SCHEMEL FORUM
WORLD AFFAIRS
LUNCHEON SEMINARS
SPONSORED BY:

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

CONTACT: 570.941.4740 or schemelforum@scranton.edu

CREDIT CARD: To pay by credit card over the phone please contact 570.941.4740.

PAY ONLINE: www.scranton.edu/schemelforum
I hope you find yourself opening this brochure with excitement!

The fall lineup includes fantastic topics and scholars running across evening short courses, luncheon seminars, collaborative programs, and special events. Notably, we’re trying something different with one of our evening courses this semester. The course on Positive Psychology will be capped at 18 students, with priority registration for Archangel and Angel members. If you’re interested in “understanding, predicting, and improving subjective well-being,” I encourage you to reach out early before the class runs out of space.

Last year, several people noted how much they enjoyed the collaborative and partner programs and I agree there is added benefit in these programs. This year, we will continue our partnership with Performance Music, allowing us to host Vince Giordano for a luncheon seminar and a concert by Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks. A collaborative program with the Slattery Center allows us to piggyback on the prestigious Myers Fellowship, featuring Sara Henrats, a free and open-to-the-community event. Also, a collaborative program with the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library offers Schemel Members deep discounts to the Roxy B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award gala and lecture honoring Brandy Schillace.

Another special event for the fall will be the return of University of Scranton for a Day, which will include four classes with group discussions. I’m grateful to PNC Bank for generously sponsoring University of Scranton for a Day, helping us keep costs down while empowering us to offer free attendance to the first 50 high school students to register. Please invite your relatives to take advantage of this unique educational opportunity!

I am grateful to Munley Law for their continued sponsorship of the World Affairs Luncheons, which allows us to bring in six superb scholars in the fall and another six in the spring. In addition to Munley Law’s contribution, our members’ support is crucial to sustaining the Schemel Forum, ensuring quality programming, and growing our community. I implore you to spread the word about the Schemel Forum and the enriching experiences we offer.

Along those lines, please take note of our new membership features, which provide a range of discounts and perks. These features enhance your experience with the Schemel Forum and ensure our ability to fund the program throughout the year.

Thank you for being a part of our vibrant community. I look forward to an exciting and enlightening year ahead.

George J. Aulisio
Dean of the Weinberg Memorial Library & Director of the Schemel Forum

**Positive Psychology: A Scientific Primer on Happiness and Flourishing**

Psychology has been long preoccupied with human limitations and mental disorders. Positive psychology, by contrast, is the scientific study of how individuals thrive, and communities flourish. This seminar focuses on understanding, predicting, and improving subjective well-being. Students will participate in brief confidential assessments and research-supported experiential activities designed to enhance their strengths, virtues, and happiness. In other words, you will learn a lot of positive psychology and apply it to yourself and your community.

**John C. Nnorcor, Ph.D., ABPP.** Distinguished Professor and Chair of Psychology at The University of Scranton, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at SUNY Upstate Medical University, and a board-certified clinical psychologist.

**Colleen M. Phillips, M.S.,** Lackawanna County Mental Health Court Coordinator and adjunct psychology faculty at The University of Scranton.

**Tuesday, August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 24, & October 1**
6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305

This class is capped at 18 students. Preference will be given to Archangel and Angel members first, then open for a la carte registrations on a first come, first served basis. Please call ASAP to join the waiting list.

**CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien: Christian Mythology in Literature and Film**

The two most famous English language writers to use mythological settings to convey Christian theology in the twentieth century were Oxford professors Clive Staples Lewis and John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, in their works The Chronicles of Narnia and The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, respectively. All three works have had an enormous impact on both fantasy literature and on popular culture in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This course will examine the different faith journeys of both men, the most important examples of Christian theology in their novels, and finally, how the recent cinematic adaptations of their works have maintained and, at other times, discarded the Christian teachings of Lewis and Tolkien.

**Sean Brennan, Ph.D.,** Professor, Department of History, The University of Scranton

**Thursday, September 5, 12, 19, 26, October 3 & 10**
6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305

**From Caligari to Hitler: Cinema and Politics during the Weimar Republic 1918-1933**

This course will use Siegfried Kracauer’s classic study, From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film (1947), to explore the culture and politics of the Weimar Republic (1918-1933). Alongside a close reading of the text, we will watch and discuss classic Weimar films including, but not limited to The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, Nosferatu, Metropolis, The Blue Angel, M, and so on. We will explore how Kracauer’s thesis that although itself apolitical, Weimar cinema offers a lens for understanding the unconscious desires and fears of this chaotic period from which the new political reality of fascism could emerge.

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

**Wednesdays, October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, & 20**
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 to University of Scranton and Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine Students, Staff, and Faculty. Courses included for Schemel Forum Members, Angels, and Archangels.

