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Lindenwood University - Campus News

Speaker Series to Open with Tamim Ansary, Eric Greitens

08/24/2011

Lindenwood University's 2011-12 Speaker Series will start with events featuring noted author and Islamic expert Tamim Ansary and renowned Navy SEAL, humanitarian, and author Eric Greitens.

Ansary's event, titled "History of the World and 9/11 through Islamic Eyes," will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, in the university's Anheuser-Bush Leadership Room, located in the Spellmann Center.

Greitens' event, titled "The U.S. Special Forces and Bin Laden," will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, in the J. Scheidegger Center's Bezemes Family Theater on campus. Both events are free and open to the public and will include book sales and signings. The Lindenwood campus is located at 209 S. Kingshighway in St. Charles, Mo.

Ansary, who was born and raised in Afghanistan, the son of an Afghan father and an American mother, has since Sept. 11, 2001, become established as a respected interpreter of Islam for the Western world. His book, *West of Kabul, East of New York*, depicted what it was like to grow up straddling the vastly disparate cultures of Afghanistan and America. He is also the author of *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World through Islamic Eyes* and, more recently, *The Widow's Husband*, a historical novel set in Afghanistan in 1841.

Greitens' speech will focus on his new memoir, *The Heart and the Fist: The Education of a Humanitarian, the Making of a Navy SEAL*, and will also include a discussion of the operation, executed by Navy SEALs, that resulted in the death of Osama Bin Laden.

Greitens, who was born in Missouri, is a Rhodes Scholar and has a master's degree and Ph.D. from Oxford University. His doctoral thesis explored how humanitarian organizations can best serve children in war-torn countries. Greitens is also a Navy SEAL, has deployed in the War on Terrorism to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, and Southeast Asia and has served as the commander of various special operations units, including an al Qaeda Targeting Cell.

Greitens has been recognized repeatedly for his humanitarian efforts, including by the White House, and is the founder of The Mission Continues, which works to empower wounded and disabled veterans to begin new lives as citizen leaders here at home.

The Lindenwood University Speaker Series will run through April with events featuring author and journalist Novella Carpenter (Sept. 20), author and political commentator P.J. O'Rourke (Oct. 4), Storm Chaser and Meteorologist Reed Timmer (Feb. 22), and author, livestock innovator, and autism advocate Temple Grandin (March 13).

For more information about the 2011-12 Lindenwood University Speaker Series, visit www.lindenwood.edu/speakerseries.