



News

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Richard Stengel, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, to Speak at Philadelphia University's Convocation

Philadelphia (August 13, 2004) - President James P. Gallagher, Ph.D., announced today that Richard Stengel, National Constitution Center President and CEO, will welcome Philadelphia University's incoming class and their families at the 2004 Convocation Ceremony on Thursday, August 26.

"It is an honor to have Richard Stengel join us as we open our 120th year," says Dr. Gallagher. "His work in the national media and most recently with the prestigious National Constitution Center is impressive and inspiring. As our keynote speaker, he will provide our students with a wonderful start to their college careers."

Prior to joining the Constitution Center in March, Stengel served as the national editor for *Time Magazine*. He also worked as the culture editor for the publication and managing editor of *Time.com*, which became one of the top ten news sites on the Web.

In addition to his role at *Time*, Stengel has also written for *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, and many other publications. He is an experienced television commentator, having worked for MSNBC and CNN. Also, in 1999, he served as a senior adviser and chief speechwriter for presidential candidate Bill Bradley.

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In addition to his work in journalism and politics, Stengel is an accomplished author. In 1990, he published *January Sun: One Day, Three Lives, a South African Town*, a book which traces the way apartheid affected the daily lives of three families—one white, one black and one Indian. In 1993, he collaborated with Nelson Mandela on Mandela's best-selling autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom* and later served as producer of the 1995 Oscar-nominated documentary *Mandela*. He is also the author of *You're Too Kind: A Brief History of Flattery*, published in 2000, which looks at how the art and science of ingratiation has been used throughout history.

Stengel graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University in 1977. As a Rhodes Scholar, he studied English and history at Christ Church College, Oxford.

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The 2004-2005 Convocation Ceremony will formally begin the transition to Philadelphia University for more than 800 students, from 29 states and 16 countries. To help ease that transition and provide support for our students, this year's incoming class is participating in our 2004-2005 First Year Experience (FYE) program. **The campus-wide theme of this year's FYE is "Finding Philadelphia."** Throughout the semester, they will participate in a variety of curricular and co-curricular activities that will help them become more familiar with the surrounding community and explore the history and culture of Philadelphia, providing a common experience for first year students and a forum to help make their connection to the University.

To start, over the summer incoming freshmen were given a copy of Jane Golden's book, *Philadelphia Murals and the Stories They Tell*. In addition to highlighting the variety of murals throughout Philadelphia's diverse neighborhoods, this book touches on many issues pertinent to life in the city today. Students were also asked to consider the communities from which they come as part of the first year summer project, "My Community, My Perspective." FYE is a joint effort between the divisions of Student Life and the six schools of the University to connect the students, the campus, and Philadelphia.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,100 part- and full-time students from 38 states and 42 countries. The University offers more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degree programs leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees. Academic programs encompass architecture, design, business, engineering, textiles, fashion, science and health.