

Perspectives on the Death Penalty Speakers

Tuesday March 8 7:00 pm

Knott Auditorium

“Dead Men Walking-the Innocent and Guilty”

Madison Hobley, an exonerated death row inmate, and Billy Moore, a former death row inmate who was guilty, will speak about their experiences on death row and their reasons for advocating the abolishing of the death penalty.

Tuesday, March 15 7:00 pm

Knott Auditorium

“Kirk Bloodsworth: the First DNA Exonerated Death Row Inmate”

Kirk Bloodsworth, the first death row inmate exonerated through DNA testing, and John Trzano, the director of the Justice Project, will speak about the death penalty and the risks of executing innocent persons.

Thursday, March 31 6:30 pm

Laughlin Auditorium

“Robert Perske: Executing Persons with Intellectual Disabilities”

Robert Perske, a passionate advocate for persons with intellectual disabilities, will speak on the situation of innocent persons with intellectual disabilities who have confessed to a wide range of crimes and been given the death penalty.

Wednesday, April 6 7:00 p,m

Location to be confirmed

Julia Sullivan, J.D. “The Innocence Project”

Julia Sullivan will discuss her work in support of the exoneration of innocent persons sentenced to execution and the reform of a criminal justice system that results in the conviction of the innocent.

Tuesday April 12 7 pm

Knott Auditorium

“Don’t Kill in Our Names”

Rachel King will discuss her work with families of murder victims who seek reconciliation rather than revenge and work to abolish the death penalty.

Thursday April 14 7 pm

Knott Auditorium

“Reconciliation not Revenge”

Marietta Jaeger and Vicki Shieber, members of Families for Reconciliation (murder victim families opposed to the death penalty) will speak of their personal journeys to forgiveness and reconciliation.

Tuesday April 19 7 pm

Knott Auditorium

“Families of Death Row Inmates Speak Out”

Rachel King will join families of death row inmates to discuss their experience of death row and executions.

Wednesday April 21 7 pm

Purcell Lounge

Deadline

A showing of the film covering Illinois Governor Ryan's commutation of the sentences of death row inmates and the establishment of the Illinois Death Penalty Moratorium. This film highlights the powerful role played by college students in the exoneration of death row inmates.

Thursday April 28 7 pm

Knott Auditorium

"Catholics on the Death Penalty: The Challenges Ahead"

Dick Dowling, Executive Director of the Maryland Catholic Conference, and Andy Rivas, member of the US Catholic Conference of Bishops, will discuss the challenges Catholics face in addressing the continuing practice of the death penalty, specifically in Maryland.

Tuesday May 3 7 pm

Knott Auditorium

"Where We Are Today: Maryland's Death Penalty Abolition Campaign"

Diann Rust-Tierney, Executive Director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and Jane Henderson of MD CASE (Maryland Citizens Against State Executions) will discuss the challenges faced in the abolition movement both nationally and in Maryland.

Thursday, May 5 7 pm

Knott Auditorium

Sr. Helen Prejean "The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account"

Sr. Helen Prejean, a very prominent voice in the abolition movement, will discuss her ongoing work in advancing social justice through the abolishing of the death penalty.

The purpose of this series is to promote campus-wide discussion of social justice issues. These speakers are funded by the University and Callings, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.