



The purpose of the Athenaeum is to host events that explore and enhance the intellectual life of the University and the region. These events could include lectures, readings, discussions, seminars, performance arts, and other educational experiences.

By bringing together scholars, performing artists, students, community members, and other interested people for intellectual discussion and the sharing of cultural experiences, the Athenaeum reflects the importance the University places on the humanities, the arts, and the sciences.

Location: The Athenaeum is located on the south/bluff side of the second floor of the library. It will approximately seat 70 people. The Athenaeum will typically be scheduled on Wednesdays between 1:00pm and 2:00pm and other events that have been approved by the Athenaeum committee.

Web site: <http://www.winona.edu/library/athenaeum/>

September 14, 2005 at 1:00pm

Rich MacDonald, Richard Hammergren, Mike James, & Larry Price

Jazz Explorations

The WSU Faculty Jazz Ensemble will perform selections from their soon-to-be-released CD project entitled "Jazz Explorations." The group is comprised of music department faculty members; Richard Hammergren, trumpet; Mike James, guitar/bass; Larry Price, piano; and Rich MacDonald, drums/vibraphone. During this event, the group will discuss their recording project, as well as the upcoming jazz recital (October 18, 2005) featuring pianist, Larry Price.

September 21, 2005 at 1:00pm

Drake Hokanson - Associate Professor, Mass Communication

Flying the Mississippi: The Aerial View and the Secrets of Landscape

Using aerial photographs from many flights, including his trips that followed the entire length of the Mississippi, Prof. Drake Hokanson will demonstrate how the view of the earth from low-level flight reveals things about the nature the river and the nature of the American landscape that are hidden to the earthbound traveler.

September 28, 2005 at 1:00pm

Hywel Taff Roberts -

Rockwell Kent

Kent was a Modern painter, printmaker, illustrator, book designer, architect, author, political activist, carpenter, sailor and navigator. No artist before him had captured the sense of remoteness and awesome splendor of the Arctic. Kent's paintings, lithographs and woodcuts often portrayed the bleak and rugged aspects of nature: a reflection of his life in harsh climates. Born in Tarrytown, New York, he also lived in Maine, Newfoundland, Alaska, and Greenland, and explored the waters around Tierra del Fuego in a small boat.

In 1913 Kent and his family moved to Winona for a year where he served as a superintendent overseeing the building of two Georgian mansions, Briarcombe Farm, for Mr. Prentiss and Mr. Bell. Roberts was born in North Wales and has been an aficionado of Rockwell Kent for over 25 years. Kent's paintings of Greenland inspired him to travel there in the summer of 2002.

Thursday October 6, 2005 at 7:00pm "Faith and Reason" Event Co-sponsored by the Atheneum
Is it all about Religion? Creationism, Intelligent Design and Evolution: A Panel Discussion

Ed Slowik (Philosophy), Robin Richardson (Biology), Cathy Summa (Geoscience), Andy Ferstl (Physics), Todd Paddock (Sociology), Troy Paino (History).

October 12, 2005 at 1:00pm

Nancy Peterson & Carol Borzyskowski
Starting a Literary Magazine on a Shoestring

The co-founders and co-editors of "Main Channel Voices: A Dam Fine Literary Magazine" will discuss the trials and tribulations of starting a literary magazine: partnership agreement, assumed name, technical aspects (web development, software, printing), advertising, marketing, and the possibilities of expansion. They will also comment on the poetry selection process, and read selections from the magazine and their own poetry.

October 19, 2005 at 1:00pm "Faith and Reason" Event Co-sponsored by the Atheneum

Deanne Mohr – Assistant Professor, Music Department
Scriabin: a Mystic and his Music

Mohr will discuss Alexander Scriabin's philosophical beliefs and their manifestation in his late piano sonatas, using his Sonata no. 7 as an illustrative example. Scriabin was an early twentieth century Russian composer whose work shows the influences of German Romantic literature, Eastern religions, and philosophy and Theosophy, all of which he drew upon to create his own religious compositional style, an overview of his philosophy, and how he expressed his beliefs through his music using graphic and auditory illustrations.

