

# EXPERT guest lecturers KNOWLEDGE

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→ Even though William & Mary was a smaller-sized school, it brought a number of famous names to campus. Lecturers came from the pop culture world, the political spectrum, and the business arena and spoke on a variety of topics, including their autobiographies, current economic conditions of the nation, and their own research.

Alma Mater Production's Contemporary and Cultural Issues Committee brought a number of notable speakers to campus. One was former MTV news correspondent Gideon Yago, who spoke about the state of world affairs as well as his time making documentaries. "I thought it was great to get to see someone who was so insightful into world affairs and was also someone we could relate to," senior Deanna Melendez said.

Academic departments also sponsored guest lecturers and oftentimes professors spoke on their own research. Professor Catherine Levesque spoke to members of her Methods of Art History class. "It was really interesting to hear my professor speak on the research she is currently doing as she is the one usually listening to my classmates

and me talk about our research ideas," senior Shelly Cuff said. "Sometimes we forget that professors have their own research outside of class."

Various student organizations also brought speakers to campus. The Publications Council sponsored a lecture by Niko Price, Latin American Editor for the Associated Press. Price spoke about looking for journalism jobs in a tough economy. Katherine Orth, a staff member of *The Colonial Echo*, was in attendance. "Even though I don't plan on pursuing a career in journalism, Niko Price's speech was inspiring to me," Orth said. "His message was about how graduating students will have to find creative new ways to pursue their career goals."

Students were urged to take advantage of these lectures through organizations they belonged to, academic departments, or just general postings advertising the talks. Overall, the College brought to campus a mélange of speakers with a wide breadth of knowledge and experience.

>Christina Bianchi



Actor Anthony Rapp, most famous for his role as the original Mark Cohen in the musical *Rent*, signs a copy of his memoir *Without You* for senior Christina Bianchi. Rapp spoke to students about his autobiography, including his family life, his path to becoming an actor, and his recent volunteer efforts with the Obama Campaign.



Photo courtesy of Peggy Gesing.

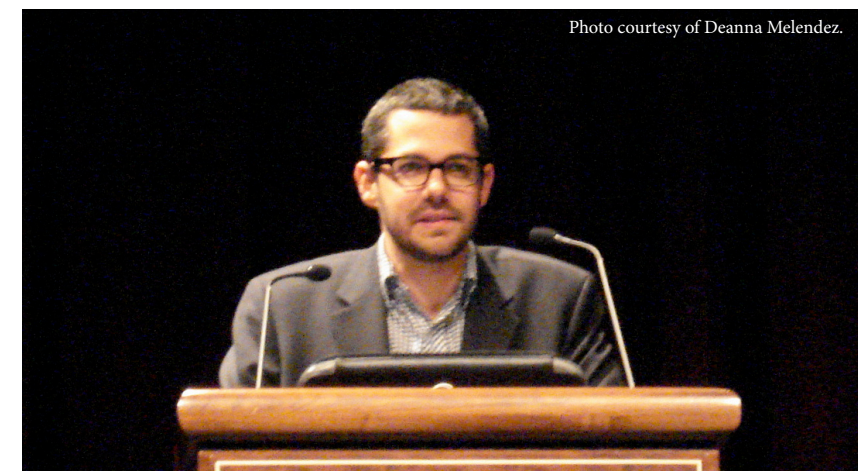


Photo courtesy of Deanna Melendez.

↳ Brought to campus by the Contemporary and Cultural Issues Committee of Alma Mater Productions, former MTV news correspondent Gideon Yago addresses students about world politics. During his career, Yago interviewed prominent politicians and also investigated how news was made with the IFC Media Project.

↳ During a presentation to members of the Business School, behavioral economist Dan Ariely explains why certain countries have higher organ donation rates than others. Ariely spoke about his book, *Predictably Irrational*, highlighting concepts such as how presentation affects decision-making and how and why irrational decisions are made.