

Arts & Letters

The Center for Arts & Letters
at Rockhurst University

March/April 2016

Rockhurst Theater Program Presents 'Life Is a Dream'

This spring, Rockhurst University Theater will go bilingual. Pedro Calderón de la Barca's "La Vida Es Sueño" ("Life Is a Dream") will be performed on the Mabee Theater stage April 21-24.

Barca's "Life Is a Dream" is a Spanish Golden Age treasure. Published in 1635, the play is a philosophical allegory that addresses relatable conflicts: illusion/reality and free will/predestination. Set in a mythical version of Poland, the play tells the story of King Basilio who imprisons his newborn son following an ominous prophecy that the prince will bring death to the king and destruction to the country. The play will be presented primarily in English with some Spanish soliloquies (English will be projected).

Directed by Susan Proctor, "Life Is a Dream" will be presented in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday, April 21 and 22, and 2:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. For information, contact Rockhurst Theater Director Susan Proctor at susan.proctor@rockhurst.edu.

Visiting Scholar Speaker Discusses Modern-Day Human Trafficking



Laura Murphy, assistant professor at Loyola University-New Orleans and a specialist in human trafficking and modern slavery practices, will deliver her lecture "Modern Slavery, the New Slave Narrative, and Post-9/11 Crusade Politics" at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 7, in Arrupe Hall Auditorium. Murphy's talk is sponsored by the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series and Rockhurst's Voices for Justice, a student organization.

Murphy is the founder and organizer of the New Orleans Human Trafficking Working Group and the founder of the Survivors of Slavery Speakers Project. After earning her doctorate from Harvard University in 2008, she became the lead researcher for Loyola's Modern Slavery Research Project.

She is the author of *Metaphor and the Slave Trade in West African Literature* (Ohio University Press, 2012), which won the African Literature Association First Book Prize. Her second book, *Survivors of Slavery: Modern-Day Slave Narratives* (Columbia University Press, 2014), explores human trafficking through first-person testimonies of nearly 40 people enslaved in the last 20 years.

To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828. Parking is free in the parking garage (52nd and Troost Avenue) and in all lots accessed through the University's entrance at 54th and Troost. (rockhurst.edu/campus-map)

Ellen Bass Delivers Annual Robert R. Burke, S.J., Memorial Reading

"Ellen Bass has written [her] poems," says poet and critic Marie Howe, "in service and celebration to Eros, the life force." In no better way can we understand Ellen Bass as a poet of the sensual world.

Bass will read her poems at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 3, in Arrupe Hall Auditorium. The event is named for former Rockhurst University faculty member—defender of art and expressive freedom and co-founder of Rockhurst's Center for Arts and Letters—the late Rev. Robert R. Burke, S.J. He was our mentor and friend, and so remains our inspiration.

Bass' latest book of poetry, *Like a Beggar*, comes from Copper Canyon Press, 2014. Previous poetry books include *The Human Line*, named a Notable Book by *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Mules of Love* (BOA Editions), which won the Lambda Literary Award.

Her poems regularly appear in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic* and *New Letters*. She has won NEA fellowships, the Elliston Book Award, Nimrod/Hardman's Pablo Neruda Prize, the New Letters Poetry Award, and two Pushcart Prizes.

Admission is \$3 at the door. No one will be denied admission for lack of funds. Books will be available at the event. A reception and book signing follow the reading. For more information, call 816-501-4607. (rockhurst.edu/campus-map)



Events Calendar

Unless otherwise indicated, all events listed below are free of charge.

March 2, 9, 23, 30: Rockhurst Film Series

March 2 – *Primary Colors*; March 9 – *Harvest of Empire*
March 23 – *Primary*; March 30 – *Merchants of Doubt*
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Arrupe Hall Auditorium

March 3: Midwest Poets Series, Ellen Bass

Thursday, 7 p.m., Arrupe Hall Auditorium
Book signing and reception follow reading
Admission: \$3

March 7: Visiting Scholar Lecture Series

Laura Murphy, Ph.D. "Modern Slavery, the New Slave Narrative, and Post-9/11 Crusade Politics"
Monday, 7:30 p.m., Arrupe Hall Auditorium
Register attendance: 816-501-4828

April 4: Return to the Classics

A Vindication of the Rights of Women, Mary Wollstonecraft
Monday, 7 p.m., Massman Hall, Room 241
Cost: \$25 includes book, reception; \$10 reception only
Call 816-501-4607

April 5: Visiting Scholar Lecture Series

Jonathan Ebel, Ph.D., "Faith in the Fight: The Churches and The Great War"
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Arrupe Hall Auditorium
Register attendance: 816-501-4828

April 15–May 7: Greenlease Gallery, Student Exhibition

Opening Friday, April 15
Gallery Talk: 6:30 p.m.; Reception: 5-7 p.m.

