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University to conduct disaster drill March 25

An emergency drill will shut down the St. Bonaventure University campus for three hours on Wednesday, March 25.

From approximately 9 a.m. until noon, the campus community will go into lockdown as officers from local and state police agencies arrive on campus to deal with a “shooter scenario” disaster drill. University officials have been working on more detailed emergency planning and preparedness plans since the tragedy at Virginia Tech two years ago.

“We’ve invested hundreds and hundreds of man-hours to working on a plan,” said Rick Trietley, vice provost for student life and head of SBU’s Emergency Management Team, a group of key university officials assigned to make critical decisions at the onset of and during an emergency.

Two additional committees — Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response, made up of representatives from every office and department on campus — have been working for more than a year on preparing for a wide range of potential emergencies, from dangerous weather to pandemic disease.

“Ultimately, we felt we had to conduct an emergency drill to get a sense of how effective our planning has been,” Trietley said. “We wouldn’t have been able to do this without the full cooperation of the campus community, as well as local law enforcement agencies.”

Emergency planners have conducted both in-person and Web-based training to prepare students, faculty and staff for the drill.

An independent evaluation team will monitor the drill and share their findings with SBU emergency planners on Thursday, March 26.

Police officers will be stationed at all entrances to campus during the drill, making campus inaccessible to entry or exit until the drill is complete. (People with urgent need to get off or on campus during the drill will need to call campus security at 375-2525.)

“We recognize that this will be somewhat of an inconvenience to people both on campus and off, but this exercise is so important to conduct — for us internally, but just as much for emergency responders who might not be as familiar with our campus as we’d like them to be,” Trietley said.

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Piccioli honored with Anniversary Medal

At the March 13 Board of Trustees dinner on campus, Mary Piccioli, who has been part of the fabric of St. Bonaventure University for more than 25 years, was honored with a 150th Anniversary Medallion. Mur is leaving Bona's for a new career opportunity March 31.

Below is the text of the citation Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., university president, read before presenting Mur with the medal:

Mary Piccioli has served St. Bonaventure University since 1983 with extraordinary dedication and competence. In the twenty-six years of her employment, her skills have been employed in the provision of financial aid to thousands of students, directing the admissions department, anchoring institutional research and serving as a principal advisor to the senior administration of the University.

Countless testimonials in her record give evidence of the high regard in which she is held by colleagues on the campus and her peers in higher education both in the Empire State and beyond. A woman truly imbued with the Franciscan ethos of this place, she consistently extended herself to strengthen alumni bonds, assist Mount Irenaeus in its development, serve as advocacy officer and mentor young admissions staff members. She pioneered the development of the First Year Experience program, an effort which is already paying rich dividends in student growth and retention and our growing participation in the National Survey of Student Engagement.

In service to the ever present multitude of committees, she has always been fully present, productive and a voice of wisdom and moderation. Throughout the years she has supported by her work and by her personal generosity multiple initiatives of the university, particularly the growth of scholarship funds so crucial to meeting the needs of future students.

During this Anniversary year, we have intentionally connected the legacy of the Franciscan founders to the present generation of leaders on this campus. When Francis sent his companions out to find new fields of work, he sent them with clear instructions to start each new relationship with a greeting of peace. We send Mary Piccioli forth to share her gifts with many other institutions of higher education. We send her with our wish that she go in the peace of knowing that her service here has helped fulfill the dream of President Tom Plassmann to “build a better Bonaventure.” We send her to share this Franciscan vision of a good world at peace with others to whom she is now called as a servant leader.

Therefore, this Board of Trustees resolves that in recognition of her contributions to the welfare of St. Bonaventure University, Mary Piccioli be awarded the St. Bonaventure Anniversary Medal as a sign of our gratitude and pledge of enduring friendship.

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ROTC Seneca Battalion to induct 12th class of nominees into Hall of Fame

St. Bonaventure University's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Seneca Battalion will induct three new members Saturday into its Hall of Fame, which was established during the spring of 1998.

The induction was part of the annual Awards Ceremony for ROTC Seneca Battalion cadets, who were honored for their achievements.

