



FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD AT GREAT DECISIONS 2026

### Experts lead local discussions on global politics at the Cumming Library

CUMMING, Georgia (January 15, 2026) – Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL) announces the return of *Great Decisions: America's Global Affairs Discussion Program*, February 4–March 11, 2026, at the Cumming Library located at 585 Dahlonega Street in Cumming.

The *Great Decisions* series is produced by the [Foreign Policy Association](#) (FPA), which has been encouraging nonpartisan discussion on U.S. foreign policy for over 100 years. This national program gives participants the opportunity to learn about some of the most critical global issues facing America today.

“This series demystifies the international concerns impacting our daily lives,” says FCPL Programming Manager Sarah Brubaker. “As a community hub for lifelong learning and connection, bringing this national program to our patrons each year is a perfect fit for the Library.”

Admission to each discussion is free and open to the public. Advance registration is not required and patrons are welcome to attend as many sessions as they like.

“We are fortunate to have experts on these issues at the University of North Georgia (UNG) who are willing to present about these timely topics which are chosen each year by the FPA,” adds Brubaker.

Beginning February 4, this series meets at the Cumming Library for 6 consecutive Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

The first discussion in this year's series is U.S.-China Relations presented by UNG Professor Christopher Jespersen on Wednesday, February 4. Relations with China remain tense, with tariffs, military modernization, and pressure on Taiwan. Does President Trump have a coherent China policy, and will his tariffs on Rare Earth minerals be effective? What are America's strategic options?

On Wednesday, February 11, UNG Assistant Professor Dr. Scott McDonald will present the topic Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation. U.S. alliance skepticism may drive countries like Japan and South Korea to reconsider nuclear options. What are the implications of the Trump administration's rethinking of the U.S. alliance system for regional and global security? Will this new uncertainty alter the way allies and rivals in various regions make decisions about security and nuclear weapons?

Ukraine and the Future of European Security will be presented by UNG Professor and Department Head Dr. Craig Greathouse on Wednesday, February 18. With reduced U.S. support for NATO and Ukraine, Europe faces strategic uncertainty. The Trump administration has signaled an intention to reduce its security role in Europe. What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas, and how might Europe respond?

On Wednesday, February 25, Dr. Raluca Viman-Miller, UNG Associate Professor and Associate Department Head will present the topic Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order. Can multilateralism survive amid shifting global power and rising nationalism? What is the future of global cooperation across trade, health, and finance?

The topic for Wednesday, March 4 is U.S. Engagement of Africa presented by UNG Professor Dr. Edward Mienie. Africa's geopolitical role is growing. What lessons can the U.S. learn from China's presence there, and how might it strengthen ties, especially with leading nations like Nigeria? What tools of statecraft might the U.S. bring to its engagement with Africa?

On Wednesday, March 11, UNG Assistant Professor Dr. Ronnie Grant will present the final topic in this series: The Future of Human Rights and International Law. As democracy and human rights retreat globally—and the U.S. pulls back—how can civil society and legal norms remain effective in a divided world? What is the role and force of international law in this era of impunity?

While advance knowledge of these topics is not required to participate in the Great Decisions series, the Foreign Policy Association published a [Great Decisions 2026 Briefing Book](#) that can be purchased online or borrowed from the Forsyth County Public Library's collection.

"Cumming Library always has a dedicated group of patrons eager for the return of the series each year along with new attendees. We appreciate the professors from UNG for sharing their expertise with our community," said Cumming Library Branch Manager Joan Dudzinski.

"We're proud to connect our patrons with such an exceptional resource," added Brubaker.

For more information on Great Decisions 2026 events, please visit [Forsythpl.org](http://Forsythpl.org).

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## **ABOUT FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL) serves the residents of Forsyth County, Georgia, with five libraries, an administrative building, and a mobile library. FCPL leads the state in checkouts per capita and the Sharon Forks Library lends more physical materials than any other library in Georgia. FCPL's mission is to connect the Forsyth County community with exceptional resources, spaces, and experiences.