

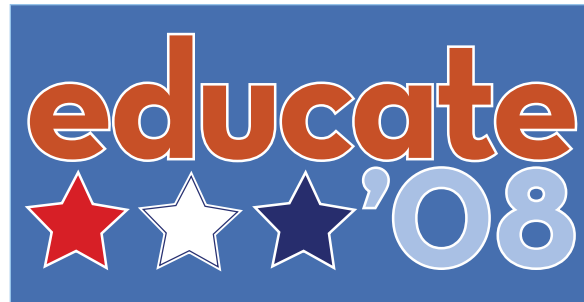
Educate '08: Building on a Presidential Debate at Hofstra

Hofstra University's selection last fall as the site for the third and final 2008 presidential debate on October 15, set in motion an ambitious program designed to build on the debate and the presidential election as a learning experience for the entire University community and as an opportunity to get students excited about and involved in the election process.

Dubbed **Educate '08**, this multidisciplinary effort includes lectures, conferences, symposia, roundtables, town halls, discussions, academic coursework, exhibits, theater and the arts, and related student events. Many activities are free and open to the public.

"When the Committee on Presidential Debates announced that Hofstra would serve as a debate site, we pledged to build on our already rich history of internationally renowned conferences, including Hofstra's 11 presidential conferences," said Hofstra President Stuart Rabinowitz. "We are creating a comprehensive, in-depth series of lectures, academic coursework, events and public programs about the issues of this election, history and politics while encouraging engagement in the democratic process."

Hofstra's Peter S. Kalikow Center for the Study of the American Presidency, the Center for Civic Engagement, the Hofstra Cultural Center and the National Center for Suburban Studies, as well as all the schools and colleges of Hofstra University, are important partners in the **Educate '08** series.



"The **Educate '08** program at Hofstra University presents a unique opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the larger community to engage in conversations about key issues in American politics and the presidential election," said Meena Bose, Ph.D., the

Peter S. Kalikow Chair in Presidential Studies at Hofstra and director of the Center for the Study of the American Presidency. "**Educate '08** is a nonpartisan effort to inform students and the larger community about the important policy choices facing us individually and as a nation in this critical election year."

Participating colleges, departments and academic institutes at Hofstra have tailored courses and created events to take full advantage of the extraordinary opportunities provided by **Educate '08**.

"Economic concerns have jumped to the top of the national agenda in this year's campaign season, and young people have a greater economic stake in the approaching national election than any other age group," said Gregory DeFreitas, Ph.D., Hofstra professor of economics and director of Hofstra's Center for the Study of Labor and Democracy. "At a time of fundamental rethinking of government spending priorities, taxation, budget deficits, health and retirement programs, employee rights, and environmental policy, it is the younger generation whose futures will be most shaped by the political leaders chosen next fall."

Educate '08 was launched on February 4 and 5, 2008, to coincide with Super Tuesday, the day on which the largest-ever number of state U.S. presidential primary elections were held. Twenty-four states, including New York, held caucuses or primary elections for one or both parties. **Educate '08** sponsored a two-day, campuswide voter registration and education drive.

The second day concluded with a “Super Tuesday Primary Returns Party,” hosted by the School of Communication, Department of Political Science, Center for Civic Engagement and WRHU Radio Hofstra University. A TV studio in the School of Communication served as the location for the returns party, and large flat panel TVs were set up around the studio, each tuned to different broadcast or cable channels to provide students with the most inclusive primary returns experience possible. Throughout the night, groups of students and faculty gathered in front of the TVs to watch the returns come in, as professional and student news media solicited their opinions on the presidential campaign and the need for young people to get involved.

Two events held prior to the official launch were also branded with the **Educate '08** logo. The first was a trip by 90 students to New Hampshire (January 5-7) for the last three days prior to that state’s presidential primary. The students, accompanied by Hofstra faculty, attended events held by the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates. And January 28-31, students participated in a four-day, on-campus Climate Change event that was part of a nationwide effort to raise consciousness about global warming.