April 17: Rockhurst University Choruses

Spring Concert, Sunday, 2 p.m.
Mabee Chapel, Massman Hall

April 21-24: Rockhurst Theater, *Life Is a Dream*

Thursday & Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall, Tickets: \$10 at the door

April 24: Musica Sacra Chorus & Orchestra

J.M. Haydn: *Mass in Honor of St. Ursula*
Sunday, 7 p.m.; Live Program Notes 6:15 p.m.
Arrupe Hall Auditorium; Tickets: \$22 adults, \$12 students & senior citizens; Central Ticket Office: 816-235-6222 or purchase at the performance or at rockhurst.edu/mstickets

April 27: Plays-in-Progress Workshop

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Sedgwick Hall, Room 115
Donations accepted at the door

Plays-in-Progress Seeks Manuscripts for April 29 Reading

Do you have a secret aspiration to write a play? Have you written a play but don't know if it has merit? Take action and enter your manuscript in Rockhurst University's Plays-in-Progress playwriting contest.

Plays-in-Progress 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 12 for the spring contest. The winning playwright will receive \$250.

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

The public is invited to 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 with your manuscript.

The reading will take place at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, in Sedgwick Hall, room 115. Refreshments will be provided; donations will be accepted at the door. Call 816-501-4607 for information.

Greenlease Gallery Presents Student Art in Spring Exhibit

The Greenlease Gallery of Art presents an exhibition of student works as part of the University's week-long celebration—Festival of Student Achievement. Each year, the festival highlights student research, scholarship and the fine and performing arts.

Works by Rockhurst's visual arts minors will be presented in an exhibit juried by Kansas City artists Grant Miller and Marcus Cain. The exhibition will include photographic and installation works, paintings, drawings, sculptures, and ceramics. The exhibition will highlight students' dedication to the study of art in tandem with their respective areas of academic study. This interdisciplinary approach is reflected in the individual practice of each student's work.

The public is invited to the 5-7 p.m. opening reception Friday, April 15, in the Greenlease Gallery. Works will be on display through April 30 and may be viewed in the gallery Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 12 to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Greenlease Gallery Director Anne Pearce at anne.pearce@rockhurst.edu.

Student Choruses Perform Spring Concert April 17

The Rockhurst University Chorus and Chamber Singers will feature music from the iconic Broadway musical *Les Misérables* in their annual Spring Concert at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 17, Mabee Chapel, Massman Hall.

The Chorus will perform a medley including the work's most popular songs: "I Dreamed a Dream," "Castle on a Cloud," "On My Own," "Do You Hear the People Sing" and "Bring Him Home."

The concert also will feature classical selections—choruses by Mozart and works from the Renaissance: William Byrd's "I Have Longed for Thy Saving Health" and madrigals by Thomas Weelkes and Thomas Morley.

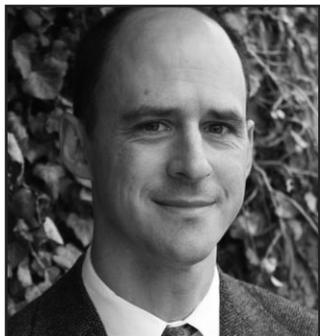
Music and poetry from Scotland also appear on the program: "Annie Laurie," an early 19th century ballad composed by Lady John Scott, and a setting of Robert Burns' "My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose."

The concert is free and tickets are not required. Free parking is available in all lots accessed through the University's entrance (54th and Troost; rockhurst.edu/campus-map).

Greenlease Gallery

Thurs.–Sat., 12–5 p.m. • By appointment: 816-501-4407

Lecture Series Ends 60th Season with Great War, Religion Talk



Jonathon Ebel, associate professor of religion at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will deliver the Visiting Scholar's season finale, "Faith in the Fight: The Churches and the Great War," on Tuesday, April 5, in Arrupe Hall Auditorium.

A graduate of Harvard and the University of Chicago, Ebel, who is a U.S. Navy veteran, has concentrated his research on religion and war and religion and violence. He currently studies lay theologies that have emerged from economic hardship in the United States. He has

collaborated with the Southern Poverty Law Center and was managing editor of *Sightings*, a twice-weekly update on religion sponsored by the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Ebel's lecture echoes the title of one of his books, *Faith and the Fight: Religion and the American Soldier in the Great War*. Based on hundreds of diaries, letters and memoirs of the men and women who fought and served in World War I, the lecture will explore the ways in which religion, especially Christianity, framed the way their war experiences were understood. This topic will be of particular significance as 2016 continues the centennial year observance of the war that was once labeled "the War to end all wars."

Ebel's Visiting Scholar lecture is co-sponsored by Rockhurst's Thomas More Center for the Study of Catholic Thought and Culture. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828.

Parking is free in the garage (52nd and Troost Ave.) and in lots accessed through the campus entrance (54th and Troost Ave.; rockhurst.edu/campus-map).

