Neuroscientist Discusses Relationship Between Brain, Social Justice

Visiting Scholar Lecture Series guest Martha Farah, Ph.D., the Walter H. Annenberg Professor of Natural Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, will discuss contemporary questions arising from advances in neuroscience. Her lecture “21st Century Neuroscience: From Lab to Clinic to Home, School and Office” begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, in Rockhurst University’s Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

Her talk will cover the many new applications of neuroscience to nonmedical problems, such as brain enhancement and brain-based lie detection. In the process, Farah will explore the ways that viewing ourselves as brains challenges certain intuitions and beliefs we have about moral responsibility, spirituality and what it means to be human.

Farah has been a pioneer in the field of neuroethics and the relationship between brain science and social justice. Her 2010 book, Neuroethics: An Introduction with Readings, was published by the M.I.T. Press. She is the author of two books and has edited or co-edited five others in the field of neuroscience. She has published more than 130 journal articles. Farah has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Art, Manufacture and Commerce, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828. Parking is free and unrestricted. A reception follows the lecture.

2012 Pulitzer Prize Winner Opens Midwest Poets’ 30th Season

Tracy K. Smith, winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, will launch the Midwest Poets Series’ 30th year on Oct. 25. Joining her in the season-long anniversary celebration will be some of today’s most dynamic poets. Valzhyna Mort, the Belarusian poet and winner of some of Europe’s premier literature prizes, will read her poems on Nov. 29; Mark Doty, National Book Award winner, will be a guest on Jan. 31; and Australian Les Murray, one of the leading contemporary poets of the English speaking world, will conclude the season on March 21.

We begin the celebration with the startling work of one of poetry’s brightest stars, Tracy K. Smith. Smith, who teaches at Princeton University, received this year’s Pulitzer Prize on her 40th birthday for her book Life on Mars, which she said was inspired, in part, by her father, a Hubble space telescope engineer who died in 2008.

Smith’s first collection, The Body’s Question, won the Cave Canem Prize in 2002. Her second book, Duende, won the 2006 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. She has received numerous other awards and honors.

Smith will read at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall. Tickets are $3 at the door; seating is open. No one will be denied admission for lack of funds. Books will be available in advance and at the reading through Rainy Day Books. A reception and book signing follow the reading. For more information, call 816-501-4607.

Submissions Requested for Fine Arts Journal

Rockhurst Review is accepting original, unpublished poems, essays, short fiction, drama and artwork for its 2012 journal. Submissions will be accepted from Sept. 17 through Jan. 11, 2013. Requirements include: fiction, not to exceed 2,500 words; dramas, not to exceed 10 pages; poems, not to exceed 10 pages with a five-poem maximum; essays, not to exceed 2,500 words; and art, not to exceed five photographs and photographs of one’s own artwork.

Include a brief biography, address, phone number, e-mail address and cover letter. Send submissions to rockhurstreview@hawks.rockhurst.edu. In the subject line, include your name and “submission.” Electronic entries are preferred.

Mail hard copy materials to Rockhurst Review, Patricia Cleary Miller, Department of English, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110; include a SASE. Manuscripts will not be returned.
August 24 – October 6
Greenlease Gallery
Evan LaMontagne
“Sargasso: New Works by Evan LaMontagne”
Opening Friday, Aug. 24
Artist Talk: 6:30 p.m.
Reception: 7-9 p.m.

September 6, 13, 20
Film Series
Foreign Language Film Festival
Sept. 6 – “The Way”
Sept. 13 – “To Be and To Have”
(“Etre et avoir”)
Sept. 20 – “Los Herederos”
Thursdays, 7 p.m. Mabee Theater
$3 each film, $7 for the series

September 19
Visiting Scholar
Lecture Series
Martha Farah, Ph.D.
“21st Century Neuroscience: From Lab to Clinic to Home, School and Office”
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mabee Theater
Register attendance: 816-501-4828

October 4 – 7
Rockhurst Theatre
“Indians” by Arthur Kopit
Thursday & Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall
Tickets: $8 at the door

October 21
Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra
Franz Schubert, Mass in B-flat
Johann Adolph Hasse, Te Deum
Sunday, 7 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier Church
52nd and Troost Avenue
Tickets: $18, $12 students & seniors
Central Ticket Office, 816-235-6222
or purchase at the performance or
at www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets

October 22
Visiting Scholar
Lecture Series
William Sweet, Ph.D.
“Freedom of Conscience in Catholic Universities”
Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Mabee Theater
Register attendance: 816-501-4828

October 24
Plays-in-Progress Workshop
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Sedgwick Hall, room 115
Donations accepted at the door

October 25
Midwest Poets Series
Tracy K. Smith
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Mabee Theater
Admission: $3

November 5
Return to the Classics
War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy
Monday, 7 p.m.
Massman Hall, room 241
Cost: $25 includes the book and refreshments; $10 without the book
Reservations required: 816-501-4607

In his first public exhibition, artist Evan LaMontagne will present a series of new paintings for his show “Sargasso: New Works by Evan LaMontagne,” which opens in the Greenlease Gallery Aug. 24.

