Visiting Scholar Series Guest Discusses Race Relations, Politics

Rockhurst University's Visiting Scholar Lecture Series and Kansas City's Urban League will host Melissa Harris-Perry, Ph.D., professor of political science at Tulane University and founding director of the Project on Gender, Race, and Politics in the South, for her talk, "Race, Citizenship and American Politics in the Age of Obama." The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 19, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

Harris-Perry is a regular commentator on news programs, including those broadcast on MSNBC and "Bill Moyers Journal." She also reaches thousands of readers as a columnist for The Nation magazine. Prior to her position at Tulane, Harris-Perry served on the faculties of Princeton University and The University of Chicago.

Harris-Perry received her B.A. in English from Wake Forest University and her Ph.D. in political science from Duke University. She also studied theology at Union Theological Seminary. She is the author of the widely celebrated book *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America,* which argues that persistent harmful stereotypes profoundly shape black women's politics, contribute to policies that treat them unfairly, and make it difficult for black women to assert their rights in the political arena.

Her academic research is inspired by a desire to investigate the challenges facing contemporary black Americans and to better understand the multiple, creative ways that African Americans respond to these challenges. Her work is published in scholarly journals and edited volumes. Her interests include the study of African American political thought, black religious ideas and practice, and social and clinical psychology.

To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828.

Haydn's 'Lord Nelson' Mass Closes Musica Sacra Concert Season April 22

Joined by four of Kansas City's premier professional soloists, Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra will perform one of the jewels in the crown of sacred choral music. Franz Joseph Haydn's monumental "Lord Nelson" Mass serves as both an iconic work of music and a historical representation of a critical period in European politics.

Soprano Rebecca Lloyd, mezzo-soprano Un-Chong Christopher, tenor David Adams and bass-baritone Raymond Fenner will join the ensemble for the performance in St. Francis Xavier Church. In addition, Lloyd and Musica Sacra will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Regina Coeli,* KV 108. The first of the composer's three musical settings of this Marian antiphon for Vespers in Eastertide, the work was composed in 1771.

The concert will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost. Artistic Director Timothy McDonald, Ph.D., will present Live Program Notes at 6:15 p.m.

For Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra tickets, call the Central Ticket Office at 816-235-6222, order online at www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or purchase at the concert.
Artists Corey Antis, Anna Neighbor Open ‘Plain Sight, Plain Spoken’ Exhibit March 30

“Plain Sight, Plain Spoken,” a two-person exhibition featuring the works of artists Corey Antis and Anna Neighbor, opens Friday, March 30, in the Greenlease Gallery. The evening begins with talks by the artists at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception from 7 to 9 p.m.

Both Antis, a painter, and Neighbor, a multimedia artist, utilize traditional and non-traditional materials as they pursue the concept of the ephemeral. Working in a minimalist capacity, Antis and Neighbor invite the viewer to consider how material, time and experience can be engaged while viewing these works.

Antis’ works reaffirm painting’s potential to transform the familiar into the uncanny while Neighbor uses rubbings, imprints, photography, videos, mirrors and simple drawings to address existence beyond mortality.

Antis earned bachelor’s degrees in English and painting at Cornell University before completing a master’s degree in painting at Tyler School of Art, Temple University. He teaches painting at the Kansas City Art Institute. Neighbor earned a bachelor’s degree in photography at New York University and a master’s degree in photography at the Tyler School of Art. She is an adjunct photography professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Moore College of Art and Design and Rowan University.

Film Series, Philosophy Department Present Three Spring Films

The Rockhurst Film Series and the University’s Department of Philosophy will present three films on consecutive Wednesdays in March. Philosophy faculty will introduce the films and conduct post-film discussions. Films will be shown at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater. Admission, at the door, is $3 or $7 for the series.

March 14 “The Conversation” (1974) This film examines the issues of responsibility and privacy. A surveillance expert makes the mistake of becoming too involved in one of his assignments. Starring Gene Hackman and directed by Francis Ford Coppola; introduction by Rob Vigliotti, Ph.D. (113 minutes)

March 21 “The Island” (2005) In a futuristic underground city, two people try to escape when they discover that they are being kept as a source of replacement body parts. Starring Ewan McGregor and directed by Joseph Kesselring; introduction by Curtis Hancock, Ph.D. (106 minutes)

Return to the Classics to Discuss Milton’s Paradise Lost

John Milton’s Paradise Lost will be the subject of discussion Monday, March 26, at the Return to the Classics great books conversation. Tom Vetrresca, ’70, will lead the group as they exchange ideas about what is generally considered the greatest epic poem in English literature. The discussion will take place at 7 p.m. in Massman Hall, Room 241.