Return to the Classics to Discuss *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

Participants in this spring's Return to the Classics book discussion, led by Tom Ventresca, RU '70, will deconstruct Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. The group will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, April 4, in Massman Hall, room 241.

Published five years before her death in 1797, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* is considered the first impassioned demand for women's rights. Wollstonecraft argued that "women are not naturally inferior to men, but appear to be only because they lack education." Wollstonecraft not only spoke for the women of her time but also advocated that both women and men should be treated as rational beings.

Although she died at the age of 38, Wollstonecraft's writings have impacted women for generations and have expressed her succinct philosophy: "I do not want (women) to have power over men, but over themselves."

To reserve a space for the Return to the Classics discussion, call The Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607 or email cynthia.cartwright@rockhurst.edu. The cost, \$25, includes a copy of the book and refreshments; \$10 for the discussion and reception only. Parking is free in the garage (52nd and Troost Ave.) and in all lots accessed through the campus entrance (54th and Troost Ave., rockhurst.edu/campus-map).

For its fall gathering, Monday, Nov. 7, Return to the Classics has selected *The Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud*. To register your attendance and to receive a book, contact The Center for Arts and Letters.

Film Series Celebrates Anniversary with Screenings of Four American Films

The Rockhurst Film Series celebrates its 20th season with films that waded into the murky waters of American politics. Each film will be introduced by a member of the Rockhurst faculty who also will conduct a post-screening discussion. The films will begin at 7 p.m. in Arrupe Hall Auditorium. Admission is free; seating is open.

March 2—*Primary Colors* (1998)

In this biting commentary on presidential politics, a virtually unknown Southern governor and his strong, savvy and equally ambitious wife find that the governor's own foibles are the chief challenge to his campaign. Directed by Mike Nichols. Introduction by Chuck Moran, Ph.D. (143 minutes)

March 9—*Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America* (2012)

This powerful documentary examines the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today. Directed by Peter Getzels and Eduardo Lopez. Introduction by Cecilia Samonte, Ph.D. (92 minutes)

March 23—*Primary* (1960)

In the pioneering *cinéma vérité* style of documentary, this film chronicles John F. Kennedy's campaign against Hubert Humphrey during the 1960 Wisconsin primary election. With unprecedented access to the Kennedy campaign, the film captures Kennedy's charm, Jackie Kennedy's grace, and Humphrey's populist appeal. Directed by Robert Drew. Introduction by Peter J. Bica, Ph.D. (60 minutes)

March 30—*Merchants of Doubt* (2014)

This documentary takes audiences on a satirically comedic yet illuminating look at a secretive group of pundits-for-hire who present themselves in the media as scientific authorities but have contrary aims of spreading maximum confusion about public threats that range from toxic chemicals to pharmaceuticals to climate change. Directed by Robert Kenner. Introduction by Robert Vigliotti, Ph.D. (96 minutes)



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Musica Sacra Closes Its 25th Year with Work by Johann Michael Haydn

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra concludes its 25th-anniversary season with a rarely performed choral gem: *St. Ursula Mass* by Austrian composer Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806).

Michael Haydn's work is not as well-known as that of his celebrated older brother, Franz Joseph Haydn. Michael Haydn was a humble composer who did not seek to have his music published. As a result, his music survives only in handwritten, autograph scores found in libraries in Germany and Austria.

Joseph Haydn often stated in his correspondences that his younger brother was a better composer of sacred music than he. The younger Haydn also worked for years alongside Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart as a composer and performer for the Salzburg Cathedral.

The *Missa in honorem Sanctae Ursulae* was completed on August 5, 1793, and is considered the most "Mozartian" of all Haydn's settings of the Mass text. This reference refers to the lyrical beauty of the melodies, the overall balance between joyful and contemplative music, and the way the music serves its liturgical function.

The title of the work is dedicated to Maria Sebastiana Oswald, who was given the baptismal name Ursula soon after her birth in Munich on August 19, 1772. The child was musically gifted and respected as both a violinist and a singer. She was admitted as a novice to the Benedictine convent of Frauenthiemsee in April 1790. She professed her vows on her 21st birthday—August 19, 1793. It is likely that Haydn composed the Mass for this purpose.

The work is beautifully scored for strings, organ, trumpets and timpani. Although it was never published, it was apparently quite popular during the 19th century because manuscript copies of the work are fairly widespread.

The concert will take place at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 24, in Rockhurst University's Arrupe Hall Auditorium. Music Director Timothy L. McDonald will present "Live Program Notes" at 6:15. Tickets (\$22, \$12 seniors and students) may be purchased through the Central Ticket Office (816-235-6222) or at the performance.

Free concert parking is available in the garage (52nd and Troost Ave.) and in all campus lots accessed through the university's entrance (54th and Troost Ave., rockhurst.edu/campus-map).