INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM
THE POWER OF THE LIBERAL ARTS
Friday, October 16, 2015
Pickard Theater
Bowdoin College • Brunswick, Maine

Welcome
Clayton S. Rose, president of the College

Keynote
Hanna Holborn Gray, Harry Pratt Judson Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of History and president emerita, University of Chicago

Panel 1: Yes, It Still Matters: Why and How We Teach the Liberal Arts
William D. Adams, chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, and president emeritus, Colby College
Camille Z. Charles, Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor in the Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
Adam S. Weinberg ’87, president, Denison University
Mary Lou Zeeman, R. Wells Johnson Professor of Mathematics, Bowdoin College
Moderator
Jennifer R. Scanlon, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of the Humanities and interim dean for academic affairs, Bowdoin College

Intermission

Panel 2: Making a Living and Making a Life: The Liberal Arts in Commerce and Citizenship
Kenneth I. Chenault ’73, H’96, chief executive officer and chairman, American Express
Ruthie Davis ’84, president and designer, Ruthie Davis
Shelley A. Hearne ’83, visiting professor, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
George J. Mitchell ’54, H’83, former United States senator
Moderator
Andy Serwer ’81, journalist and editor-in-chief, Yahoo Finance
Hanna Holborn Gray, Keynote

Hanna Holborn Gray is a historian with special interests in the history of humanism, political and historical thought, church history, and politics in the Renaissance and the Reformation.

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, Gray earned her bachelor’s degree from Bryn Mawr College in 1950 and, after holding a Fulbright scholarship at Oxford, her Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 1957.

She began her career as an instructor at Bryn Mawr and then at Harvard. In 1961, she became a member of the University of Chicago’s faculty. She was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of history at Northwestern University in 1972. In 1974, she was elected provost of Yale University with an appointment as professor of history. From 1977 to 1978, she served as president of Yale, and from 1978 to 1993 she was president of the University of Chicago.

Gray is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society and is a member of the National Academy of Education and the Council on Foreign Relations of New York. She currently serves as a trustee of the Newberry Library, the Marlboro School of Music, and several other nonprofit organizations. She has served on the governing boards of many institutions, including the Harvard University Corporation, the Yale University Corporation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (chairman), the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (chairman), the Smithsonian Institution, and Bryn Mawr College.

Gray was one of twelve distinguished foreign-born Americans to receive a Medal of Liberty award at ceremonies marking the rekindling of the Statue of Liberty’s lamp in 1986. Among many other awards, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, in 1991.
William D. Adams is the tenth chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Adams previously served as president of Colby College and as president of Bucknell University. He was vice president and secretary of Wesleyan University from 1993 to 1995 and was program coordinator of the Great Works in Western Culture program at Stanford University from 1986 to 1988. Earlier in his career, he held various teaching positions at Stanford University, Santa Clara University, and the University of North Carolina. Adams served in the Vietnam War as a first lieutenant in the US Army. In 1977, he became a Fulbright Scholar and conducted research at the École des Hautes Études and the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, France.

In each of his professional roles, Adams has demonstrated a commitment to the humanities as essential to education and to civic life. At Colby, he led a $376-million capital campaign that included expansion of the Colby College Museum of Art, the creation of a center for arts and humanities and a film studies program, and expansion of the college’s curriculum in creative writing and writing across all academic subject areas. He also spearheaded formal collaboration between the college and the Maine Film Center and chaired the Waterville Regional Arts and Community Center.

A native of Birmingham, Michigan, and the son of an auto industry executive, Adams earned his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Colorado College and a Ph.D. from the University of California–Santa Cruz.
Camille Z. Charles


Charles earned her bachelor’s degree from California State University—Sacramento, and her Ph.D. from the University of California—Los Angeles. Her research interests are in the areas of urban inequality, racial attitudes and intergroup relations, public opinion, racial residential segregation, minorities in higher education, and racial identity. Her work has appeared in *Social Forces, Social Problems, Social Science Research, Du Bois Review, American Journal of Education, Annual Review of Sociology, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Chronicle of Higher Education,* and *The Root.*
Adam S. Weinberg became president of Denison University in 2013, bringing to the position a breadth of experience with the liberal arts and global education. He began his career at Colgate University as a member of the sociology and anthropology department and later served as vice president and dean of the college. During this period, Weinberg was deeply engaged in the civic dimension of higher education, gaining national prominence for his work with increasing the level of civic engagement at colleges and universities. He developed the Center for Outreach, Volunteerism, and Education (COVE), a model for engaging students in public work, and helped to launch Democracy Matters, an effort involving more than 100 campuses to engage college students in the political process.

