Scholar Examines Facts, Fictions Surrounding Medieval Crusades

The Thomas More Center for the Study of Catholic Thought and Culture, in partnership with the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, will present a rescheduled lecture by Thomas Madden, Ph.D., who will discuss “The Crusades in Myth and History.” The public lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

The perception of the Crusades as unjustified, aggressive acts of the West against the Muslim world has influenced much 20th-century Crusades scholarship. However, recent scholarship has reevaluated this position. As one of the leading scholars in the field, Madden brings nuance to these polarized interpretations.

The Crusades can be neither idealized nor vilified; historical truth lies, as truth often does, somewhere in between. Madden’s exploration of the myth and the reality of the Crusades is an opportunity to explore the history of these wars and the myths that shape our perception of them.

Sr. Carol Keehan to Discuss the Affordable Care Act

What will the Affordable Care Act mean to Catholic healthcare?

Sr. Carol Keehan, D.C., president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, will address this question with relevance to the current situation that faces Catholic healthcare and what lies ahead. She will present her insights in her talk, “Challenges for Catholic Healthcare in a Complex World,” at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, in Mabee Theater.

Arguably, no piece of legislation has engendered as much discussion and debate during the past two decades as the ACA. In recent months, questions relating to the law and how it intertwines with Catholic moral teaching have generated special attention. Few voices have garnered more respect across ideological lines than that of Sr. Carol Keehan.

To register your attendance to these free lectures, call 816-501-4828 or e-mail cynthia.cartwright@rockhurst.edu.

Israel’s Ambassador to Vatican Is Visiting Scholar Guest

The Visiting Scholar Lecture Series invites the public to a historic lecture by Israel’s ambassador to Vatican City, Zion Evrony, Ph.D. In his talk “Conversations Between Jerusalem and Rome,” the ambassador will discuss the state of dialogue between Israel and the Holy See and will consider the history and future of this relationship.

Rockhurst University is pleased to sponsor this lecture with the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee of Kansas City at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the University’s Convocation Center. For the location of the Convocation Center, go to www.rockhurst.edu/rockhurst-map.

Submissions Requested for Fine Arts Journal

Rockhurst Review, published each spring through the university’s English department, is accepting original, previously unpublished poems, essays, short fiction, drama and artwork for its 2014 journal. Submissions will be accepted Sept. 16 through Jan. 10.

Submission 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 2,000 words; and art, not to exceed five black/white or color glossy photographs and photographs of one’s own artwork.

Include a brief biography, address, phone number, e-mail address and cover letter. Send electronic submissions to rockhurstreview@hawks.rockhurst.edu. In the subject line, include your name and the word “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.
Greenlease Gallery Opens Its Season with Mixed Media Exhibit

What’s in a thing? The inaugural exhibition of the 2013-14 year, which opens in the Greenlease Gallery Friday, Sept. 6, will ponder this question by exploring objects unfettered by explicit context and origin.

Guest curator David Rhoads, a Kansas City based artist, curator and collector, presents “L’hourloupe” – an exploration of objects from rigid and soft sculptures, to oil painting and mixed media.

The exhibition will feature works by Kansas City artist Anthony Baab, Chicago artist Scott Wolniak and New York City artists Josephine Halvorson, Gabriel Hartley and David Livingston.

The public is invited to hear Rhoads discuss the exhibition at 6:30 p.m. and to attend a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6, in the Greenlease Gallery. The exhibition will be on display through Oct. 12.

Return to the Classics to Discuss James Joyce’s Ulysses

Return to the Classics, a great books discussion led by Tom Ventresca, ’70, will examine Ulysses by Irish writer James Joyce. The discussion will take place at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 4, in Massman Hall, room 241.

Ulysses is considered one of the most important works of Modernist literature. In 1998 the Modern Library ranked Ulysses first on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

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

Film Series Coordinates with University’s Ignatian Heritage Week

In recognition of the University’s Ignatian Heritage Week, September 9-13, the Rockhurst Film Series will present three films that artistically express many of the themes that will be part of the celebration. A Rockhurst faculty member will introduce each film and lead a post-screening discussion. The films will be shown at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater. Admission is $3, $7 for the series.

Sept. 5 The Mission (1986) A Jesuit mission in the jungles of Brazil is threatened by greedy merchants and politicians in the late 18th century. This film won the Palme d’Or and Academy Award for Best Cinematography. With Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons; directed by Roland Joffé. Introduction by Richard Janet, Ph.D., Department of History. (125 minutes)

Sept. 12 Mean Streets (1973) Charlie, a smalltime hoodlum who feels guilty about his business dealings, attempts to save himself by rescuing his erratic, trouble-prone friend, Johnny Boy. With Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel; directed by Martin Scorsese. Introduction by Glenn Young, Ph.D., Department of Theology and Religious Studies. (110 minutes)

Sept. 19 Babette’s Feast (1987) Two minister’s daughters decide to remain in their small Danish village where religion is the center of their lives. Then, they take in a Parisian refugee who teaches them some very special things about the world. Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Film. With Stephane Audran and Bibi Andersson; directed by Gabriel Axel. In Danish with English subtitles; introduction by Rob Vigliotti, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy. (102 minutes)
Musica Sacra Begins Season with Franz Joseph Haydn’s Powerful Mass in Time of War

Artistic Director Timothy L. McDonald has selected Franz Joseph Haydn’s foreboding yet joyous Mass in Time of War as the centerpiece of Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra’s season opener Sunday, Oct. 20.

Haydn’s Mass in Time of War (Missa in tempore belli) is considered one of the most colorful and exhilarating sacred choral masterworks ever composed. At the time of its writing in 1796, Haydn was at the peak of his musical creativity and had established himself as one of Europe’s premier composers. Also during this period, the Austrian composer and his countrymen were sharing a collective unease over the threatening advances of Napoleon’s invading forces, thereby inspiring the composition’s name.

