

HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES (2008-2009)

Martin Menke, Ph.D.*

Associate Professor of History, Rivier College

November 18, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Dion Center Board Room

Robert Niebuhr, Ph.Cand., Boston College

“Multipolarity in a Bi-Polar World: The Balkans in the Cold War”

While the Balkans, particularly the former Yugoslavia, have attracted much attention since the end of the Cold War, the role of Yugoslavia and its neighbors during the Cold War has received little attention. Often, the Cold War is described as a bipolar world, riven by a Manichean conflict between East and West. But what about the third way, that of the non-aligned bloc, in which Josip Tito's Yugoslavia played a crucial role as a non-Soviet communist state.

March 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Dion Center Board Room

Bernard Gert, Ph.D., Dartmouth College,

“Ethics and Morality”

Following up on an earlier talk on the morality of cheating, in which he noted that those who condone or tolerate cheating actually hurt their own chances of earning higher grades, **Professor Gert** once again will take on moral issues of contemporary relevance and importance.

March 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Dion Center Reception Room

Thomas Massaro, SJ, Boston College School of Theology

“Catholic Social Thought and Civic Responsibility Amidst Globalization”

This year's Junior Year Seminar Convocation address will be given by **Professor Thomas Massaro, S.J.**, of the Boston College School of Theology, formerly the Weston School of Theology. Professor Massaro will draw on scripture, tradition, world events, and living examples of heroism and holiness to illustrate the necessary connection between Catholic Social Teaching and a life of service as a responsible citizen in a global environment.

April 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Dion Center Reception Room

Sharon Dean, Ph.D., Rivier College

“Constance Fenimore Woolson: Reconstructing the American Scene”

Born in New Hampshire in 1840, Constance Woolson grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, where she became an ardent supporter of the Union cause during the Civil War. After the war, she sought a warmer climate and more economical living arrangements in the reconstructing South. From 1873-1880, she traveled throughout the region, recording her impressions in her travel narratives and her fiction. This presentation will look at Woolson's impressions of the landscapes and the people she encountered in a rapidly changing American scene.■

* **Dr. MARTIN MENKE** received his B.A. from Tufts University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Boston College. He is Associate Professor of History and Director of Secondary Social Studies Education at Rivier College. His research focuses on 20th-century German political Catholicism, particularly on the German Center Party of the Weimar Republic. He has published articles on questions of Catholicism and German national identity and is working on a monograph concerning the long-term causes of the German Center Party's vote to support the Enabling Act of 1933.