



PRESS RELEASE

Third Literary Lecture Series Kicks Off at WCMC-Q

Doha, March 30, 2009 – Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) will present the third edition of *Literature, Life in Words* this April. The literary lecture series is part of the college's outreach program to the community.

Each week in April a member of the Pre-Medical Writing faculty will deliver an informal talk in an area of their expertise. This lecture series covers a wide range of topics: poetry, physicians' writings, and the forgotten Elizabethan artists. Also included in the series is an exploration of the legacy of W.B. Yeats as well as a mixed media presentation that features such images as frozen lakes and buried owls.

When physicians aren't writing prescriptions, what do they find time to write, and why do they bother? Katherine K. Gottschalk, PhD will entertain her audience with the first lecture 'Telling Stories: Three Doctors Who Write' on April 1.

Prize-winning poet Peter Fortunato, MFA, will give a farewell reading of his poetry and other pieces as he draws to a close his four years of teaching literature and writing at WCMC-Q. 'Doha Ma'alsalama' will take place on April 8.

Alan Weber, PhD will present 'In the Shadow of Shakespeare: The Minor Elizabethans' that highlights the works of Sir Walter Raleigh, Michael Drayton, and John Dowland. These less well-known Elizabethan and Jacobean artists who were overshadowed by 'Bardophilia' (excessive fondness for William Shakespeare) will be given the spotlight on April 15.

Autumn Watts, MFA, will present sound, text, and images from her inter-media collaborations with visual artists and discuss the creative process in this context. Themes such as distance, fixation, anxiety, isolation, and instability will be explored in 'Is It Dark Where You're Sitting?' on April 22.

'Excited, Passionate, Fantastical Imagination: W.B. Yeats and the Personal Political' by Rodney Sharkey, PhD is the final presentation of the series. T.S. Eliot referred to W.B.

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Yeats as “the greatest poet of our time”. Discover what makes Yeats’ poetry great on April 29.

“By sharing literary ideas with the public, we are reaching out to the wider community. Communities develop through communication. Part of our social responsibility to our students and to the people of Doha is to share the rich and vibrant world of poetry, prose and drama in as accessible a manner as possible and to as broad an audience as we can,” said Dr. Rodney Sharkey, organizer of the series and lecturer at WCMC-Q.

The lectures take place every Wednesday in April at 19:00 in Lecture Hall 2, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Education City. Contact Rodney Sharkey at 5233513 or rxs2001@qatar-med.cornell.edu for further information.

The April Literary Series Program:

April 1: *Telling Stories: Three Doctors Who Write*, by Katherine K. Gottschalk, Ph.D.

April 8: *Doha Ma'alsalama*: A reading and discussion by prize-winning poet Peter Fortunato, MFA, as he prepares to leave Doha.

April 15: *In the Shadow of Shakespeare: The Minor Elizabethans*, by Alan S. Weber, Ph.D.

April 22: *“Is It Dark Where You're Sitting?”* a mixed-media exploration by Autumn Watts, MFA.

April 29: *“Excited, Passionate, Fantastical Imagination: W. B. Yeats and the Personal Political”* by Rodney Sharkey, Ph.D.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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

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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

About Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people.

The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City, a fourteen million square-meter campus which hosts numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of five of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge research and development center. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in community health and development.

For more information please visit: <http://www.qf.org.qa/>

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