

Without George Washington, America would neither have won nor established its independence; he was the catalyst without whom the American Founding would have failed. Along the way, he proved that republican government was not only possible but indeed noble. Defeated and exiled, Napoleon, the tyrant produced by the French Revolution, lamented the significance of it all: "They wanted me to be another Washington."

What was it about Washington, the least educated and the most action-oriented of the Founding generation, that made him—and not Jefferson, not Madison, not Hamilton—the Father of his Country? What does Washington teach us about democratic statesmanship and the future of self-government?

### UPCOMING POLARIS LECTURES

Tonight's Polaris Lecture is the last one of the 2006-2007 academic year. The organizers in the UAA Democracy Forum are grateful to all of those who made this series possible, above all to the lecturers. We appreciate particularly the generous support from those who joined the Polaris Society and from organizations listed on the front panel. Special thanks go to Margot Easter, who handled arrangements; Kay Landis, who designed the printed programs; Gene Storm, who arranged publicity; and the Forty-Ninth State Fellows, who presided.

Next year's Polaris Lecture series will include the third annual *Constitution Day Lecture* on September 17, the third annual *Alaska Day Lecture* on October 18, the third annual *Shakespeare Lecture* in the spring, and the third annual *UAA Faculty Lecture*. It will also feature six lectures in the *Teaching American History Series*, sponsored by the Anchorage School District with a three-year grant from the U. S. Department of Education. In 2007-2008 the *Teaching American History* lectures will focus on slavery and the American Civil War. During its final year, in 2008-2009, the series will focus on the twentieth century.

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

### 2006-2007 Polaris Lecture Series



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

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY  
SERIES

## The Command of Our Own Fortunes: George Washington and the Challenge of Founding

March 29, 2007

### A Polaris Lecture

Sponsored by  
Anchorage School District  
Office of Community Partnerships  
Democracy Forum  
University Honors Program Forty-Ninth State Fellows  
with assistance from  
U. S. Department of Education  
Intercollegiate Studies Institute

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 2006-2007 Polaris Lecture program offers a dozen lectures to students, faculty, staff, and the interested public: six in the fall and six 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](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/giving) and specify that your contribution is to the "Polaris Lecture Fund."

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Little Dipper (student members)	\$15
Lodestar	\$35
Starduster	\$75
Great Bear	\$150
Big Dipper	\$250 and up

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

Matthew Spalding is Director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D. C. A graduate of Claremont McKenna College, he earned his Ph.D. in Government from Claremont Graduate School. Spalding is author of *A Sacred Union of Citizens: Washington's Farewell Address and the American Character*; co-editor of *Patriot Sage: George Washington and the American Political Tradition* and *The Heritage Guide to the Constitution*; and editor of *The Founders' Almanac: A Practical Guide to the Notable Events, Greatest Leaders, and Most Eloquent Words of the American Founding*. He is on the Board of Academic Advisors at Mount Vernon Estate. He lives with his wife Elizabeth and children Joseph and Catherine in Arlington, Virginia.



## Program

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WELCOME	Christine Ward '10
POLARIS LECTURES	Stephen W. Haycox
INTRODUCTION	James W. Muller
THE COMMAND OF OUR OWN FORTUNES: GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CHALLENGE OF FOUNDING	Matthew Spalding
VOTE OF THANKS	Christine Ward '10