

## **RIVIER COLLEGE HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES** (FALL 2005 TO SPRING 2006)

**Martin Menke, Ph.D.\***

**Associate Professor, Department of History, Law & Political Science, Rivier College**

### **Humanities Lecture Series 2005-2006**

**October 27, 2005, 7:00 pm, Dion Center Board Room**

**“Ethics and Property”**

**Rev. Michael McFarland, SJ, President of the College of the Holy Cross**

In addition to serving as president of the College of the Holy Cross, Father McFarland also is an accomplished computer scientist, Father McFarland has published articles in the Proceedings of the IEEE (the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), the IEEE Transactions on Computers, the IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems, Formal Methods for System Design, the Journal of Systems and Software, Computer, and Technology and Society. He was an associate editor of the IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems for three years and has been on numerous program committees for conferences such as the Design Automation Conference, the International Conference on Computer Design, the International Conference on Computer-Aided Design and the High-Level Synthesis Workshop.

**November 2, 2005, 7:00 pm, Dion Center Reception Room**

**“U.S.-French Relations”**

**François Gauthier, Consul General of France**

The newly arrived Consul General discussed the current state of Franco-American relations and other related topics.

**February 7, 2006, 7 pm**

**“Romanization of Crete”**

**David George**

David George, Ph.D., is professor of classics at St. Anselm College. Professor George will talk about the way in which archaeologists study changing human adaptation to the topography, particularly on Crete, as way of accessing changing attitudes about urban life and urban citizenship.

**March 28, 2006**

**“Foreign Policy back on the Front Burner”**

**William Martel, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University**

William Martel, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will speak on current trends in U.S. foreign policy as well as policy-formulation and decision-making for the future role of the U.S. in the world.

**April 11, 2006, 7:00 pm, Dion Center Board Room**

**“Robert Frost’s New Hampshire”**

**David H. Watters, University of New Hampshire**

David Watters, Ph.D., Brown University, serves as the James Hayes and Claire Short Hayes Chair in the Humanities at the University of New Hampshire. He has published extensively on American literature and culture.

**April 20, 2006, DeMoulas Room, Education Center**

Origami activity: 11:45 am -12:10 pm

Presentation: 12:15 pm -1:00 pm

*Humanity Series Presentation Co-Sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science*

**“Mathematics and the Origami Revolution”**

**Amanda Serenevy, Boston University**

Amanda Serenevy is completing her mathematics Ph.D. work at Boston University on synchrony and suppression in networks of inhibitory neurons, a mathematical study of the rhythms of neurons in the brain, but her interests in mathematics are more diverse. She has taught courses and presented workshops to mathematical research groups, college students, high school students, and elementary students on such topics as biodynamics, mathematical origami, perspective drawing, knots and topology, polytopes, and fractal geometry. She has taught in the nationally recognized Math Circle enrichment program and at the Boston Museum of Science. Amanda has begun a project “Math on the Street” in which her goal is to introduce the beauty and universality of mathematics to people who might not otherwise be exposed to it. Origami is one of several topics that she uses to share her enthusiasm for mathematics with general audiences.

Abstract:

In the last few decades, paper folders have revolutionized origami by using mathematics to address questions arising naturally in their art. This revolution has resulted in folded figures that were traditionally considered impossible and new genres of origami. It has also spawned a new field of mathematics and produced exciting technologies.

During this presentation, we will explore the amazing new developments that have resulted from the interplay of mathematics and origami. We will see how a simple module can be used to make origami polyhedra in a wide range of shapes. Finally, we will encounter mathematical origami more directly by tackling a number of challenge questions relating to these polyhedra.

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\* **Dr. MARTIN MENKE** is Associate Professor of History and Director of Secondary Social Studies Education at Rivier College. His primary research interest is in twentieth-century German political Catholicism. He holds a B.A. from Tufts University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Boston College. He has published a number of encyclopedia articles, online chapters for a hybrid US History textbook. His most recent publication is the article "Thy Will Be Done: German Catholics and National Identity in the Twentieth Century" in the spring 2005 edition of *The Catholic Historical Review*.