The Paul V. McNutt Lecture Series

The Paul V. McNutt Lecture Series was established at Indiana University, Bloomington, to honor the memory of one of Indiana’s most important governors and to advance knowledge and understanding of those areas significant in Paul V. McNutt’s public career. The Lecture Series was funded by a generous bequest of Grace Woody, a first cousin of Governor McNutt.

Paul McNutt (1891-1955) graduated from Indiana University in 1913 and from the Harvard Law School in 1916. He practiced law in Martinsville and served in the United States Army during World War I, after which he joined the law faculty of Indiana University, becoming dean of the law school in 1925. Elected governor in 1932, McNutt brought energy and change to state government through his own initiative and through active cooperation with the New Deal. By the late 1930s McNutt was a major figure in the Democratic party and a leading candidate for presidency. His career also included service as high commissioner and later first ambassador to the Philippines. During World War II he was head of the Federal Security Administration and the War Manpower Commission.

The following is a complete listing of the Paul V. McNutt lectures, in reverse chronological order:

25 February 11, 2013 “Carbon Politics: Coal, Oil and the Sources of Democracy” by Timothy Mitchell of Columbia University

24 March 6, 2012 “The Darwin Economy” by Robert H. Frank of Cornell University

23 March 7, 2011 “Rightward Bound: The Rise of Conservatism in Modern American Politics” by Bruce J. Schulman of Boston University

22 April 1, 2010 “Becoming Good Neighbors: U.S.-Mexican Diplomacy and Civil Rights Politics in the Southwest During World War II” by Neil Foley of the University of Texas at Austin

21 March 10, 2009 “Allies of a Kind: India and the NAACP’s Alliance to End Racial Oppression in and from South Africa, 1946-1951” by Carol E. Anderson of Emory University

20 March 26, 2008 “U.S. Foreign Policy after Iraq” by Andrew Bacevich of Boston University

19 February 24, 2007 “Why Aren’t We All Public Historians?” by Dwight Pitcaithley of New Mexico State University, and retired Chief Historian of the National Park Service

18 March 9, 2006 “Once you state a moral principle you are stuck with it’: The 1941 Atlantic Charter as a Human Rights Instrument” by Elizabeth Borgwardt of the University of Utah

17 April 4, 2005 “Is Congress up to the Challenge? The Case for a Coequal Branch” by former Indiana Rep. Lee H. Hamilton
16 Sep 9, 2003 “Black and Brown in South Central Los Angeles: Perspectives on the ‘New’ Racial Frontier in American Cities” by Albert M. Camarillo of Stanford University


13 October 17, 2000 “Diversity, Security, and the Contradictions of Freedom in America” by Orlando Patterson of Harvard University

12 September 9, 1999 “The United States in the Age of Global Power” by Marilyn B. Young of New York University

11 October 13, 1998 “Inside Enemy Archives: The Cold War Reopened” by Melvyn P. Leffler of the University of Virginia

10 October 1, 1997 “The Uses of the Past: Power, Money, and Memory in Vietnam” by Hue-Tam Ho Tai of Harvard University


8 October 27, 1995 “Alfred C. Kinsey: The Scientist as Social Reformer” by James H. Jones of the University of Houston

7 October 20, 1994 “The Soul of the Multiversity” by George Marsden of the University of Notre Dame

6 November 3, 1993 “‘God Bless the USA’: Patriotism, Family, and the Economy in the 1970’s and 1980’s” by George Lipsitz of the University of California, San Diego

5 October 27, 1992 “Civil Rights in the Post-Rodney King Era” by Mary Frances Berry of the University of Pennsylvania

4 October 17, 1991 “World War II and the Transformation of American Society” by Alan Brinkley of Columbia University, as part of a conference on the American Home Front During World War II

3 October 11, 1990 “Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era” by Elaine Tyler-May of the University of Minnesota

2 October 19, 1989 “‘Peoples Quite Apart: Americans, South Vietnamese, and the War in Vietnam” by George Herring of the University of Kentucky
1 October 6, 1988 “The 1988 Election in Historical Perspective” by William Leuchtenburg of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill