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Thomas Friedman Lecture at UNI September 14, 2005

University of Northern Iowa.

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Note to editors/news directors: a 300 dpi image of Friedman is available at
<http://www.uni.edu/pubrel/newsroom/photos/Friedman.jpg>

Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist, Thomas Friedman to speak at UNI Sept. 14

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- Thomas Friedman, foreign affairs columnist and three-time Pulitzer Prize winner for *The New York Times*, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14, on "The World is Flat," in the Great Hall of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center at the University of Northern Iowa, as part of the Joy Cole Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series.

Friedman also will do a late afternoon Q&A session geared specifically for UNI students, faculty and staff. He has served as both Beirut and Jerusalem bureau chiefs for *The New York Times*, before becoming the paper's chief diplomatic correspondent, chief White House correspondent and international economic correspondent prior to his current position.

The events are free, but tickets are required for the 7:30 p.m. lecture. They will be available, beginning at 8:30 a.m., Monday, Aug. 22, at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center box office; by calling 273-SHOW (273-7469); or online at www.tickets.uni.edu.

Friedman's topic comes from the title of his latest book, "The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century," a report on globalization and geopolitics. Friedman translates complex foreign policy and economic issues, explaining how the flattening of the world happened at the dawn of the 21st century.

Vanity Fair has called Friedman "the country's best newspaper columnist." In awarding him his third Pulitzer Prize, the 2002 award for Distinguished Commentary, the Pulitzer Board cited his "clarity of vision, based on extensive reporting, in commenting on the worldwide impact of the terrorist threat."

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He has covered many of the monumental stories of recent decades, from the return of Hong Kong to China and the assassination of Itzak Rabin to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. His work also earned him Pulitzer Prizes in 1983 and 1988 for International reporting, for his coverage of Israel and Lebanon.

"The World is Flat," released earlier this year, has been on *The New York Times* bestseller list for 18 weeks, including several weeks in first place. The book is currently in the no. 3 spot. His earlier books, also *New York Times* bestsellers, include "Longitudes and Attitudes: The World in the Age of Terrorism;" "From Beirut to Jerusalem," that won both the National Book Award and Overseas Press Club Award in 1989; and "The Lexus and the Olive Tree," called by *Kirkus Reviews* "simply the best book written on globalization."

A number of special events are planned in conjunction with Friedman's visit, including a series of community conversations on several themes from "The World is Flat," being held at University Book & Supply Thursdays, Aug. 18 and 25, and Sept. 8, and a follow-up discussion to be hosted by the League of Women Voters. Friday, Sept. 16.

Friedman's appearance is co-sponsored by the UNI Speakers committee. For more information, visit www.uni.edu/infosys/corning.

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