



FALL CONVOCATION

The Elaine G. Hadden Distinguished Author
presented in Partnership with ThinkForum

Ruha Benjamin

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Elaine G. Hadden

Cleveland philanthropist and civic activist Elaine G. Hadden's long record of distinguished service to Case Western Reserve University extended well beyond her role as a valued member of the university's Board of Trustees from 1976 to 2003. She believed Case Western Reserve's breakthroughs and intellectual contributions directly benefit all of Northeast Ohio, and during her life she remained one of the institution's most outspoken advocates.

In 2012, she established the Elaine G. Hadden Distinguished Visiting Author Fund to support presentations by the author of the book featured each year as the university's common reading. Her generous gift serves as an enduring reminder of her unwavering support of the university and love of creative endeavors.



Ruha Benjamin

Elaine G. Hadden

Distinguished Visiting Author

Ruha Benjamin is the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, founding director of the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab, and author of the award-winning book *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*, among many other publications.

Her work investigates the social dimensions of science, medicine and technology with a focus on the relationship between innovation and inequity, health and justice, knowledge and power. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Marguerite Casey Foundation Freedom Scholar Award as well as the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton. Her most recent book, *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want*, winner of the 2023 Stowe Prize, was born out of the twin plagues of COVID-19 and police violence, and offers a practical and principled approach to transforming our communities and helping us build a more just and joyful world.



Order of Ceremony

The Academic Procession	Platform Party Emeriti Faculty Distinguished University Professors Faculty and Student Leadership
Processional	Carmen Massaro, Pianist <i>(audience please rise)</i>
The National Anthem	Pianist and Audience Led by Anthony Zogaib (CWR '24)
Call to Order	Joy Bostic University Marshal
Welcome	Eric W. Kaler, President Case Western Reserve University
Remarks	Joy K. Ward Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Case Western Reserve University Basil Yaseen (CWR '24) President Undergraduate Student Government
Presentation of Distinguished University Professors	Eric W. Kaler, President Joy K. Ward Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Address	Ruha Benjamin Elaine G. Hadden Distinguished Visiting Author
Alma Mater	Organist and Audience Led by Anthony Zogaib (CWR '24) <i>(lyrics on page 9)</i>
Closing	Joy Bostic University Marshal
Recessional	Carmen Massaro, Pianist <i>(audience please rise)</i>



Distinguished University Professors

To honor exceptional faculty, Case Western Reserve University awards the title of Distinguished University Professor—a permanent, honorific title that acknowledges the outstanding contributions of full-time, tenured professors with a distinguished academic record of extraordinary research, scholarship, teaching and service. The designation represents the highest honor the university bestows on a member of its professoriate.

Recipients are named annually and receive a medallion at fall convocation commemorating the honor.

case.edu/universityprofessor

2023 Recipient
Fabio Cominelli, MD, PhD
School of Medicine

Fabio Cominelli, a renowned gastroenterologist, physician and clinical scientist at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has contributed groundbreaking research on gastrointestinal conditions such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. His work has significantly improved the lives of millions worldwide living with these ailments.

Cominelli's journey into gastroenterology was influenced by his desire to alleviate suffering caused by these chronic digestive disorders. He has made substantial contributions to the study of intestinal inflammation and inflammatory bowel disease. Notably, his research on cytokines, the messenger proteins between cells, has led to the development of FDA-approved drugs like Stelara, Antril, Remicade and Entyvio, which block inflammatory mediators and reduce inflammation and disease severity.

Throughout his career, Cominelli has published more than 180 scientific papers. As a principal investigator on multiple National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants, including R01 grants and others, he has secured over \$30 million in funding since coming to Case Western Reserve in 2008.

Cominelli's impact on the medical community extends beyond his research.

As an exceptional trainer and mentor, Cominelli has nurtured numerous medical students, residents and fellows in his lab. His dedication to mentorship is reflected in prestigious NIH grants, which have provided specialized training and support to postdoctoral fellows and medical students pursuing research in gastroenterology.

