

# The Chibok Girls: The Boko Haram Kidnappings and Islamist Militancy in Nigeria

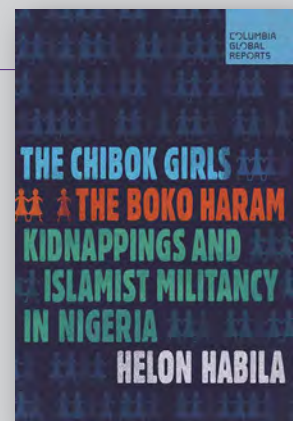


**Helon Habila, Author**  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
11 a.m.

Germantown Campus  
High Technology and Science Center (HT) • Globe Hall

Helon Habila was born in Nigeria. He is an associate professor of creative writing at George Mason University. His novels include *Waiting for an Angel* (2002), *Measuring Time* (2007), and *Oil on Water* (2010). He is editor of the *Granta Book of African Short Story* (2011). His novels, poems, and short stories have received numerous awards, including the Commonwealth Prize for Best First Novel (Africa Section), the Caine Prize, the Virginia Library Foundation Award for Fiction, and the Windham-Campbell Prize. Habila is a regular contributor to the *UK Guardian*, and has been a contributing editor to the *Virginia Quarterly Review* since 2004.

*The Chibok Girls* traces the rise of Boko Haram Islamists in Nigeria, and the kidnapping of nearly 300 school girls on April 14, 2014, from the country's colonial origins. Helon will present contributing factors to the event that captured the world's attention: simmering tensions between Christians and Muslims in Northern Nigeria; a failing democracy mired in excessive materialism, government corruption, decreased economic opportunities for youth; and foreign Islamist influence. He will read from his book and discuss ways Nigeria can move forward.



## A Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Event

Spring 2018 Speakers Series

Free and open to the public. For information: [montgomerycollege.edu/athenaeum](http://montgomerycollege.edu/athenaeum)

This event meets the multicultural diversity training requirement for MC employees.

# Reagan Rising: The Decisive Years

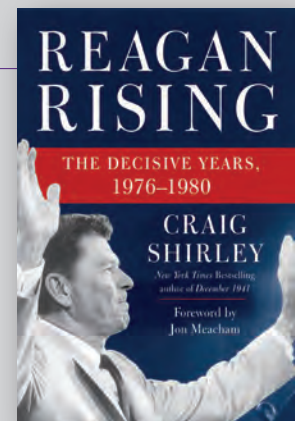


**Craig Shirley, Author**  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
7 p.m.

Germantown Campus  
High Technology and Science Center (HT) • Globe Hall

Craig Shirley has authored four bestsellers on former US President Ronald Reagan and an authorized biography of Newt Gingrich, *Citizen Newt* (2017). He has written extensively for *The Washington Post*, *NewsMax*, the *Washington Examiner*, the *Washington Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Town Hall*, the *Weekly Standard*, *Politico*, Reuters, and *Lifetzette*. He appears regularly on network and cable shows, including NewsMaxTV, FOX News, MSNBC, CNN, ABC, CBS, CNBC, and C-SPAN. Shirley is founder of Shirley & Banister Public Affairs.

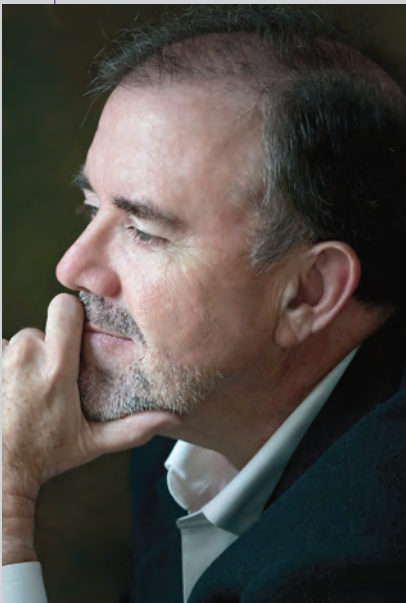
*Reagan Rising: The Decisive Years* explores the American political and social climate in 1976 through 1980, an era of high inflation and interest rates, fear of Soviet advances, and the Iranian hostage crisis. After narrowly losing his bid for the GOP presidential nomination to Gerald Ford a year earlier, Reagan re-emerged and introduced conservatives to a "New Republican Party," the party of the individual. Shirley offers insight into Reagan's optimistic and unifying philosophy and lessons for today's political leaders and emerging hopefuls.



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Spring 2018 Speakers Series

# Richard Nixon: The Life

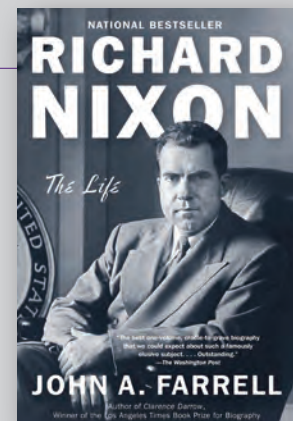


**John (Jack) Farrell, Author**  
**Monday, April 9, 2018**  
**11 a.m.**

Germantown Campus  
High Technology and Science Center (HT) • Globe Hall

John A. Farrell is the author of *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned*, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for biography, and *Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century*, which won the D. B. Hardeman Prize for the best book on Congress. He is a contributing editor to *Politico Magazine*, after a prize-winning career as a newspaperman, most notably at *The Denver Post* and *The Boston Globe*, where he worked as White House correspondent and served on the vaunted Spotlight team.

*Richard Nixon: The Life* is an unsparing portrayal and examination of Nixon's rise and fall and legacy. Farrell documents the life and career of the 37th president, including his rapid rise to the national political arena, his consequential presidency, resignation from office, and post-presidential years. Nixon became the embodiment of postwar American resentment and division, and his legacy includes a divided and polarized nation, distrustful of elites. Farrell suggests that the world we live in today is a world Richard Nixon made.



## A Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Event

Spring 2018 Speakers Series

# Climate Change: What Is Happening and What Can We Do About It?



**Ilissa Ocko,  
Climate Scientist**  
Tuesday, April 24, 2018  
7 p.m.

Germantown Campus  
High Technology and Science Center (HT) • Globe Hall

Ocko, a climate scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund, will discuss Earth's climatic past; scientific views on the current warming trend, including how it affects societies and ecosystems; and what might be done to affect change. Ocko will share highlights of her research on the short- and long-term climate impacts of greenhouse gases and aerosols and mitigation measures.

Ilissa Ocko earned a PhD in atmospheric and oceanic sciences from Princeton University, and a BSE (bachelor of science in engineering) in earth system science and engineering from the University of Michigan. She holds a certificate in science, technology, and environmental policy from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School.

**A Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Event**

Spring 2018 Speakers Series