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BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois



THE AMERICAN DREAM RECONSIDERED

A CONFERENCE PRESENTED BY ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 11-14, 2017

SUPPORTING SPONSORS:



#AmDreamConf | ROOSEVELT.EDU/AMERICANDREAM

“I believe in Roosevelt College as an institution of learning ... because its application forms do not ask students or faculty to state race or creed ... because of its democratic Board of Directors ... and because of its policy of complete academic freedom.”

1945

“Through educational institutions such as this, one feels the pulse beating ... the hope that we can achieve the leadership which will lead to truth ... to fight for freedom of thought, for freedom to search for truth no matter what it leads you through.”

1955

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



I am delighted to welcome you to Roosevelt University's second American Dream Reconsidered Conference. For all of us at Roosevelt, this is a very important event because the conference exemplifies the founding and history of Roosevelt University which, in 1945, was one of the nation's first colleges to admit all students regardless of race, religion or gender.

Most historians agree that the concept of the American Dream is rooted in the Declaration of Independence. Although its meaning has changed over the course of history, the definition set forth by the author James Truslow Adams in 1931 still holds true: "Life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." Now in 2017, eight decades after Adams wrote "Epic of America," it is time to revisit our national ethos and discuss what it means today.

I want to thank all of our speakers and panelists for coming to Roosevelt and sharing their insights. We appreciate all the time it took to prepare your presentations and are grateful for your various perspectives on the ideals of the American Dream.

I also want to thank all of our generous sponsors for helping to make this conference possible. Their names are listed in this program, but I especially want to highlight BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, which is now headed by our alumnus Maurice Smith; Huntington Bank, where our own Board of Trustees member and Chair of Finance Committee Steve Abbey is senior vice president; and the Jack Miller Center, which also funds Roosevelt's Montesquieu Forum.

This conference would not be possible without the year-long efforts of dozens of committed Roosevelt people. Program co-chairs Stuart D. Warner and Lynn Weiner did a fantastic job organizing the conference, along with many others in the Roosevelt community who managed logistics, publicity and fundraising. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.

I also want to call attention to our American Dream Service Day on Thursday, Sept. 14, when there will be opportunities for everyone to volunteer their time at Roosevelt University and across Chicago. There's still time to sign up and participate.

We are living in a unique period in American history. I hope this conference challenges you to reexamine what it means to be an American today and encourages you to revisit the concept of the American Dream.

Thank you for coming and participating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Malekzadeh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ali Malekzadeh
President, Roosevelt University

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993. She previously served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit from 1980–1993. She co-founded the Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, served as the ACLU’s General Counsel, and sat on the organization’s National Board of Directors. She was also a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the American Bar Foundation from 1979–1989. Her book, *My Own Words*, was published in 2016.



Judge Ann Claire Williams
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Judge Ann Claire Williams served in the federal judiciary from 1985, assuming senior status this summer. The first African-American woman judge appointed to the Northern District of Illinois and the first African-American judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, this Detroit native has been committed to creating opportunities for minority lawyers and has also participated in numerous international judicial training initiatives.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR SPONSORS

Roosevelt University thanks the following organizations that made the American Dream Revisited Conference a reality through their funds and support.

Title Sponsor: BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

Supporting Sponsors: Huntington Bank, The Jack Miller Center

We also thank the philanthropic and civic organizations that provided opportunities for our community of students, staff, faculty and friends to engage in our American Dream Service Day at Roosevelt University and throughout the year:

Breakthrough Urban Ministry

Feeding Children Everywhere

Greater Chicago Food Depot

La Casa Norte

Pacific Garden Mission

Roosevelt University United Nations Association

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR COMMUNITY

The following members of the Roosevelt community participated in the American Dream Reconsidered Conference planning or operations committees or in other ways contributed significantly to this conference.

Conference Co-Chairs

Keva Bryant, Interim Director of Conference Services

Andy Trees, Montesquieu Forum Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Political Thought

Program Co-Chairs

Stuart D. Warner, Associate Professor of Philosophy; Director, Montesquieu Forum

Lynn Weiner, Special Assistant to the President; Professor of History

Steering Committee

Nicole Barron, Vice President Marketing and Communications

CJ Dillon, Chief Programming Officer, The Auditorium Theatre

Michael Ford, Chief of Staff

Don Jones, Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Chief Development Officer

Gina Montalbano Goodrich, Executive Assistant to Chief of Staff

Operations Committee

Amanda DePalma, Creative Director

Barry Harmon, Senior Graphic Designer

Mike Kaluzny, Director of Marketing and Communications

Jan Parkin, Associate Vice President Institutional Advancement

Josh Schweigert, Digital Marketing Manager

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Danielle Allen

*Harvard University and MacArthur Fellow;
Author, Cuz: The Life and Times of Michael A.*

Danielle Allen is a professor at Harvard University and director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics. She is also a James Bryant Conant University Professor, Harvard's highest faculty honor. Among her most recent books is *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality*, and *Education and Equality*. In 2001 she was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant.



