

THE SCHEMEL FORUM

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George J. Aulio, Ph.D.

WELCOME FROM THE director

Welcome to Fall 2026 at the Schemel Forum! This semester’s programming reflects the Schemel Forum at its best, putting serious ideas into conversation with the people and questions that shape our world. I hope you find something here that interests you and connects you with others who value thoughtful discussion.

Our evening courses take up two very different subjects: M*A*S*H as a lens on television, war, and American culture, and Karl Marx’s Das Kapital as one of the most important and contested works of political and economic thought.

The luncheon season begins with Rev. James Martin, S.J., whose new memoir, *Work in Progress*, has already received praise from Stephen Colbert as “funny, charming, inspiring and wise.” We will also welcome Dr. Terence Keel from UCLA for a timely discussion of *The Coroner’s Silence* and the hidden victims of police violence.

In partnership with Performance Music, Victor Goines will trace the movement of jazz from streets and clubs into schools and concert halls before performing on campus the following evening. Lastly, Dr. Steven Scheinman will examine why the United States has some of the worst health outcomes among developed countries.

Our collaborative programs continue the Forum’s civic focus. The Freedom to Read, a screening and panel discussion of *The Librarians*, will examine intellectual freedom under pressure. In “The 3 Degrees of Why,” Peace Ike will offer tools for moving past polarization toward genuine understanding.

This fall, we welcome back University for a Day, a cherished tradition and an ideal occasion to introduce a new face to all that the Schemel Forum offers.

Thank you to Munley Law for its continued partnership as our comprehensive sponsor and thank you to all of you who make this community what it is.

With gratitude,

George Aulio, Ph.D.

Dean of the Weinberg Memorial Library & Director of the Schemel Forum

courses



M*A*S*H: Television, War, and American Culture

This course examines the groundbreaking and long-running television series M*A*S*H as a lens through which to explore American culture, representations of war, and character-based television storytelling. Set during the Korean War, but originally produced and consumed during the end of Vietnam, the course explores how the series reimagined television genres by marrying traditional sitcom conventions with social commentary, pioneering the “Dramedy.” Moreover, the course considers M*A*S*H’s enduring popularity and legacy, and how television can function as both entertainment and cultural critic.

Charlie Cino, M.A., *Instructor, Department of English & Theatre, University of Scranton*

Thursdays, September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, & 15

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305



Karl Marx’s *Das Kapital*

This course closely examines Karl Marx’s *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy* Volume 1 (1867). Perhaps no work of philosophy has impacted the world more than “*Das Kapital*,” from quasi-religious devotion to militant opposition. This seminar will investigate *Capital* in its own terms as a critique of political economy and the capitalist mode of production without losing sight of the larger philosophical, historical, and political context in and for which Marx composed his unfinished magnum opus.

Andrew LaZella, Ph.D., *Professor of Philosophy, University of Scranton*

Mondays, October 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, & 23

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305

Online option available, please contact rose.merritt@scranton.edu or 570.941.4740 to register remotely.

about 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. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to explore the intellectual and cultural wonders of the world.

COURSE FEES:

Free for students, staff, and faculty of the University of Scranton and Geisinger College of Health Sciences. Courses are included for Schemel Forum Members, Angels, and Archangels.
Non-Member Single Fee: \$100 • Non-Member Couple Fee: \$175



Friday, September 18

Work in Progress: Confessions of a Busboy, Dishwasher, Caddy, Usher, Factory Worker, Bank Teller, Corporate Tool, and Priest

In his most personal and lighthearted book yet, Father James Martin, S.J., reflects on the jobs that shaped him—busboy, dishwasher, caddy, factory worker. Drawing on his own stumbling, often hapless experiences as a boy, teenager, and young adult across the 1960s, ‘70s, and ‘80s, Father Martin offers a coming-of-age story unlike anything he has written before. It is a spiritual memoir told, as he puts it, “slant” in the tradition of Emily Dickinson, through the lens of work, failure, and human encounter. Illustrated throughout with personal photographs, Work in Progress surfaces small but enduring lessons about showing up, paying attention, extending kindness, and learning from the people and places we least expect. This event is presented in partnership with the University of Scranton’s Jesuit Center.

Copies of *Work in Progress* will be available for purchase at the luncheon.

Rev. James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, editor at large of *America* magazine, consultant to the Vatican’s Dicastery for Communication, and author of several *New York Times* bestsellers. Father Martin is a frequent commentator in the national and international media, including *The Colbert Report*, *NPR’s Fresh Air*, *The New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

DeNaples Center, McIlhenny Ballroom, 407 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Wednesday, October 7

The Coroner’s Silence: Death Records and the Hidden Victims of Police Violence

Each year, thousands of people die during encounters with law enforcement across the United States. While a handful of cases capture national attention, most victims remain nameless, their stories untold. Dr. Terence Keel argues that many of these deaths are systematically underdocumented. In *The Coroner’s Silence*, Keel investigates a troubling pattern within forensic medicine—how incomplete autopsy reports, mishandled medical documents, and critical gaps in the public record leave the full circumstances of in-custody deaths unexamined and unresolved. Through rigorous research, Keel makes the case that meaningful accountability requires more than procedural reform. It demands a fundamental reimagining of how our institutions investigate, document, and bear witness to deaths in state custody.