Artist’s Paintings Reflect Sea’s Haunting Nature for Greenlease Exhibit

The public is invited to hear LaMontagne discuss his work at 6:30 p.m. and attend a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, in the Greenlease Gallery. The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 6.

Contact Greenlease Gallery Director Anne Pearce, 816-501-4407 or anne.pearce@rockhurst.edu, for more information.

Return to the Classics to Discuss Tolstoy’s War and Peace

Participants of the Return to the Classics great books discussion group, led by Tom Ventresca, ’70, will examine and analyze Leo Tolstoy’s monumental War and Peace. The discussion will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5, in Massman Hall, room 241.

Published in 1869, War and Peace is regarded as one of the world’s most important literary works. The story chronicles the entanglements of five fictional aristocratic families whose way of life is on the brink of change, with some families steadfastly holding onto the existing class structure while others know that the old life is disappearing.

To reserve a space for the book discussion, contact The Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607 or email cynthia.cartwright@rockhurst.edu. The cost, $25 per person, includes a copy of the book (Norton Critical Edition) and refreshments; $10 for the discussion and reception only.

Film Series Selections Convey ‘Reflection and Discernment’ Theme

The Rockhurst Film Series and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature present three films expressing the theme “Reflection and Discernment.” The films will be shown at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater. Admission is $3, $7 for the series.

Sept. 6 “The Way” (2010) A father goes overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the Way of St. James, a Catholic pilgrimage from France to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. He then decides to take the pilgrimage himself. With Martin Sheen, Emilio Estevez; directed by Emilio Estevez. (123 min.)

Sept. 13 “To Be and To Have” (“Etre et avoir”); 2002 This French film is a portrait of a one-room school in rural France where the students (ranging in age from 4 to 11) are educated by a single dedicated teacher. Directed by Nicolas Philibert. (French with English subtitles; 104 min.)

Sept. 20 “Los Herederos” (2008) This acclaimed documentary follows rural children in Mexico as they abandon school and work alongside their parents and siblings for subsistence wages. The film contains little dialogue and no narration. Directed by Eugenio Polgovsky. (90 min.)
Musica Sacra Performs Works by Schubert, Hasse Oct. 21

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra opens its 22nd season on Sunday, Oct. 21, with bright, festive works by Franz Peter Schubert and Johann Adolf Hasse.

Little known today, Hasse was one of Europe's most celebrated composers in the 18th century. Born near Hamburg in 1699, he traveled to Italy and was one of the last students of the great Italian composer and teacher Alessandro Scarlatti in the early 1720s. Hasse married the well-known soprano Faustina Bordoni in Venice in 1730 and moved to Dresden to serve as Kapellmeister to the Court of Saxony. Hasse spent three decades in Dresden before moving to Vienna and then Venice, where he died in 1783.

The composer was renowned as “padre della musica” (“father of music”) for his instrumental works, cantatas and oratorios, but mostly for his operas.

The Te Deum was composed in 1751 for the dedication of the new, Baroque-style Court Church. Hasse’s Mass in D Minor was sung during the liturgical celebration – the Te Deum concluded the ceremonies. Richly scored for oboes, trumpets, timpani and strings, the outer movements exude joy and celebration, while the slower central movement is lyrical, flexible and meditative.

Schubert began composing his Mass in B-flat, D. 324, in 1815, a very productive year for the composer. While the music hints at Schubert’s profound late works, it also demonstrates the sheer lyricism of his Mass in G Major from earlier that year.

From the dramatic opening three-part cry of “Kyrie eleison” to the thrilling “Cum Sancto Spiritu” to the tender, heart-wrenching beauty of the “Benedictus,” the music serves as a remarkable tribute to the Viennese classical tradition.

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra presents its concert at 7 p.m Sunday, Oct. 21, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost Avenue, west of the Rockhurst University campus. Music Director Timothy L. McDonald will present “Live Program Notes” at 6:15 p.m. Concert tickets are available through the Central Ticket Office, 816-235-6222, at www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or at the performance.

Visiting Scholar Discusses Freedom Within Roman Catholic Universities

William Sweet, Ph.D., professor of philosophy and director of the Centre for Philosophy, Theology and Cultural Traditions at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada, will deliver the Rev. William L. Rossner, S.J., Lecture in Philosophy on Oct. 22 for the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series. His talk “Freedom of Conscience in Catholic Universities” will investigate what it means to have a free conscience in a Roman Catholic learning community.

