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American Studies Professor Greg Pfitzer, this year's Ciancio Award-winner, will deliver the Opening Convocation address Friday, Sept. 5. Story.

Dutch graphic design is the topic of a Sept. 10 talk at the Schick Art Gallery. <u>Story</u>

Guillermo González is this fall's Sterne Virtuoso Artist. <u>Story</u>

**Welcome --** The Skidmore *Intercom* Faculty-Staff Newsletter is a production of the Office of College Relations. All members of the campus community are invited to submit story ideas or news items, using the contact information provided below. Department chairs and office directors are asked to please print a copy of this document to share with colleagues who do not have regular access to a computer.

We hope you enjoy this electronic newsletter and encourage you to share your impressions via email or telephone.

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#### Ciancio Prize-Winner Greg Pfitzer to Give Opening Convocation Address

Greg Pfitzer, chair of Skidmore's American Studies Department, is this year's winner of the Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching. He's thrilled, he says, both for the recognition and because he's honored to be in the company of previous winners John Anzalone (French) and Carolyn Anderson (theater) as well as Ciancio himself -- "who was by all accounts one of the best teachers on the planet."

"Teaching is in my blood," Pfitzer asserts. "I never imagined any other profession for myself, and I have never regretted -- even for a day -- my decision to become an educator."

Pfitzer came to Skidmore in 1989 and teaches, among other courses, "Introduction to American Cultures," "Hudson River Culture," "The Machine in the Garden," and "The 1960s." His primary interest is in the history of historical writing, a topic addressed in his most recent book, *Picturing the Past: Illustrated Histories and the Role of Visual Literacy in the American Imagination, 1840–1900* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002). He is currently at work on a book-length study of the genre of "popular history."

"His scholarship and his love of research and writing have a significant impact on his teaching," notes American studies colleague Mary Lynn. "He stretches his students, and they rise to the challenge...he exemplifies the teacher-scholar model."

As winner of the Ciancio Award, Pfitzer will deliver the Opening Convocation address, incorporating themes related to Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*, the summer reading for the incoming class of 2007. He plans to "emphasize the importance of approaching college as if one were entering the world anew, like Frankenstein's monster."

And if past student observations are any indication, Pfitzer will succeed in helping his undergraduates adapt to their new surroundings. "Who else could make a 9 a.m. intro class fun?" quizzes American studies major Jen Nathan '03, who says Pfitzer exudes remarkable energy and enthusiasm. Adds Alexis Reynolds '03, one of Pfitzer's advisees, "He uses a variety of media to help clarify his points, including tapes of old radio shows, video, illustrations, newspaper clippings, and historical artifacts."

He's participated in Skidmore's Liberal Studies, UWW and MALS programs, and has taught numerous mini-college and workshop courses. Teaching contemporary politics, Pfitzer says, is a particular challenge "not only because the material is too fresh to have allowed for much reflection, but because people can be very partisan about their loyalties to specific parties or politicians. Students often want to know my politics, and, although I am happy to speak about that, I ask them to formulate their own opinions based on their own reflection and study."

Says Pfitzer, "I think the best teachers are those who can convey their love and passion for learning, using the skills and techniques most suited to their personalities. Good teaching," he adds, "begins with respect. I try to respect students as people anxious to learn rather than as petitioners in pursuit of a grade...and I try to remember that some students bloom late in their academic careers. I monitor the slow-starters over their entire Skidmore experience and remind them at graduation of how many skills they've developed, even if their names do not appear on the honor rolls."

And even after they graduate, Pfitzer tries to stay in touch with his students, encouraging them to "think of learning as a lifetime pursuit and imagine me as their lifelong collaborator."

Opening Convocation will begin at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at South Park. At the event, President Philip A. Glotzbach will address the all-College community for the first time. Special guests at convocation will be the Class of 2007. Totaling 608 on-campus students (with an additional 35 attending their first semester of classes in London), the class is 58 percent women and 42 percent men, representing 32 states and nine countries. The class has a median SAT score of 1250.

