Phyllis Zagano Considers Women’s Role in Catholic Church Ministry

Internationally acclaimed scholar and lecturer Phyllis Zagano, Ph.D., will deliver the Rev. William L. Rossner, S. J., Lecture in Theology for Rockhurst’s Visiting Scholar Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 13, in Mabee Theater.

Zagano’s lecture, “Women and Ministry in the Roman Catholic Church,” will address and contextualize contested questions relating to women’s ministerial roles. Senior Research Associate-in-Residence at Hofstra University, Zagano is known to many for her National Catholic Reporter column.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree at Marymount College, she earned master’s degrees from Boston University (in communication), from Long Island University (in literature), and from St. John’s University in New York (in theology) before completing her doctorate at SUNY—Stony Brook.

Zagano is the author, or editor, of 16 theology and religious studies books, including Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church (Crossroad, 2000), which won a First Place Book Award from the Catholic Press Association and the College Theology Society Annual Book Award; and Women & Catholicism: Gender, Communion, and Authority (Macmillan, 2012), winner of a Second Place Book Award from the Catholic Press Association.

Zagano has taught at St. Leo University, Yale University, Fordham University, Boston University and St. Thomas Aquinas College. She was a 2009 Fulbright Fellow at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland.

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

Missouri Poet Laureate William Trowbridge Visits Midwest Poets Series

“I laughed out loud reading William Trowbridge’s collection Ship of Fool,” says United States Poet Laureate—and Midwest Poets Series alumna—Natasha Trethewey. “As with the best humor,” Trethewey continues, “mirth and despair are twinned here.” Yes, they are, and audiences attending Trowbridge readings never know what to expect.

William Trowbridge, who will soon complete his two-year term as Missouri’s poet laureate, will present his poems at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 11, in Mabee Theater as the final event of this season’s renowned Midwest Poets Series. This will be the Kansas City inaugural reading of Trowbridge’s Put This On, Please: New & Selected Poems (Red Hen Press, 2014).

Trowbridge has been a long-time Missouri resident, mostly in the Maryville area, until relocating to Lee’s Summit and establishing his reputation as one of the finest poets in the United States. Trowbridge’s poems appear in anthologies, textbooks and magazines like Poetry, The Georgia Review, The Southern Review and New Letters. He has received an Academy of American Poets Prize, a Pushcart Prize, a Bread Loaf scholarship and fellowships from The MacDowell Colony and Yaddo.

Trowbridge teaches in the University of Nebraska low-residency MFA in writing program and is a distinguished university professor emeritus at Northwest Missouri State University, where he was an editor of The Laurel Review/GreenTower Press from 1986 to 2004.

The reading will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, in Sedgwick Hall, Room 115. Refreshments will be provided; donations will be accepted at the door. Call 816-501-4607 for information.

Plays-in-Progress Seeks Manuscripts

In a recent article in The Kansas City Star by Robert Trussell, the theater critic says that Kansas City “happens to be crawling with playwrights.” If he is referring to you, Plays-in-Progress Workshop wants to hear from you.

The Workshop is seeking manuscripts of plays that have neither been given a public reading nor been performed on stage. Submit your manuscript now through March 14 for the spring Plays-in-Progress playwriting contest. The winning playwright will receive $250.

The selected playwright will interact with the actors, director and audience members who will assess the creative work.

Submit manuscripts, which will not be returned, that are 35-110 pages in length to Charles Kovich, Department of English, Rockhurst University, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. Include your name and phone number.

The reading will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, in Sedgwick Hall, Room 115. Refreshments will be provided; donations will be accepted at the door. Call 816-501-4607 for information.
Greenlease Exhibition Tackles Conflicting Concepts of the Feminine

Kansas City artist Adriana Maria Luna and guest curator Halcombe Miller will close the 2013-14 Greenlease Gallery season with their exhibition “In Essence”—a site-specific installation that explores notions of femininity and womanhood. Utilizing traditional household items and occurrences, Luna and Miller created a space that repurposes these materials into an ethereal environment that appears delicate and utterly precious, but contains a core of strength.

