



## WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



### PRESS RELEASE

## WCMC-Q presents *Literature, Life in Words* this April

*Doha, Sunday, April 1, 2007:* Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) will present *Literature, Life in Words*, a literary lecture series this April. The series will cover a wide variety of topics from literary greats such as William Shakespeare, to the place of literature and writing in medicine.

Each Monday in April a member of WCMC-Q's writing faculty will deliver an informal talk on an area of their expertise in lecture hall four at 5pm in the Weill Cornell building, Education City.

Members of the community are welcome to attend the lectures. The topics include:

- April 2:        *Did Shakespeare write Shakespeare? A historical excavation*
- April 9:        *A children's book for an endangered planet*
- April 16:       *To laugh at that which is unhappy: Samuel Beckett's sense of humor*
- April 23:       *What Washington Irving did not want us to know: the story of Dame Van Winkle*
- April 30:       *The place of literature and writing in medicine*

For more information, please contact Rodney Sharkey on 523 3513 or email [rxs2001@qatar-med.cornell.edu](mailto:rxs2001@qatar-med.cornell.edu) For a location map, please visit [www.qatar-med.cornell.edu/aboutUs](http://www.qatar-med.cornell.edu/aboutUs)

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## BACKGROUND

### **Did Shakespeare Write Shakespeare? April 2**

WCMC-Q lecturer in writing and Shakespeare scholar Dr. Alan Weber asks the provocative question: "Is the actor William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon the real author of the plays published under his name?" Dr. Weber will take the audience on a delightful journey through renaissance England to unearth the genius behind such works as *Hamlet*, *MacBeth*, and *King Lear*. He will also examine the careers of Sir Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, and Edward de Vere, to determine if they may have written the plays of Shakespeare.

### **A Children's Book for an Endangered Planet. April 9**

The lecture will include a reading and slideshow of Peter Fortunato's new, illustrated children's book, *COLOR ME EARTH*. Peter Fortunato, a senior lecturer in English at WCMC-Q, will discuss how he came to write the book and the enthusiastic response it has received from children and adults alike. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

### **To Laugh at that which is Unhappy: Samuel Beckett's Sense of Humor. April 16**

There is a common misperception of Samuel Beckett's work, and indeed of Samuel Beckett himself, in which humor is hard to come by and misery is writ large. By way of exploding this myth, Beckett scholar Dr. Rodney Sharkey, an assistant professor of writing at WCMC-Q, will provide an overview of Samuel Beckett's life and writings in which the Irish author's irascible sense of humor comes to the fore. Dr. Sharkey will argue that far from being morbid and/or absurd, Beckett's work is an exercise in redemptive humor.

### **What Washington Irving Did Not Want Us To Know: The Story of Dame Van Winkle. April 23**

When most people think of Washington Irving's American classic short story "Rip Van Winkle," they think of the man who slept for several years and returned to find everything changed - his home, town and country. In her presentation, poet, essayist and WCMC-Q lecturer in writing Lauren Alleyne, will discuss her experience as she revisited Irving's story, as well as its influence on her own writing, as she asked one simple question: What about his wife?

### **The Place of Literature and Writing in Medicine. April 30**

WCMC-Q professor of English Dr. Mary Ann Rishel, Peter Fortunato, Dr. Alan Weber, Dr. Rodney Sharkey and Lauren Alleyne will make a series of contributions regarding the importance of literature to medicine and to healing. These observations – incorporating references to Chekov and the theater, to narrative medicine and to poetic metaphor as agents of transformation – are designed to prompt discussion with the audience about the role of writing and other art forms in defining the human face of medicine.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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**Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q** is part of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, the first American institution to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Pre-medical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty. There are separate admission processes for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca, and its Medical College in New York City.

Website: [www.qatar-med.cornell.edu](http://www.qatar-med.cornell.edu)

**Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development** is a private, nonprofit, chartered organization founded in 1995 aiming to develop and utilize human potential through a network of centers and campuses. In 1997 the Foundation set out on a strategic plan to create an Education City that is composed of a number of research centers, branch campuses of world-class educational institutions and a Science Park that acts as an incubator for research, responds to the immediate needs of industry and anticipates future necessities for development. In October 2003, Education City was officially inaugurated and it is now home to branches of some of the world's leading universities and research centers.

Website: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)

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