



**THE SCHEMEL FORUM**  
Weinberg Memorial Library  
Scranton, PA 18510

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

**CONTACT:** Rose Merritt, 570.941.4740, [rose.merritt@scranton.edu](mailto:rose.merritt@scranton.edu)

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George J. Aulizio, Ph.D.

## WELCOME FROM THE **director**

I hope you find yourself opening this brochure with excitement and curiosity. As we enter another season of Schemel Forum programming, I'm pleased to share some thoughtful changes I've made in hopes of better serving you—our engaged, curious, and inspiring community.

This fall marks a moment of renewed intentionality. The lineup has been refined with fewer offerings so that participation feels less overwhelming and more enriching. I want the programs to be accessible in both spirit and structure. To that end, courses are now scheduled to eliminate overlap, allowing members to enjoy both of our evening classes if they wish. We will also host fewer luncheons, creating more breathing room and enabling me to lower membership pricing to make joining more feasible for a broader audience.

The goal is to establish a balanced and thoughtful structure with four luncheons, two evening collaborative programs, two evening short courses, and a special event. For the Fall, that special event will be University for a Day. I hope this refined schedule meets your interests and fits nicely into your social calendars.

I'm also proud to announce that Munley Law is now the comprehensive sponsor of the Schemel Forum. Their generous support extends across all programming—not only the World Affairs Luncheons—ensuring we can continue bringing outstanding thinkers, scholars, and practitioners to Scranton while keeping our events affordable and open.

As you'll see, this semester's offerings reflect both breadth and depth—from American motherhood and street gangs to baseball history, international relations, and the much-anticipated second part of our exploration into Egyptian archaeology.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share that we are forming a Schemel Forum Advisory Board, which will meet two or three times per year to review programming, celebrate successes, and help shape the Forum's future. All Angel and Archangel members will receive an open invitation to join, and I hope many of you will consider lending your voice and insight to help us grow. Our first Advisory Board meeting will take place between September and November 2025.

Please continue to spread the word—invite a friend, bring a relative to University for a Day, or share this brochure with a colleague. The Schemel Forum thrives because of people like you, and together, we can continue building something truly special.

With gratitude,

George Aulizio, Ph.D.

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

# courses



## **American Mothers: Society, Science, and Maternity after the Civil War**

This course will explore the public perception of maternity as reflected in the half-century campaign for a federal Mother's Day holiday. With guided discussions, we will review the social biology of 19th-century maternity, the use of motherhood by women's rights campaigners to claim political power, Gilded Age conflicts over birth control and abortion, and the 1914 adoption of a Mother's Day holiday that celebrates women's domesticity.

**Susan Poulson, Ph.D.**, *Professor of History, The University of Scranton*

Tuesdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, & October 7

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



## **Criminal Street Gangs: Causes, Consequences, and Controls**

The media, community members, and government officials have regularly pointed to "gangs" in recent years as an explanation for local street crime. Clarity on what is or is not a gang and their relation to crime is vital to preventing any problems that might arise from them. This course will discuss criminological theories related to an understanding of gang involvement and crime, distinguish the characteristics of criminal street gangs, and review the literature on and practice of gang prevention, intervention, and suppression methods.

**Michael Jenkins, Ph.D.**, *Professor of Criminal Justice; Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, and Sociology, The University of Scranton*

Mondays, October 20, 27, November 3, 10, 17, & 24

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

## **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 University of Scranton and Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine students, staff, and faculty. Courses are included for Schemel Forum Members, Angels, and Archangels.**  
Non-Member Single Fee: \$100 • Non-Member Couple Fee: \$175





Thursday, October 2

**Global Insights from Poland’s Consul General**

The University of Scranton’s Schemel Forum is honored to welcome Mateusz Sakowicz, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, for a World Affairs Luncheon Seminar. Drawing on his extensive diplomatic experience, Consul General Sakowicz will share insights into Poland’s role in transatlantic relations, the value of cultural diplomacy, and the importance of Polish-American partnerships in addressing today’s global challenges.

