

Best-Selling Author Thomas Cahill to Speak at AU Commencement

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Alfred, N.Y.--Thomas Cahill, author of the runaway best seller "How The Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Historic Role From The Fall of Rome To The Rise of Medieval Europe," will speak at Alfred University's 162nd commencement. Cahill, former director of religious publishing at Doubleday, will also receive an honorary degree at the May 16 graduation. "We are delighted that Thomas Cahill will be joining us for commencement," said AU President Edward G. Coll, Jr. "He is a brilliant writer whose books help us better understand our past and our cultural heritage." "How the Irish Saved Civilization," published in 1995, has been a New York Times best seller for more than a year-and-a-half and has been translated into six European languages, as well as Japanese. It is Volume I in "The Hinges of History Series." Volume II is Cahill's "The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels," published by Doubleday in March. In preparing to write that book, Cahill spent two years as a visiting scholar at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he studied Hebrew and the Hebrew Bible with some of America's most distinguished biblical scholars. Cahill also authored "Jesus' Little Instruction Book: His Words To Your Heart," in 1994. He reads Latin, ancient Greek, French, Italian, and has studied literature, philosophy, scripture, and theology at Fordham University, Columbia University, and New York's Union Theological Seminary. Cahill's son, Joseph, will graduate from AU in May with a B.F.A. in ceramic art and design.