

Scholars To Address How to Save American Journalism

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Henry DeVries

The United States must preserve independent, original, credible reporting, whether or not it is profitable, and regardless of the medium, according to two leading journalism scholars who will speak on "The Reconstruction of American Journalism" at 5pm Friday, February 12 in the Copley Auditorium at the University of California San Diego Institute of the Americas. The event is free and open to the public with no tickets or reservations required.

Leonard Downie Jr. stepped down last year after 17 years as executive editor of the Washington Post, during which time the paper won 25 Pulitzer Prizes, to become a professor of journalism at Arizona State University. Michael Schudson, a MacArthur fellow, is a distinguished scholar of journalism and democracy at the Columbia School of Journalism, and author of "Discovering the News," "The Good Citizen" and "Why Democracies Need an Unlovable Press."

Downie and Schudson will assert that American society must now take some collective responsibility for supporting news reporting -- as society has, at much greater expense, for public education, health care, scientific advancement and cultural preservation, through varying combinations of philanthropy, subsidy and government policy. They say it may not be essential to save or promote any particular news medium, including print newspapers.

The lecture is presented by the Helen Edison Lecture Series. In accordance with a major gift from a late philanthropist, the Helen Edison Lecture Series presents ongoing free public lectures on issues that advance humanitarian purposes and objectives. Attended annually by thousands, speakers include former Vice President Al Gore, Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, double Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof, Nobel Prize in Literature winner Toni Morrison and Hispanic dramatist Luis Valdez, just to name a few.

For additional information contact UC San Diego Extension's Helen Edison Lecture Series at (858) 822-0510, email emunk@ucsd.edu or visit <http://helenedison.ucsd.edu>.

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