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#### National Conference to Address the Impact of the Death Penalty On Victims and Their Families

Does the death penalty provide justice to victims of serious crime? Is their healing process enhanced or detrimentally affected by participating in death-penalty processes? These and other vital questions will be addressed at an upcoming conference titled "The Impact of the Death Penalty on Victims' Families." Scheduled on campus from Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 11-13, the conference is the first such event to address the impact of the death penalty on violent crime victims and their loved ones.

Panel discussions with victims of violent crime, as well as social scientists, legal scholars, and victim advocates will focus on how the death penalty affects victims and the impact of the often-years-long capital punishment process on victims and their families. The event is co-sponsored by Skidmore; the School of Criminal Justice at the University at Albany, State University of New York; and Justice Solutions, a national organization specializing in victim assistance.

The conference is organized to serve four goals:

- Provide a supportive, respectful forum for families of victims to discuss how they have been affected — physically, emotionally, psychologically, financially, and spiritually — by the death penalty and related processes.
- Summarize existing research, and identify key dimensions of family impact and areas where further research is needed.
- Identify the role of victim advocates in capital cases and the unique challenges that victims in these cases face.
- Begin a dialogue on the subject among victims/survivors, legal professionals, and scholars.

Several conference events are open to the public. All are scheduled on Friday, Sept. 12. Details are as follows:

- Gannett Auditorium, Palamountain Hall
  - Panel Discussion, "Victims and Capital Punishment: Legal and Research Perspectives,"
     1:30 p.m.
  - Panel Discussion, "Innovations in Victims' Services," 3:30 p.m.
- Bernhard Theater, 8 p.m.
  - Performance: "A Body in Motion," a play by Ingrid DeSanctis presenting the many complex and varied responses to violent events by survivors of crime. Tickets are \$5, general admission; \$2 senior citizens; students free with ID.

Also open to the public is an exhibition at the Tang Museum's Winter Gallery titled "Visualizing the Victim: Artists' Reflections On Crime." Co-curated by students under the direction of Gretchen Wagner, the exhibition runs from Sept. 6 through Nov. 9. Admission to the Tang is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and older, and \$2 for senior citizens. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday and closed on major holidays.

A number of noted scholars, crime victim advocates, and crime victims will participate in the conference, including the following: Jim Acker, professor in the School of Criminal Justice, UAlbany; Robert Blecker, New York Law School; Beau Breslin, assistant professor of government, Skidmore; Renny Cushing, Murder Victims for Reconciliation; Carroll Ann Ellis, director of victim services, Fairfax County (Va.) Police Department; David Kaczynski, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty; David Karp, assistant professor of sociology, Skidmore; Roberta Roper, The Stephanie Roper Foundation; Austin Sarat, Amherst College; Anne Seymour, director, Justice Solutions; Marlene Young, executive director, National Organization for Victims Assistance; Mark Umbreit, Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota; and Howard Zehr, Conflict Transformation Program, Eastern Mennonite University.

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#### New York Times Art Critic to Deliver Fox/Adler Lecture

Michael Kimmelman, chief art critic at *The New York Times*, will discuss "Art in Aisle One: The Early History of American Museum and Department Stores" when he delivers Skidmore's annual Fox/Adler Lecture Sept. 25.

Free and open to the public, the talk will begin at 5:15 p.m. in the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery.

Kimmelman is also a contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and an occasional guest host on the television program"Breakfast with the Arts" on A&E. His book, *Portraits: Talking with Artists at the Met, the Modern, the Louvre and Elsewhere,* was based on a series of conversation with the artists during visits to the museums. The book (1998, Random House) was selected as a notable book of the year by *The Washington Post* and the *Times*. He is currently working on a book about the origins of museums and the promotion of modern art in America.

Kimmelman holds degrees in history and art history from Yale and Harvard, where he was an Arthur Kingsley Porter Fellow. He was a senior fellow at the National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia. He also is a concert pianist and performs regularly on recital series around the country.

