Plays-in-Progress Seeks Manuscripts

If you have written a play that has neither been given a public reading nor been performed on stage, you are eligible to submit your manuscript now through March 28 to the spring Plays-in-Progress Workshop playwriting contest. The winning playwright will receive a $250 prize.

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. Please include your name and phone number with your manuscript.

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.

Midwest Poets Series Brings Poet, Storyteller, Jan. 30

On Thursday, Jan. 30, Janice N. Harrington will give the annual Rev. Robert R. Burke, S.J., Memorial Reading, which honors the former Rockhurst University faculty member, lover of literature and supporter of all arts. The reading will be in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall, at 54th and Troost Avenue.

Harrington grew up in Alabama and Nebraska; both settings figure largely in her writing. “My experience with poetry,” Harrington says in a 2007 interview with the Poetry Society of America, “evolved and grew from family storytelling, playground chants, the rhythms of the Black church, the literary canon studied in the parochial school curriculum of the 1960s, the Black Arts Movement, and, finally, the revelation of seeing a live performance of Ntozake Shange’s For Colored Girls Who’ve Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf.”

Harrington’s first book of poetry, Even the Hollow My Body Made Is Gone (2007), won the A. Poulin Jr. Poetry Prize from BOA Editions and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. She is the 2007 winner of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for Poetry and a 2009 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award for emerging women writers.

Her children’s books, The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County (2007) and Going North (2004), both from Farrar, Straus and Giroux, have won many awards and citations, including a listing among Time Magazine’s top 10 children’s books of 2007. Harrington teaches in the creative writing program at the University of Illinois-Urbana.

Admission is $3 at the door. No one will be denied admission for lack of funds. Books may be purchased at the event; a reception and book signing follow the reading. For a season brochure or more information, call Rockhurst’s Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607.

Musica Sacra Performs Rarely Heard Mozart Mass Feb. 22

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra will present a rare glimpse into the mind and music of a musical prodigy and icon when it performs the rarely heard Missa Solemnis in C minor, K. 139, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The work was commissioned in 1768 by a Jesuit priest, Fr. Ignaz Parhammer, for the dedication of the Orphanage Church (Waisenhauskirche) in Vienna. From there it drew the nickname Waisenhausmesse, or “Orphanage Mass.”

Mozart was 12 years old when he composed the work, but he was by no means a typical pre-teen. By this time he had travelled to cities and courts with his father, Leopold, and sister, Nannerl—Munich, London, Vienna and Prague.

A Viennese newspaper reported that the Dec. 7 performance of the work was “met with universal approval and admiration.” The Empress Maria Theresa and her children were present at the Mass.

The work is a lyrical wonder and a fine example of how a High Mass would have been composed for Vienna. The orchestration includes strings, oboes, trumpets and timpani, a larger orchestra than was typical in Mozart’s home of Salzburg.

In addition, the ensemble will perform Johann Adolph Hasse’s brief setting of Psalm 111, “Beatus Vir.”

The concert will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost, west of the Rockhurst University campus. Director Timothy L. McDonald will present “Live Program Notes” at 6:15 p.m. For tickets ($18 adults, $12 students and senior citizens), call the Central Ticket Office at 816-235-6222, visit www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or purchase at the performance.
Plein Air Artists Display Their Work
Feb. 7 in Greenlease Gallery

Guest Curator Michael Schonhoff will present his exhibition *Sunday Painter: Kansas City Plein Air Coterie* on Friday, Feb. 7, in the Greenlease Gallery.

The Kansas City Plein Air Coterie began in March 2012 when founding members Robert Bingaman, Lee Piechocki, Nicole Mauser and Kelly John Clark met on Sundays to paint *en plein air* (in the open air), eat breakfast, discuss contemporary art and examine their studio practices. As the outings continued, the identity of KC PAC began to take shape, and they have continued to gain momentum and recognition. Since their initial outing, the roster of KC PAC participants has swelled to more than 80.

This exhibition will provide a holistic view and interpretation of KC PAC’s practice by presenting multiple selections from the large body of artwork created during the group’s outings. Throughout the exhibition, KC PAC will complete five outings and continue the rich legacy celebrated through the show.

The public is invited to the Greenlease Gallery Friday, Feb. 7, to hear Michael Schonhoff discuss the works at 6:30 p.m. and to attend a reception from 7-9 p.m. The exhibit will be on display through Saturday, March 15.

For more information, contact Halcombe Miller at halcombe.miller@rockhurst.edu.

---

Film Series, Foreign Language Department
Present French, Spanish Films

The Rockhurst Film Series and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature present films in Spanish and French that will be shown at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater. Each film will be introduced by a member of the foreign language department who will then conduct a post-film discussion. The showings are free and open to the public.

