



FALL
2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

THE SCHEMEL FORUM

FOR CULTURAL ENRICHMENT
& EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY

A PROGRAM OF THE HARRY & JEANETTE WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY



George J. Auliso

FROM THE **director**

Welcome back to another semester of the Schemel Forum! Sondra Myers has stepped down as Director, but the foundation she laid remains strong, and opportunities abound to “bring the world to Scranton.” I will be filling Sondra’s large shoes and will try my best to keep the program exciting and insightful. As you will see, I think the Schemel staff developed an outstanding program for the Fall semester.

For our evening short courses this year we have new and returning faculty offering content that ranges from timely to timeless. Our World Affairs Luncheon Series has distinguished guest scholars from various disciplines. Collectively they will be covering medicine and public health, criminal justice and psychology, political science and philosophy, culture, art, and music. Several speakers are looking forward to signing their recent books after their talks as well.

This year we will introduce a routine schedule for the luncheon seminars. The plan is to focus on eating lunch and socializing from 11:30-12:00 so that we can begin the program promptly at Noon to allow sufficient time for the speaker and audience questions. I hope the routine will improve our remote attendees’ experience and allow more members of the university community to join us as well.

We will be hosting two collaborative programs, one with the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library that will focus on the national epidemic of book banning and censorship. Our distinguished speaker will be Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director of the American Library Association. Ms. Hall was recently named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People of 2023. The other will be a collaboration with the Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities, where the Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Humanities and Civic Engagement will give a Keynote Lecture on Climate Change.

Finally, we’re pleased to host a bus trip this fall to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and to the Rodin Museum. I hope you can join us for a day in Philadelphia, visiting two world-class museums. I am also pleased to share that Angel and Archangel Members will now have their bus tickets included in their membership. We’re grateful for the support of our members and pleased to be able to offer this perk to our sustaining patrons.

I am looking forward to a great semester of fellowship and learning! See you this Fall!

George J. Auliso

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

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.



Indiana Jones and the Twentieth Century

One of the most popular characters of the last forty years, the creation of Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, Henry “Indiana” Jones Jr, as portrayed by Harrison Ford, is a globe-trotting archaeologist and university professor who, throughout the twentieth century, searched for valuable artifacts with mystical powers and battled, among others, the Thuggee Cult in India, Soviet special forces, and, of course, Nazis, in comic books, video games, television shows, and five films from 1981 to the present day. This course will examine how the character was created and his cultural impact, before moving on to examine not just the historical environments depicted in the films (in 1935, 1936, 1938, 1957, and 1969) but also the historical origins of the famous relics featured in them, from the Ark of the Covenant to the Antikythera.

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

Tuesdays, September 12, 19, 26 & October 3, 10, 24

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



The Crisis of the Sciences: Positivism, Essentialism, and the Need for Critical Theory?

This course will investigate western science’s alliance with the twin pillars of Positivism and Essentialism. Such an alliance renders both natural and social science structurally incapable of responding to real social and ecological problems (e.g., starvation, structural racism, or global warming). With the advent of new forms of AI (especially machine learning), this incapacity will only make matters worse. In the face of this crisis, science must dissociate itself from Positivism and Essentialism through a critical turn to Critical Theory.

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

Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25 & November 1, 8

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



Writing in Place

This course is a creative writing class. From Illiers-Combray for Proust’s *Remembrance of Things Past* to Tinker Creek for Anne Dillard, location has been a font of inspiration and investigation for an untold number of writers. Throughout this session, we will use our places—from personal experience and memory—as well as a selection of writings to write about where we are, where we have been, and where we are going. As such, we will delve into different genres, authors, time periods, and (yes) locations, as we share writing to bring us closer to our common home and shared experiences.

Hank Willenbrink, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, Department of English & Theatre, The University of Scranton*

Mondays, October 23, 30 & November 6, 13, 20, 27

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

Course Fees:

Free to University of Scranton Staff, Students, Faculty and Schemel Forum Members
Single Fee Non-Member: \$100 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$150



Friday, September 8

We've Got to Get Ourselves Back to the Garden: Inside the Music and Times of the Woodstock Generation

The legendary Woodstock Festival during the summer of 1969 comes back to life through zooming in on drum fills, bass lines, trumpet licks, and background vocals, and zooming out to the racial, cultural, and social turmoil of a revolutionary decade that led to a new musical voice for America. This unique program will mix chapter excerpts, primary research, and fantastic, classic rock audio clips to take a decade that has become part of our collective nostalgia and bring it thrillingly back to life.