The new inductees include Lt. Col. Michael R. Czaja, retired, '82; Lt. Col. Robert F. Danner, retired; and Lt. Col. Richard C. Trietley Jr., '86.

"The three outstanding soldiers we induct today join an impressive group of men and women in the Seneca Battalion Hall of Fame," said Jim DiRisio, the University's director of admissions and member of the ROTC Affinity Group. "Each understands the importance of selfless service and that freedom is never free."

Michael R. Czaja graduated from Paonia High School in Colorado and enrolled at St. Bonaventure University, graduating in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts in social science. His military service began in the Military Police branch, and after completing the officer basic course, he excelled in numerous assignments as an officer at Fort Riley, Kan., and in Germany, where, in addition to serving as a staff officer, he commanded the 554th Military Police Company.

In 1989, Czaja completed the Civil Affairs and Regional Studies Courses at the U.S. Army J.F.K. Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, N.C., and was deployed extensively throughout Latin America, where he was responsible for diverse civil military operations. He also received additional intensive language training in Guatemala.

After serving in a key staff assignment in the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., Czaja returned to the special operations community as a civil affairs staff officer and branch chief at United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and coordinated a program to support the U.S. government's humanitarian mine action initiative, served as the primary civil affairs planner for Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo and was a guest lecturer on civil military operations at the Canadian Forces College Command and Staff Course.

Czaja's next assignment was as the cadet battalion commander/professor of military science at the University of Houston, after which he returned to MacDill Air Force Base as the current operations officer for information operations and the information operations branch chief at United State Central Command (USCENTCOM). He played a key role in the coordination of information operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom and developed plans to re-establish the Iraqi media infrastructure. He also led the theater-level planning of USCENTCOM's psychological operations, electronic warfare, computer network operations, operations security and military deception. Retiring from active duty in 2004, he worked in several key assignments at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. In August 2008, he entered a Ph.D. program at Colorado State University.

Czaja is a graduate of numerous military schools, including Command and General Staff College and Joint and Combined Staff Officer School, and earned a Master of Science in international relations from Troy University. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3 awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3 awards), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal (2 awards),

Parachutist Badge, Honduran Parachutist Badge and numerous other individual and unit awards.

A graduate of Gallia Academy High School in Gallipolis, Ohio, Robert F. Danner earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Wheaton College in Illinois and was commissioned as an Infantry lieutenant through the Army ROTC program in 1960. He served as a platoon leader at Fort Benning, Ga., before being assigned to a several positions at Fort Gordon, Ga., as part of the response to the Berlin/Cuban crises. After joining the Adjutant General Corps as a Regular Army officer in 1964, he served in the headquarters of Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy, before returning to the United States for additional education. He deployed to Vietnam, where he served in Long Binh for one year as a personnel staff officer in Headquarters, G1, U.S. Army Vietnam. He was the primary personnel staff officer for an advisory program aimed at strengthening the Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces.

He was assigned to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as the deputy adjutant general, and then completed the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1971. Danner joined the Department of the Army Staff in June 1971 and served in several billets with the Military Personnel Center.

He graduated from an Army-sponsored full-time degree program at the George Washington University School of Education in May 1974 with a Master of Arts in College Student Personnel Administration before being assigned for a second time to West Point. Danner was associate director of admission and chief of the admission division at the U.S. Military Academy from June 1974 until July 1979. During that time, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and oversaw the admission programs that allowed for the admission of women to West Point in 1976. Upon completion of the assignment, he was ordered to Fort Knox, Ky., where he served his final Army assignment as adjutant general of the U.S. Army Armor Center. Although selected for promotion to colonel, he retired on July 31, 1981.

Danner immediately was appointed vice president for student life at Houghton College, where he began a career that would last more than 25 years. In addition to having responsibility for several areas that contributed greatly to students' safety, health and development, he was the Army ROTC adviser and member of the 29th Congressional District's Military Service Academy Selection Committee for 20 years. Danner continues to serve the college as coordinator of faculty recruiting and is highly active in his community. His professional, community and church involvement honors include the Boender Award from the Association of Christians in Student Development, three terms as a member, including one as chair, of the Houghton Wesleyan Church Board of Elders and several positions with the town of Caneadea.

