



### **Closing session: Twan Huys interviews James Kennedy**

Prof. dr. James Kennedy is an American historian. After an academic career in the United States he started to work at the VU in Amsterdam in 2003 and since 2007 he has worked as professor of Dutch history since the Middle Ages at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. He has been appointed as the new Dean of University College Utrecht (starting 1 October 2015).

Kennedy has an American father with Scottish-Irish roots and a Dutch mother from Rotterdam. He grew up in Orange City, Iowa, an orthodox-protestant community many inhabitants of which had Dutch ancestors. As a boy he used to spend many of his summers with relatives in the Netherlands. When he was eight years old he even spent a whole year in our country, following Montessorionderwijs in Rotterdam.

James Kennedy will be interviewed by Twan Huys and topics that might come up are the cultural differences between the United States and the Netherlands, English as the language of communication at Dutch universities, the next presidential elections in the US and the possible fight between Hillary Clinton en Jeb Bush (Kennedy was born in Iowa where the elections will traditionally start).

Twan Huys is a well-known Dutch journalist and presenter. He worked as a correspondent in the United States for seven years and regularly reported for NOVA. As a presenter of College Tour he has interviewed some very remarkable people from Holleeder to Anouk.

There will be ample opportunity to ask questions!