Rob Kapilow, *Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa '09, composer, conductor, music commentator, and author.*

Edward Leahy, Jr. Hall, The Kane Forum, 235 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please also visit Performance Music's website at Scranton.edu/music for details on a complimentary and open-to-the-public What Makes it Great performance by Rob on Friday evening.

Tuesday, September 12

Gun Violence, Prevention, and the Role of the Media

The Philadelphia Center for Gun Violence Reporting was created to explore the hypothesis that changing the way journalists and news organizations report on gun violence could prevent shootings and save lives. The organizers created a community reporting project intended to shift narrative power to people with lived experience, a professional development program to help journalists already covering gun violence learn how to earn trust and build relationships, and an interdisciplinary research collaborative which has been refining their focus by identifying harmful reporting practices and asking what the ideal, most ethical and impactful reporting on gun violence might look like.

Jim MacMillan, *journalist, educator, and social innovator, Director of the Philadelphia Center for Gun Violence Reporting.*

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



Tuesday, September 19

Revitalizing Democracy

Can we breathe new life into the institutions and norms that are critical elements of a stable democracy? Michele Moody-Adams will argue that we can revitalize democratic institutions and norms only if we acknowledge the complex sources of their decline and make a robust, public commitment to address them. The talk will draw on contributions from a wide range of political thinkers, including Aristotle, John Dewey, Martin Luther King, Jr, and John Paul Lederach.

Michele Moody-Adams Ph.D., *Joseph L. Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory at Columbia University.*

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





Thursday, October 5

Transforming Spaces: Public Art and Community Engagement

Michelle Angela Ortiz is a visual artist, skilled muralist, community arts educator, and filmmaker who uses her art to represent people and communities whose histories are often lost or co-opted. Through community arts practices, painting, documentaries, and public art installations, she creates a safe space for dialogue around some of the most profound issues communities and individuals may face. Ortiz has designed and created over 50 large-scale public works nationally and internationally. She has led art for social change public art projects in Costa Rica & Ecuador and as a Cultural Envoy through the US Embassy in Fiji, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Venezuela, Honduras, and Cuba.

Michelle Angela Ortiz, is a 2021 Art is Essential Grantee, a 2020 Art For Justice Fund Grantee, a Pew Fellow, Rauschenberg Foundation Artist as Activist Fellow, and a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist National Fellow.

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



Friday, October 13

AI and Deciphering the Criminal Mind

With an uptick in mass murders and shootings, efforts have now focused on analyzing the writings and videos of criminals before they kill through their manifestos. In fact, there is an urgency to develop a tool to analyze communication quickly. Law enforcement agencies have received more written communications daily than they can read or decipher. The increased availability of artificial intelligence (AI) suggests another approach to examining a criminal’s mind before a killing spree.

Ann Burgess, D.N.Sc., APRN, FAAN, is a renowned expert in trauma, abuse assessment, and treatment.

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



Thursday, November 2

A Molecule Away from Madness: Tales of the Hijacked Brain

Dr. Manning will take listeners through tales of the sometimes outlandish, often criticized, and forever devoted scientists who have brought cognitive neurology into the age of molecular science. She will discuss cutting-edge developments in cognitive neurology and the remaining hurdles that have prevented us from conquering Alzheimer’s disease and other common cognitive ailments.

Sara Manning Peskin, M.D., M.S., Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania.

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

Seminar Fees:

Free to University of Scranton Staff, Students, Faculty and Schemel Forum Members

\$30 per luncheon per person • \$10 remote only



October 17, 2023 • *With the Gail and Francis Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities*

Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Humanities and Civic Engagement Lecture

The Sondra and Morey Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellowship in the Humanities and Civic Engagement advances the University's efforts to bring renowned scholars, artists, and thinkers to Scranton to share their work and enrich cultural and civic activity at the University and in Scranton. This year, we welcome Dr. Dale Jamieson, a scholar of environmental ethics and animal rights, and an expert on contemporary climate change discourse.