The Fox/Adler Lecture Series was inaugurated in 1991 in honor of Hannah Moriarta Adler, a Saratoga Springs native and avid collector of 18th- and 19th-century books, drawings, and porcelains. In 1967 she loaned her extensive collection of 19th-century books to Skidmore, and they remain at the College's Scribner Library courtesy of Norman M. Fox, who took charge of the collection upon Mrs. Adler's death in 1989.

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#### Sterne Virtuoso Event to Feature Guillermo González

Pianist Guillermo González will be Skidmore's Sterne virtuoso artist this fall, performing in concert at 3 p.m. Sept. 21 in Filene Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public. The program includes music by Scarlatti, E. Halffter, and Soler, in addition to selections from Albéniz's Iberia Suite, a specialty of González.

Born in Tenerife, Spain, González studied at the Tenerife Conservatory and the Madrid Conservatory. Later, he studied in Paris at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique and the Schola Cantorum, where he received the great impressionistic piano tradition through his professors V. Perlemuter and J.P. Sevilla. He also studied with M. Heuclin and S. Roche and won prizes at the Milan, Vercelli (Viotti), Jaén and Tenerife piano competitions. He has played recitals and concerts throughout the world.

González is a consummate specialist in Spanish music repertoire, including the Suite Iberia by I. Albéniz, the complete works of Falla, and music by E. Halffter. González has also premiered works by Spanish contemporary composers Castillo, Coria, Cruz de Castro, García Abril, C. Halffter, and Oliver.

In 1998 he published a new edition of Iberia by Albéniz for the Española de Ediciones Musicales Schott Internacional S.L. (EDMS). In this work, the manuscript text of the composer, in a facsimile edition, a printed copy of the manuscripts, and a revised edition are offered for the first time. This same text was used for the 1996 recording of the Suite Iberia which the Radio European Union (U.E.R.) broadcasted live worldwide.

González has been a piano professor at the Royal Music Conservatory of Madrid since 1974, and has been a frequent guest at international piano courses and competitions, and a regular guest professor at the Music Department of the University of Melbourne (Australia). Since 1990 he has been president of the Jaen International Piano Competition, which has awarded him with the golden medal for his work.

His recording Piano Works by Teobaldo Power was awarded Spain's Great National Prize for recording in 1980. In 1998 he recorded the Suite Iberia and the two Spanish Suites by I. Albéniz for the multinational "Naxos." He has also recorded the piano works of E. Halffter and A. Scriabin.

In 1991 González was awarded the Music National Prize, the highest honor given by the Spanish State in his speciality. He was "Premio Añavingo" in 1993, in 1994 was awarded the Golden Medal of Tenerife, and in 1996 the Medal of Villa de Garachico in its V Centennial. In 2000 he was awarded with the CEOE Spain Foundation Prize of Musical Performance.

Skidmore's Sterne Virtuoso Artists Series is made possible by a bequest from Jean Sterne, a member of the College's Class of 1932. The series is dedicated to presenting virtuosi guest performances in piano or strings.

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#### Forché to Read Poetry Sept. 10

Poet and Professor of English **Carolyn Forché** will give a poetry reading at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, in Davis Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Forché – a longtime member of the New York State Summer Writers Institute faculty – joined the English Department this year after a more than a decade of teaching at George Mason University. She is the author of four books of poetry: *Blue Hour* (2003, HarperCollins); *The Angel of History* (1994, HarperCollins), winner of *The Los Angeles Times* Book Award; *The Country Between Us* (1982, Harper and Row), winner of Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay di Castagnola Award and named a Lamont Selection by the American Academy of Poets; and *Gathering the Tribes* (1976, Yale University Press), winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. She also is the author of *Against Forgetting: Twentieth Century Poetry of Witness* (1993, W.W. Norton & Co.).