**Mateusz Sakowicz**, *Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, is a career diplomat and appointed civil service officer with extensive experience in international relations, peace and security, and cultural diplomacy.*

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



Monday, October 20

**Around the World with A.G. Spalding: The Mystery of an 1888-89 Tourist’s Diary**

In 1888, baseball pitcher-turned-entrepreneur A.G. Spalding along with an entourage of ball players, sports writers, and other adventurers embarked on a baseball tour around the world. Nearly 110 years later, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum received the donation of an unsigned diary kept by a member of the expedition. We will relive the tour, visit exotic lands, view images of rare ephemera and artifacts from the journey, and along the way solve the mystery of just who penned the diary.

**Tom Shieber**, *Senior Curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY*

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



Thursday, October 30

**New Discoveries of the Penn Museum Excavations at Abydos, Egypt**

The University of Pennsylvania Museum has been excavating in Egypt for more than a century. In 2024, at the Schemel Forum, Dr. Josef Wegner discussed the role of fieldwork in the formation of the Egyptological collection at Penn, and the current project to reinstall this important collection of 50,000 artifacts. The current lecture will look briefly at the history of fieldwork and turn to focus on ongoing excavations at the site of Abydos. Work at Abydos has identified a royal necropolis at the site named “Anubis Mountain.” There, at least 13 kings who reigned between 1850 and 1650 BCE were buried. These include previously unknown pharaohs such as the King Seneb-Kay discovered in 2014, as well as the mysterious owner of new royal tomb just discovered in January 2025. The lecture will look at these new discoveries and what this research can tell us about politics and society in Ancient Egypt.

**Josef Wegner, Ph.D.**, *Professor of Egyptian Archaeology; Chair, Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures; Curator, Egyptian Section, Penn Museum, University of Pennsylvania*

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



Thursday, November 20

**America is Ready for a Pro-Peace Foreign Policy. Is Washington?**

Washington’s post-Cold War foreign policy consensus has broken up, and the race is on to define a new one. Yet so many in Washington remain wedded to an ideology of American primacy undergirded by global military power. There are strong signs that voters are ready for something different. In every election since the end of the Cold War, with the exception of 2004, Americans have voted for the candidate who offered a less militaristic, more restrained vision of American foreign policy. Will Democrats get the message in 2028?

**Matthew Duss**, *Executive Director, Center for International Policy, former Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

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

*With the Jay Nathan, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar Lecture Series*

**Finland: History, Culture, Economy**

The ninth presentation in the Jay Nathan, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar Lecture Series will welcome the distinguished Ambassador from Finland to The University of Scranton. This special evening will offer the campus and broader community an enriching exploration of Finland’s fascinating history, vibrant culture, and dynamic economy through the ambassador’s presentation. Following the lecture, attendees will be treated to an authentic cultural performance that will showcase the rich artistic traditions of this Nordic nation. The program will conclude with a reception, providing an opportunity for informal conversation and cultural exchange between the ambassador, performers, students, faculty, and community members. This engaging event continues the lecture series’ mission of bringing international perspectives to Scranton while fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for Finland’s unique contributions to world history, arts, and global commerce.

*Lecture, Cultural Performance, and Reception —* **Complimentary and Open to the Community.**

*Courtesy of the Jay Nathan, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar Endowment*

Date, time, and location are pending, with a special announcement to be shared during the fall semester.



Thursday, November 13 • *With the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library*

**From Manuscript to Print: The Journey of Medieval Books**

This fall, the McHugh Family Special Collections will unveil its earliest printed book — a circa 1470 editio princeps of De Dignitate Sacerdotii (Dialogue on the Dignity of the Priesthood) by St. Johannes Chrysostomus, as part of an exhibit of the Library’s medieval collections. Donated by University benefactor Edward R. Leahy ’68, H’01, this rare incunabulum, printed by Ulrich Zell, links directly to the legacy of Gutenberg and is one of fewer than 10 known copies worldwide.

Curated by Special Collections Librarian Professor Michael Knies, the exhibit runs September 8–December 12 in the Heritage Room. The program will trace the transition from handcrafted medieval manuscripts to the mechanical press, featuring the Library’s complete manuscripts, manuscript leaves , and incunabula (early printed books), from before 1500.

**Michael Knies**, *Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, Weinberg Memorial Library, The University of Scranton*

The Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room, Weinberg Memorial Library, 5th floor • 5:30 p.m.