David Axelrod

*Former Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama;
Political Commentator*

David Axelrod served as chief strategist for President Barack Obama's presidential campaigns, as well as numerous national and state-level campaigns. Axelrod is currently director of the nonpartisan Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago and a senior political commentator for CNN. He is also author of the best-selling memoir *Believer: My Forty Years in Politics*.



María Blanco

*Executive Director, Immigrant Legal Services Center,
University of California*

María Blanco is executive director of the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center. Launched in November 2014, the center provides legal services to undocumented students on nine UC campuses. A graduate of UC Berkeley, Blanco has more than 20 years of experience as a litigator and advocate for immigrant rights, women's rights, and social justice. She most recently served as vice president of civic engagement at the California Community Foundation and led its immigrant integration initiatives. She is a member of the Public Policy Institute of California Board of Directors and the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Tyler Cowen

Holbert C. Harris Chair of Economics, George Mason University; Economics Writer for Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen hosts the blog *Marginal Revolution*, one of the most popular and widely read economic blogs. He has written many books, including *The Complacent Class: The Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream*. Cowen is a professor at George Mason University and currently holds the Holbert C. Harris Chair of Economics. In a 2011 survey in *The Economist*, he was nominated as one of the most influential economists of the past decade.



Aziz Huq

Frank and Bernice J. Greenberg Professor of Law, University of Chicago

Aziz Huq's scholarship, which focuses on how institutional design influences individual rights and liberties, has appeared in leading law reviews. His co-edited book *Assessing Constitutional Performance* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016. He clerked for Judge Robert D. Sack of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court of the United States.



William Kristol

Founder and Editor at Large, The Weekly Standard; Political Commentator

Bill Kristol is a political analyst and commentator, and one of America's leading conservative voices. Kristol is founder and editor at large of *The Weekly Standard* and appears regularly on several television networks. Over the years, he has worked with a number of prominent conservative think tanks, including the Project for the New American Century, which he co-founded.



James L. Madara

CEO and Executive Vice President, American Medical Association

James L. Madara has been the CEO and executive vice president of the American Medical Association — the nation's largest physician organization — since 2011. Prior to the AMA, Dr. Madara, a pathologist, worked at Harvard Medical School and directed the National Institute of Health-sponsored Harvard Digestive Diseases Center. He has also served as chair of pathology and laboratory medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine, and as dean of the medical school and CEO of the hospitals at the University of Chicago.



Maurice Smith

President, BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

Maurice Smith is responsible for all BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois operations, including the management for sales and account management, provider network contracting, medical management, government relations and public affairs. Before assuming his current position in 2015, Smith led the Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) Treasury Department and corporate development initiatives. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from Roosevelt University.



Eric Zimmerman

Partner, McDermott, Will & Emery; President, American Health Lawyers Association

Eric Zimmerman is a partner at the law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery, as well as the president of the American Health Lawyers Association, which has close to 14,000 members. He primarily counsels and represents hospitals and health systems, ambulatory surgery centers, clinical laboratories, pharmaceutical, biotechnology and device manufacturers and suppliers, and medical trade associations.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, SEPT. 11

Coming to America: Immigration in a New World

3:30 – 5 p.m. | Ganz Hall, Room 745

María Blanco, executive director, Immigrant Legal Services Center, University of California

Aziz Huq, Frank and Bernice J. Greenberg Professor of Law, University of Chicago

Moderated by Bethany Barratt, political science professor, Roosevelt University

Welcome by Ali Malekzadeh, president, Roosevelt University

A Conversation with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

7 – 8:30 p.m. | Auditorium Theatre
(ticketed)

Moderated by Judge Ann Claire Williams, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Welcome by Tania Castroverde Moskalenko, CEO, Auditorium Theatre

Introductions by Ali Malekzadeh, president, Roosevelt University

Musical performance by Lani Stait, soprano (Professional Diploma in Opera, 2018) and Scott Gilmore, pianist, opera and voice professor, Roosevelt University

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

The BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois Panel: Who Knew it Could Be So Complicated? A Conversation about Health Care in America

9:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Ganz Hall, Room 745

James L. Madara, CEO and executive vice president, American Medical Association

Maurice Smith, president, BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

Eric Zimmerman, partner, McDermott, Will & Emery; president, American Health Lawyers Association

Moderated by Melissa Hogan, dean of the College of Pharmacy, Roosevelt University

Welcome by Terry Peterson (MPA, '95), Roosevelt University trustee

Economic Justice and the American Dream: A Conversation with Graduates of Roosevelt's Economics Program