**March 5 – St. Teresa of Avila** (1984, Spain)
This film details the struggles endured by Teresa of Avila to satisfy a call from God to reform the Carmelite order and reveals the conversion that Teresa herself had to undergo. Directed by Josefina Molina. (In Spanish with English subtitles; 120 minutes)

**March 12 – Democracy in Dakar** (2009, Senegal)
Originally a seven-part miniseries, 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. The film explores the role of musical activism. Directed by Ben Heron, Magee McIlvaine. (In Wolof and French with English subtitles; 70 minutes)

**March 26 – Violeta Went to Heaven** (2011, Chile)
The story of famed Chilean singer and folklorist Violeta Parra traces her evolution from an impoverished child to an international sensation and a national hero for Chile. Directed by Andrés Wood. (In French and Spanish with English subtitles; 110 minutes)
Internationally renowned physicist the Rev. Gabriele Gionti, S.J., will address the implications of the much discussed “Higgs boson,” popularly known as “the God particle.” Fr. Gionti 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 a member of the Vatican Observatory staff and is the chief liaison between the observatory and the theoretical division of CERN, the world’s largest particle physics laboratory. Widely recognized in Italy for his recurring role in the Italian television series “Space Lab,” Fr. Gionti brings with him both a talent for communication and an impressive résumé.

Born in Capua, Italy, in 1967, Fr. Gionti studied physics at the University of Naples Frederic II (where Saint Thomas Aquinas himself once studied) and graduated with a master’s degree in physics in 1993. While engaging in the compulsory military service of the Italian army, Fr. Gionti was admitted to the International School of Advanced Studies in Trieste where he graduated with a doctorate in mathematical physics in 1998. His dissertation focused on discrete approaches to quantum gravity, emphasizing dynamical triangulations, matrix models and local Regge calculus. From there he moved to the physics and astronomy department at the University of California–Irvine, where he served as a post-doctoral fellow.

He joined the Jesuits in his native Italy in 2000, starting his novitiate in Genoa. In September 2002, 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. That same year, he was assigned to the Vatican Observatory in Tucson, Ariz., for two years and worked as a postdoctoral research affiliate at the Steward Observatory of the University of Arizona. He continued his research in discrete quantum gravity and extended his interests to loop quantum gravity, in particular spin foam models, and a possible formulation of discrete Superstring Theory.

In 2006, Fr. Gionti moved to Berkeley, Calif., where he earned master of divinity, bachelor of sacred theology and licentiate of sacred theology degrees from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University in 2010, when he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest. Since then, he has been on staff at the Vatican Observatory, studying quantum gravity and string theory. He is the author of many scholarly articles and is a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics for the Vatican Observatory.

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

An expert in ethics, Catholic social thought, person-alism and the work of Søren Kierkegaard, Beabout applies the tools of moral philosophy to the workplace in an exciting new way. Building on the work of Alasdair MacIntyre, Beabout reconceives both the activity of a manager and the character of the manager’s role with a focus upon stewardship and “practical wisdom.” His talk, based on his recent book of the same title (published by Palgrave-Macmillan, 2013), argues for ways in which moral philosophy can help bring about a change in what it means to be a business manager.

Beabout received his bachelor’s degree in theology from Loyola University of Chicago in 1982, and earned his doctorate in philosophy from Marquette University in 1988. After teaching stints at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York, and Saint Louis University’s Parks College campus in Cahokia, Ill., Beabout began his tenure at Saint Louis University in 1993.

In addition to his book The Character of the Manager, Beabout is the author of Freedom and Its Misuses: Kierkegaard on Anxiety and Despair (2009); Beyond Self-Interest: A Personalist Approach to Human Action, co-authored with Ricardo Crespo (2002); and A Celebration of the Thought of Pope Paul II: On the Occasion of the Papal Visit to St. Louis, edited in 1998.

Beabout also is the author of numerous articles and book chapters in publications that range from Business Ethics Quarterly to Faith and Philosophy. He has received multiple awards for excellence in both teaching and advising.

The Visiting Scholar Lecture Series is honored to have Beabout’s innovative voice present the Rev. William L. Rossner, S.J., Lecture in Philosophy at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828.
Return to the Classics to Discuss John Stuart Mill Essays

Tom Ventresca, ’70, will lead the Return to the Classics book discussion of John Stuart Mill’s essays “The Spirit of the Age” (1831), “On Liberty” (1859) and “The Subjection of Women” (1869). The discussion will take place at 7 p.m., Monday, March 31, in Massman Hall, room 241.

British moral and political theorist, philosopher and economist, John Stuart Mill was born in a suburb of London in 1806. He was the eldest son of Scottish philosopher, historian and economist James Mill. The elder Mill undertook the education of his son, who proved to be an exceptional student. John Stuart 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, his scholastic achievements came at a cost. By 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 of three of Mill’s essays, 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.

RU Arts Showcases Theatre, Poetry, Music, Dance, Visual Arts by Rockhurst Students

RU Arts, an evening of student originated, produced and performed talent, will present student written, directed and performed short plays, original poetry readings, music and dance performance, and visual art. This 90-minute artistic collection will showcase some of the best creative talents Rockhurst students have to offer.

Students will present their works at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 13 and 14, in Mabee Theater. The evening is free but donations will be accepted at the door.