Prior to Denison, Weinberg was president and chief executive officer of World Learning, where his work focused on the internationalization of higher education and on program development for emerging leaders in more than seventy countries.

Weinberg graduated from Bowdoin College in 1987 and conducted research at Cambridge University before earning his master’s degree and doctorate in sociology from Northwestern University. He is the co-author of *Urban Recycling and the Search for Sustainable Development* and *Local Environmental Struggles*, and he is currently writing a book on the relationship between higher education and civil society. In addition to being a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Weinberg has served on a variety of national and local boards, including the Alliance for International Education and Cultural Exchange and InterAction.
Mary Lou Zeeman is the R. Wells Johnson Professor of Mathematics at Bowdoin College. Before coming to Bowdoin, she worked at the University of Texas at San Antonio for fifteen years, and she has held visiting positions at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications at the University of Minnesota, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan, and Cornell University. Her research interests range from dynamical systems to population dynamics and fisheries, neuroscience, endocrinology, climate, sustainability, and resilience. During the 2014–2015 academic year, she was co-director of Bowdoin’s Digital and Computational Studies Initiative.

Zeeman is also involved in several cross-disciplinary initiatives focused on the health of the planet. She co-directs the Mathematics and Climate Research Network, which links researchers across the US, Canada, and beyond to develop the mathematics needed to better understand the earth’s climate. She helped found the Institute for Computational Sustainability based at Cornell University, and she is on the leadership team of the Mathematics of Planet Earth initiative. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Oxford and her Ph.D. from the University of California—Berkeley.
Jennifer R. Scanlon, Moderator

Jennifer R. Scanlon was appointed interim dean for academic affairs at Bowdoin in 2015. The William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of the Humanities in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, she has been a faculty member at the College since 2002. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Oneonta State College (SUNY), a master’s degree from the University of Delaware, and master’s and doctorate degrees from Binghamton University. Scanlon is an award-winning teacher and a highly regarded and widely published scholar in twentieth-century US women’s history. Her forthcoming book, Until There Is Justice: The Life of Anna Arnold Hedgeman, will be released in January 2016 by Oxford University Press.

As interim dean for academic affairs, Scanlon is the chief academic officer of the College and is responsible for the faculty, curriculum, academic departments and programs, library, museums, scientific field stations, and all aspects of support for the academic program.
Kenneth I. Chenault joined the American Express Company in 1981 as director of strategic planning. He has held many positions at the company since then, including president of the Consumer Card Group, president of Travel Related Services, and vice chairman. He became president and chief operating officer in 1997 and assumed his current responsibilities as chief executive officer on January 1, 2001, and as chairman in April of that year.

Chenault serves on the boards of American Express and several other corporate and nonprofit organizations, including IBM, The Procter & Gamble Company, the Harvard Corporation, the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, the National Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse at Columbia University, the Smithsonian Institution’s Advisory Council for the National Museum of African American History & Culture, National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center, and the Bloomberg Family Foundation. He also is a member of the Business Council and serves on the Executive Committee of the Business Roundtable as well as the Partnership for New York. A wide variety of civic, social service, and community organizations have recognized Chenault for his public service leadership.

In 2014, Fortune named Chenault one of “The World’s 50 Greatest Leaders” and ranked American Express among 2015’s top ten “World’s Most Admired Companies.”

Chenault earned his bachelor’s degree in history from Bowdoin College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and he has received honorary degrees from several universities.
As designer and president of her eponymous label, Ruthie Davis understands how to create shoes modern women covet.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in English and visual arts from Bowdoin College, Davis went on to earn her master’s in business administration from the Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College. She honed her design and marketing skills by holding executive positions at Reebok, UGG Australia, and Tommy Hilfiger before launching Ruthie Davis in 2006.