Forché's many honors include two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships in Poetry, the Edita and Ira Morris Hiroshima Foundation for Peace and Culture Award, a Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, and a Lannan Foundation Fellowship.

She earned a B.A. degree at Michigan State University and an M.F.A. degree at Bowling Green University.

### "Translating the Sonnet" to Be Topic

Poet and translator Alexis Levitin will discuss "Translating the Sonnet" in a talk scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 16, in Emerson Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

nitty-gritty analysis of individual poems in translation, during Reinhard Mayer's class on "Translation" in Bolton 281. The workshop discussion, from 3:40 to 5 p.m., also is open without charge to the public.

A professor of English and translator of Portuguese at the State University of New York College at

Earlier that day Levitin will present a workshop titled "Problems and Issues of Literary Translation," a

Plattsburgh, Levitin has translated such poets as Miguel Torga, Ruy Cinatti, Jorge de Sena, Irene Lisboa, and Rosa Alice Branco.

His books include *Soulstorm* by Clarice Lispector and *Forbidden Words: The Selected Poetry of* 

Eugenia de Andrade, both published by New Directions. He also has edited several volumes of Beacon: A Magazine of Literary Translation, published by the Literary Division of the American Translators Association.

Mayer arranged Levitin's talk, which is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the English Department, and funded in part by Poets & Writer's Inc., through a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts.

#### **Gallery Talk on Contemporary Dutch Graphic Design Set**

The diversity and color of contemporary Dutch graphic designers will be the topic of a talk by Toon Lauwen beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, in the Schick Art Gallery. Admission is free and open to the public.

Lauwen is curator of *A Roadshow of Dutch Graphic Design (1990-2003)*, on exhibit through Sept. 28 at the Schick gallery. The exhibition includes posters, books, catalogues, brochures, house styles, annual reports, magazines, and a few Web sites.

The range of work demonstrates how graphic design is well integrated in all forms of expression in Dutch companies, cultural institutions, and government agencies. This multiform stream of communication is the result of good design schools and professional possibilities for designers.

#### **Rotarians to Honor Community Leaders**

Two members of the Skidmore community -- **Anne Palamountain**, former first lady, and **Linda Toohey**, a member of the board of trustees -- will be honored at an upcoming event sponsored by the Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs Foundation.

The Rotary Club will host a brunch at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, in the City Center. Admission is open to all interested. Palamountain, Toohey, and J. Michael Gonroff will be distinguished guests at the brunch, which will be catered by Longfellow's. Proceeds from the event will go toward scholarships for qualified high school seniors in Saratoga Springs.

Tickets are \$40 per person, of which \$20 is tax deductible. Those interested in attending may request an invitation from the Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs Foundation at the following address: P.O. Box 4423, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., 12866, or by calling Florence Andresen at 583-9794.

### In the News

**Paul Arciero**, associate professor of exercise science, was the subject of a feature story titled "Getting the food pyramid in shape" published July 7 in *The Saratogian*.

**Jackie Azzarto**, associate professor of social work, was quoted in "Unseen Saratoga," a special report on the working poor in this region published May 18 in *The Saratogian*.

**Mary Lou Bates**, dean of admissions and student aid, was quoted in "Good school hunting" published May 27 in *The Christian Science Monitor*.

**Sandy Baum**, professor of economics, was a source for a National Public Radio story titled "States' Budget Woes Affect College Costs" that aired Aug. 14 (locally on WAMC-FM) during the *Morning Edition* program. In addition, she was interviewed for two *Chronicle of Higher Education* stories: "Too Much Work?" published Aug. 8; and "Colleges Have Increased Financial Aid, Mostly for Higher-Income Students, Report Says," published May 1. She was a panelist July 10 at a congressional hearing on potential solutions to the rising cost of higher education. The hearing was called by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and was covered July 11 in *The Chronicle for Higher Education*. Baum also was a source for an Aug. 1 story titled "Private-college tuition boosts less than public schools" that ran on the Scripps Howard News Service wire; and for a June 3 story in *The Detroit News* titled "Student loans smother Michigan college grads."