Non-Member Single Fee: $100 • Non-Member Couple Fee: $175
Friday, September 6

**Living to Grow Up: How Childhood Death Became “Unnatural”**

This is a talk about the remarkable human victories over infant and child mortality — it will take us back into a lost world in which childhood death touched every family, from the poor and marginalized to the rich and powerful. I'll show you traces of those shadow children in art and literature and history and echoes of the ways that bereaved parents — and physicians — tried to cope with the reality of losing children. We'll look at the ways that so many different fields of human endeavor had to work together to change the odds that children would survive, at the scientific and medical and public health victories, but also at the issues of social welfare, at parents and at medical practitioners, and think about how this progress has changed parenting, pediatrics, and the world we live in.

**Jonathan Conyers**

Perri Klass, M.D., Perri Klass, M.D., Professor of Journalism and Pediatric at NYU, National Medical Director of Reach Out and Read, and author of The Best Medicine. She was honored with the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award in 2016.

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

---

Thursday, September 26

**What Do Children Deserve?**

In his acclaimed new book, *A Minor Revolution*, Professor Adam Benforado offers a sharp indictment of America’s failure to protect, invest in, and empower children. As he argues, this is a moral problem, but it’s also an economic and social one: by neglecting our kids today, we doom ourselves in the years ahead. In this talk, Professor Benforado offers a bold vision for remaking society to prioritize children for our collective benefit.

**Adam Benforado, J.D.**


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

---

Tuesday, October 8

**The Power of Storytelling**

Growing up Jonathan Conyers found himself in places where he wasn’t wanted or wasn’t expected to survive, much less thrive. His childhood was defined by both trauma and triumphs, starting with his birth to two parents addicted to crack cocaine. When Jonathan was 12 years old, he broke into a home to commit a robbery with his friend in the South Bronx. At age 14, Jonathan spent his summer at the famed Phillips Academy at Andover after earning a place at their prestigious math and science summer camp. The catalyst for turning his life around was Jonathan’s admittance into the Frederick Douglass Academy (FDA), a high school in Harlem well-known for turning out college-bound Black inner-city youth.

**Jonathan Conyers**

Jonathan Conyers is the acclaimed author of the memoir “I Wasn’t Supposed to Be Here.” He also founded Conyers Media, hosts The Professional Winner Podcast, and co-founded the Brooklyn Debate League.

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

---

Friday, October 18

**There’s a Future in the Past: Leading a Repertory Orchestra / Band in the 21st Century**

Vince Giordano has brought 1920s and 30s jazz to life for nearly five decades. He has almost singlehandedly kept alive a wonderful genre of American music that continues to spread the joy and pathos of an era that shaped our nation. He and his band, Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks have featured in films like *The Cotton Club*, *The Aviator*, and *Boardwalk Empire*, and have performed at the Town Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Newport Jazz Festival, and the 92nd St Y for the past five decades.

**Vince Giordano**

Grammy-winner, multi-instrumentalist, and band leader, has brought 1920s and 30s jazz to life for over five decades.

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

Vince Giordano and The Nighthawks will perform in a free and open-to-the-public concert on Friday, October 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Houlihan-McClean Center. For more details, visit www.scranton.edu/music.

---

Friday, October 25

**Bridge Over Troubled Water: Harnessing the Power of Music, Art, and the Humanities for Better Health**

The healthcare community has grown increasingly interested in the humanities and creative arts over the past decade. The humanities can help clinicians improve their skills in several areas, including observation, listening, and communication. Narrative medicine and reflective practice can also help clinicians learn to deal with uncertainty and process their emotions. In addition to the potential for improving clinical outcomes, the creative arts can help reduce clinicians’ burnout risk. This discussion will address various ways music, art, and the humanities are utilized to bridge the gap between the science and art of healthcare.

**Olapeju Simoyan, MD, MPH**

Professor of Psychiatry, Drexel University College of Medicine.

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

---

Thursday, November 21

**Ancient Egypt in Pennsylvania: Excavations, Collections, and New Discoveries**

Since the 19th Century, the University of Pennsylvania has been one of the major American institutions sponsoring archaeological excavations in Egypt. This history of research, which started in the 1880s, continues today a century and a half later. As a result of the Egyptian system of division of finds with foreign institutions, the Penn Museum in Philadelphia houses a collection of more than 50,000 artifacts from dozens of sites in the Nile Valley. The lecture will look at recent discoveries in Egypt, as well as the history of Penn’s work and the new galleries which will showcase Ancient Egypt’s legacy in Pennsylvania.

**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.

---

Seminars

**SEMINAR FEES:**

Free to University of Scranton and Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine Students, Staff, and Faculty. Courses included for Schemel Forum Members, Angels, and Archangels.

$30 per luncheon per person • $15 remote only
Monday, October 21 • With the Gail and Francis Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities
Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Humanities and Civic Engagement Lecture
What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World
What do prosthetics, assistive technologies, curb cuts and elevators teach us about being human? Sara Hendren invites us to consider not just the augmented body of the future, but the ancient and enduring ideas about personhood at the heart of the built world. Bringing together fine arts, philosophy, engineering, and history, Hendren will examine the hidden stories about dignity, suffering, dependence, and beauty in the material culture all around us.
Sara Hendren, Associate Professor in Art + Design, has a joint appointment at the School of Architecture.
Heritage Room, Weinberg Memorial Library • 5:30 p.m. • Lecture and Reception – Complimentary & Open to the Community. Courtesy of the Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellow Endowment.

