As spring approaches we are pleased to bring you more food for thought—an array of programs that we trust will, in the Schemel tradition, meet or exceed your expectations. On the occasion of our city’s 150th anniversary we dedicate these offerings to the community as a symbol of our vitality and progress. The University of Scranton’s Schemel Forum reaches out to all people in the region who thirst for the joys of learning together.

Sincerely,
Sondra Myers
Director, The Schemel Forum

The Schemel Forum was founded in July 2006 through generous gifts to the Rev. George Schemel, S.J., Fund, created by friends of the late Father Schemel in his loving memory, and spearheaded by Harmar Brereton, M.D. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to explore the intellectual and cultural wonders of the world. Schemel members make new friends, discover new dimensions of old friends and experience the unique pleasures of learning together. Through the forum the University offers to the community its most valuable assets—its faculty members and the wealth of knowledge that they possess.
All events below are free, except Shakespeare Lives: $25
RSVP to Emily.Brees@scranton.edu

With Scranton’s 150th Anniversary Committee and the Office of Community and Government Relations at The University of Scranton

**Scranton’s Future: What’s Next? A SYMPOSIUM**
Monday, April 18, 2016
A panel of government, civic, economic, educational and cultural leaders will discuss their vision — and their strategy for creating a new Scranton.

Scranton is celebrating its past by choosing its future. A collaborative movement has been formed, committed to creating a new vision for the city and the region that builds on our strengths and finds creative solutions to our problems.

Moderator: Sondra Myers
Leathy Hall, The Forum
5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Reception to follow

With the English/Theatre and Education Departments

**Shakespeare Lives! A FESTIVAL**
Saturday, April 23, 2016
The festival, celebrating Shakespeare’s unique contribution to the world’s literature, will open with a plenary address by noted Shakespearean, Cary Mazer, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, and continue the celebration with presentations by scholars, teachers and performers from Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Fee: $25
Brennan Hall, Pearn Auditorium, Room 228
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

With Friends of the Weinberg Library

**Jay Parini: My Life as a Writer, in Poetry and Prose**
Monday, May 2, 2016
Reflections on a distinguished career and focus on his two most recent books, New and Collected Poems and Empire of Self: A Life of Gore Vidal. Jay Parini is a prolific writer and professor at Middlebury College.

Weinberg Memorial Library, Heritage Room, 5th Floor
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Book signing following the lecture.

“I found the Schemel Forum an outstanding model of civic engagement and discussion of timely issues and felt privileged to have been invited to take part in one of its sessions.”

— Ali Banuazizi
Professor of Political Science, Boston College

“The Schemel Forum brings the world to us; we are deeply grateful.”

— Fredericka Heinze
patron
Wednesday, March 2

**What’s Happening to Civil Society in America?**

The collective life of citizens is often seen as a vital factor in the health of democracy, the pursuit of equality and the achievement of successful social change. Yet today communities, non-profit groups and social movements face a challenging and rapidly-changing landscape of threats and opportunities. The lecture will provide a provocative picture of the past, present and future of civil society.

**Michael Edwards**, Distinguished Senior Fellow, DEMOS New York City

Brennan Hall, The Rose Room, 509

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Wednesday, March 16

**Can it Possibly Get Worse for Europe and the Middle East?**

**An Update on the Refugee Crisis and the Thick Fog of Fundamentalism**

Why does it look more hopeless than ever before? Is this the beginning or the end of an era? What are we most afraid of? Is there any cause for optimism?

**Peter Zilahy**, Award Winning Hungarian Author

Brennan Hall, The Rose Room, 509

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Monday, April 4

**in collaboration with The Commonwealth Medical College**

**Please Pay Attention (it could change your brain!): Insights into how Mindfulness Helps Us Change Our Habits**

In February 2014 the cover of *Time Magazine* declared a “mindful revolution” based on a growing body of research suggesting that mindfulness might be useful in treating a number of health-related problems ranging from stress to anxiety to addiction. Dr. Brewer will discuss laboratory studies that help to unravel these mysteries in both clinical studies and basic research involving meditation.

**Judson Brewer, M.D., Ph.D.**, Director of Research at the Center for Mindfulness and Associate Professor in Medicine and Psychiatry at UMass Medical School, adjunct faculty at Yale University and research affiliate at MIT

Brennan Hall, The Rose Room, 509

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Thursday, April 14

**History at the End of the World**

In modern times the goal of history has been to increase knowledge and power so that humans dominate the planet. Toward the end of the 19th century the closing of the world frontier was taken as evidence that this goal would soon be achieved. Some exceptionally insightful writers of the time, Jules Verne, William Morris and Robert Louis Stevenson, believed this historical condition would bring a rolling apocalypse of loss along with what is usually called progress. Were they right?

**Rosalind Williams**, Ph.D., Bern Dibner Professor of the History of Science and Technology, MIT

The DeNaples Center, Ballroom, 407

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Friday, April 29

**Human Rights and Corporate Accountability**

Transnational corporations surpass borders. Though they contribute to economic development, their actions can result in human rights abuses, e.g. displacement of people, health repercussions, stripping communities of their livelihood options and even murder.