*Lecture, Exhibit, and Light Refreshments —* **Complimentary and Open to the Community.**

*Courtesy of the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library*

**SEMINAR FEES:**

Free for University of Scranton and Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine students, staff, and faculty. Courses are included for Schemel Forum Members, Angels, and Archangels.  
\$30 per luncheon per person • \$15 remote only

Sept. 20, 2025 | 8:30 am – 4:30 pm | Moskovitz Theatre, DeNaples Center

Join us for a continental breakfast, four “classes,” and an all-you-can-eat lunch in the cafeteria for \$55

Thanks to a generous grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, the first 50 High School Juniors and Seniors to sign up will attend for free. High School students must register in advance.



Roots and Remedies for Health Disparities in the U.S.

This talk examines the social determinants underlying health disparities in the United States and explores research-driven solutions to advance health equity.

Anna Jaskiewicz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics, Finance, and International Business



Gorillas, Ghosts & Gods: Networks of Belonging in Africa

This class takes us on a journey through the spiritual and social landscapes of sub-Saharan Africa to explore how diverse networks of belonging shape planetary identity, health, and hope. Original research associated with a Clinical Neurology Lab (Harvard/Brigham and Women’s Hospital) under the direction of Dr. Amar Dhand, D.Phil. will be shared from an international project funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation titled “Buffering, Porosity, and Brain Health in Uganda” (#20714).

Cyrus Paul Olsen III, D.Phil., Associate Professor of Theology/Religious Studies; Affiliate Faculty, Health Humanities; Affiliate Research Fellow, Human Network Initiative, Brigham and Women’s Hospital



Natives, Immigrants, and Nationalism: John Bapst, the Penobscot, and the Politics of Intolerance in the Nineteenth-Century U.S.

In 1854, Fr. John Bapst, a Jesuit priest, was tarred and feathered by an angry mob in Ellsworth, Maine—part of a spate of anti-Catholic violence in the United state in the 1850s. But Bapst’s story began years earlier, as a missionary among the Penobscot Indians, where he faced deep divisions over land, leadership, and religion. This talk explores Bapst’s dramatic journey from revolutionary Europe to frontier Maine and shows how his life—and the violence he faced—reflected bigger struggles over immigration, religion, and national identity in nineteenth-century America. Through Bapst’s story, we’ll uncover how local tensions were part of a much larger, global story.

David Dzurec, Ph.D., Associate Provost & Professor of History



The Power of Small Changes: Food, Activity, and Quality of Life

Join Dr. Grossman for an informative session regarding how food choices impact body weight and gain an understanding of how small changes in your daily activity can improve your quality of life and increase your longevity for lifelong good habits.

Joan A. Grossman, Ph.D., RD, Professor of Health and Human Performance

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

1 | 2 American Women • Poulson

1 | 2 U.S. Street Gangs • Jenkins

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

1 | 2 10/02/25: Global Insight from Poland’s Consul General • Sakowicz

1 | 2 10/20/25: Around the World with A.G. Spalding • Shieber

1 | 2 10/30/25: New Discoveries of the Penn Museum Excavation at Abydos, Egypt • Wegner

1 | 2 11/20/25: America is Ready for a Pro-Peace Foreign Policy. Is Washington? • Duss

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

1 | 2 DATE TBA: Finland: Culture, Environment, Economy • FREE courtesy of the Jay Nathan Endowment

1 | 2 11/13/25: From Manuscript to Print: The Journey of Medieval Books  
• FREE courtesy of the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library

UNIVERSITY FOR A DAY • Single Fee Non-Member: \$55 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$100

1 | 2 9/20/2025: University for a Day • 8:30 am – 4:30 pm • Dzurec, Grossman, Jaskiewicz, Olsen  
• Four classes, group discussions, continental breakfast, and lunch buffet included

membership OPTIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

All AY Programs (8 luncheons, 4 classes, 4 collaborative programs, University for a Day, and Spring 2026 Special Event)

Individual \$680 Couple \$1,250

ACADEMIC YEAR ANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

Membership benefits, plus books sold at Schemel book sales are half off, plus an invitation to the Schemel Advisory Board

Individual \$1,000 Couple \$1,250

ACADEMIC YEAR ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

Angel benefits, plus a free copy of any books sold at Schemel book sales, plus an invitation to the Schemel Advisory Board

Individual \$1,500 Couple \$2,000

FALL SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP • 9/1/2025 – 12/31/2025

All Fall Semester Programs

Individual \$350 Couple \$650

Please fill out contact information on back > > >