A graduate of the Army War College, his military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3 awards), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Commendation Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry With Palm, two Overseas Service Bars and the Expert Infantryman and Parachutist Badges.

Richard C. Trietley Jr. graduated from Olean High School and enrolled as an Army ROTC scholarship student at St. Bonaventure University. He was a distinguished Military Graduate when he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and commission as an Infantry second lieutenant in education in 1986. After completing initial military schooling, he served as the leader of two platoons in the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. He deployed with his platoon to Honduras during Operation Golden Pheasant in 1988 and later was selected as aide de camp to the commanding general of First Region Army ROTC.

After additional military education, he was assigned to the 6th Infantry Division in Fort Wainright, Ala., where he was a battalion adjutant and rifle company commander. He served as assistant S3 of 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Division, before being selected as the brigade's S3/Operations Officer. In that capacity, he was responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of the unit's deployments to the Joint Readiness Training Center and an exercise in Thailand.

Trietley returned to St. Bonaventure in 1993 to serve as an assistant professor of military science and in 1996 was selected as First Region's Instructor of the Year before being assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as the senior program manager for a Department of Defense program that trained and educated foreign military officers from 70 nations. He completed Command and General Staff College and returned to Fort Bragg, where he was assigned to several positions, including a key assignment as secretary to the general staff of the 82nd Airborne Division. He served as executive officer of the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne

Division, and oversaw its 2002 deployment to Afghanistan. Serving in Afghanistan for five months, he was the first soldier to send a message with the Blue Force Tracker system during combat operations.

Trietley accepted the assignment to become St. Bonaventure University's professor of military science and returned to his hometown and alma mater in 2003. During a command that lasted five years, he commissioned 62 second lieutenants and in 2008 was inducted into the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities Hall of Distinction and the Who's Who of American College and University Professors. In February, Trietley was named vice provost of Student Life at St. Bonaventure.

Trietley is a graduate of numerous military schools and earned a Master of Arts in teaching from Webster University. He is a member of the Order of Saint Maurice (Centurion), an honor bestowed upon him by the National Infantry Association and the Chief of Infantry of the United States Army. His military decorations and awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2 awards), Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Service Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist's Wings, Air Assault Badge and Honduran Parachutist Badge.

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SBU finance professor to discuss current recession

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson, professor of finance, will discuss the current economic crisis during an upcoming program at St. Bonaventure University.

The lecture is titled "Living in Interesting Times: An Examination of Economic Performance in 2008-2009" and will be held at 4:30 p.m. March 26 in Dresser Auditorium of the John J. Murphy Professional Building.

The presentation will look into the factors of the current economic crisis, while critically examining the government's response policy.

"Particular attention is focused on the evolving recognition of systemic risk as motivation for government intervention in financial markets," said Peterson.

The lecture will end with the identification of economic and financial metrics that can be used to evaluate and monitor the progress of the economic recovery and process.

This event is free and open to the public.

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Phi Rho Hut-A-Thon set for this weekend

To raise awareness about the connection between homelessness and mental illness, Phi Rho will be hosting this year's Hut-a-Thon fundraiser this weekend.

The event will be held in the parking lot in front of University Ministries from 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20, through 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 22.

Donations will be collected as pledges for those who wish to sit in or stand around a "hut," getting a feel for what it is like to be without a home. Participants will ask friends, family members, co-workers and teachers to pledge money for the period that they sign up for. Participants are asked to sign up for at least a two-hour period. Prizes will be awarded on the final day to the individual, organization or group that raises the most money.

Proceeds from the event will be given to the Olean Genesis House, a homeless shelter; St. Bonaventure's School of Education Counseling Clinic, which provides affordable mental health and academic services for Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Allegany, Erie and McKean counties; and Phi Rho, the St. Bonaventure chapter of the Chi Sigma Iota National Counseling Honor Society.

Group participants, such as organizations and school clubs, are encouraged to make signs or banners that have both their school/group name on them as well as facts and statistics about homelessness. Participating groups need to designate a contact person to collect money from students.

University Ministries will be open for the duration of the event providing hot chocolate, coffee, and water for participants. Restroom facilities at University Ministries will also be available.

