The Tannenbaum Lectures honor the memory of Professor Frank Tannenbaum, founder of the University Seminars in 1945 and director until his death in 1969. He and his wife, Jane Belo, established a trust to be invested, reinvested, and included in Columbia’s permanent endowment.
Frank Tannenbaum photographed by O.E. Nelson
Jane Belo, 1935, photographed by Carl Van Vechten
His fine qualities held out the hope that Frank would some day play an important part in the labour struggle. None of us had expected however that our studious, quiet friend would so quickly respond to the call of the hour.

Emma Goldman, *Living my Live: Volume 2*, 1931
A young Frank Tannenbaum on his way to court after his arrest for participating in a labor demonstration, 1914
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 28, 1971, from left to right: Albrecht M. Lederer, Mrs. Stanley Gordon, Mrs. Albrecht Lederer, Bust of Frank Tannenbaum, Stanley Gordon, Chauncey G. Olinger, Jr., James Gutmann
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 26, 1967,
Panelists: A. Doak Barnett, Chang-tu Hu, and Frederick T. C. Yu
Portrait of Frank Tannenbaum, Alice H. Maier, Joseph B. Maier
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, March 12, 2014, Ivan and Rajka Gorup
Back in 1944 nineteen leading members of the Columbia University faculty sent a joint letter to Frank Frackenthal, then acting president, suggesting the establishment of a series of permanent seminars. These educators outlined a plan whereby the best minds of the institution could be brought together to seek scholarly conclusions on significant problems of the day.

The University Seminars Annual Dinner, March 23, 2011, Harriet Greisser, Robert Remez
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 26, 1967,
C. Martin Wilbur, Ralph S. Halford
Obviously they should have failed, because they have no money, publicity, organization, or official status – but they continue to thrive and multiply like bacteria, until their infectious ideas have almost become an epidemic.

The University Seminars Annual Dinner, March 23, 2011, Ester Fuchs, Robert Newton
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 12, 1972, Mina Rees
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 3, 2013, Peter V. Norden, Robert Pollack
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, March 23, 2011, Patricia J. Williams
"...[The Seminars] gather under the same roof scholars from other institutions, and many men [sic] from the active world ... because of that [the Seminars] have some bit of wisdom and use to add to practical people who spend their lives in mending the structure of any living institution.

Frank Tannenbaum, *Political Science Quarterly*, 1953
B. N. Varma presenting *The New Social Sciences*, a book by the University Seminar on Content and Methods of the Social Sciences, to Alice H. Maier, Associate Director of the University Seminars, September 15, 1976.
In its outreach to the community and to scholars from here and abroad, the seminar program has brought recognition and credit to itself and to the sustaining university, which in turn has encouraged and facilitated the University Seminars’ scholarly achievements.

Aaron Warner, *The University Seminars: Past, Present and Future 50th Anniversary Meeting*
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, March 23, 2011, Ene Sirvet, Professor Kim
Wafaa El-Sadr, The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 1, 2015
It must grow like a living thing, in accordance with its own internal necessities, but it must develop safely, like a domesticated plant – not a weed or a runaway.

Margaret Mead, “A Sturdy New Institution”, A Community of Scholars, 1965
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 21, 1982
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 1, 2015
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 5, 1973, from left to right: C. M. Wilbur, Mrs. and Mr. Bates, A. Lederer
The Annual Dinner to which all participants are invited has added an important element of companionship and common identity amongst the members and associates of the various seminars and helped to maintain the feeling of friendship and good will so important to a voluntary association.

Frank Tannenbaum, The Constitution, March 16, 1966
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 25, 1973
James Gutmann meeting J. M. Morley
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 3, 2013, Klaus Lackner, Wallace S. Broecker, Robert Pollack
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 21, 1982, Mrs. Mintz, Norman Mintz (center)
The University Seminar is an independent universe. Its boundaries are limited only by its horizons.

Frank Tannenbaum
*Political Science Quarterly, Volume LXVIII*
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 26, 1967, Jacob Taubes, Frank Tannenbaum
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, March 21, 2012,
Peter H. Juviler, Robert L. Belknap, Robert Pollack
"These are the places to make mistakes and to take intellectual risks."

Robert L. Belknap
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 18, 2001
The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 12, 1972, from left to right:
William Theodore de Bary, James Gutmann, Mina Rees, Doris and Boris W. Vallejo,
Philip C. Jessup, Joseph B. Maier, Alice H. Maier
Chauncey G. Olinger Jr. receives the Tannenbaum Award, The University Seminars Annual Dinner, April 1, 2015
Today, we celebrate that “bit of use and wisdom” that keeps the Seminars alive and important to Columbia and the world.

Robert Pollack, Director, The University Seminars, March 2014