In examining their own experiences as women, Luna and Miller acknowledged their mutual struggle between cuteness and strength, beauty and aptitude, stereotype and reality. They created “In Essence” as a way to provide patrons the opportunity to exist within an environment that embodies these struggles and challenges the idea of delicacy.

The public is invited to the Greenlease Gallery at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 4, to hear Luna and Miller discuss the exhibition and to attend a 7-9 p.m. reception. The exhibition closes May 3.

Film Series, Foreign Language Department
Present French, Spanish Films

The Rockhurst Film Series and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature present three films in Spanish, French and Wolof that will be shown at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater. Members of the foreign language department will introduce the films and conduct post-film discussions. The showings are free and open to the public.

March 5 – St. Teresa of Avila (1984, Spain)
Teresa of Avila struggles to satisfy a call from God to reform the Carmelite order and to undergo her own conversion. Directed by Josefina Molina. (In Spanish with English subtitles; 120 minutes)

March 12 – Democracy in Dakar (2009, Senegal)
This ground-breaking documentary follows hip hop artists, DJs, educators, journalists and street performers at the time of the controversial 2007 presidential election in Senegal. Directed by Ben Herson, Magee McIlvaine. (In Wolof and French with English subtitles; 70 minutes)

March 26 – Violeta Went to Heaven (2011, Chile)
Chilean singer and folklorist Violeta Parra emerges from an impoverished childhood to become her country’s national hero. Directed by Andrés Wood. (In French and Spanish with English subtitles; 110 minutes)
Visiting Scholar Guest Discusses Significance of Higgs Boson

The Rev. Gabriele Gionti, S.J., will address the implications of the much discussed “Higgs boson,” popularly known as “the God particle.” Fr. Gionti, who is a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics for the Vatican Observatory, will deliver the Alpha Sigma Nu – Rev. Vincent F. Daues, S.J., Lecture—“The Higgs Boson and Its Relevance”—at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

Fr. Gionti is the chief liaison between the Vatican Observatory and the theoretical division of CERN, the world’s largest particle physics laboratory. Fr. Gionti brings with him both a talent for communication and an impressive résumé.

Fr. Gionti studied physics at the University of Naples Frederic II and earned a master’s degree in physics in 1993. In 1998, Fr. Gionti graduated from the International School of Advanced Studies in Trieste with a doctorate in mathematical physics. From there, Fr. Gionti moved to the physics and astronomy department at the University of California—Irvine, where he served as a post-doctoral fellow.

After joining the Jesuits in his native Italy in 2000, he began to study philosophy at the Aloisianum Philosophical Institute of the Society of Jesus in Padua, which he finished in September 2004, earning a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the Gregorian University. He then was assigned to the Vatican Observatory in Tucson, Ariz., for two years and worked as a research affiliate at the Steward Observatory of the University of Arizona.

In 2006, Fr. Gionti moved to Berkeley, Calif., where he earned an M.Div/S.T.B. and an S.T.L. from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University. In 2010, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest. Since then, he has been on staff of the Vatican Observatory, studying quantum gravity and string theory. He is the author of many scholarly articles.

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

Rockhurst Student Chorus Performs Fauré Requiem April 6

The Rockhurst University Chorus, under the direction of Sara McClure, M.M., will present a setting of the Requiem by French composer Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) for this year’s spring concert. Fauré’s work premiered in Paris in 1888 and has remained a standard of the choral repertoire with its beautiful melodies and lush harmonies. The Requiem will feature baritone and soprano soloists as well as the talents of accompanist Kairy Koshoeva, DMA, on piano.

In addition to conducting the Rockhurst University Chorus, McClure is the music director at Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Village, Kan., and the assistant conductor of the Midwest Chamber Ensemble. She also sings with local choirs, including Musica Vocale and the American Guild of Organists’ Schola Cantorum.

The concert begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6, in Mabee Chapel, Massman Hall. Tickets are not required to this free concert. For more information, email McClure at sara.mcclure@rockhurst.edu.