Saturday, November 16 • With the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library
Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award Honors Brandy Schillache, Ph.D.
Dr. Schillace’s recent novel, The Framed Women of Ardemore House, showcases her ability to craft compelling narratives that blend contemporary mystery with historical intrigue. The book follows the story of Jo Jones, a neurodivergent, hyperlexic book editor and divorced New Yorker transplanted into the English countryside. Schillace’s meticulous research and vivid prose bring the novel’s world to life, immersing readers in the atmospheric setting and the complex inner lives of her characters. The novel has been praised for its feminist themes, exploration of the psychological toll of oppression, gripping plot twists, and powerful representation of a neurodivergent main character.
Gala, Award Ceremony, Keynote Address, and Audience Q+A Included for Archangels, $30 for Angels, $60 for Schemel Members, and $100 a la carte. McIlhenny Ballroom, TDC 407, The DeNaples Center • 5:00 p.m.

The Philosophy behind JD Vance, Project 2025, and the Rise of Christian Nationalism
This talk will critically examine the idea that have reshaped conservatism in the United States and even across the world, influencing a figure like JD Vance and the 2025 project and giving rise to Christian nationalism.
Matthew Meyer, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy

Climate Justice: Theory, Hurdles, and Opportunities
This course will explore what justice demands in the face of global climate change. We’ll identify the practical and political hurdles to realizing justice in this context and discuss daily opportunities for practicing climate justice.
Sarah Kenelah, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities

AI, Cybercrime, and Community Safety
This special lecture delves into the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), cybercrime, and community safety, providing a comprehensive overview of how modern criminals leverage cutting-edge technologies to exploit vulnerabilities in our digital and physical worlds. This course is designed for students, community members, the elderly, and anyone interested in understanding the evolving landscape of cyber threats and the importance of proactive safety measures. Individuals with computers will be able to participate in hands-on practices.
Sinchiul Back, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director of Cybercrime & Homeland Security Program

Advances in Rehabilitation Technology to Improve Human Mobility
Rehabilitation technology is a relatively new and expanding field that includes devices that may help people regain and improve function after injury or illness. Various systems, including robotics, virtual/augmented reality, and wearable sensors, will be discussed, with an overview of implications for motor learning and recovery.
Renée M. Hakim, P.T., Ph.D., Professor of Physical Therapy, Chairperson and Program Director, Board-certified clinical specialist emeritus in neuromuscular physical therapy

EVENING COURSES
• Single Fee Non-Member: $100
• Couple Fee Non-Member: $175
• Positive Psychology • Alocross & Phillips
• Lewis and Tolkien • Brenman
• Weimar Cinema • LaZella

WORLD LUNCHEON SEMINARS
• $30 per luncheon • $15 remote only
• 9/6/24: The Best Medicine • Wass
• 9/26/24: What Do Children Deserve? • Benforda
• 10/8/24: The Power of Storytelling • Coryders
• 10/18/24: There’s a Future in the Past • Giordano
• 10/25/24: Bridge Over Troubled Water • Simoyan
• 11/21/24: Ancient Egypt in Pennsylvania • Wegner

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS
• 10/21/24: What Can a Body Do? • Hendren
• Free, courtesy of the Myers Fellowship
• 11/16/24: Royden B. Davis, S.j., Distinguished Author Award • Schillache • $100 minus discounts

UNIVERSITY FOR A DAY
• Single Fee Non-Member: $55
• Couple Fee Non-Member: $100
• High School Students: FREE
• 9/14/24: University for a Day • 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
• Meyers, Back, Hakim, Kenelah • Four classes, group discussions, continental breakfast, & lunch buffet included

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:
• ACADEMIC YEAR • 9/1-5/31/2025
• All Academic Year Programs, including University for a Day, with 50% off Distinguished Author Ticket.
• Individual $1,050 (-15%)
• Couple $2,000 (-15%)

• ACADEMY YEAR ANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1-5/31/2025
• All Academic Year Programs, including University for a Day, 75% off on Distinguished Author, 50% off on speaker books sold at events.
• Individual $1,500
• Couple $3,000

• ACADEMY YEAR ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP • 9/1-5/31/2025
• All Academic Year Programs, including University for a Day and Distinguished Author. Speaker books sold at events are complimentary.
• Individual $2,000
• Couple $4,000

SEMINTER MEMBERSHIP • FALL 2024
• All Fall Semester Programs, including University for a Day, 50% discount on Distinguished Author.
• Individual $525 (-10%)
• Couple $975 (-10%)

• ANGEL MEMBERSHIP
• All Fall Semester Programs, including University for a Day, 75% discount on Distinguished Author, and any speaker books sold at events are half off.
• Individual $1,000
• Couple $2,000

• ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP
• All Fall Semester Programs, including University for a Day and Distinguished Author, and 50% off speaker books sold at events.
• Individual $1,500
• Couple $3,000

Please fill out contact information on back > > >