanco, Jack Hanna and Michelle Norris as the 2013-2014 Distinguished Speaker Series guests. This is the sixth year of the Distinguished Speaker Series at GSU. All Distinguished Speaker Series events take place in the Student Center Ballroom.

The first Distinguished Speaker Series guest is Judy Smith, the inspiration behind the award-winning TV series “Scandal.” Smith is the founder and president of the crisis communications firm Smith & Co. and throughout her career as a crisis management advisor; she served as a consultant to high profile figures such as Monica Lewinsky, Michael Vick and most recently, Paula Deen. On September 25, 2013 at 3 p.m., Smith will visit GSU to discuss her career as a crisis management expert; following the event there will be a book signing.

The next guest is Nev Schulman, the producer, actor and photographer who is most notable for his role in the documentary “Catfish.” Schulman now hosts and produces “Catfish: The TV show” on MTV. On October 24, 2013 at 3 p.m., Schulman will lead a discussion that will cover the murky world of online personas, online dating, social networking and the triumphs and tribulations of 21st century communication.

Richard Blanco joined the ranks of Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, Miller Williams and Elizabeth Alexander when he was selected by President Obama to be the fifth inaugural poet laureate at his second inauguration in January 2013. On January 23, 2014 at 4 p.m. Blanco will serve as the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation speaker at Georgia State University in honor of Dr. King’s life and legacy. Blanco will read some of his poetry and share stories that inspired his work. Following the event there will be a book signing.

Jack Hanna, one of the most renowned animal experts in the world, will be the next guest in the Distinguished Speaker Series event which will be held on February 12, 2014 at 3 p.m. Hanna has appeared on “Good Morning America” and “The Late Show with David Letterman” to educate the public about exotic and endangered animals. Hanna’s nationally syndicated TV show, “Jack Hanna’s Animal Adventures,” has been on air for nearly 15 years. Hanna and his team will bring live animals to the event.

Michelle Norris, the award-winning journalist, will conclude the 2013-2014 Distinguished Speaker Series on April 3, 2014; the event will begin at 3 p.m. Norris was the first African-American female host for National Public Radio and was a correspondent for ABC News from 1993 to 2002. For her contributions to ABC’s coverage of 9/11, Norris earned both an Emmy Award and a Peabody Award. Following the event there will be a book signing.

The Distinguished Speaker Series events in fall 2013 are a part of GSU's Centennial Celebration. Campus Events anticipates adding an additional speaker to this year's series; please visit the Campus Events website (listed below) for more information. All Distinguished Speaker Series events are free and open to Georgia State University students, faculty, staff and the public. More information about the events will be available at the Campus Events website, <http://studentevents.gsu.edu>. If you have any questions, please contact the Distinguished Speaker Series Student Director, Patrick MaGee, at cespeakers@gmail.com.

Campus Events is supported by student activity fees and is dedicated to bringing exciting and diverse events to students, faculty, staff and friends of Georgia State University. To learn more about Campus Events' upcoming events, like 'gsucampusevents' on Facebook, and follow us on both Twitter and Instagram at @gsucampusevents.

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