In all, more than 30 events so far have been incorporated into **Educate '08**. “Hofstra will be

Educate '08:
“A unique opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the larger community to engage in conversations about key issues in American politics and the presidential election.”

hosting a series of special lectures with political analysts, journalists, presidential scholars and others to examine lessons from past presidents, the U.S. role in the world, the state of the economy, and many other subjects,” said Dr. Bose. “Students will participate in all these events, and they will have opportunities to meet informally with guest speakers to continue discussions.”

These events include the annual Arnold A. Saltzman Lecture on the State of the Union by author and former presidential adviser

David Gergen; the Peter S. Kalikow Presidential Studies Symposium, *From Votes to Victory: Winning and Governing the White House in the 21st Century*, with a keynote address titled “Winning and Governing the White House in the 21st Century” by political analyst Charlie Cook, publisher of The Cook Political Report; *An Insider’s Look at the 2008 Campaign: How We Got Here and Where We Are Going*, with *New York Times* national correspondent Adam Nagourney; the Center for Civic Engagement’s International Scene Lecture Series, which focuses on issues of American foreign policy; and Hofstra Entertainment’s summer production of *1776*.

Hofstra has also selected four students to attend this year’s Democratic and Republican national party conventions to participate in special two-week courses organized by The Washington Center, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. Dr. Bose will be scholar-in-residence for the course at the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis.

“This experience is absolutely thrilling,” said sophomore Melissa Calerone, one of the four students chosen for The Washington Center program, who will be at the Democratic convention. “I’m so grateful to Hofstra for letting me be a part of so many aspects of

the 2008 presidential campaign – from the January trip to New Hampshire before the primary, to participation at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, to the debate come October, and all the **Educate '08** programs in between.”

Educate '08 builds on Hofstra’s rich history of academic study of the American presidency. Since 1982, Hofstra has hosted 11 presidential conferences on every chief executive, from *FDR: The Man, The Myth, The Era – 1882-1945* through the November 2005 conference, *The “New Democrat” From Hope: William Jefferson Clinton*. Hofstra has gained renown for bringing politicians, administration officials, journalists and other political professionals together with scholars and students to provide one of history’s first assessments of each president. Four former presidents attended their conferences, including President Clinton in 2005.

In November 2005, on the eve of the Clinton conference, a generous gift from longtime Hofstra trustee and alumnus Peter S. Kalikow allowed Hofstra University to establish the Peter S. Kalikow Chair in Presidential Studies. He followed that gift a few months later with another that established the Peter S. Kalikow Center for the Study of the American Presidency. Dr. Bose was installed as the Kalikow Chair in November 2006.

Citing growing signs of anxiety and even pessimism among adults about whether young people will enjoy a better standard of living than their parents’ generation – due to concerns such as shrinking real wages, occupational mobility rates, health insurance coverage, union protections, and college affordability – Dr. DeFreitas said that efforts such as **Educate '08** have become all the more important.

“How soon and how effectively these challenges are met will depend on how well-informed youth and their parents become about them and how they translate that knowledge into votes,” Dr. DeFreitas said.

Educate '08 is a cooperative effort, designed to provide access and education leading up to the third and final debate of the 2008 presidential campaign, to be held at Hofstra University on October 15. This interdisciplinary series of programs and initiatives is possible due to the cooperation of many departments, colleges and committees at Hofstra University.

Among them:

- ▶ Office of the President
- ▶ Peter S. Kalikow Center for the Study of the American Presidency
- ▶ Center for Civic Engagement
- ▶ Hofstra Cultural Center
- ▶ National Center for Suburban Studies
- ▶ Student Government Association
- ▶ Center for the Study of Labor and Democracy
- ▶ Scott Skodnek Business Development Center
- ▶ Hofstra Entertainment
- ▶ Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- ▶ School of Communication
- ▶ School of Education and Allied Human Services
- ▶ Frank G. Zarb School of Business
- ▶ Hofstra Law School
- ▶ Center for Continuing Education and Professional Advancement
- ▶ Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
- ▶ Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs
- ▶ Office of University Relations

January 5-7 – **Trip to New Hampshire for final three days of campaigning**

January 28-31 – **Climate Change four-day, on-campus event**

February 5 – **2008 Super Tuesday Primary Returns Party**

February 20 – **State of the Black Community Town Hall Meeting: *The Campus and Beyond***

February 21 – **International Scene Lecture Series: *Can Dissent Change Foreign Policy?*** Ann Wright, author, *Dissent: Voices of Conscience*; former distinguished career diplomat and colonel, U.S. Army.

