



Best Lecture Series: RIT's "Visionaries in Motion"

Between Rochester Arts & Lectures and the myriad offerings at area colleges and libraries, our community enjoys a wealth of public talks in any given year. But for the past four years, no series has rivaled the breadth of luminaries comprising RIT's "Visionaries in Motion," part of the Caroline Werner Gannett Project. Where else can you hear about the nanobots that could one day inhabit our bodies, keeping us free of diseases so that we can live indefinitely? From high-tech innovators Ray Kurzweil (the nanobots), Rudy Rucker, and John Maeda to eclectic artists Maira Kalman, Stefan Sagmeister and Lynda Barry, the series has brought some of the most fascinating people on the planet to Rochester.

This year's line-up is no exception. Astronomer Adam Frank will discuss his ideas linking science and spirituality, comic artists Nick Gurewitch and Chris Onstad will showcase their bizarre creations, and religious scholar Reza Aslan will discuss his new book, "How to Win a Cosmic War." That's not half of the offerings. You could pick a talk at random and it's a safe bet you will leave with a slightly different worldview.

The woman who chooses the speakers, founder and director Mary Lynn Broe, Caroline Werner Gannett Professor of Humanities at RIT, is hip to just about everything happening on the cutting edge of our culture. Broe and her advisory board are tuned in to the zeitgeist and they make sure we receive the frequency. For more information check out cwgp.org. — BY RON NETSKY