Dale Jamieson, Ph.D., *Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies; Director, Center for Environmental and Animal Protection; Affiliated Professor of Law, Medical Ethics, and Bioethics; Founding Director of Environmental Studies Program; and former Chair of the Environmental Studies Department, and Professor of Philosophy.*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • 5:30 p.m. • **Lecture and Reception – Complimentary & Open to the Community**, Courtesy of the Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellow Endowment

October 30, 2023 • *With the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library*

Book Bans and Censorship

Join us for an insightful talk on book banning and censorship in the U.S., presented by Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director of the American Library Association. Ms. Hall will address the history, implications, and current state of book censorship in the United States, showcasing the essential role of libraries in safeguarding democratic values and free speech. Following the lecture, engage in further discussions over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at a reception. Join us for this opportunity to explore the intersections of literature, censorship, and freedom while supporting a worthy cause.

Tracie D. Hall, *Executive Director of the American Library Association, author, curator, and advocate for the arts. She is one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2023.*

Loyola Science Center, PNC Auditorium • 6:00 p.m. • \$40 per person • \$10 remote only



BUS trip

Philadelphia Museum of Art and Rodin Museum | September 30, 2023

Experience an enriching day of art, culture, and culinary exploration in Philadelphia! Our day trip begins at 7:00 am when our bus embarks from The University of Scranton's campus. We will arrive at the prestigious Philadelphia Museum of Art at 10:00 am, where a knowledgeable docent will introduce you to the exquisite pieces in the museum's collection. Following the museum tour, you will have free time to continue exploring the museum, visit nearby cultural institutions in Fairmount Park, or discover the culinary delights and vibrant ambiance of Philadelphia's historic Fairmount Neighborhood. At 3:00 pm, the group will reconvene at the Rodin Museum, home to the most extensive collection of Auguste Rodin's works outside of Paris. After an enlightening day in the City of Brotherly Love, relax on the bus as we embark on our return journey, reaching home around 7:00 pm. Don't miss this all-inclusive day trip—the perfect blend of art, food, and discovery!

Cost is **\$135 per person**



EVENING COURSES • Single Fee Non-Member: \$100 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$150

- 1 | 2 Indiana Jones and the Twentieth Century • *Brennan*
- 1 | 2 The Crisis of the Sciences: Positivism, Essentialism, and the Need for Critical Theory • *LaZella*
- 1 | 2 Writing in Place • *Willenbrink*

WORLD AFFAIRS LUNCHEON SEMINARS • \$30 per luncheon • \$10 remote only

- 1 | 2 9/8/23: We've Got to Get Ourselves Back to the Garden: Inside the Music and Times of the Woodstock Generation • *Kapilow*
- 1 | 2 9/12/23: Gun Violence, Prevention, and the Role of the Media • *MacMillan*
- 1 | 2 9/19/23: Revitalizing Democracy • *Moody-Adams*
- 1 | 2 10/5/23: Transforming Spaces: Public Art and Community Engagement • *Ortiz*
- 1 | 2 10/13/23: AI and Deciphering the Criminal Mind • *Burgess*
- 1 | 2 11/02/23: A Molecule Away from Madness: Tales of the Hijacked Brain • *Manning Peskin*

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

- 1 | 2 10/17/23: Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Humanities and Civic Engagement Lecture • *Jamieson*
- 1 | 2 10/30/23: Book Bans and Censorship • *Hall* • \$40 per person • \$10 remote only

BUS TRIP to PHILADELPHIA • \$135 (included with Angel and Archangel Memberships) *Please call to confirm your spot before sending payment

membership OPTIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR

All Programs from 9/1/2023 – 5/31/2024, except Bus Trip

Individual \$750 Couple \$1200

SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP • FALL 2023

All Semester Programs, except Bus Trip

Individual \$400 Couple \$650

ANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Academic Year Programs, including Bus Trip

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

ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Academic Year Programs, including Bus Trip

Individual \$2,000 Couple \$3,000

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

CONTACT: Brooke Leonard, 570.941.4740, brooke.leonard@scranton.edu

CREDIT CARD: To pay by credit card over the phone please contact Brooke Leonard, 570.941.4740

NEW PAY ONLINE: www.scranton.edu/schemelforum

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