Checks can be made out to "Phi Rho" with "Hut-A-Thon" on the memo line. All donations need to be made by March 30. To set up at time for the money collection or to request further information on the Hut-a-Thon, contact Dr. Mary Adekson at madekson@sbu.edu.

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SBU Web class produces weekly online chat

Ever wonder what news might be like if newspapers became nonexistent? This semester's Web Communication class at St. Bonaventure University interactively explores what might lie ahead.

Christopher Mackowski, associate professor of journalism and mass communication, is teaching such a class. In conjunction with Buffalo.com, the class produces a live online chat called "IMportant People" every Wednesday from noon until 1 p.m.

"I decided that doing Web communication would be more beneficial than teaching it," Mackowski said.

The real-world newsroom offers the students hands on experience for their resumes. The chat allows anyone to submit questions to the Western New York guest of the week. While this is not the first time the class has been offered, it has been revamped to be current with today's Internet use.

"It's about the community, for the community, by the community," Mackowski explains.

The class is designed so that all the tasks are rotated weekly, including finding the guest, guest research, posting videos and pictures, conducting polls and moderating the chat itself. The moderators receive the incoming questions, approve them for release and keep the conversation going.

As another of the class's projects, students are working with the Webmaster at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park in central Virginia to overhaul a part of the park's Web site. Students are gathering information, writing text, placing photos, and creating new pages.

Ruth Harper, a junior journalism and mass communications major, took this class because she "hadn't had much experience with online news and I wanted to learn more about the Internet in conjunction with J/MC."

The Buffalo.com guests have included Dan Barry, a Bonaventure graduate and New York Times columnist; the Buffalo Chips, an a cappella group; Dr. Phil Payne, a SBU professor and presidential biographer; and Louis Ramey from Last Comic Standing.

On Mondays, the class researches the next guest and discusses the previous week's chat, weighing in on the positive and negative. Another requirement is that students submit entries in an online blog account discussing the class.

Emily Dillon, a senior journalism and mass communication major and women's studies minor, said the class has given her the "opportunity to see how chats work and what topics can be considered newsworthy."

On Wednesdays at noon grab your lunch and log on to www.buffalo.com to see what IMportant People are saying.

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Artmobile dedicated; schools to benefit

Financially strapped schools unable to send a bus loaded with kids to St. Bonaventure's arts center can now ask for a bus loaded with art to visit them.

The university Friday formally dedicated its new Artmobile, a mobile arts education bus that will target K-12 schoolchildren in the region whose districts often don't have the resources to send them to the museum.

State Sen. Catharine Young (R-Olean) helped secure the \$50,000 state grant used to purchase and equip the vehicle. She spoke at the dedication ceremony inside the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

"This means a lot to me personally," Sen. Young said. "I had the good fortune of growing up on a dairy farm in Livingston County ... but my mom was a teacher and she always made sure that we had opportunities to see the philharmonic in Rochester, or go see a play or an art exhibit.

"Those experiences helped shape the person I am, and I want to make sure that our young people have those chances to enrich themselves culturally. We all know how important this exposure is to the education process."

Sen. Young was approached about the Artmobile concept two years ago by Joseph LoSchiavo, Quick Center executive director; Michael Kramer from University Relations; and Marianne Laine, chair of the Guild for The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

"They were so enthusiastic and had such a great vision that it was hard not to feel excited about the idea," Sen. Young said. "These are the types of grants that make a real difference in our communities."

Laine applauded Sen. Young's support of the Artmobile, which was blessed with holy water by Fr. Leo J. Gallina Jr. of St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Bradford, Pa.

"I can't express enough how grateful we are for Sen. Young making this part of the vision such a wonderful reality," Laine said.

LoSchiavo said that 33 schools and more than 2,300 children have already benefited from visits by the Artmobile, which began making trips in the fall.

The exposure to those underserved children bolsters the educational mission of the Quick Center, which hosted more than 3,000 schoolchildren in 2008 for tours and performances.

“The numbers just keep climbing,” said LoSchiavo, who reported that more than 800 children visited the Quick Center this week alone, including a number of children Friday from Ivers J. Norton Elementary in Olean.

