



University and Messenger Lectures

These visiting lectureships represent the highest recognition of scholarship awarded by the University. For over 100 years, they have brought an outstanding range of researchers, innovators, and public intellectuals from various disciplines and various countries to campus. The selection committee, composed of both faculty and student members, invites applications from any individual within our community, including faculty, staff, and students.

The award covers expenses related to hosting the speaker, including travel, reception arrangements, dinner, and an honorarium. Nomination approvals are valid for events up to two years in the future.

University Lectures

The University Lectureship was established in 1900 by a Cornell History Professor.

Sponsors a single multidisciplinary lecture suitable for a general audience.

Messenger Lectures

The Messenger Lectureship Series was established in 1924 by a Cornell alumnus, Dr. Hiram Messenger, 1880.

Sponsors three or six lectures/presentations over the course of a one-week visit. At least one of these must be a lecture that is suitable for a general audience.

Nominations

The nomination process consists of two steps. First, an email indicating the intention to nominate a lecturer should be sent to deanoffaculty@cornell.edu and the univ_lectures@cornell.edu emails. This email should include the nominee's name, title, a brief description of their expertise, and an explanation of their broad interest. If the initial nomination is considered suitable, the Committee will request a full nomination.

Joint Sponsorship

Events like conferences and colloquia may be considered individually for co-sponsorship. Hosts handle advertising, and the Committee prioritizes events that enable Cornell community engagement. See request details on the University and Messenger Lectures website.

Submission Deadlines

Fall

Intent-to-nominate email due: First Monday in October

Full nomination due: Third Monday in November

Spring

Intent-to-nominate email due: First Monday in March

Full nomination due: Third Monday in April