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THE SCHEMEL FORUM

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SPRING
2024

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. Aulisio

FROM THE **director**

Welcome to another enlightening semester with the Schemel Forum!

This semester's highlights include three evening short courses, six luncheons, and two evening programs. For our short courses taught by University faculty, we have Dr. Matthew Meyer discussing Identity Politics, Dr. Melissa Anyiwo's exploration of Hidden Figures of Black History, and Professor Charlie Cino's foray into Norman Lear's influential TV shows. These three topics are all very timely, and I expect rich discussions to accompany each session.

As always, our luncheon lecture series, proudly sponsored by Munley Law, will feature a diverse range of world-class scholars and experts. Among them are Dr. Anthea Butler, a distinguished historian of African American and American religion; Richard Pildes, a constitutional law expert well-known for his recent service on President Biden's Commission on the Supreme Court; and Jill Dougherty, native Scrantonian, longtime friend of the Schemel Forum, and renowned expert on Russia. We're also excited to host Patrick Bringley, who will share reflections from his tenure at the MET Museum, and Loren Schoenberg, Senior Scholar of the National Jazz Museum, who will draw an artful connection between Abraham Lincoln and Louis Armstrong. Loren will also be In Concert with The University of Scranton Jazz Ensemble to deliver a complimentary and open-to-the-community performance. We will share details of the performance closer to that date. Lastly, with our local newspaper's transition weighing heavily on many of us, I am pleased that we were able to bring Jeff Jarvis, a media and journalism expert, to share valuable insights into the evolving world of journalism and what's next for Scranton.

This semester also features two exceptional collaborative evening programs. In collaboration with the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Dr. Richard Kogan will return to deliver a virtuoso piano performance and discussion. In a nice change of place, we will have the performance and reception in the Medical School's main building on Pine Street.

We will also collaborate again with the Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities, where Fr. Gallagher will speak on the rise of Christian Nationalism and connect it to his most recent book, *Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten History of the Christian Front*. This event will be free and open to the public. A reception with light refreshments will follow the talk.

I hope you join us for a semester filled with engaging discussions, unique perspectives, and an enriching journey through history, culture, and current events. I look forward to growing and discovering together, and I hope you do too.

Warm regards,

George J. Aulisio

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.



Hidden Figures of Black History

You may not know their names. But these courageous entertainers transformed the United States in profound ways, using their artistic contributions to shine a light that inspired change. While many don't fit the conventional definition of a hero, some were foul-tempered, weighed down by personal demons, and misunderstood by their contemporaries, but each one made profound contributions to our culture. This short course provides a long-overdue spotlight on some of the hidden figures of US history who deserve to be celebrated for their unflinching commitment to making America a better place.

Melissa Anyiwo, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, Department of History, The University of Scranton*

Mondays, January 29, & February 5, 12, 19, 26, & March 4

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



Identity Politics

Identity politics has been a lightning rod in recent political discourse, leading to Ron DeSantis' controversial "Stop-Woke Act." This seminar will aim at getting a better understanding of the ideas driving these debates. Topics include critical race theory, wokeism, intersectionality, structural discrimination, systemic injustice, and privilege. Readings will come from key proponents as well as their critics. .

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

Wednesdays, January 31, & February 7, 14, 21, 28, & March 6

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



The Sitcoms of Norman Lear

This course explores the work of Norman Lear, a trailblazing TV writer and producer who redefined American television. Lear's sitcoms, including *All in the Family*, *Sanford and Son*, *The Jeffersons*, and *Maude*, challenged the norm with their groundbreaking portrayal of societal issues. We'll study Lear's significant hits, delve into some of his lesser-known works, and review his career through screenings and discussions. We plan to have actors and producers who worked with Lear join our classes (via Zoom). This is a unique opportunity to understand the legacy of a man who continued to innovate in television until his passing away at age 101.

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

Mondays, March 25, & April 8, 15, 22, 29, & May 6

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 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, February 2

Religion, Democracy, and Election Cycles

How have certain religious beliefs contributed to the destabilization and polarization of elections around the world? Prof. Anthea Butler of the University of Pennsylvania will discuss how religious beliefs destabilize democratic election cycles and what this could mean for democratic elections in 2024

Anthea Butler, Ph.D., *Geraldine R. Segal Professor in American Social Thought, and Chair of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. A sought-after commentator, Professor Butler is an op-ed contributor for MSNBC. Her articles have been featured in the New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, NBC, and The Guardian.*

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



Friday, February 9

Rethinking Local Journalism in Scranton

As Scranton's newspaper is taken over by a notorious hedge fund that is not known to invest in innovation, we will discuss alternative strategies for local information and civic engagement, brainstorming ways that the University might collaborate with the community to better inform local public discourse. There are many new models of journalism -- Engagement Journalism, Solutions Journalism, Reparative Journalism, and so on -- which can inform the discussion, along with examples of what is being done in other cities.

Jeff Jarvis, *Tow Professor of Journalism Innovation and director of the Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism at the City University of New York, and creator and founding editor of Entertainment Weekly*

The DeNaples Center, 4th Floor, 407A • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Friday, March 1

The Lincoln/Armstrong Connection: From Gettysburg to New Orleans

Gary Wills, in his masterful *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, makes the case that Lincoln redefined our system of government with that one short speech. This story finds an instructive parallel in Louis Armstrong's streamlining of New Orleans polyphony, melodic paraphrase, the grand gesture of opera, and the blues, into a musical discipline that merged improvisation and composition. Both Lincoln and Armstrong made profound statements while at the same time subtly redefining the basic principles of their mediums. Like those who considered Lincoln a country boy ill-equipped for the presidency, there are those who still define Armstrong as nothing more than a noble savage. Jazz music, in all of its current glory, is the most eloquent refutation of that solecism.

