Tom Darby, Professor of Political Philosophy and Global Politics, Gordon University

“Spiritual Crisis,” a term during which the concepts we no longer allow us to make some of our experience, gave rise to what we now call the West and is the key to understanding both the origin and the end of the West. Beginning with the statement by Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher from the fifth century B.C., that war is the father and father of all and that by two some are made slaves and some are made free, Professor Darby will link the ancient heritage of the West to our present time of globalization made possible by technology.

USA: An International Team Player or In a League of Its Own?

Edward Patrick Flaherty, Senior Partner for the Law Firm Schoob, Flaherty, Hughes, Carman & Hughes

Charles C. Adams, JR., General Managing Partner for the Law Firm Wineman & Streun LLP

The United States has rejected the Kyoto Protocol and the International Criminal Court and has raised doubts about its continuing support of the United Nations. In the USA performing a leadership role in the international community? Or is it becoming increasingly isolated and arrogant in its role as the lone superpower? Mr. Adams and Mr. Flaherty will discuss this question, focusing on the international institutions and agreements which separate the USA from other nations and divide American public opinion.

Victims of Armed Conflicts: The Story of Child Soldiers

John Baptist Osman, Cultural Mediator and Teacher at Pauk University

Currently around the world some 300,000 young people under the age of 18 are forced to join government forces or armed opposition groups. Some of these countries involved are Uganda, Colombia, Angola, Liberia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Cambodia. Many of these young people are forced to fight against their will, given orders to defend fixed mines. In Uganda more than 15,000 young people have been kidnapped and forced to join the Lord’s Resistance Army, most of them between the ages of 12 and 16.

This lecture will share the personal experiences of John Baptist Osman, a Ugandan who fled to Sudan, was later separated from his family and returned to Uganda, where his father’s tribe experienced ethnic cleansing. During that time, a peasant war broke out in the West Nile region forcing him to serve as a child soldier. Later, with the support of the local church community in Sudan and Italian missionaries, he was able to finish his education, volunteer as a peace activist, and work and live in Europe.

What Is Your Dieting IQ? Confused by All the Fat Diets and Nutritional Claims?

Sabrina Giannini, Registered Dietitian and Dietician at the Niven Birnie Ondaril and Obesity Research Center of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, NY

Nearly every day we hear or read about a new miracle diet that allows weight loss in record time. Before you are tempted to embark on such a diet there are some important misconceptions you may wish to have in mind. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about the facts and myths of dieting and weight loss. We will discuss and explore the pros and cons of popular fat diets, such as the Atkins, Zone, Sugar Busters, Primal Power Lipidfast and South Beach diets.

The Globalization of Counterfeiting and Counterfeiting: VictimizeCrime or Trigger of a Criminal Ecologies?

Michael A. Nicks, Independent Advisor and Founder of Midiyo Consulting Ltd. Contributed to a wave of decline, and counterfeeting is hardly new either. However, in modern times the scale of such deceptive business has been alarming. The range of products and brands that are now illegally made and illicitly trafficked is startling. Moreover, the use to which the money generated by such nefarious practices is put has obliged governments and law enforcement to pay much more attention to this major threat. Organized crime exploits more effectively the free market and overzealous regulation.

This speech will highlight the causes and effects of counterfeiting and counterfeiting in a small selection of particularly interesting industries such as cigarettes, alcohol, pharmaceutical products and luxury goods.

Art and Cultural Identity

Brian Stanford, Professor of Art History, Franklin College Switzerland

With the current focus problems within the European Community it would seem germane to question the importance of cultural identity as a factor in the search for unity.

By looking at examples of the visual arts from various countries the question will be raised as to whether cultural unity in the arts might at least be more difficult and at worst result in a degenerative form lacking the positive value of national essence.