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. | Ganz Hall, Room 745

Jessica Akey, associate, Standard and Poor's

Samuel Barbour, adjunct professor, Joliet Junior College

Justin Shea, data scientist, HumanPredictions.io

Calvin Trapp, economist, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Hans Zigmund, chief economist, State of Illinois

Moderated by Gary Langer, director, Economics Program, Roosevelt University

Welcome by Alondra M. Ibarra (BA, '19), president, Roosevelt University Student Government Association

Cuz: The Untimely End of an American's Dream: A Conversation about Race, Justice, Incarceration and the Loss of a Generation

6:30 – 8 p.m. | Ganz Hall, Room 745

Danielle Allen, Harvard University and MacArthur Fellow; author, *Cuz: The Life and Times of Michael A.*

Moderated by Heather Dalmage, sociology professor and director, Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation, Roosevelt University

Welcome by Melvin L. Katten, Roosevelt University trustee

Reception and Book Signing to follow

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13

The Jack Miller Center Conversation on the American Dream

3:30 – 5 p.m. | Ganz Hall, Room 745

Tyler Cowen, economist, George Mason University; author, *The Complacent Class: The Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream*

Moderated by Bill Kristol, founder and editor at large, The Weekly Standard; political commentator

Introduction by Stuart D. Warner, philosophy professor and director, Montesquieu Forum, Roosevelt University

Presidential Panel: It Did Happen Here — Reflections on the 2016 Presidential Election and its Aftermath

6 – 7:30 p.m. | Ganz Hall, Room 745

David Axelrod, former senior advisor to President Barack Obama; political commentator

Bill Kristol, founder and editor at large, *The Weekly Standard*; political commentator

Moderated by David Faris, political science professor, Roosevelt University

Welcome by Ali Malekzadeh, president, Roosevelt University

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14

American Dream Service Day

9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

To volunteer at the American Dream Service Day, please register at: americandreamconference.com/service-day

Gage Gallery Opening “Nowhere People: The Children”

5 – 7 p.m. | The Gage Gallery, 18 S. Michigan Ave.

Greg Constantine, photographer

Photo exhibit of stateless people around the world, and refugees and migrants without citizenship

Greg Constantine will speak about his work at 5:30 p.m.

Events subject to change

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

Roosevelt University was founded in 1945 when the faculty, staff and students of the Central YMCA College of Chicago walked out to protest admissions quotas restricting the entrance of black and Jewish applicants. They founded Roosevelt College – open to any qualified student. Roosevelt also pioneered hiring faculty and staff who were diverse by race, gender, religion, nationality and ethnicity.

Over the past 72 years Roosevelt has embraced a legacy of equal educational opportunity, academic excellence, student success and social justice. Our 90,000 graduates include Chicago mayor Harold Washington; writer and illustrator Shel Silverstein; seven members of U.S. Congress; three Chicago police chiefs; and thousands of teachers, businessmen and women, performers, public servants, social activists, scientists, doctors and health care workers, lawyers, journalists, scholars, and many more.

Roosevelt is the only educational institution in the world named for both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt said in 1945:

“ Here in this great city you have many races, many religions, and in Roosevelt College those races and those religions will meet. They will work together, and it will be an example of what can be achieved by cooperation. ”

Roosevelt, she said, would be “dedicated to the enlightenment of the human spirit,” and provide “educational opportunities for persons of both sexes and of various races on equal terms and . . . maintain a teaching faculty which is both free and responsible for the discovery and dissemination of the truth.”

The ideal of the American Dream of equal opportunity and democracy lives on at Roosevelt University.



PRESIDENTS OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

Edward James Sparling, 1945-1963

Robert J. Pitchell, 1963-1964

Rolf A. Weil, 1965-1988

Theodore L. Gross, 1988-2002

Charles R. Middleton, 2002-2015

Ali R. Malekzadeh, 2015-

DREAM AN AMERICAN DREAM

By Paul Wertico, Associate Professor of Jazz Studies

Inspired by the musical composition "Dream an American Dream" by Barbara Unger Wertico

Dream an American Dream

One filled with hopes and promise

Live an American Dream

See all there is and do all you can do

Walk through new doors and follow your passion

For all things in life, you hold the key

Help make the world, the place you envision

Without fear, without need

Dare an American Dream

Show who you are, discover why you are special

Build an American Dream

One that will bring a brighter day

Don't be afraid to express true thoughts and feelings

Realize you are what you believe

Inspire your hopes and fulfill your potential

And give the world more than you receive

Dream your American Dream

Believe your American Dream

Live your American Dream

Share your American Dream

Be an American Dream

To listen to the original musical composition go to roosevelt.edu/dream