Sweet, who has taught at St Francis Xavier University since 1990, has written more than 125 articles and 50 encyclopedia entries. Sweet’s most recent books include Migrating Texts and Traditions (2012), Responses to the Enlightenment: An Exchange on Foundations, Faith, and Community with Hendrik Hart, Religious Belief: The Contemporary Debate (2003), and Religion, Science, and Non-Science (2003). He is president of the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies, president of the Istituto Internazionale Jacques Maritain (Rome), and a member of the steering committee of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie.

Prof. Sweet’s lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 22, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall. To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828.

Center for Arts and Letters Selects Vienna, Prague as 2013 Trip Destination

The Center for Arts and Letters is headed to the crossroads of Eastern and Western Europe for its 2013 trip destination. Vienna, Prague and places in between fill our itinerary with elegant and enchanting sights. Join us April 24–May 3 for this exceptional Central Europe tour.

We arrive in Austria’s glittering capital city of Vienna, the seat of the Habsburg dynasty that ruled over the German empire for nearly 650 years. During our three-day stay, we will visit St. Stephan’s Cathedral, the Spanish Riding School, the Vienna Opera House, Schönbrunn Palace, and the artists’ quarter of Grinzing where we will enjoy a Heuriger—a celebration of the new wine.

En route to Cesky Krumlov, a medieval jewel in southern Bohemia and our home for the next two nights, we stop in Melk to visit the magnificent Benedictine Abbey perched high above the Danube River. Known as the “Cradle of Austria” more than a thousand years ago, Melk’s Old Gingerbread House of Grinzing where we will enjoy a Heuriger—a celebration of the new wine.

In Cesky Krumlov, we will visit the city’s Renaissance castle and famed Gothic arcades. We will visit Ceske Budejovice to tour the imperial brewery that once supplied the Holy Roman Empire with Budweiser beer—the original Budweiser after which Anheuser-Busch imitated its beer.

Next, we wend our way to Prague for our final three nights. Daytime excursions include Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Golden Lane, the famous Charles Bridge, Wenceslas Square, the Jewish Quarter and its cemetery and museum, Villa Bertramka where Mozart wrote Don Giovanni and a dinner cruise on the Vlata River. Our farewell dinner includes a wine reception and a Mozart performance.

For a complete itinerary and brochure, call The Center for Arts and Letters 816-501-4607 or e-mail cynthia.cartwright@rockhurst.edu.
Plays-in-Progress Seeks Manuscripts

Playwrights and aspiring playwrights are invited to submit manuscripts to the Plays-in-Progress Workshop’s annual playwriting contest. Manuscripts of plays that have neither been given a public reading nor been performed on stage will be accepted now through Sept. 14. The winning playwright will receive $250.

Following the reading, the playwright will interact with the audience, actors and director who will assess the creative work.

The public is invited to submit manuscripts between 35-110 pages in length to Charles Kovich, Department of English, Rockhurst University, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. Please include your name and phone number on your manuscript, which will not be returned.

The reading will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24, in Sedgwick Hall, room 115. Refreshments will be provided; donations will be accepted at the door. Call 816-501-4607 for information.

Rockhurst Theatre Department Announces Its Season

On Oct. 4, Rockhurst Theatre Director Susan Proctor opens the season with Arthur Kopit’s play, “Indians.” This moving drama about American Indian genocide and the contradictions surrounding the life of Buffalo Bill Cody premiered in London in 1968. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 4 and 5, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6 and 7. Tickets may be purchased at the box office for $8.

The theatre fare changes pace in November with “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” a one-act musical comedy conceived by Rebecca Feldman with music and lyrics by William Finn. Nominated for six Tony Awards, the show centers on a fictional spelling bee set in a middle school. Heidi Van directs with musical direction by Tom Kodera and choreography by Vanessa Severo. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Nov. 15 and 16, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17 and 18. Tickets are $10.

In February, Rockhurst University Players presents “RU Arts” (formerly known as “Theatreworks”). An evening of student written, directed and performed short pieces begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14 and 15. Donations will be accepted. Students from all disciplines are invited to submit scripts to Susan Proctor (susan.proctor@rockhurst.edu) by Dec. 24.

In April, Susan Proctor will direct Molière’s 1664 play, “Tartuffe,” about a wealthy Parisian patriarch who falls under the influences of Tartuffe, a self-righteous hypocrite. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19, and at 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21. Tickets are $8.

All performances are in Mabee Theater. Note the new curtain times: 7:30 p.m. for Thursday and Friday performances and 2:30 p.m. for Saturday and Sunday matinees.