Copies of *The Coroner’s Silence* will be available for purchase at the luncheon.

Terence Keel, Ph.D., is an award-winning Professor of Human Biology & Society and African American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Founding Director of the Lab for BioCritical Studies. He is the author of *Divine Variations: How Christian Thought Became Racial Science* (Stanford University Press) and co-editor of *Critical Approaches to Science and Religion* (Columbia University Press). *The Coroner’s Silence* has been named a finalist for the PROSE Award in Legal and Criminal Studies by the American Association of Publishers.

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Friday, November 6

Jazz: From the Streets and Clubs to the Schools and Concert Halls

In this presentation, Goines will explore the various social, artistic, and historical forces that have shaped the evolution of jazz. He will trace the genre’s journey from its origins in community parades, gatherings, social clubs, and neighborhoods to its current prominence in universities and concert halls. Special attention will be given to how jazz’s grassroots and community-centered spirit coexists with its recognition and preservation within established institutions.

Victor Goines, Jazz Chair, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts; founding director, Julliard Jazz Studies Program; former professor and director of Jazz Studies at Northwestern University. Has held many significant roles including as member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Monday, November 16

Why do we have the worst health care outcomes? A consideration of the Social Determinants of Health

The United States spends much more on health care per capita than any other country and yet ranks far below other developed nations in measures of population health. This is despite the stellar quality of our healthcare technology, hospitals and providers. In the aggregate other forces – the so-called “social determinants of health – such as social and economic factors, the physical environment and personal behaviors, are much more impactful on health than is the quality of health care services. Dr. Scheinman will delve into the social and economic factors that drive our overall health and consider what we as a nation might be able to do to correct them.

Steven J. Scheinman, MD, FACP, FASN, Dean Emeritus, Geisinger College of Health Sciences; former dean of the School of Medicine at Upstate Medical University; prominent medical researcher, educator and physician.

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Tuesday, October 20 • *With the Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities*

The 3 Degrees of Why: Moving Beyond Positions to the Stories That Shape Us

In today’s polarized climate, conversations often stall at the level of positions—what people believe—without exploring the deeper layers that shape those beliefs. This interactive workshop introduces *The 3 Degrees of Why*, a framework that helps participants move beyond surface disagreement to understand the reasoning, values, and stories that influence how people see the world. Through guided reflection and exercises, participants will explore how beliefs are formed, including the role of both lived experiences and the stories we encounter through the wider cultural and media landscape. By learning to recognize these deeper layers, participants will gain practical tools for engaging difficult conversations with greater curiosity, discernment, and understanding.

Peace Ike is a culture strategist, dialogue facilitator, and speaker who works across both secular and faith-based spaces to build bridges and foster cultural transformation. After earning her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Pittsburgh, she spent 15 years repairing broken bodies—only to discover her deeper calling: repairing broken bonds. In 2018, she launched her nonprofit organization, *The Gathering Place Philly*, a community engagement initiative promoting healthy city-wide flourishing through shared meals and courageous conversations across differences. Today, she leads *Set The Table Strategies* and *Unoffendable Life*, providing relational skills support in both the workplace and the community.

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • 6:00 p.m.

Presentation and Discussion — Complimentary and Open to the Community. Courtesy of the Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities

Thursday, November 12 • *With the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library*

The Freedom to Read: A Screening and Panel Discussion of *The Librarians*

Across the United States, an unprecedented wave of book challenges has put librarians on the front lines of a debate over democracy, intellectual freedom, and who gets to decide what communities read. *The Librarians* (dir. Kim A. Snyder, Sundance 2025) follows library professionals in Texas, Florida, Louisiana, and beyond as they organize, resist, and defend the freedom to read in the face of harassment, legislation, and coordinated political pressure. Following a full screening of the documentary, our panelists will reflect on its themes and open the conversation to questions from the audience.

Susan Campbell Bartoletti is an award-winning author of nonfiction for young readers whose books include the Newbery Honor title *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow*, the Sibert Award-winning *Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine*, and *They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group*, which was featured in the documentary. A lifelong resident of northeastern Pennsylvania and University of Scranton alumna, she was the 2013 recipient of the Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award and has devoted her career to bringing suppressed histories to light through rigorous research and compelling narrative.



Prof. Kate Cummings is an Assistant Professor and Research & Instruction Librarian for Business & AI at the University of Scranton’s Weinberg Memorial Library, where she focuses on information literacy, assessment, and intellectual freedom. Former Chair of the Pennsylvania Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee and now its elected 1st Vice President/President-Elect, she is a recognized leader in library advocacy and professional development across the Commonwealth.



Michele Legate is the District Consultant for the Northeast Library District, based out of the Scranton Public Library. Her work with 25+ public libraries in Northeastern Pennsylvania helps to bring a deep institutional perspective to questions of intellectual freedom and the evolving roles of libraries in democratic life. She is a former President (2020) of the Pennsylvania Library Association and a committed advocate for open access to information and community literacy.