**Ian Berry**, associate director and curator of the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, discussed the current Tang exhibition, "Living with Duchamp," on WAMC-FM during its morning *Round Table* program August 11. A specialist in contemporary art, Berry described the impact of artist Marcel Duchamp's ideas on the contemporary art world, notably through his philosophy of conceptual art, which changed the way art is made and seen.

**Bill Brown**, associate professor emeritus of biology, was the source for a July 5 *Saratogian* article titled "Snake, rattle and roll: Sharing our environment with timber rattlers."

**Gerald Erchak**, professor of anthropology, was interviewed by National Geographic TV on Aug. 8, for an upcoming multi-part series on cultural anthropology titled "Taboo." Erchak discussed body modification during the interview, which was taped on campus. The program is anticipated to air in October.

**Carolyn Forché**, professor of English, was the subject of a feature story titled "The ABC of the twilight zone" published May 31 in the *Irish Times*. Forché was in Ireland for the Dublin Writers Festival.

**Bret Ingerman**, director of CITS, was a source for an Aug. 9 *Times Union* story titled "College welcome includes warning," about how area schools are informing incoming students regarding the penalties for trading music files on the Internet.

**Tim Koechlin**, associate professor of economics, was a source for a June 22 story in *The Journal News* (Westchester County) titled "N.Y. experiences: Layoffs, expansion," a report on the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement in the decade since it was passed.

Mac Users with the Availability of Sophos Anti-Virus for Mac OS X," that ran July 14 on the PR Newswire. **Kim Marsella**, teaching associate in geosciences, was featured July 22, 23 and June 27 in WTEN-

Tom Marcotte, senior consultant in CITS, was a source for "Sophos Extends Virus Protection for

TV news segments on the Summer Science Institute for Girls. Marsella and the institute also were featured by Capital News 9 of Time-Warner Cable in a story that aired June 21.

Margo Mensing, assistant professor of art, was interviewed by Associated Press writer Melissa

Mansfield for "Artists Appreciate Letter A," a story that ran on the state and regional wire May 30. The story detailed a simultaneous art exhibition featuring postcards by artists living in countries beginning with the letter A. The exhibition runs through December at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy. Mensing was American coordinator of the project and chose the 36 pieces on display at the Arts Center. **Doretta Miller**, professor of art, was the subject of a feature story titled "Paintings portray"

scenes in China" published June 12 in the Saratoga TU, a special publication of the Times Union. Miller's paintings of China were featured in an exhibition at the Saratoga County Arts Center earlier this summer.

book, How We Came to Stand on That Shore, that was published June 3.

Jeff Segrave, professor of exercise science and athletic director, was interviewed by National

Jay Rogoff, lecturer in liberal studies, was interviewed by *The Saratogian* for a story on his new

Public Radio on the selection of Vancouver, Canada, as the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics for a story that aired July 2 on *All Things Considered* (heard regionally on WAMC-FM).

Charles Stainback Dayton director of the Tang Museum, was a source for an Aug. 9 story in

**Charles Stainback**, Dayton director of the Tang Museum, was a source for an Aug. 9 story in *The Boston Globe* titled "At Whitney, A Mountain of Challenges but Adam Weinberg is Good Fit, Colleagues Say," about the appointment of Weinberg as the new director of the Whitney Museum of American Art.

**Sue Van Hook**, senior teaching associate in biology, was a source for an Aug. 19 story in *The Post-Star* titled "Everything's Coming Up Mushrooms."

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#### **Faculty-Staff Activities**

**Catherine Berheide**, professor of sociology, and **Mark Huibregtse**, professor of mathematics, attended the 40th Triennial Council of Phi Beta Kappa Aug. 6-10 in Seattle. Huibregtse headed the two-person Skidmore chapter delegation, and Berheide, in addition to serving as chapter delegate, attended in her role as Phi Beta Kappa senator and member of the Committee on Qualifications, which vets and nominates institutions seeking to shelter a PBK chapter. The council granted PBK charters to eight institutions: Alfred University, Eckerd College, State University of New York College at Geneseo, Roanoke College, Saint Michael's College, University of San Diego, Texas A&M University at College Station, and Valparaiso University.