More than 50 school districts make up the center’s six-county service area, including 43 in New York state alone. The impetus for the Artmobile came as Quick Center staff watched the closing and consolidation of several area schools in the past several years, and the loss of funding for school field trips.

School districts interested in an Artmobile visit can contact museum educator Evelyn Sabina at 375-2088 or esabina@sbu.edu.

The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts opened its doors January 1995 to consolidate the artistic activities of the campus, while creating a regional outlet for culture and expression for Western New York.

The Quick Center offers a number of resources for the education and entertainment of its varied audiences. The center is made up of four exhibition galleries, the 321-seat Rigas Family Theater, the F. Donald Kenney Museum & Art Study Wing, art storage areas, and instructional spaces for the visual and performing arts.

Information about the Quick Center’s hours and exhibits is available at www.sbu.edu/quickcenter.

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Acclaimed pianist Leon Bates to perform at St. Bonaventure's Quick Center

Acclaimed pianist Leon Bates will perform his “American Originals” program at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 20, at St. Bonaventure University’s Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

The performance is being presented by Friends of Good Music in association with The Quick Center.

Bates, regarded in Europe as “one of America’s best,” and who remains an audience favorite across the United States, was hailed by The New York Times as “an elegant player with a keen ear for color and a flair for poetry.”

“Leon Bates is one of the greatest American pianists of his generation,” said Joseph A. LoSchiavo, executive director of The Quick Center. “I had the honor of presenting him in many recitals and chamber music concerts in New York City and it is a privilege to welcome Mr. Bates to St. Bonaventure and the Olean community.”

Bates has performed in major concert halls on five continents. He appeared with Lorin Maazel and Orchstre National de France in Paris, with the Vienna Symphony, the Sinfonica di Santa Cecilia in Rome, the Strasbourg Symphony in France, Czech National Symphony in Prague, and the Quebec Symphony. He recently returned to Europe for performances in Germany and Italy.

Some highlights of his career include his recital debut at Carnegie Hall, a televised performance at La Scala Opera House in

Milan, and appearing as soloist with the Duke Ellington Orchestra in Rome's Olympic Stadium before an audience of 20,000 as a tribute to Christopher Columbus.

Bates created the program "American Originals" to recognize the achievements of extraordinary African-American composers of the 20th century. The first half of the program concentrates on two works in traditional forms by two living composers, "Piano Sonata No. 1" by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer George Walker and "Two Etudes" by Ohio-born composer Leslie Adams. Following intermission, Bates turns to rags and dances from the South including "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin. He finishes the evening with favorites by Duke Ellington.

The program guides the audience through the richness of American music for the piano, offering "an evening everyone will enjoy," said LoSchiavo.

Tickets are \$18 at full price, \$15 for St. Bonaventure staff and senior citizens, and \$5 for students. For tickets and information, call the The Quick Center at (716) 375-2494.

This performance is partially supported by a grant from Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, a program developed and funded by the Vira I. Heinz Endowment; the William Penn Foundation; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency; and The Pew Charitable Trusts. The grant is administered by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

The Friends of Good Music series at the Quick Center for the Arts is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

For all Friends of Good Music performances, the museum galleries open one hour before the start of the performance and remain open throughout the intermission. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The museum is open to the public year round at no cost. For more information, visit www.sbu.edu/quickcenter.

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Pre-eminent Thomas Merton scholar to explore Merton's 'mature spirituality'

A pre-eminent Thomas Merton scholar will discuss "Wisdom and Prophecy: The Two Poles of Merton's Mature Spirituality" at an upcoming lecture at St. Bonaventure University. Dr. Patrick O'Connell, a founding member and former president of the International Thomas Merton Society, will speak at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, in the auditorium of the William F. Walsh Science Center.

The lecture will be about the creative tension in Merton's notion of "wisdom" consciousness, through which one responds to the world not as a detached observer but with a particular awareness of the "hidden wholeness" of things.

Topics to be covered include Merton's prophetic attentiveness to the ruptured bonds between creation and creator, the alienation and isolation caused by the rejection of wisdom, and the violation of the divine image through prejudice and exploitation. In exploring these themes it will be shown how Merton's life and writings make him a model for spiritual awareness in the 21st century.

