

Howard University President Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick to keynote at Niagara University

Niagara University Launches 'Transformative Visions' presidential speaker series

Niagara University will present the first in its "Transformative Visions" presidential speaker series at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, in the Castellani Art Museum. Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick, president of Howard University, will be the inaugural speaker for the series, which will feature conversations with visionaries who have imagined and struggled to create a just future.

The presentations will be accessible to the community through Zoom: <https://www.niagara.edu/speakerseries092220>.

In addition to serving as presi-

dent of the nation's leading historically Black university, Frederick is a national expert on disparities in health care and medical education, as well as salient topics in higher education, such as the impact of HBCUs, campus intellectual diversity, and gender equity on college campuses. Trained as a surgeon and fellow in surgical oncology, Frederick continues to treat patients. His medical research focuses on narrowing racial, ethnic and gender disparities in cancer care outcomes and in U.S. health care more broadly.

One of the central themes Frederick will explore in his talk is imagining – and struggling to achieve – a just system of health

care during a time of pandemic.

"As the 2020 U.S. presidential election approaches, the major party candidates have attempted to define the issues and, for better or worse, to offer a vision of how they would seek to transform America and the world," said the series organizers, Kevin Hinkley, assistant professor of political science; and Dr. Dave Reilly, chair of political science. "As Election Day approaches, we can expect to see and hear bold statements about the defining issues of our time and the power of the people to chart our future course. We believe that a fundamentally different approach is needed. The challenges facing America and

the world are complex, magnitudinous and recalcitrant to simple solutions. Niagara University's 'Transformative Visions' series is intended to offer our students a model of inquiry, discourse, imagination and action."

Upcoming presentations in this series include:

- "Politics, Climate Change, Foreign Policy Fireside Chat," featuring Denis McDonough, former White House chief of staff under President Barack Obama and former White House deputy national security adviser (7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13)

- "Criminal Justice, Policing, and Prisons," featuring Soffiyah Elijah, executive director of the

Alliance of Families of Justice and the first Black woman to serve as executive director of the Correctional Association of New York (7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 24)

- "Environmental Justice, Indigenous Resistance," featuring Dina Gilio-Whitaker, policy director and senior research associate at the Center for World Indigenous Studies, and lecturer of American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos (7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17)

For more information about the series, contact Hinkley (khinkley@niagara.edu) or Reilly (dreilly@niagara.edu).

Senior shelter cats being helped by local attorney

Kittens are always the first pets to be adopted at an animal shelter, but what about the elderly? Unfortunately for senior cats, their stay at animal shelters is much longer. That's why a local attorney has stepped up to help.

Dominic Saraceno of the Law Offices of Dominic Saraceno will be paying the adoption fee for all of the current senior cats 10 years and up at Niagara

County SPCA to help them find a home. And, for two special senior cats, Tigger and Bella, who are diabetic, Saraceno will sponsor their insulin for up to one year.

"It breaks my heart to see them in cages, especially at that age," said Saraceno, who recently adopted a senior cat named Stormy with special needs. "It is my hope that this promotion will help them find their forever

homes."

Niagara County SPCA will also be running a promotion at the shelter during COVID-19. From Sept. 19 through Oct. 3, adoption fees for cats 3 and up will be \$19. Call 716-731-4368 or visit Niagara www.SPCA.org to learn more.

Pictured: Bella, an 11-year-old cat, and Tigger, a 12-year-old cat who are both diabetic.



Fall motorcycle safety tips for bikers and drivers

AAA reminds motorists & bikers that motorcycle season isn't over just yet

BY AAA OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK

In recent weeks, motorcycle crashes have been reported across the region, including major cities like Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. Such tragedies have left many families and com-

munities in mourning. At AAA, our thoughts go out to all of those impacted. With sunny weather in the forecast this weekend and with many people looking to make the most of the final days of summer – and the fall beauty that awaits – AAA Western and Central New York is reminding both drivers and bikers of key safety tips. As an advocate for traffic safety, AAA hopes to reduce crashes and keep the final weeks of motorcycle season safe for all roadway users.

The number of motorcyclists killed in crashes dropped to 4,985 in 2018, an almost 5% decrease, but motorcycle riders are still overrepresented in traffic fatalities, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Adminis-

tration (NHTSA). Everyone can do their part to safely share the road safely.

•As a driver:

- ✓ Check mirrors and blind spots for motorcyclists before entering or leaving lanes of traffic and at intersections. Most multivehicle motorcycle crashes occur when drivers simply didn't see the motorcyclist.

- ✓ Signal before changing lanes or merging with traffic. Even when signaling, allow enough time to determine a motorcyclist's intention before you proceed.

- ✓ Increase following distance behind motorcycles and provide time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.

- ✓ Never try to share a lane with motorcycles – they have the same right to lanes as any other vehicle.

- ✓ Be aware that darkness descends earlier – keep an eye out for both bikers and cyclists.

•As a motorcyclist:

- ✓ Before you ride, check tire pressure and tread depth. Make sure brakes, headlights and signal indicators are in working order.

- ✓ Make sure any cargo is secure and balanced and adjust suspension and tire pressure to accommodate extra weight.

- ✓ Always ride with a helmet that meets the U.S. Department of Transportation federal motor vehicle safety standard – look for the "DOT" symbol on the outside back of the helmet. NHTSA estimates helmets saved 1,872 motorcyclists' lives in 2017, and that 749 more lives could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets. Helmets are required in New York state.

- ✓ Wear other protective gear, such as gloves, a jacket and pants.

- ✓ Make yourself visible. Keep your lights on, wear bright colors and use reflective tape, even

during the daytime. Position yourself in the lane where drivers can see you.

- ✓ Follow traffic laws, always use turn signals, and combine hand signals with turn signals when you can to make your intentions even more clear.

- ✓ Never ride impaired – 27% of fatally injured riders in 2017 were driving under the influence of alcohol, according to NHTSA – and 43% of motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2017 were alcohol-impaired.

As upstate New York's largest member services organization, AAA Western and Central New York provides more than 887,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, AAA has been a leading advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. Visit AAA at www.AAA.com.

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