Through the Bryan Series, Guilford College opens a window to the world of the arts, humanities, and public affairs with lectures by former heads of state, Nobel Prize laureates, and other international figures.

Former president Bill Clinton is the latest in a line of distinguished series speakers to visit Greensboro since 1996 — a list that includes former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, authors Toni Morrison and Salman Rushdie, musician Yo-Yo Ma, and actor Sidney Poitier. Media figures Bill Moyers, Bob Woodward, Christiane Amanpour, and David Brooks have also appeared as part of the Bryan Series.

Greensboro residents and others in the region are treated to up-close-and-personal experiences with guest speakers who not only enjoy sharing their life experiences, but also admire a community that prizes intellectual curiosity.

Contributing to the cultural richness of Greensboro, the Bryan Series stimulates thoughtful community conversation on issues that matter. When he spoke to a crowd of

“What a fabulous series ... I wish I were here for it all.”
-Cellist Yo-Yo Ma, October 2009
4,000 at the Greensboro Coliseum in November 2010, Clinton commented: “I’m so delighted to be here in a place where people believe you can prepare for the modern world without giving up on all traditional wisdom.”

For the 2011–12 Bryan Series, the arts and world affairs take center stage with talks by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, legendary Broadway choreographer Twyla Tharp, CNN senior medical correspondent Sanjay Gupta, award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, and international journalist Fareed Zakaria.

The Bryan Series was established by a gift from Guilford College alumnus and trustee Joseph M. Bryan Jr. in 1994. “Joe’s generosity has enabled Guilford to present for its students as well as the greater community a marvelous opportunity to engage with people who have changed the world,” says school President Kent John Chabotar.

This series has been sold out with more than 1,800 subscribers in recent years. Until 2005, the series was presented on Guilford’s idyllic campus in western Greensboro. Most events are now held at the 2,400-seat War Memorial Auditorium in the Greensboro Coliseum Complex.

Following Clinton’s talk, a Bryan Series subscriber noted, “There is no other cultural event in Greensboro that comes close to the Bryan Series. It speaks volumes for Guilford College and is one of the reasons I appreciate living here, especially after moving from Los Angeles where I was surrounded by cultural activity.”

After hearing a talk by New York Times columnist David Brooks, a subscriber said, “Thanks for continuing to bring provocative speakers for our community to hear.”

Guilford College has offered a practical education based on Quaker values since its founding in 1837. Today, it is home to 2,800 traditional-aged and adult students who are learning to be critical thinkers and principled problem solvers in Greensboro and beyond. Guilford is well regarded for its innovative teaching by faculty who engage with and inspire students. The Center for Principled Problem Solving puts college core values of community, diversity, equality, excellence, integrity, justice, and stewardship to work in the world.

Now entering its 175th year, Guilford is a vibrant liberal arts college for the 21st century, and is listed among “Colleges That Change Lives,” best value colleges, and the most environmentally responsible colleges in the United States and Canada.

Guilford puts its core values into practice through sustainability projects such as the LEED-certified historic preservation of Archdale Hall, the installation of 200 solar thermal panels on buildings across campus, and student-managed community gardens. Visit the campus for a first-hand look or visit www.guilford.edu for a glimpse of the Guilford experience.