**Victor Cahn**, professor of English, gave a talk titled "An Introduction to William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*" July 10 at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. The lecture coincided with the Saratoga Shakespeare Company's presentation of *The Taming of the Shrew* in July at Congress Park.

**Roy H. Ginsberg**, professor of government, accepted an invitation from the U.S. Department of State to participate in its Speaker and Specialist Program earlier this summer. From June 1-11 he visited Athens, Thessaloniki, and Nicosia to lecture on transatlantic relations before a variety of audiences, including the Athens embassy, the Association of American University Alumni, the Balkan Studies Institute, the U.S. Consulate in Thessaloniki, and the Cyprus European Institute. He also was interviewed by print and broadcast media in each country. Jody Rose Platt '86, U.S. State Department, and Anestis Symeonides '76, U.S. Embassy in Athens, facilitated the trip.

**Ken Johnson**, professor emeritus of geosciences, was elected July 1 to a one-year term as vice president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' Division of Environmental Geosciences. He chairs the division's advisory board and sits on its executive council. The DEG approaches environmental issues from a geological point of view so that geological, geophysical, and hydrogeological principles and methodologies can be used to solve problems connected with use of the land.

**Charles Joseph**, interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, was a panelist for a public video screening and discussion titled "Music Dances: Balanchine Choreographs Stravinsky" July 20 at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. The video was produced by dance historian Stephanie Jordan. Joseph was joined on the panel by former New York City Ballet member Nancy Reynolds, director of research for the George Balanchine Foundation.

**Reg Lilly**, associate professor of philosophy and chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, presented a paper titled "Saying Death?" at a roundtable on Françoise Dastur's *Dire le temps* July 18 at the International Symposium for Phenomenology in Perugia, Italy.

**Jay Rogoff**, lecturer in liberal studies, participated in a poetry reading hosted by the Saratoga Poetry Zone June 8 at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

**Roy Rotheim**, professor and chair, Department of Economics, was one of four recipients of a National Community Action Award through the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council this spring. Jean Fei '70, also received the award at the May 31 ceremony. The awards recognize outstanding service to low-income families and are presented annually by the National Community Action Network, which consists of more than 1,000 agencies covering 99 percent of the counties in the United States.

**Jeff Segrave**, professor of exercise science and athletic director, presented a paper titled "The Role of Sport in the Development of Character in Charles Schultz's comic strip *Peanuts"* at the Sports Literature Association annual conference June 26-29 at Springfield College, Massachusetts.

**Robert Shorb**, director, student aid and family finance, received the 2002-2003 Leadership Award from the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (EASFAA) at the association's annual conference May 16 in Hershey, Pa. The annual award recognizes an individual who has provided outstanding leadership to EASFAA in the preceding year. Shorb served as past president, chaired three committees, and began compiling EASFAA archives during 2002-2003. This year he will serve as historian.

Mary Stange, associate professor of women's studies and religion, presented a paper on "Feminism and the Firearms Debate" at an international symposium on "The Legal, Economic, and Human-Rights Implications of Civilian Firearms Ownership and Regulation" sponsored by the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities in May in London. In March, she gave a paper titled "Lessons from Waco, Ten Years After" at a conference on "Religion and the Great Plains" sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

#### **Publications & Performances**

**Joel Brown**, senior artist-in-residence, performed July 21 in a concert presented as part of the Luzerne Chamber Music Festival concert series.

**Mary Stange**, associate professor of women's studies and religion, is the editor of *Heart Shots: Women Write About Hunting* (2003, Stackpole Books), a critical anthology, juxtaposing the best of women's writing about hunting over the past hundred years or so, arranged thematically.

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