Born in London in 1608 into a financially secure upper-middle-class family, Milton excelled at some of England’s finest schools. Following his formal education, his father expected him to enter the priesthood of the Anglican Church. However, Milton’s disillusionment with the church caused him to abandon this life plan and devote himself to poetry and learning.

Milton’s Paradise Lost tells the story of the fall of Adam and Eve and their expulsion from Paradise. The poem’s central figures include Adam and Eve, God, Jesus, Satan, and the archangels Raphael and Michael. Milton’s stated purpose for writing his epic poem was to “justify the ways of God to man” and to justify the nature of obedience, free will and just authority.

To reserve a space for Return to the Classics, contact The Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607. The cost, $25 per person, includes a copy of the book and refreshments. If you do not require a book, the cost is $10.

At its fall meeting on Monday, Nov. 5, 2012, Return to the Classics will discuss Tolstoy’s War and Peace. To register for the discussion and to order a book, call The Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607 or email carnwigt@rockhurst.edu.

Aliki Barnstone Reads for Midwest Poets Series March 22

“Oh holy God—“ writes Aliki Barnstone in her 2011 book Bright Body. “What if you felt your body and what if / you took a breath...” This poet slingshot readers from the physicality of bodily love to the mystery of emotional and spiritual life. All of that comes, as poet and critic Claudia Keenan points out, “accompanied by the Old Testament, Socrates, Emerson, Roger Williams and the tragedy of September 11th.”

Visitors to the Midwest Poets Series reading at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 22, should be ready for poems with wildness at their heart, held together by exceptional intellectual.

“One would have to be a zombie,” writes Midwest Poets Series alumnus and poet Major Jackson, “not to find irresistible [Aliki’s] enduring music that is by turns physical and ferocious.”

Barnstone’s accomplishments began early and continue. When she was 12, her book of poems The Real Tin Flower was published by Macmillan, with an introduction by Anne Sexton. Barnstone has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize—twice.


Barnstone translated The Collected Poems of C.P. Cavafy: A New Translation. She wrote Changing Rapture: Emily Dickinson’s Poetic Development and Dear God, Dear Dr. Heartbreak. She edited A Book of Women Poets from Antiquity to Now, The Calvinist Roots of the Modern Era and The Shambhala Anthology of Women’s Spiritual Poetry, and she introduced and wrote the readers’ notes for H.D.’s Trilogy.

When a Senior Fulbright scholar in Greece, she researched and wrote a sequence of poems, “Eva’s Voice,” in the voice of a Sephardic Jew from Thessaloniki who survives the Holocaust. She is series editor of the Cliff Becker Book Prize in Translation and director of the University of Missouri Workshops in Greece – Athens/Serifos. She is on the faculty of the creative writing program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Admission is $3 at the door. No one will be denied admission for lack of funds. A reception and book signing follow the reading. For more information, call 816-501-4607.
Rockhurst’s Student Choruses Perform Works Ranging from Handel to Lady GaGa

Timothy L. McDonald, Ph.D., director of the Rockhurst University Chorus, and Victor Penniman, DMA, director of the Chamber Singers and Women’s Chorale, have selected music that spans the ages for students to perform in their spring concert Sunday, March 25. The concert will begin at 2 p.m. in Mabee Chapel in Massman Hall.

Thanks to the popularity of the television show “Glee,” many excellent arrangements of popular songs, both old and new, have inspired the music selection. The program includes a medley of Andrew Lloyd Webber hits and music by Queen (“Bohemian Rhapsody”), the Beatles (“Hello, Goodbye”), The Mamas and The Papas (“California Dreamin’”) and Lady GaGa (“Telephone”). George Frideric Handel’s “Sing for Joy” and folk songs, including “He’s Gone Away,” also will be featured.

The concert is free; no tickets are required. For more information, contact Victor Penniman at 816-501-4741.

Rockhurst’s Theatre Season Concludes with ‘Arsenic and Old Lace’

Susan Proctor will direct Joseph Kesselring’s American classic comedy noir “Arsenic and Old Lace” in Mabee Theater April 19-22.

Set in 1941 Brooklyn, the play tells the story of the Brewster family—two sweet elderly sisters, Martha and Abby, who poison lonely old men and bury them in the cellar; their lovesick nephew, Mortimer, who is terrified of inheriting their habits; another nephew, Teddy, who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt; and a third nephew, Jonathan, who has had plastic surgery and looks horrifyingly like Boris Karloff.

Joseph Kesselring was a New York actor, singer, and, eventually, a playwright. He also had brief Midwest ties. From 1921-1923, Kesselring was the choral instructor at Bethel College in North Newton, Kan. While there, he lived in a boarding house—the Goerz House—which became the model for the Brewster sisters’ living room. Today, the college president lives in the house.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22. Tickets are $8. For more information, contact the play’s director at susan.proctor@rockhurst.edu or 816-501-4040.