



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE JEFFERSON COUNCIL FOR UVA APRIL 4, 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

**Bert Ellis:** BA Economics UVA'75, Darden'79. At the University of Virginia, Ellis was an Echols Scholar, a member of ODK and Phi Beta Kappa, and a tri-chairman and spokesman of the University Union. In recognition of these and other accomplishments, he was given the honor during his 4<sup>th</sup> year of living in room 13 on the West Lawn. A serial entrepreneur, Ellis serves as CEO and chairman of Ellis Capital, a consulting and investment firm focused on media, technology, healthcare, and fintech. He recently purchased the White Spot Diner in Charlottesville with 16 other Wahoos and serves as the Head Gus. He is the co-founder of The Jefferson Council, of which he is president emeritus, and now is serving as a member of the University of Virginia Board of Visitors.

**Professor Allan C. Stam:** BA Cornell; MA/PHD Political Science Michigan. Before graduating from Cornell in 1988 where he lettered in heavyweight crew, Stam served as a communications specialist (18E) on an 'A' detachment in the U.S. Army Special Forces. He served later as an armor officer in the US Army Reserves. Stam now is University Professor at the University of Virginia. Previously he was Dean of the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. His research focuses on the dynamics of armed conflict and political leadership. His works on leadership, war outcomes, war durations, mediation, and alliance politics appear in numerous books and political science journals. Currently, he is researching a book on the cost structure of higher education.

**Joel Gardner:** BA UVA'70, Law'74. Gardner graduated with an Honors degree in History where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Fraternity, the Raven Society, the Z Society and TILKA Society. After serving on active duty with the Army Security Agency, he returned to UVA Law School where he was a member of the *Virginia Law Review* and the Order of the COIF. Entering Wall Street as an M&A attorney, Gardner pursued investment banking for three decades, specializing in Pacific Basin transactions. He has served on four UVA boards, chaired a half dozen fundraising campaigns, and served on the University's Committee on Free Expression and Free Inquiry. He is the author of *From Rebel Yell to Revolution*, chronicling his four years as an undergraduate at UVA.

**Connor Murnane:** Connor Murnane is director of engagement and mobilization for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression. Through hyper-targeted campaigns, he works with enthusiastic advocates of free expression to bring about pro-speech reform both on and off campus. Murnane has a B.A. in history from Ashland University and an M.A. in political communications from American University in 2019. His thesis focused on the rhetorical battles in early American newspapers. Prior to joining FIRE, Connor worked for the American Council of Trustees and Alumni as the director of communications.

**Ann McLean:** BA English Davidson'85; MA'91, PHD'98 Art and Architectural History UVA. McLean is a wife, mother of four daughters, an activist. Her academic career specialized Gilded Age America (1861-1915). She has worked at Sotheby's New York City, a national newspaper in Washington, D.C., and in the curator's office at Monticello. In 2010 she Founded Hunter Classical Christian School in Richmond, Va., where she served as Head of School until December 2020. She currently chairs TJC's Student Liaison Committee and enjoys historic preservation, reading, writing, oil painting, and dogs.

**Jim Bacon:** BA UVA '75, History. Jim Bacon began his journalistic career as a reporter for the Martinsville Bulletin, worked for the Roanoke Times as an award-winning journalist, and moved back to Charlottesville as manager-public relations for the AMVEST Corporation. Relocating to Richmond, Bacon joined the start-up team of Virginia Business

magazine as editor and rose to the rank of Publisher and Editor in Chief. In 2002 he founded Bacon's Rebellion as one of Virginia's earliest public policy blogs. Among other topics, he wrote extensively about Virginia's public colleges and universities, initially with a focus on the runaway cost of attendance but increasingly with an emphasis on their takeover by the left. A founding member of the Jefferson Council, he became executive director in 2022.

**Chuck Davis:** Chuck Davis has been the President of the MIT Free Speech Alliance since May 2022. Born in Virginia and raised mainly in Mobile, Alabama. After graduating from MIT in 1987, he served five years as an Army Combat Engineer, both in Germany and during Operation Desert Storm where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He spent more than two decades at Goldman Sachs and other financial firms developing systems and controls, and ultimately managing a business. Chuck is currently employed by Greencastle Consulting, a veteran-owned and staffed consulting firm providing project management, process improvement, and other services to a variety of organizations nationwide. He and his wife reside in Chesterbrook, Pa., near Philadelphia.

**Tom Neale, President, The Jefferson Council:** BA History UVA'74, MBA William and Mary'78. A corporate finance career spanning 30 years included a job at HSBC Bank Mid-Atlantic as a regional corporate executive, ten years as a managing partner with a Baltimore-based private equity firm, and now as a board member and advisor to a South Carolina-based private equity fund. He is married with three daughters, two of whom are Wahoos, the third a Spider. In line with a TJC core pillar, all three were on Honor Boards in high school and college. A co-founder of the Jefferson Council, he initially served as treasurer. He now serves as president of the Council as well as the executive board of the Alumni Free Speech Alliance.

**Marion Smith:** Smith graduated Phi Beta Kappa from South Carolina's Wofford College and earned an M.A. from Central European University. He is president, CEO and founder of the Common Sense Society, an international network that promotes the principles of liberty, prosperity, and beauty. In other activities, he has served as chairman of Washington, D.C.'s National Civic Art Society, a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation, the CEO of the congressionally authorized Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. His writings have been published in *The Hill*, *Los Angeles Times*, *National Review*, *Politico*, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. He is a regular guest on network and cable television channels.

**Glenn Loury:** Glenn C. Loury is Merton P. Stoltz Professor of Economics at Brown University. He holds the B.A. in Mathematics (Northwestern) and the Ph.D. in Economics (M.I.T). As an economic theorist he has published widely and lectured throughout the world on his research. He is also among America's leading critics writing on racial inequality. He has been elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economics Association, as a Member of the American Philosophical Society and of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, and as a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.