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JUST IN TIME FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION, JOEL BREAKSTONE OF STANFORD DISCUSSES THE PERILS OF NAVIGATING ONLINE INFORMATION

In a Rae Dorough Speaker Series presentation entitled “The Challenge Bigger Than Fake News,” Joel Breakstone of Stanford University will discuss the difficulties of assessing the reliability of online information at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4 in Livermore’s Bankhead Theater.

“Information floods our phones, tablets, and laptops. After the 2016 election, Americans looked for help in navigating this deluge. Fake news is not the biggest problem,” Breakstone says. “The Internet is filled with content that defies labels such as ‘fake’ or ‘real’. Determining who is behind information and whether it’s worthy of trust is more complex than a true/false dichotomy.”

A study conducted by the Stanford History Education Group, which Breakstone leads, revealed a dismaying inability of even digitally savvy students and teachers to evaluate the credibility of online information. The results prompted the group to examine the limitations of existing strategies for evaluating sources, and to undertake the development of a new approach to teaching digital media literacy, based on methods used by professional fact checkers.

Breakstone directs the Stanford History Education Group (SHEG), an award-winning research and development group at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Education. Recently, SHEG has created assessments that gauge how young people evaluate online content. This research has been covered by the Wall Street Journal, NPR, the BBC, the New York Times, and dozens of other outlets. Breakstone has worked with school districts from Los Angeles to Baltimore. He received his Ph.D. from the Stanford Graduate School of Education. Before Stanford, he taught high school history in Vermont.

For additional information about the presentation, see the Rae Dorough Speaker Series Website:

<http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org/>

Season tickets are available for the four-speaker series as well as for individual presentations. For season tickets purchased before Oct. 6, the price ranges from \$109 to \$136, depending on seat location. After Oct. 5, season tickets will range from \$128 to \$160. Individual presentation tickets are \$16 for students and vary from \$32 to \$40 for adults. Tickets are now available online <http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org/tickets/> or may be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First Street, Livermore, Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., or by calling (925)-373-6800.

The Rae Dorough Speaker Series partners with the Livermore Valley Unified School District to make presentations easily accessible to students and teachers.

The speaker series honors the late Rae Dorough, a respected Livermore resident and strong supporter of cultural events. Members of her family were the initiating sponsors in 2008.

The series is sponsored in part by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, Sandia National Laboratories, Tri-Valley Conservancy and ImageSetters. Additionally, Joan Seppala, publisher of The Independent, is a special sponsor of Joel Breakstone’s presentation.

www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org | <http://www.facebook.com/RaeDoroughSpeakers>

Tickets – 925.373.6800 or www.bankheadtheater.org | PO Box 592 | Livermore | CA 94551