

Tocqueville's description of the three races in the first volume of *Democracy in America* is really a reflection on the three ways of life found in America—that of the aristocrat, the middle class, and the slave. The middle class has distinctive virtues connected with justice, prosperity, and power and is destined to prevail in America. But at a cost: Tocqueville displays the virtues of the Indian (Native American) and makes it clear that the white middle-class American is coldly indifferent to their charms and real forms of human perfection. Even the Southerner, despite the monstrous injustice of racially-based slavery, has all sorts of virtues that may not have an American future. We Americans today look to the middle class for guidance on what is justice and how to get rich. But we can still learn from the Native American and the Southern aristocrat something about human excellence, about how to live happily and nobly with what we really know. And, of course, we can even learn from the slave dehumanized by the aristocrat; much of our music is some reflection of his experience of endurance in the midst of almost hopeless suffering. We have much to learn about human greatness from the Indian, the Southern aristocrat, and the black slave.

UPCOMING POLARIS LECTURES, SPRING 2008

3RD ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE LECTURE

"Then Sing Him Home": Shakespeare the Contemplative
David M. Whalen, Professor of English, Hillsdale College
Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., Consortium Library (LIB), Room 307

3RD ANNUAL FACULTY LECTURE

Teachers, Students, Leaders: Why You Should Take Alaska History Seriously
Stephen W. Haycox, Professor of History, University of Alaska Anchorage
Monday, March 31, 7:30 p.m., Consortium Library (LIB), Room 307

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY: ENDORSED BY THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Abraham Lincoln and History: A Personal Journey
Craig L. Symonds, Professor Emeritus of History, United States Naval Academy
Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., Consortium Library (LIB), Room 307

POLARIS CONCERT

Turkish Mystic Sufi Music, Poetry, and Images
Latif Bolat, singer, composer, and scholar of Turkish music and folklore
Saturday, April 19, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Building (ARTS), Room 150

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES

"I Knewed He Was White Inside": Huck Finn on Equality
David Foster, Associate Professor of Political Science, Ashland University
Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Consortium Library (LIB), Room 307

The TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES is sponsored by the Anchorage School District with a grant from the U. S. Department of Education.



TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY lectures relating to Abraham Lincoln and his times are part of the Alaska Lincoln Bicentenary Commemoration, 2007-2009, organized by the UAA Democracy Forum and endorsed as our state's contribution to the national commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in Washington, D. C.

2007-2008 Polaris Lecture Series



TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES

Tocqueville on Aristocracy and Democracy, Greatness, and Justice

*"A university should be a
place of light, of liberty, and
of learning."
—Benjamin Disraeli, 1873*

February 28, 2008

A Polaris Lecture

Sponsored by

Institutional Effectiveness, Engagement, & Academic Support
UAA Democracy Forum
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University Honors College
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Alaska Humanities Forum

THE POLARIS LECTURES, named for the North Star on Alaska's flag, address a wide range of subjects in the liberal arts. The series began in the 1980s to commemorate the bicentenary of the American Constitution. The 2007-2008 Polaris Lecture program offers a dozen lectures to students, faculty, staff, and the interested public: five in the fall and seven in the spring.

THE POLARIS SOCIETY is open to students, faculty, staff, and community members who support the lecture program. Your annual contribution to the Polaris Lecture Fund is tax deductible and goes to a dedicated fund in the University of Alaska Foundation, used exclusively to support Polaris Lectures. To join, please visit the website www.uaa.alaska.edu/giving and specify that your contribution is to the "Polaris Lecture Fund."

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Great Bear	\$150
Big Dipper	\$250 and up

UAA faculty and staff may contribute to the Polaris Lecture Fund in the annual combined campaign.

PETER A. LAWLER is Dana Professor of Government at Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia. He has also been George Washington Distinguished Professor of the American Founding for the state of Georgia. He is executive editor of the scholarly quarterly *Perspectives on Political Science* and a member of the President's Council on Bioethics. Author or editor of a dozen books and more than two hundred scholarly and popular articles on a wide variety of subjects, he was 2007 winner of the Weaver Prize for Scholarly Letters, awarded for writing on behalf of human liberty and dignity. Lawler's work includes *The Restless Mind: Alexis de Tocqueville on the Origin and Perpetuation of Human Liberty* (1993). He has lectured at more than sixty colleges and universities and has appeared often on radio and TV.



Program

WELCOME	Janelle Cummings '10
POLARIS LECTURES	Stephen W. Haycox
INTRODUCTION	James W. Muller
TOCQUEVILLE ON ARISTOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY, GREATNESS, AND JUSTICE	Peter A. Lawler
VOTE OF THANKS	Janelle Cummings '10