



# John Kerry, Jason Alexander, Susan Rice and Bob Woodward Among Celebrated Lineup for the 2019-2020 St. Louis Speakers Series

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**ST. LOUIS, MO, MARCH 20, 2019** - As the St. Louis Speakers Series celebrates its 22<sup>nd</sup> season, it is preparing to welcome to Powell Hall another dazzling lineup of speakers, including **John Kerry, Jason Alexander (Seinfeld's George Costanza), Susan Rice and Bob Woodward**. Presented by Maryville University and featuring some of the world's most celebrated and influential personalities of our time, the 2019-2020 Series will provide attendees the unique opportunity to listen to brilliance and simultaneously be entertained during seven memorable evenings filled with powerful perspectives and enlightening discussion. The complete list of presenters, in order of appearance, follows.

**Oct. 1, 2019: John Kerry** – The 2019-2020 series will get underway with what's sure to be a fascinating presentation by Kerry, who served as Secretary of State during President Barack Obama's second term. Following a nearly 30-year tenure as a senator from Massachusetts, he became the Democratic Party's nominee for president of the United States in 2004. Kerry will give audience members a glimpse into his storied life.

**Oct. 22, 2019: Zanny Minton Beddoes** – Named one of the "Most Powerful Women in the World" by *Forbes*, Beddoes' presentation will share insights from her experience as the first female editor-in-chief of *The Economist*, a post she has held since 2015. Prior to her 25-year tenure with *The Economist*, she was an economist at the International Monetary Fund.

**Nov. 19, 2019: Bob Woodward** - Attendees will have a rare opportunity to get up-close and personal with journalistic icon and associate editor of *The Washington Post*, Bob

Woodward. He, along with Carl Bernstein, uncovered the Watergate scandal detailed in their Pulitzer Prizewinning book, *All the President's Men*. Woodward has written 19 bestselling books on American politics, most recently, *Fear: Trump in the White House*.

**Jan. 28, 2020: Douglas Brinkley**— As an award-winning historian, Brinkley has written more than 20 books on a wide range of topics that will be at the forefront of his presentation, including D-Day, Hurricane Katrina and the lives of Ronald Reagan, Bob Dylan and Walter Cronkite. Brinkley serves as CNN Presidential Historian, and a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*, *American Heritage* and *Audubon*.

**Feb. 25, 2020: Peter Diamandis** – Named one of the “World’s Greatest Leaders” by *Fortune Magazine*, Diamandis will grace the stage to share how a space entrepreneur turned innovation pioneer founded the XPRIZE Foundation to fund big money competitions to inspire groundbreaking developments in science and technology, and to solve some of the planet’s most pressing challenges.

**March 17, 2020: Susan Rice**— Rice is sure to captivate audience members with an insightful presentation regarding her impressive career, including her tenure as National Security Advisor from 2013 to 2017 and her role as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 2009 to 2013. Deepening her experience, Rice worked for the National Security Council and was Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs during the Clinton administration.

**April 21, 2020: Jason Alexander** – The 2019-2020 series will conclude with an evening of laughter as actor, singer, comedian and director Jason Alexander takes to the stage. While he is best known for his role as George Costanza in the hit television series *Seinfeld*, his other well-known movie credits include *Pretty Woman*, *Duckman* and *Shallow Hal*. He also has had an active career on stage, winning a Tony Award as Best Leading Actor in a Musical for his role in *Jerome Robbins’ Broadway*.

“Maryville University is proud to welcome such a diverse and illustrious lineup for the 22nd season of the St. Louis Speaker Series,” said Dr. Mark Lombardi, president of Maryville University. “We believe in the power of viewing the world from different perspectives and hope these lectures foster the same intellectual curiosity, robust discussion and global engagement that our students engage in every day. It is our pleasure to present this series for the enrichment of the community in and around St. Louis.”

Tickets for the 2019-2020 St. Louis Speakers Series, which is expected to sell out quickly, are available now by visiting [www.StLouisSpeakers.org](http://www.StLouisSpeakers.org) or by calling 314-534-1700. As in years past, the series is sold by subscription, with subscribers guaranteed admission to hear all seven dynamic speakers. Subscriptions for the entire series range

from \$335 - \$455. All presentations will begin at 8 p.m. and each includes a spirited Q&A period during which the speaker addresses questions from the audience.

Presented by Maryville University, the St. Louis Speakers Series is sponsored by PNC Bank, Nine Network of Public Media, St. Louis Public Radio and Polsinelli. For more information about the 2019-2020 St. Louis Speakers Series, visit [www.StLouisSpeakers.org](http://www.StLouisSpeakers.org).

### **About Maryville University**

Founded in 1872, Maryville University is a selective, comprehensive, and nationally ranked private institution with an enrollment of nearly 9,100 students. Maryville offers over 100 degrees at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels to students from 50 states and 60 countries. Among recent graduates, 94 percent are employed or attending graduate school. More than 17,000 Maryville alumni work and live in the St. Louis region. For more information visit, [maryville.edu](http://maryville.edu).