October 26, 2005 at 12:00noon [Please note: start time]

Dr. Judith Ramaley - President of Winona State University
Greater Expectations Academic Initiative

WSU President Judith Ramaley will share her experiences, expertise, and answer questions on the topic of the Greater Expectations educational initiatives.

"Greater Expectations: The Commitment to Quality as a Nation Goes to College

Greater Expectations is AAC&U's multi-year initiative to articulate the aims of a 21st century liberal education and identify comprehensive, innovative models that improve learning for all undergraduate students."

--Association of American Colleges and Universities

November 2, 2005 at 1:00pm

Dr. Darrell Downs - Associate Professor, Political Science
Our Exciting World of Politics: Catch Up with Happenings in Minnesota

The March legislative session will set the stage for several competitive races for 2006 elections. Candidates are now well underway cultivating their reputations for the contest. Voters will not only have to weigh the candidates' positions, they'll also be asked to re-consider the direction of public policy in key areas, such as in education policy and basic principles of taxation and public spending. Who are these rising stars of Minnesota politics and what do they have in store for us?

November 9, 2005 at 1:00pm

Gretchen Cohenour – Professor of Dance, and Dance Program Director
How to Watch Dance

Dance is an art form that communicates, relates to the world, and expresses ideas through the medium of movement. As an audience member, how do we engage and learn to read and translate this mysterious language to create meaning? How does it function as a field of study in a liberal arts context? Join THAD professor and choreographer Gretchen Cohenour through dialogue, lecture, demonstration, and discussion to demystify and create a 'portal' for diving into the lively and interdisciplinary world of dance.

November 16, 2005 at 1:00pm

Dr. Kenneth R. Rogers - Adjunct Faculty, Educational Leadership
Impressions of Romania: Educational, political and cultural experiences

A presentation of observations during a Fulbright Administrative Exchange with Romania; Dr. Rogers will talk about his experiences with K-12 and university education systems, similarities and differences; social and political context of education; planned entry into the European Union; geography and some architecture of Romania.

Athenaeum Schedule

Spring 2006

January 18, 2005

"Seeing Things": A Reading of his New Short Story from his manuscript "Ghost Tales: For Those Who Do Not Believe in Ghosts." And Discussion of Perceived Realities.

Emilio DeGrazia –Author and Professor Emeritus

DeGrazia will read his new short story "Seeing Things." It is a part of a new book manuscript being developed called "Ghost Tales: For Those Who Do Not Believe in Ghosts." He will discuss the story and how we perceive reality.

January 25, 2005 at 1:00pm

Perspectives on the Science, History, and Culture of Kaliningrad, Russia

Mike DeLong - Professor, Biology

Professor DeLong will discuss perspectives science, history, and culture of Kaliningrad Russian. Kaliningrad, Russia offers an interesting perspective of life in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe. While a part of the Russian Federation, the Kaliningrad region is actually a small area separated from "Big Russia" by Lithuania and Belarus. The region was actually part of Germany (Prussia prior to the unification of the Germanic States) until 1945, when it was annexed by the Soviet Union during their march to Berlin at the close of World War II. The remarkable 750-year history of Kaliningrad (Konigsberg prior to 1945) gives both the city and the surrounding countryside a marked contrast of German and Soviet influence. Changes from the Soviet regime to the current Russian Federation has created great change in the region, but also created a clear dichotomy between urban and rural settings. Changes in the economy has also spurred an interest in taking advantage of the unique natural resources of the Kaliningrad region, with a particular emphasis on the promotion of tourism. The diverse geography of the region, from the cliffs along the Baltic Sea to the below sea-level meadows of the Nemanus River delta, gives the impression that you have traveled a thousand kilometers rather than just 100. A conflict with the development of ecotourism and habitat rehabilitation is the lack of information on the environmental impacts wrought by nearly 50 years of abuse and denial during the Soviet era.