Designed in New York and handcrafted in Italy, Ruthie Davis shoes—a top choice of celebrities and fashion tastemakers—are renowned for their architectural shapes, luxurious mix of materials, uncompromising quality, and vivid color palette. The Ruthie Davis brand is sold in top tier retail establishments worldwide. In January 2014, she launched her own global e-commerce store on ruthiedavis.com. In 2016, Davis plans to open the first Ruthie Davis store, in New York City.

Davis received Babson’s 2015 “Entrepreneur Hall of Fame” award, and in 2014 she was the only footwear designer to be accepted into the Council of Fashion Designers of America. Additionally, the American Apparel and Footwear Association named her the 2014 “Footwear Designer of the Year,” and she has been named one of Goldman Sachs’ “100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs,” one of Footwear News’ “20 Directional Design Stars,” and one of Vogue Italia’s “Vogue Talents.” Recently, Davis collaborated with designer and animal activist John Bartlett on the launch of her first vegan shoe line, and in 2016 she will launch an affordable range of fashionable career shoes in conjunction with entrepreneur Daymond John, who appears on the reality series “Shark Tank.”
Shelley A. Hearne ’83

A visiting professor at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Shelley A. Hearne was the managing director of the Pew Health Group of The Pew Charitable Trusts, overseeing food safety, medical safety, research, and biomedical programs. She was also the founding executive director of the Trust for America’s Health, a national advocacy organization dedicated to preventing epidemics and protecting people.

Hearne previously was the executive director of the Pew Environmental Health Commission, the acting director of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Office of Pollution Prevention, and a scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council. She has served as the chair of the American Public Health Associations’ Executive Board and vice president of the Council on Education for Public Health, and she is chair of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Japan. She has authored many national health reports and has testified regularly before the US Congress on bioterrorism, pandemic preparedness, health tracking, and public health funding. In demand for her expertise, Hearne has appeared on many television news networks, including ABC News, CBS News, CNN, NBC News, and MSNBC, to address topics ranging from credit card reform and food safety, to pandemic flu preparedness and human health issues.

Hearne earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry and environmental sciences from Bowdoin College and her doctorate in environmental health sciences from Columbia University’s School of Public Health.
George J. Mitchell entered the US Senate in 1980 and went on to an illustrious career there that spanned fourteen years. In January 1989, he became Senate majority leader. He held that position until he left the Senate in 1995. Earlier he served as US Attorney and US District Court Judge.

From 1995 to 1999, he chaired peace negotiations in Northern Ireland, for which he received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor the US government can give; the Philadelphia Liberty Medal; the Truman Institute Peace Prize; the German (Hesse) Peace Prize; and the United Nations (UNESCO) Peace Prize.

At the request of President Clinton and Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Mitchell served in 2000–01 as chairman of an international fact-finding committee on violence in the Middle East. At the request of President Obama, he served from 2009 to 2011 as the US Special Envoy to the Middle East.

Mitchell served as chairman of The Walt Disney Company and as chairman of the International Crisis Group, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of crises in international affairs. He is now chairman emeritus of the global law firm DLA Piper.

Mitchell is the author of five books. The most recent, a memoir entitled The Negotiator: Reflections on an American Life, was published in May 2015. In 2008, Time Magazine described him as “one of the 100 most influential people in the world.”
One of the world’s leading business journalists, Andy Serwer is the current editor-in-chief for Yahoo Finance. In that position, he oversees all editorial content, from breaking news to in-depth stories to original video programming.

Prior to Yahoo, Serwer was the editor of *Fortune* for eight years—the longest service of any editor there since the 1980s—and worked at Time Inc. for twenty-nine years. As editor of *Fortune*, Serwer was responsible for overseeing the magazine and the website, as well as *Fortune*’s digital media and conferences. From 1997 through 2006, Serwer wrote the groundbreaking business news blog, “Streetlife,” one of the first daily digital newsletters covering the world of finance and business.

Serwer earned his bachelor’s degree from Bowdoin College in 1981, a master’s in business administration from Emory University in 1984, and a bachelor of science from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism in 1985. He is a member of Bowdoin’s board of trustees and is an Emory University Goizueta School of Business Presidential Fellow.