This year marks 74 years since the first Borah Foundation-sponsored program, which featured an address by then-First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. It also marks the 64th consecutive annual Borah Symposium, dating from 1948’s event titled “The Causes of War and the Conditions for Peace.”

The Borah Foundation Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Martin Institute, the Environmental Science Program, the UI Sustainability Center, the Office of Community Partnerships, the Women’s Center, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Environmental Science Program, the College of Education, TerraGraphics, the Office of the President, and the Borah Foundation for their support of this year’s symposium. In addition, the Office of Community Partnerships, the Women’s Center, the College of Education, TerraGraphics, and the Office of the President and the Borah Foundation co-sponsored a reception for symposium participants.

For more information or to make a donation, visit our website at www.uidaho.edu/borah, write to The Borah Foundation, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-3177, or call (208) 885-6527.
DR. VANDANA SHIVA
Biodiversity and Conservation Activist

Dr. Vandana Shiva is a world-renowned environmental thinker and activist. A leader in the International Forum on Globalization (IFG) along with Ralph Nader and Jeremy Rifkin and the Slow Food movement. Shiva won the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize (the Right Livelihood Award) in 1993. Dr. Shiva has contributed in fundamental ways to changing the practice and paradigms of agriculture and food. Her books, The Violence of Green Revolution and Monocultures of the Mind have become basic challenges to the dominant paradigm of non-sustainable, reductionist Green Revolution Agriculture. Through her books Biopiracy, Stolen Harvest, Water Wars, Dr. Shiva has made visible the social, economic and ecological costs of corporate led globalization.

Demystifying GATT and WTO, working with farmers to explain TRIPS and the Agreement of Agriculture are other dimensions of her work on Agriculture and Food Security.

Through her leadership and commitments, Dr. Shiva and her team successfully challenged the biopiracy of Neem, Basmati and Wheat. Besides her activism, she also serves on expert groups of government on IPR legislation.

Biotechnology and genetic engineering are another dimension of Dr. Shiva’s campaigning internationally. She has helped movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Ireland, Switzerland and Austria with their campaigns against genetic engineering.

Dr. Shiva’s contributions to gender issues are nationally and internationally recognized. Her book, Staying Alive dramatically shifted his perception of third World women. In 1990 she wrote a report for the FAO on Women and Agriculture entitled, “Most Farmers in India are Women”. She founded the gender unit at the International Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu.

More recently, she has initiated an international movement of women working of food, agriculture, patents and biotechnology called, Diverse Women for Diversity. The movement was launched formally in Bratislava, Slovakia on 1-2 May 1998. Dr. Shiva combines the sharp intellectual enquiry with courageous activism. She is equally at ease working with peasants in rural India and teaching in Universities worldwide.

Besides her academic and research contributions, Dr. Shiva has also served as an adviser to governments in India and abroad as well as NGOs such as the International Forum on Globalization, Women’s Environment and Development Organization and Third World Network. She is chair of the International Commission on the Future of Food.

RAJ PATEL
Journalist/Author/Food Policy Expert

Raj Patel controversial author, journalist and food policy expert, continuously challenges our presumptions about the global food economy with his work both as a policy analyst and activist. He has worked for some of the most prestigious international organizations and protested against them, and constantly works to find ways to improve the global food system.

His most recent book, The Value of Nothing: How to Reshape Market Society and Redefine Democracy, has been hailed as a thought-provoking piece that deeply probes the nation’s economic structure, explores the economy’s collapse, and paints a clearer picture of how achieving a fairer society and sustainable economy are possible. He is also author of the acclaimed book, Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System, which discusses the growing worldwide food crisis and what needs to be done to solve it.

Recently, Patel returned from a two-year stay working in the Centre for Civil Society at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, and is currently a visiting scholar in the Center for African Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. A Fellow at the Institute of Food and Development Policy, he is also a Research Associate at the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and previously was a policy analyst for Food First.

The London native graduated from Balliol College at Oxford and went on to pursue his PhD from Cornell University, which led him to research land reform politics. After working for the World Bank, interning at the World Trade Organization and consulting for the United Nations, Patel has become a harsh critic of their methods, and has been tear-gassed on four continents protesting against them. Patel’s thoughts on food, hunger, and globalization have appeared in a number of US and international news sources, including The Los Angeles Times and The Guardian. He has been featured in Newsweek and has appeared on The Today Show, the BBC, and NPR.

Patel is involved in several international organizations, including; the Land Research Action Network (LRAN), a network of researchers and social movements committed to the promotion and advancement of the fundamental rights of individuals and communities to land, and the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATANI), an African initiative to strengthen Africa’s capacity to take a more effective part in the emerging global trading system.

The co-author of Promised Land: Competing Visions of Agrarian Reform, Patel has also penned several articles on the politics of food, appearing in such publications as the Journal of Asian and African Studies, the International Journal of Environmental Engineering.

All events are free and open to the public.