His mentorship efforts have extended globally, as he has personally trained more than 150 clinical scientists from countries such as Japan, Greece, the United Kingdom and his native Italy. Many of these mentees have gone on to become independent investigators, full professors and division chiefs with their own NIH funding.

Cominelli's influence has also been felt in fostering inter-institutional collaboration among healthcare institutions in the region, primarily through his roles as the division chief of gastroenterology at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center and professor in the School of Medicine.

2023 Recipient

Daniel Flannery, PhD

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel
School of Applied Social Sciences

Social scientist and Cleveland native Daniel Flannery has dedicated his career to tackling society's most pressing issues.

A nationally influential expert in youth violence prevention, Flannery has published extensively on a diverse range of topics, including juvenile justice, community policing and opioid addiction.

He is highly regarded for the volume, influence and accessibility of his research. His findings—which have been cited more than 10,000 times—have directly translated into practical applications, benefiting tens of thousands of individuals through interventions to address youth violence, community safety and to enhance police-community relations.

As the director of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University, Flannery has transformed it into an impactful research center, securing over \$52 million in external funding since 2011.

Flannery's emphasis on community-based research has led to the Begun Center to become a national model for sustainable change within existing systems.

Notably, the center played a crucial role in testing thousands of backlogged sexual assault kits in Cuyahoga County, leading to the indictment of hundreds of serial offenders and inspiring similar efforts nationwide.

At the university, Flannery is known for his excellence in teaching and active service to the institution and the scientific community. A dedicated mentor to students and colleagues, he has served on numerous local, regional and national panels and committees dedicated to social issues, and advised federal agencies—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health—as well as decision-makers at all levels of government.

Due to his ability to bridge the gap between scholarly and practitioner audiences, Flannery is regarded as one of the most influential and consequential social scientists in the country. He organized and led a 2017 United States Senate briefing on addressing the opioid overdose epidemic attended by more than 100 elected and federal agency officials.

2023 Recipient
Elina Gertsman, PhD
College of Arts and Sciences

Growing up in Tallinn, Estonia, Elina Gertsman was constantly surrounded by what she calls a “preternatural” beauty of this medieval town. As an art student she painted on its streets; when she was a kid, her grandfather would buy her ice cream from a cafe perched on a hill near a 13th-century church.

That church, in fact, would become pivotal to her career: It was home to Bernt Notke’s danse macabre painting, which, decades later, became a subject of Gertsman’s first book, *The Dance of Death in the Middle Ages*.

The book went on to win an award for the best first monograph in medieval studies—catapulting Gertsman into an accolade-filled career, which includes a Guggenheim Fellowship and induction as Fellow to the Medieval Academy of America.

Her latest: the title of Distinguished University Professor.

As “the most creative and distinguished American art historian working today, with an international reputation to match,” as one nominator described her, Gertsman has delivered numerous talks, plenaries, and invited lectures globally. She’s authored and edited 13 books, with several more in the works.

Her most recent, *The Absent Image*, which she dedicated to her late father, won some of the highest honors in the field of medieval studies and across the discipline of art history.

In addition to her prolific scholarship, Gertsman is devoted to her students: She earned the university’s John S. Diekhoff awards for both teaching and mentoring, as well as the Medieval Academy of America’s award for excellence in teaching. She also has “almost single-handedly transformed the graduate program in art history,” Interim Provost Joy K. Ward wrote in her nomination letter.

Gertsman credits the university for supporting her intellectual curiosity and scholarly identity—which Case Western Reserve, in turn, recognized by naming her a history-making Distinguished University Professor: She is the youngest ever to earn that title, and the first from the Department of Art History and Art.



Alma Mater

Shine on, forever, Case Western Reserve.
Loyal and true are we (are we).
Your brave sons and daughters,
Your knowledge we use,
To make our mark on history.

Our school days we'll cherish forever more,
A lifetime of friends from the start (the start).
Shine on, forever, Case Western Reserve.
You'll be forever in our hearts.

