Julius Caesar was one of the greatest leaders in history. Starting from a lesser position in the Roman nobility, he took on Rome’s establishment and became the republic’s first dictator for life. Along the way he reached his country’s highest political office, in part by his appeal to ordinary people, in part by his oratorical genius and in part by his cunning. He next excelled in the military field. He led an army that first conquered what is now France and Belgium and then defeated the forces of the republic. He also wrote two books about his wars that remain literary classics to this day. Caesar was the most controversial figure of his day. At the peak of his power his life ended disastrously, with him assassinated at the hands of fellow Roman nobles in the senate house on the Ides of March 44 B.C. Yet he left behind an heir who cemented his political legacy. The Caesars changed the course of history. Caesar’s life is rich in lessons, both positive and negative, for today’s leaders – whether in politics or business, public life or private. Barry Strauss, Bryce and Edith M. Bowmar Professor in Humanistic Studies at Cornell, is an internationally recognized expert on Caesar who has written two books on the subject. He also writes frequently on leadership.

Date: Thursday, September 14th
Time: 4:00PM-6:00PM
Location: Fine Arts 102