Brennan Hall, Pearn Auditorium, 228 • 6:00 p.m.

Documentary Film Screening and Panel Discussion with light food and refreshments — Complimentary and Open to the Community. Courtesy of the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library

Sept. 19, 2026 | 8:30 am – 12:30 pm | Moskovitz Theatre, DeNaples Center

Join us for a continental breakfast and three “classes.”

Single Fee Non-Member: \$35 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$60



The ‘New Right’ and the Old Liberalism of John Courtney Murray, S.J.

In the 1950s and 60s, American Jesuit John Courtney Murray made cogent arguments for American political liberalism on traditional Catholic grounds. Although they came to seem irrelevant once the global liberal order appeared unrivalled, Murray’s arguments have become vitally important again as liberal democratic structures and institutions have come under severe and persistent attack including by “New Right” postliberal Catholics like Patrick Deneen and Adrian Vermeule, influential figures shaping J.D. Vance’s politics. This class retrieves from Murray’s old-school Catholic defense of American political liberalism key resources to move beyond our Christian nationalist moment, without merely sending us back to a purely secular liberal trajectory.

Will Cohen, Ph.D., Professor of Theology, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Scranton.



Stress, Mindfulness, and Resilience: Small Changes, Big Results!

Stress touches every life, but does it always have to be a negative force? In this course, we will explore how stress impacts the mind and body through the lens of human adaptation and resilience. With a focus on coping and well-being, we will explore the use of mindfulness as a tool for living more fully in the present moment. We will practice evidence-based techniques which can serve to strengthen resilience, enhance self-awareness, and promote overall wellness.

Katherine J. Stefanelli, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Assistant Professor of Counseling and Human Services, Leahy College of Health Sciences, University of Scranton.



Evaluating Alternative College Football Playoff Structures: A Multicriteria Framework for Balancing Stakeholder Objectives

This lecture uses research from data analytics and simulation to evaluate different College Football Playoff formats. By comparing alternative playoff structures, the study explores how tournament design can influence game quality, championship opportunities, and the overall commercial value of college football. The project demonstrates how analytics can help organizations make better decisions in sports, business, and other real-world settings.

David A. Mahalak, D.Eng., Assistant Professor of Operations & Analytics, Kania School of Management, University of Scranton.

EVENING COURSES • Single Fee Non-Member: \$100 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$175

1 | 2 M*A*S*H: Television, War, and American Culture • Cino

1 | 2 Karl Marx’s Das Kapital • LaZella

WORLD AFFAIRS LUNCHEON SEMINARS • \$30 per luncheon • \$15 remote only

1 | 2 9/18/26: Work in Progress • Martin

1 | 2 10/7/26: The Coroner’s Silence • Keel

1 | 2 11/6/26: Jazz: From the Streets [...] to the [...] Concert Halls • Goines

1 | 2 11/16/26: Why do we have the worst health care outcomes? • Scheinman

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

1 | 2 10/20/26: 3 Degrees of Why • Ike • FREE

1 | 2 11/12/26: The Freedom to Read • Bartoletti, Cummings, Legate • FREE

UNIVERSITY FOR A DAY • Single Fee Non-Member: \$35 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$60

1 | 2 9/19/2026: University for a Day • 8:30 am – 12:30 pm • Cohen, Mahalak, Stefanelli

membership OPTIONS

Please note that discounted tickets for the Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award dinner are available only to Academic Year Members, Academic Year Angels, and Academic Year Archangels. This benefit is not included with the Fall semester membership options.

ACADEMIC YEAR MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2026 – 6/30/2027

Includes all Academic Year programs (8 Luncheon Seminars, 4 evening courses, 4 collaborative programs, University for a Day, and Wine Education program). Academic Year Members also receive a \$30 discount to the Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award dinner on April 3, 2027.

Individual \$680 Couple \$1,250

ACADEMIC YEAR ANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2026 – 6/30/2027

Includes all Academic Year Membership benefits, plus a free copy of Schemel Forum books sold, an invitation to the Schemel Advisory Board, and a \$50 discount to the Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award dinner on April 3, 2027.

Individual \$900 Couple \$1,450

ACADEMIC YEAR ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2026 – 6/30/2027

Includes all Academic Year Membership benefits, plus a free copy of Schemel Forum books sold, an invitation to the Schemel Advisory Board, and complimentary admission to the Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award dinner on April 3, 2027.

Individual \$1,350 Couple \$1,800

FALL SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2026 – 12/31/2026

Includes all Fall Semester programs (4 Luncheon Seminars, 2 evening courses, 2 collaborative programs, and University for a Day).

Individual \$375 Couple \$700

FALL SEMESTER ANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2026 – 12/31/2026

Includes all Fall Semester Membership benefits, plus half-off Schemel Forum book sales, and an invitation to the Schemel Advisory Board.

Individual \$500 Couple \$800

FALL SEMESTER ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2026 – 12/31/2026

Includes all Fall Angel Membership benefits, plus a free copy of Schemel Forum books sold at events, and an invitation to the Schemel Advisory Board.

Individual \$750 Couple \$1,000

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