This talk will focus on major human rights abuses committed by corporations in recent years and some of the changes that need to be made to ensure that victims of these abuses have redress within the legal system.

**Zamira Djabarova, J.D.**, Bertha Justice Fellow, EarthRights International

Brennan Hall, The Rose Room, 509

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Friday, May 13

**Shared Paths, Divergent Courses: Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism**

This lecture will explore the entwined paths of Zionism and Palestinian nationalism. A deeper understanding of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians requires an integrated historical account that considers together the aspirations and actions of Jews and Arabs to achieve national self-determination in Palestine/Israel. The presentation will conclude with reflections on possible ways forward despite the impasse.

**David Myers, Ph.D.**, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Professor of Jewish History, UCLA

**Hussein Ibish, Ph.D.**, Senior Fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine

The DeNaples Center, Ballroom, 407

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Luncheon Fees: * Free to Schemel Forum Members
*$20 per luncheon per person * $30 per luncheon per couple * $110 per series of 6 per person * $160 per series of 6 per couple
21st Century American Literature
Literature never stands still. It doesn’t seem that long ago since To Kill a Mockingbird (1960) or even The Naked and the Dead (1948) stood as representative texts of “contemporary” American literature. This class aims to explore recent American novels — all written since the turn of the century — both for their individual merit and to speculate about trends in contemporary American literature. Likely texts include Jonathan Lethem’s Chronic City, Marilynne Robinson’s Gilead, Junot Diaz’s The Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao and Nicole Krauss’s The History of Love.

Joseph E. Kraus, Ph.D., Professor, Department of English and Theatre of and Director of the Honors Program, The University of Scranton

Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 & March 2, 9 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

The American Civil War
The American Civil War is arguably the most important event in the history of the United States. This course will explore the trajectory of the war from its beginnings in 1860 to its conclusion in 1865 by taking a varied approach to the conflict. Each meeting will focus on one year of the war by looking at items of popular culture, politics and the home front, in addition to what was happening on the battle field.

Adam Pratt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of History, The University of Scranton

Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 29 & April 5, 12 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

Capitalism versus Democracy?
Throughout much of the Cold War it was argued that democracy and capitalism are naturally compatible. Some, however, have recently challenged this idea: Capitalism not only generates massive disparities in economic power, but recent court rulings on campaign finance in the United States have made it easier to translate economic inequality into political inequality. For these reasons capitalism may pose a threat to democracy. This course explores the relationship between democracy and capitalism by examining selections from Michael Novak’s The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism, Timothy Kuhner’s Capitalism vs. Democracy, and Robert Reich’s Saving Capitalism.

Matthew Meyer, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, The University of Scranton

Mondays, April 11, 18, 25 & May 2, 9, 16 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

ACADEMIC YEAR
All Programs from 06/01/2015 – 05/31/2016, except Bus Trip

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SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP • SPRING 2016
All Semester Programs, except Bus Trip

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ANGEL MEMBERSHIP
All Academic Year Programs, except Bus Trip

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NAME__________________________________________

ADDRESS_______________________________________

CITY ___________ STATE _____ ZIP___________

TELEPHONE NUMBER________________________________

EMAIL__________________________________________

I am enclosing a check for __________________________

MAIL TO: The Schemel Forum, Weinberg Memorial Library, The University of Scranton, Scranton, PA 18510

Register individually:

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Register for the entire luncheon series

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BUS TRIP to Bucks County 05/07/16 • $70
(not included with membership)

*Please call to confirm your spot before sending payment.

For more information on the Schemel Forum, contact Sondra Myers, Schemel Forum Director • sondra.myers@scranton.edu • 570-941-4089

To register for programs, contact Emily Brees, Schemel Forum Assistant • emily.brees@scranton.edu • 570-941-6206
THE SCHEMEL FORUM
Weinberg Memorial Library
Scranton, PA 18510

Saturday, May 7, 2016
THE ALLURE OF BUCKS COUNTY:
A “Must” Pennsylvania Destination

Join us to experience the alluring charms of Bucks County — including a guided tour of the James Michener Museum and a visit to the studio of the late world-renowned furniture maker George Nakashima. Enjoy a tasty lunch on your own and explore the charms of shopping in New Hope.

End the day with a visit to the country home and garden of renowned Philadelphia artists Diane Burko and Richard Ryan.

To register for programs, contact Emily Brees, Schemel Forum Assistant
emily.brees@scranton.edu • 570-941-6206

For more information on the Schemel Forum, contact Sondra Myers, Schemel Forum Director • sondra.myers@scranton.edu • 570-941-4089

Cost is $70 per person which includes transportation and guided tour of Michener Museum. The bus leaves from The University of Scranton at 7:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 6:30 p.m. Please call 570-941-6206 to reserve by April 1st as space is limited.