Loren Schoenberg, *senior scholar of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, faculty at Juilliard and has also taught at the Manhattan School of Music and the New School.*

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

Please visit Performance Music's website at Scranton.edu/music for details on a complimentary performance with Loren and The University of Scranton Jazz Ensemble.



Wednesday, March 6

Political Reforms to Combat Extremism

The political culture in the United States has become toxic and tribalistic in recent years. Among other consequences, the political process has become dysfunctional, with Congress rarely able to legislate on significant issues of the day. This talk will address institutional and policy reforms to the political and election process that could help push back against polarization and extremism. The talk will also address threats to the integrity of the 2024 election and what is being done to address those threats.

Richard Pildes, Sudler Family Professor of Constitutional Law, one of the nation's leading scholars of constitutional law and a specialist in legal issues concerning democracy, former law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall, and an appointee on President Biden's Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States.

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

Prof. Pildes will be joining us via Zoom. Attendees can attend via Zoom for \$10 or in person with a lunch for \$30. Only in-person attendees will be able to participate in the question-and-answer portion of the seminar.

Monday, March 25

All the Beauty in the World: A Portrait of the MET Museum



In his book, *All the Beauty in the World*, Patrick Bringley offers a unique and captivating perspective, drawing from his experiences during a decade-long tenure as a guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His memoir is not only a collection of fascinating stories set against the backdrop of one of the world's most renowned museums, but it also delves into the transformative power of art and its profound impact on both observers and caretakers alike. The book has garnered high praise from prestigious publications, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Associated Press*, *Financial Times*, and the *Sunday Times* (London), celebrated for its insightful reflections and eloquent portrayal of the interplay between life and art.

Patrick Bringley, author and former New Yorker staffer, spent a decade as a museum guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art before writing his memoir.

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

WORLD AFFAIRS LUNCHEON **seminars**



Friday, April 5

The World in Disarray

With two wars, one in Ukraine and one in the Middle East, plus tensions over Taiwan simmering, the international community is in a precarious state. A triumvirate of troublemakers - Russia, Iran, and North Korea - is intent on exploiting any fissures in the West, especially in the United States, as it prepares for a presidential election. China, meanwhile, watches closely, gauging its next move. Jill Dougherty analyzes the threat to the United States in this five-player chess game, a contest with serious consequences.

Jill Dougherty, adjunct Professor at Georgetown University's Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies, a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute Advisory Council.

The DeNaples Center, 4th Floor, 405 • 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

COLLABORATIVE **programs**



Thursday, March 21, 2024 • *With the Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities*

Christian Nationalism

In his widely acclaimed book *Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten History of the Christian Front*, Fr. Gallagher tells the story of a group of American terrorists who, in the name of God, conspired to overthrow the U.S. government and form an alliance with Hitler. Members of this self-proclaimed anti-Semitic and anti-Communist group known as the Christian Front were charged with seditious conspiracy, the same charge leveled against leaders of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers for their alleged roles on January 6, 2021. In this presentation, Gallagher will summarize the history of Christian nationalist groups and discuss their influence on today's far-right movements.

Charles R. Gallagher, S.J., Associate Professor of History, Boston College, and former visiting fellow at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, College of the Holy Cross

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

Lecture and Reception – **Complimentary & Open to the Community**



Thursday, April 25, 2024 • *With the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine*

The Mind and Music of Scott Joplin

The son of a slave, Scott Joplin, grew up playing the piano in minstrel shows, saloons, and houses of prostitution. There, he found, nurtured, and ultimately became the grandmaster of a form — ragtime — that has made him one of music's immortals. In his concert lecture, Dr. Kogan makes the case that the Joplin rag is a uniquely American innovation — an original dance form clothed in sophisticated, syncopated rhythms and bright harmonic colors that render it the New World's equivalent to a Mozart Minuet or a Chopin Mazurka. Dr. Kogan intersperses his engaging narrative with performances of Maple Leaf Rag, The Entertainer, and other gems of the genre.

Richard Kogan, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Artistic Director, Weill Cornell Music and Medicine Program

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, 525 Pine St., Scranton, PA • 6:00 p.m

Performance, Lecture, and Reception - **\$40 per person. Free for Schemel Forum members.**

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

1 | 2 Hidden Figures of Black History • *Anyiwo*

1 | 2 Identity Politics • *Meyer*

1 | 2 The Sitcoms of Norman Lear • *Cino*

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

1 | 2 2/2/24: Religion, Democracy, and Election Cycles • *Butler*

1 | 2 2/9/24: Rethinking Local Journalism in Scranton • *Jarvis*

1 | 2 3/1/24: Lincoln/Armstrong Connection: From Gettysburg to New Orleans • *Schoenberg*

1 | 2 3/6/24: Political Reforms to Combat Extremism • *Pildes*

1 | 2 3/25/24: All the Beauty in the World • *Bringley*

1 | 2 4/5/24: The World in Disarray • *Dougherty*

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

1 | 2 3/21/24: Christian Nationalism • *Gallager* • Free

1 | 2 4/25/24: Ragtime: The Mind and Music of Scott Joplin • *Kogan* • \$40 per person

membership OPTIONS

SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP • SPRING 2024

All Semester Programs

Individual \$400 ☐

Couple \$650 ☐

ANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Semester Programs

Individual \$500 ☐

Couple \$750 ☐

ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Semester Programs

Individual \$1,000 ☐

Couple \$1,500 ☐

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