

## AU's Russell Lecturer prepared to disclose 'real story' of Caesar's assassination

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Alfred University's (AU) annual Russell Lecture in history will be given by Barry Strauss, professor of history and classics at Cornell University, Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Strauss will lecture on "The Death of Caesar: The Real Story of History's Most Famous Assassination," comparing the actual events in Rome on March 15, 44 B.C. to the story as made famous by William Shakespeare. He will detail the true story behind the carefully planned paramilitary operation executed by Caesar's own disaffected officers.

The Bryce and Edith M. Bowmar Professor in Humanistic Studies and department chairman at Cornell, Strauss is a military historian who focuses on ancient Greece and Rome. His numerous books have received praise from critics and reviewers; Publishers Weekly wrote, "No one presents the military history of the ancient world with greater insight and panache than Strauss." His most recent work is "The Death of Caesar" (2015).

Strauss is editor of "The Princeton History of the Ancient World," a series of books from Princeton University Press, and he sits on editorial boards for *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, *Historically Speaking: The Bulletin of the Historical Society*, *The International Journal of the Classical Tradition*, and *Strategika*.

In addition, Strauss has published op-ed pieces in *The Washington Post*, *L.A. Times*, *USA Today*, and *Newsday*, been interviewed on National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp., and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and other major newspapers.

He is also the recipient of numerous fellowships including those from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Korea Foundation, the American School at Athens, and the American Academy in Rome, and is an Honorary Citizen of Salamis, Greece. Strauss holds a bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University and master of arts and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University.

The Russell Lecture, sponsored by the AU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Human Studies Division, has been held annually since 1970. The lecture honors the memory of Willis Russell, former historian and department chairman, who taught at Alfred University from 1926 until his retirement in 1964.

Each year, the University brings a nationally recognized historian to campus to deliver an address. Princeton University Historian Anthony Grafton delivered the lecture in 2014; previous guests include Pulitzer Prize winners Michael

Kammen of Cornell University and Martin Sherwin of George Mason University.