The work also is known as the “Paukenmesse” or “Timpani Mass” due to the prominent use of the kettledrums. Ironically, the trumpets and timpani produce militaristic fanfares at the words “dona nobis pacem” (“grant us peace”).

Haydn’s music displays a sophistication not found in his previous Mass settings. The orchestral writing is much more independent of the vocal parts. Through the years, a variety of writers have noted the symphonic nature of the work—Haydn even opens the “Kyrie” with a slow introduction, a technique he regularly employed in the first movements of his late symphonies.

However, Haydn does employ some classical conventions like the slow tempo and use of soloists in the “Benedictus,” and the musically descriptive passages at the center of the “Credo.”

Also on the program is Francesco Durante’s Vespro Breve (Short Vespers). Durante (1684-1755) was recognized as one of Naples’ leading composers in the first half of the 18th century, but unlike most of his contemporaries, he chose sacred music instead of opera as his primary focus of composition.

The concert will take place at 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost Avenue in midtown Kansas City. Live Program Notes begins at 6:15. Concert tickets are available through the Central Ticket Office at 816-235-6222, at www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or at the performance.

Polish Poet Adam Zagajewski to Visit Midwest Poets Series Oct. 31

After Sept.11, 2001, The New Yorker published Adam Zagajewski’s poem “Try to Praise the Mutilated World.” The poem resonated with many readers, including poet Mary Oliver who wrote, “I remember how this poem was passed around from person to person during 9/11. It was profoundly moving and apt (it still is), and I remember how thankful I was that poetry exists (I still am).”

Zagajewski’s luminous, searching poems are imbued by a deep engagement with history, art and life. He enjoys a wide international readership. The New York Review of Books attests, “Zagajewski is now one of the most familiar and highly regarded names in poetry both in Europe and in this country.”

His most recent books in English are Unseen Hand (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2011); Eternal Enemies (FSG, 2008); and Without End: New and Selected Poems (2002), which was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award. Zagajewski will open the Midwest Poets Series’ 31st season Thursday, Oct. 31. His reading will begin at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

Admission is $3 at the door; no one will be denied admission for lack of funds. Books will be available for purchase; a reception and book signing follow the reading. For more information, call The Center for Arts and Letters, 816-501-4607.

Center Selects London, Bath, South Wales, Cotswolds for 2014 Trip

The Center for Arts and Letters’ April 23-May 2 trip includes some of the most remarkable scenery and sights that the United Kingdom offers. After arriving in London, the group will travel to its first home base—Bath. An architectural triumph of Georgian style, Bath’s town square brims with must-see sights—the Abbey, the Roman and medieval baths, and the royal Pump Room where one can enjoy tea and scones with live classical music.

From Bath, we will take a day trip to Wales to see some of the country’s breathtaking scenery and visit Chepstow Castle, Tintern Abbey, the black and white timbered buildings of Monmouth, and the antique shops and book stores of Hay-on-Wye. We also will take a day trip to Longleat House, one of Britain’s best examples of Elizabethan architecture.

Departing Bath, we will tour Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Winston Churchill, before settling into the town of Broadway, one of the storybook Cotswold villages. The Cotswolds—Saxon for “hills of sheeps’ coats”—was a region born out of wool wealth in medieval England and flourished until the rise of cotton and the Industrial Revolution. With the collapse of the wool industry, the Cotswold villages entered a time warp, leaving the pristine English countryside dotted with time-passed villages.

Before arriving in London, we will stop in Stratford-Upon-Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare, and then pay a visit to Althorp—home to the Spencer family for nearly 500 years and Lady Diana’s final resting place. While there, we will be served afternoon tea on Spencer family china.

In and around London, we will see blockbuster sights that include Cambridge, the WWII American Military Cemetery, Windsor Palace, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul’s Cathedral for Evensong, the London Eye, the Cabinet War Rooms, the Tower of London, a Thames river cruise and much more.

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

The public is invited to submit play manuscripts to the annual Plays-in-Progress Workshop contest. The winner will receive $250 and have his or her play read before an audience that will assess the creative work.

Restrictions apply for contest eligibility:

• Only plays that have neither been given a public reading nor been performed on stage will be accepted.

• Manuscripts must be between 35-110 pages in length.

Send your submission now through Sept. 13 to Charles Kovich, Department of English, Rockhurst University, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. 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. 30, 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

Naomi Iizuka's haunting tale Language of Angels launches the 2013-2014 Rockhurst University Players theatre season. The story begins in a cave on the edge of a rural North Carolina town, where a young girl has disappeared. One of her nine friends is responsible. Language of Angels will be presented October 10-13. Tickets are $10 at the door.

November 21-24 finds the theater transported to a small town in Norway for Ibsen’s An Enemy of the People. After a local doctor urges the town to build curative baths in order to lure tourists and their dollars, he discovers that the water is teeming with bacteria. The doctor soon learns that no one likes a messenger who bears bad news. Ibsen's play is told in a translation/adaptation by Rebecca Lenkiewicz, whose 2012 Broadway production was hailed as bold and new. Tickets are $10 at the door.

In April, the theater will be transformed into the back streets of New York City for the rock musical Rent. Based on Giacomo Puccini's opera La bohème, the musical tells the story of a group of struggling artists and musicians trying to survive and create in the city's Lower East Side. Rent will be performed April 10-13. Tickets are $15 at the door.

All performances will be in Mabee Theater. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. for Thursday and Friday performances and 2:30 p.m. for Saturday and Sunday matinees. Language of Angels and Rent contain material not appropriate for young children.