February, 2015

Dear Alumni/ae and Parents:

Classroom Revisited ’15 promises to be one of the best ever. This year’s program is the 33rd annual spring Continuing Education Day presented by the Holy Cross Alumni Association. The program is designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests and to attract program veterans and newcomers alike. Alumni, parents and friends are most welcome!

Participants may choose from one of the engaging lectures and workshops during each of the day’s three sessions (see enclosed for more details). Most “classes” will be held in contemporary classrooms located in the Henry M. Hogan Campus Center. We are even showcasing some non-traditional locations, including the Theater’s “Pit” (CreateLab class).

We’re fortunate to have Denise Schaeffer, Associate Dean of the Faculty, as a member of our HCAA Continuing Education Day Committee. Prof. Schaeffer has been instrumental in helping us recruit our faculty lineup.

To ensure your seat in the classes of your choice, we strongly recommend advance enrollment. Please fill out the attached form and return it today, or, if you prefer, register online by visiting: http://alumni.holycross.edu/classroom2015

We look forward to seeing you on April 11!

Sincerely,

Colleen Doern ’89  Don Brady ’75  Paula Murphy ’76
HCAA President  Committee Co-Chair  Committee Co-Chair

REGISTRATION  (9:30 – 10:00 a.m.) Hogan Campus Center, 3rd Floor

SESSION 1 (10:00 – 11:15 A.M.)
1. Vickie Langohr, Political Science
   Women’s Rights in The Middle East and The Arab Spring
2. Victor Matheson, Economics
   Stadiums, Mega Events, and Public Finance Follies
3. David Chu, Entrepreneurial Studies
   Mark Freeman, Psychology
   Lynn Kremer, Theatre
   CreateLab: An Experiment in Pedagogy

SESSION 2 (11:30 - 12:45 P.M.)
1. Robert Cording, English
   Robert Frost: The Near Paradise of Work
2. Geoffrey Findlay, Biology
   The Genetics of Man’s Best Friend
3. Cynthia Hooper, History
   Putin’s Russia: What Was, What Is, and What May Be

LUNCH

SESSION 3 (2:15 – 3:30 P.M.)
1. Alice Laffey, Religious Studies
   The Old Testament 30 Years Later: Consistency and Change
2. Catherine Roberts, Mathematics & Computer Science
   Modeling for Planet Earth: Rafting in the Grand Canyon
3. James Welu, Visual Arts
   The Art of Observation

MASS (4:30 P.M.)
Mary Chapel
SESSION 1

Vickie Langohr, Political Science
Women's Rights in The Middle East and The Arab Spring
It is widely believed that women in the Middle East suffer more discrimination than their counterparts in the rest of the world, and that the "Arab Spring" has either failed to increase their rights or even exposed them to new threats. We will first examine how social scientists measure women's empowerment and how Middle Eastern women fare on these measurements. Then we will analyze the ways in which expanded space for citizen activism, and increased media freedoms, have significantly increased some forms of women's rights in post-Mubarak Egypt.

Victor Matheson, Economics
Stadiums, Mega Events, and Public Finance Follies
Over the past two decades, professional teams in the U.S. have spent over $30 billion on new stadiums and arenas with nearly two-thirds of the money coming out of taxpayers' pockets. This session explores the wisdom of public subsidies for spectator sports with a focus on stadium projects across the country and more locally Boston's 2024 Olympics bid.

David Chu, Entrepreneurial Studies
Lynn Kremer, Psychology
CreateLab: An Experiment in Pedagogy
CreateLab, a new course offered last fall, was team-taught by eight professors from a variety of disciplines for 70 students. Come hear about the course from three of the professors and try your hand at a "micro-challenge," a relatively brief group exercise designed to get your creative juices flowing.