Scott Miller (CWR '90, LAW '93)



Flora²⁰ / The Exponential Power of Women

Case Western Reserve University welcomes our community of alumni and friends to a celebration recognizing the past, present and future of women.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023
3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Tinkham Veale University Center

Registration:



<https://cwru.events.alumniq.com/go/fsm20>



Opening Keynote

Jessica Jackley,

Founder & Former Chief Marketing Officer of KIVA

Closing Keynote

Ramona Hood (MGT '16),

President & CEO at Fedex Custom Critical

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& Susan Mucciarone

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Thalia Dorwick MAI Capital Management MIM Software



Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 21–Friday, September 22

Inamori Ethics Prize and Symposium

Featuring Myroslava Gongadze

Tuesday, September 26–Friday, September 29

Innovation Week

Wednesday, September 27

Writers Center Stage

Featuring Ann Patchet and Kevin Wilson

Thursday, October 12–Sunday, October 15

Homecoming Weekend

Wednesday, October 18

Flora Stone Mather Center for Women

20th Celebration Symposium

Thursday, October 19

Writers Center Stage

Featuring Michelle Zauner

Thursday, November 9

Writers Center Stage

Featuring Henry Winkler

Thursday, March 7

Writers Center Stage

Featuring Hernan Diaz

Wednesday, April 10

Writers Center Stage

Featuring Rebecca Makkai

Tuesday, May 7

Writers Center Stage

Featuring Imani Perry and Kiese Laymon

2023 INAMORI ETHICS PRIZE



MYROSLAVA GONGADZE

Journalist

Free Press and
Human Rights Advocate

Recipient of the
2023 Inamori Ethics Prize

Join us in celebrating the Inamori Ethics Prize, which honors outstanding international leaders whose actions and influence have greatly improved the condition of humankind.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 6 P.M.

**Inamori Ethics Prize Ceremony and Recipient Lecture
by Myroslava Gongadze**

Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center
at The Temple-Tifereth Israel,
Case Western Reserve University
1855 Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio



Events are free and
open to the public.

Learn more:

case.edu/inamori

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1:30 P.M.

**Academic Symposium with Myroslava Gongadze
and Distinguished Panelists**

Dan Moulthrop, CEO, The City Club of Cleveland
Raymond Ku, John Homer Kapp Professor of Law, CWRU
Thwing Center Ballroom,
Case Western Reserve University
11111 Bellflower Road, Cleveland, Ohio



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
**Inamori International Center
for Ethics and Excellence**



Celebrate Innovation at CWRU

**Champion the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit
of Case Western Reserve University with our second
annual Innovation Week September 26–29!**

Engage in “Innovation as Problem Solving at Scale” through events such as:

- Keynote by Distinguished MIT Professor Vladimir Bulović
- Panel discussions with representatives from NASA, MAGNET, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Lubrizol and Lincoln Electric
- Two-Minute Poster Pitch Contest for students and postdocs
- xLab Pitch Competition, sponsored by the Cleveland Guardians
- Speed-mentoring opportunities
- Venture capitalist discussions
- Tours of Interactive Commons

Plus, we'll present the Faculty Distinguished Research Award, Innovators of the Year Awards, and other recognitions throughout the week.

Innovation Week events and workshops are free and open to all CWRU faculty, staff and students.



View the full schedule
and register for an event
by scanning the QR code
or visiting [case.edu/
research/innovationweek](https://case.edu/research/innovationweek).



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
Office of Research and
Technology Management



Ann Patchett & Kevin Wilson
 Wednesday, September 27, 2023



Michelle Zauner
 Thursday, October 19, 2023



Henry Winkler
 Thursday, November 9, 2023



Hernan Diaz
 Thursday, March 7, 2024



Rebecca Makkai
 Wednesday, April 10, 2024



Imani Perry & Kiese Laymon
 Tuesday, May 7, 2024



Tickets On Sale Now

Tickets are available at writerscenterstage.org or by calling 216.368.6062.



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