February 28 – **Screening of Michael Moore’s *Sicko***

February 29 – **International Scene Lecture Series: *How Should America Respond to Iran?*** Steven Kinzer, *New York Times* correspondent; author, *All the Shah’s Men* and *Overthrow: Americans’ Century of Regime Change*.

March 5-6 – ***Embryonic Stem Cells, Clones and Genes: Science, Law, Politics and Values***. Conference presented by Hofstra Law School and Hofstra Cultural Center.

March 9 – ***Continuity or Change? The Elections of 2008*** Community/Alumni current events discussion group led by Dr. Herbert D. Rosenbaum, Hofstra professor emeritus of political science.

March 11 – **International Scene Lecture Series: *Can We Abolish Nuclear Weapons?*** Jonathan Schell, correspondent, *The Nation* magazine; author, *The Fate of the Earth* and *The Seventh Decade*.

March 12 – ***Lysistrata***. Ellen McLaughlin (award-winning playwright, director, actor) directs Hofstra students and faculty in a reading of Aristophanes’ classic anti-war play.

March 27 – ***MetroNation: Blueprint for American Prosperity***, Co-sponsored by the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University and The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

March 28 – ***Comedy Central’s College Tour: Indecision ‘08***. Featuring Greg Giraldo.

March 31 – ***An Insider’s Look at the 2008 Campaign: How We Got Here and Where We Are Going***. Adam Nagourney, national political correspondent, *The New York Times*.

April 1 – **International Scene Lecture Series: *Can American Democracy Survive the Growing Wealth Gap?*** Paul Krugman, economist; Op-Ed writer, *The New York Times*; author, *Conscience of a Liberal*.

April 3 – **The Peter S. Kalikow Presidential Studies Symposium: *From Votes to Victory: Winning and Governing the White House in the 21st Century***. Keynote address by Charlie Cook, publisher, *The Cook Political Report*.

April 8 – **The Arnold A. Saltzman Lecture on the State of the Union**. Delivered by David Gergen, adviser to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton; professor of public service, Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

April 11 – ***For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf***. Drama Professor Annette Grevious and Shakirah DeMesier, president of Hofstra’s political theater group, In Touch Arts, with members of In Touch Arts.

April 17 – ***What Lessons Do Past Presidents Have for 2008? A Historian’s Round-Table***. David Maraniss, *Washington Post* reporter and Clinton biographer; Fred Greenstein, Princeton University professor emeritus and presidential expert; and Elisabeth Bumiller, *New York Times* reporter.

April 22 – **The Donald J. Sutherland University Lecture in the Liberal Arts: *Iraq, Foreign Policy and the 2008 Elections***. Presented by General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.).

April 23 – **Earth Day Festival**

April 24 – ***Issues, Parties and the Media: The 2008 Election Landscape***. A conversation with Maureen Dowd, winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary and columnist, *The New York Times*; and William Kristol, editor, *The Weekly Standard*, columnist, *The New York Times* and panelist, *FOX News Sunday*.

April 30 – ***All’s Fair: Love, War and Politics***. A conversation with Mary Matalin, celebrated conservative voice; and presidential adviser and James Carville, media personality and political icon.

May 1 – ***Mayday at the Movies: Comedy and Tragedy at Work***. The seventh annual festival of new and classic movies on work and working people around the world.

May 1 – ***The Increasing Pace of Climate Change and Its Impacts***. Speaker: Michael McCracken, chief scientist, Climate Institute.

May 5 – ***The Evolving Role of the Poll and Public Opinion in Election Politics***. A conversation with Paul Begala, political analyst; and CNN commentator Frank Luntz, most-quoted pollster in America.

May 12 and May 21 – **Israel at 60: A Celebration: *Issues in Judaism Lectures: Israel: The Next 60 Years***. Michael Tuchfeld, editor, chief anchor and commentator, TV2, The Knesset Channel, Jerusalem, Israel.

For more information, visit the Educate '08 Web site at hofstra.edu/educate08.