

Getting and Using Classroom Speakers Effectively

1. Most faculty are surprised that “big name” speakers will come to speak to university classes and lecture series. They often will do so without charge.
2. Organize speakers around a theme and be sure to get speakers from different sides of the political spectrum and with very different points of view. Think of the speaker series as a debate or dialogue over an important topic. I organize them around “The Future of Chicago” with sub topics like “The Role of the City Council in Chicago’s Future.”
3. I seek funding to offer honorarium for speakers (a modest \$150 each) and to pay for on-campus advertising. I go to our Student Activities Funding Committee for funds. But when I started the program, I did it with no funds and no honorarium. I also use our Public Affairs department to advertise the speakers to the media. I make the lecture series open to the public but I guarantee attendance by building part of my Political Science course (POLS 211 Chicago’s Future) around it and have the speakers at the class hour which is always around the noon hour.
4. We print flyers to announce the speakers and send press releases to the campus newspapers.
5. A list of the **Fall 2012** speakers and their topics is as follows:

Pierre de Vise Memorial Lecture:

UIC Professor Janet Smith, “Racial Change in Housing in Chicago”

Constitution Day Program:

Loyola Law Professor George Anastapalo, “The First Amendment and The U.S. Supreme Court”

World Business Chicago President Rita Athas, “The Future of Business in Chicago”

14th Ward Alderman Ed Burke, “The Chicago City Council and the Future of Chicago”

Director of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Hannah Willage, “Homelessness in Chicago”

Author Peter Nolan discussing his new book, *Campaign!*

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, “Reform of Cook County Government”

City of Chicago Inspector General Joe Ferguson, “The Future of Corruption in Chicago”

Former City Clerk James Laski, “Inside the Chicago Machine”

This material is featured in the course POLS 211 “The Future of Chicago”, Department of Political Science, The University of Illinois at Chicago, Professor Dick Simpson (simpson@uic.edu).

Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, “Reform of Cook County Government”

22nd Ward Alderman Ricardo Munoz, “Latino Politics in Chicago”

Secretary of State Jesse White, “The Future of Illinois”

Executive Director of C-MAP Randy Blankenhorn, “The Future of the Metropolitan Region”

DePaul University Professor Larry Bennett, “Chicago: The Third City”

Illinois 5th District Congressman Mike Quigley, “The Role of the Federal Government in Chicago’s Future”

Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, “The State of the State After Elections”

Fred Hess Memorial Lecture:

Chicago Teachers Union President Karen GJ Lewis, “The Future of Education in Chicago”