February 1, 2006 at 1:00pm

The Road Trip: Around the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges and Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge

Brian Aldrich - Professor, Sociology

Introduction to a book which shows how to access, by tenths of a mile, nearly 600 miles of Refuges and their social, geological and historical setting. Road Trip was a sabbatical project by Sociology Professor Brian Aldrich designed to showcase the Upper Mississippi River Refuges of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. The Road Trip manuscript and accompanying maps can be downloaded at www.Friendsofuppermiss.org.

February 8, 2005 at 1:00pm

Music Inspired by the Paintings of Charles Burchfield: Solo Cello

Paul Vance - Professor, Music & Dominic Ricciotti - Professor, Art

This presentation is centered on the Gallery Suite for Solo Cello by American composer Robert Muczynski. Each movement of the Suite is based on paintings by Charles Burchfield. Professor Paul Vance will perform the Gallery Suite and provide some background information about Muczynski and the milieu in which the Gallery Suite was conceived. Professor Dominic Ricciotti will give an overview of Burchfield's work and discuss his place in the realm of American art.

February 15, 2005 at 10:00am *Note: Assessment day - start time is at 10:00am*

Learning in the Twenty-first Century: A University-wide Town Hall Discussion and Question/Answer Session

Ryan Flynn - WSU Senate President

Nancy Jannik - Dean of College of Science and Engineering

Mary Kesler - Professor, Psychology & IFO President

Judith Ramaley - WSU President

The panel will discuss what it will mean to be educated in the 21st century and what we are doing to prepare WSU to offer a 21st century education. The format is a Question and Answer Session, University-wide Town Hall style.

February 22, 2005 at 1:00pm

Get Involved! Minnesota Politics and the Caucus System

Darrell Downs - Professor, Political Science

A discussion of how the March precinct caucuses and upcoming elections affect you and life in Minnesota. The emphasis is on how the caucus system works (or fails to work), and how the caucuses and upcoming campaigns help set the political agenda for the state.

March 1, 2005 1:00pm -Confirmed by JM

The Peace Corps: Personal Experiences and Perspectives

John Collins – Professor, Social Work and Peace Corps Volunteer

Jason Wetzel - WSU Alumnus and Peace Corps Volunteer

Brian Greene- Peace Corp Representative, Minneapolis Office

Through their perspectives as Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Professor John Collins (Ethiopia, 1962-1965) and recent WSU grad Jason Wetzel (Bolivia, 2003-2005) will discuss their personal experiences and reflect on changes that the Peace Corps has experienced over almost 45 years. John and Jason will also consider the continuing impact that their Peace Corps experience has had on their lives. Brian Greene from the Peace Corps Office in Minneapolis will join us for this discussion.

March 8, 2005 at 1:00pm

Historical and Cultural Aspects of Indiana Basketball (Go Hoosiers!)

Troy Paino- Dean of Liberal Arts

March 22, 2005 at 1:00pm

Singing from the Same Songbook, or Do We Grow Together or Grow Apart?

Steve Richardson - Vice President for Special Projects

March 29, 2005 at 1:00pm

Crossing Three Wildernesses: A presentation and Reading

U Sam Oeur – Author and Poet

U Sam Oeur will read from his memoir and also chant some of his poems. He will be answer questions about his work with the assistance of his translator, Ken McCullough.

U Sam Oeur was born and raised in rural Cambodia. He received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in the U.S. Upon returning to Cambodia, he served in Parliament and was a U.N. Representative. He survived the Pol Pot regime, though losing half of his relatives, including two daughters. His book of poems, Sacred Vows, and his memoir, Crossing Three Wildernesses, were published by Coffee House Press, Minneapolis.

April 5, 2005 1:00pm Sponsored by WSU's Cultural Diversity Office

White Culture and the Interracial Community

Jeff Hitchcock - Author

April 12, 2005 at 1:00pm Co-sponsored by the *Celebration of the Book Series*

Celebration of the Book Awards & Speaker

Speaker: Dr. George Planavsky

The presentation of the book collection awards for WSU students.

April 19, 2005 at 1:00pm

Poetry Presentation, Discussion and Readings (interactive)

Jim Armstrong - Professor, English

And his WSU Students