SESSION 2

Robert Cording, English
Robert Frost: The Near Paradise of Work
In his book, LifeWork, Donald Hall tells a story about a dinner party with an Indian CEO for Proctor and Gamble. The CEO, addressing a conference of business managers, is asked by a manager in the audience, “What is contentment?” The CEO’s answer is: “contentment is absorbedness.” In this class, we’ll look at some Frost poems that evoke the experience of those moments when we step outside linear time, when the rhythms of work connect with the rhythms of nature, and we live inside one of the inmost truths of religion—that there is a certain rightness to life.

Geoffrey Findlay, Biology
The Genetics of Man’s Best Friend
Stroll by a local park or stop by a veterinarian’s office, and you will see dogs of all shapes, sizes and colors. The tremendous amount of physical variation between dogs is the result of two centuries of carefully controlled breeding, in which humans have selected special characteristics for each breed. While this selection process has resulted in golden retrievers that are consistently friendly and spaniels that excel at hunting, it has also left many breeds susceptible to serious genetic disorders. In this class, we will explore how recent advances in genetics have allowed biologists to identify the mutations that cause canine disease and learn how this knowledge is increasingly informing human health.

Cynthia Hooper, History
Putin's Russia: What Was, What Is, and What May Be
The civil war raging in Ukraine stands as a microcosm for what many politicians are referring to as a “new cold war” dividing today’s Russia from Europe and the U.S. This current superpower struggle is very different from that of decades past: in the 24 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has moved away from Communism and, at least until recently, promoted the advantages of mass consumption, via many of the same name brands familiar to capitalist societies. At the same time, however, Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly stressed that his country should not be expected to build a post-Soviet regime in perfect accordance with either U.S. interests or ideals. This seminar will discuss the role of the Ukraine crisis in exacerbating such tensions. How has Russia changed since the conflict began? What seem to be the aspirations of its leaders, and are they in line with past Soviet principles or do they reflect a new set of strategies and ambitions? Should we continue to think of the world as still divided between East and West?

SESSION 3

Alice Laffey, Religious Studies
The Old Testament 30 Years Later: Consistency and Change
The answer depends on the question. The question depends on underlying assumptions. The first part of the “class” will describe the methods used to interpret the Old Testament in the early part of the Christian era, in response to the Enlightenment and, for Catholics, Vatican II and, more recently in the developed world, as a consequence of post-modern culture. This first part of the “class” will serve as an Introduction to the second part in which post-modern, modern, and post-modern assumptions, methods and approaches will be applied to the book of Ruth. “Students” are encouraged to read the book of Ruth (four short chapters, available in one’s own Bible or on the Internet) before coming to class. It is not essential to do so but pre-class reading will facilitate participation.

Catherine Roberts, Mathematics & Computer Science
Modeling for Planet Earth: Rafting in the Grand Canyon
Imagine you are responsible for predicting the snow conditions at the Winter Olympics or deciding how to manage a forest fire raging ten miles outside of Hartford, Connecticut. It is clear that you need scientific advisers, but with such complex issues there may be additional political, historical, and economic considerations demanding your attention. Using the Grand Canyon as a case study, this class will explore the approaches that modelers take to tackle such problems. You will enjoy spectacular photography and gain an appreciation for how scientists engage with complicated, real-world problems.

James Welu, Visual Arts
The Art of Observation
Visual literacy is a core skill that plays an important role in numerous professions, from medicine to law to business administration. During the past decade, an increasing number of U.S. medical schools as well as other programs have had success in teaching observation skills by integrating arts education into clinical training programs. In this workshop, the former Director of the Worcester Art Museum will use works of art to teach you how to sharpen your sense of inquiry and communication skills. By carefully observing, describing and analyzing these works, you will learn how to deal with ambiguity and balance detailed analysis with big-picture thinking.
The 33rd Annual

CLASSROOM REVISITED '15

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Please fill out this registration form and return to:

Classroom Revisited '15
c/o Tom Cadigan
Holy Cross Alumni Association
One College Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610-2395

Reservation Deadline: **Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

Please make _____ reservation(s) for classroom and lunch at $30 per person.

Total $ _____________ (Checks made payable to Holy Cross)

Select your course: (Circle one choice for each session)

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