Works by Haydn, Mozart Close Musica Sacra Season

A stellar quartet of professional soloists joins Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra when it performs Johann Michael Haydn’s rarely heard and highly influential work—the expressive and emotional Requiem in C Minor for Archbishop Sigismondo. Soprano Rebecca Lloyd, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Powell, tenor David Adams and baritone Raymond Feener will join the group Sunday, April 27, for this thrilling season finale.

Known to history as Prince-Archbishop Sigismund Graf Schrattenbach, the Salzburg ruler appointed 26-year-old Haydn (younger brother of Franz Joseph Haydn) to the dual post of court musician and concertmaster in 1763.

The Salzburg court and cathedral also employed Leopold Mozart as early as 1739. His famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, received an honorary appointment as concertmaster in 1769. Both Leopold and Amadeus interacted with Haydn, and all composed works for the court and cathedral.

In 1768, Haydn married Maria Magdalena Lipp, a court singer and daughter of the cathedral organist. Their daughter Aloysia Antonia was born in 1770, but tragically, died less than a year after her birth. Haydn was overcome by grief and remained melancholic for the remainder of his life.

On Dec. 16, 1771, Prince-Archbishop Sigismund died, and, once again, Haydn dealt with grief, this time at the loss of his patron and friend. He set to work composing the Requiem that would honor the ruler. The autograph score was dated Dec. 31, 1771. Scholars speculate that Haydn’s Requiem not only reflected his feelings for the Prince-Archbishop, but also it likely expressed his despair at the loss of his daughter. The result is a work that is both passionate and lyrical.

Haydn’s 1771 work clearly influenced Mozart’s Requiem, which was begun 20 years later in 1791 and left incomplete upon Mozart’s death. Mozart’s Requiem is, of course, one of the most popular of all choral-orchestral works, while Haydn’s remains largely unknown to modern audiences.

Additionally, Musica Sacra will perform Mozart’s Te Deum, a brief celebratory work written in 1769 when Mozart was 13.

The performance will begin at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 27, in St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost Avenue, west of Rockhurst University. Director Timothy L. McDonald will present Live Program Notes at 6:15 p.m. For tickets ($18 adults, $12 students and senior adults), call the Central Ticket Office at 816-235-6222, visit www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or purchase at the performance.
John Stuart Mill’s essays “The Spirit of the Age” (1831), “On Liberty” (1859) and “The Subjection of Women” (1869) will be discussed at the Monday, March 31, Return to the Classics. The discussion will begin at 7 p.m. in Massman Hall, room 241.

British moral and political theorist, philosopher and economist John Stuart Mill was born in 1806 and was the eldest son of Scottish philosopher, historian and economist James Mill. Schooled at home by his father, John Stuart proved to be an exceptional student. He began to read Greek at age 3 and Latin at 8. By the age of 12 he had studied the works of Aristotle, Plato, Jeremy Bentham, Thomas Hobbes, David Ricardo and Adam Smith. However, by age 20, Mill suffered an attack of depression, leading him to believe that his capacity for emotion had been stunted by his isolation from other children and by his father’s rigorous educational training. Only by reading the poetry of Wordsworth did his depression gradually lift.

To reserve a space for the discussion led by Tom Ventresca, ’70, 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, the discussion and refreshments; $10 for the discussion and reception only.

‘Rent’ Comes to Mabee Theater April 11-14

Jonathan Larson’s “Rent,” said to be Broadway’s most successful musical since “Hair,” closes Rockhurst’s theater season with performances April 11-14 in Mabee Theater.

Based on his own struggles as an underemployed musician and playwright, Larson wrote about people living on the edge of poverty and the AIDS pandemic, trying to learn the lessons of love, community, passion and compassion.

Winner of the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, “Rent” also garnered four Tony Awards for Larson. However, Larson did not live to see the overwhelming success of his work. He died unexpectedly the morning of the play’s first preview performance Off Broadway.

The story is about love, sex and rock ‘n’ roll. Due to the play’s harsh language, violence, and sexual insinuation, it is not a play for the very young.

“Rent” opens at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 11, and will feature a post-performance talk back. Saturday and Sunday performances will begin at 2:30 p.m. The final performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, as the culminating event of the Rockhurst University Student Achievement celebration. Tickets are $15 and may be purchased at the box office prior to the performance.