O'Connell's lecture is part of this spring's Thomas Merton Series. St. Bonaventure is celebrating the life of the Catholic writer and Trappist monk with a series of lectures and other special programs this semester. Merton (1915-1968) taught English at what was then St. Bonaventure College from 1940-1941. He had been visiting the area since the summer of 1968 with his friend

Robert Lax, a native of Olean and classmate of Merton's at Columbia University.

O'Connell teaches in the departments of English and theology at Gannon University, Erie, Pa. He holds doctorates in English literature from Yale University and in historical theology from Fordham University. He also edits The Merton Seasonal, the ITMS quarterly publication.

O'Connell is co-author of The Thomas Merton Encyclopedia (2002), which received the award for best reference work by the Catholic Press Association. The CPA called the volume "a comprehensive and authoritative resource on one of the most important spiritual guides of the 20th century." O'Connell was also the editor of The Vision of Thomas Merton (2003) and of the first two volumes of Merton's novitiate conferences, Cassian and the Fathers (2005) and Pre-Benedictine Monasticism (2006). O'Connell has spoken about Merton throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Great Britain and Ireland.

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Beate Gordon, aide to Gen. MacArthur and author of women's rights clause in Japan's post-war constitution, to talk at SBU

Beate Sirota Gordon, who played a key role in writing a women's rights clause into the new Constitution of Japan following World War II, will give a talk at 5 p.m. Monday, March 30, at The Regina A. Quick Center for The Arts.

Gordon's talk, "The Only Woman in the Room," which takes its title from her memoir published in 2001, is free and open to the public.

Gordon was 22 in 1946 when she was enlisted by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander of Allied Powers in Japan, to serve on a small task force charged with drafting a new constitution for the occupied nation. She achieved enduring fame in Japan for her insistence that this document contain a women's right clause, which she drafted.

Gordon participated in the famous secret session between American and Japanese officials that determined the articles to be included in the final document. This extraordinary document, unchanged to this day, guarantees women equal rights with men and ensures the nation's peaceful role in world affairs.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Gordon arrived in Japan in 1929 when her father, the world-renowned pianist Leo Sirota, accepted an invitation to become a professor at the Imperial Academy of Music in Tokyo. The family would remain in Japan for 16 years. Gordon studied ballet, modern dance, ethnic and folk dance, as well as piano and drama in Tokyo, and later at Mills College in California.

"It has been my privilege to know Mrs. Gordon for many years in the context of her notable career as a pioneer in the presenting of international performing arts," said Joseph A. LoSchiavo, executive director of The Quick Center. "The day she told me the astonishing story of her wartime experience is forever engraved in my memory. It is a great honor to be able to welcome her to SBU. This will be a most fascinating lecture for anyone interested in World War II politics, women's rights and human rights in general, and a rare chance to meet the gracious woman behind it all."

For almost half a century, Gordon did not speak publicly about her contribution to the Constitution of Japan. But since 1995, for a variety of reasons that are revealed in her lectures, she has spoken in Japan scores of times, at colleges and universities, and to women's groups and various clubs, sharing her story with more than 75,000 people.

Many thousands more Japanese have learned of her contributions through her book, "The Only Woman in the Room," a bestseller in Japan, and through newspaper articles, radio, television and documentary film programs, and a play written about her story, which tours Japan annually.

In the United States, Gordon has been invited to speak at Columbia, Cornell and Harvard universities, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan and to numerous women's organizations. She was featured on ABC Television's "Nightline" program with Ted Koppel, and on "The Diane Rehm Show" on National Public Radio.

Feminist and political activist Gloria Steinem once said of Gordon: "Her personal story will enlighten all those who question the importance of women's presence in the corridors of power."

For more information, call The Quick Center at (716) 375-2494.

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Newsmakers for Spring 2009

Dr. Xavier Seubert, O.F.M., director of the Art History Program, will be the chair of the Mendicant Art History Group at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Los Angeles, Calif. The conference is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, through Saturday, March 21, 2009.

Visiting journalism professor **Breea Willingham** will present a paper April 3, 2009, at the Southern Sociological Society annual meeting in New Orleans. Her paper is titled "We Don't See Color: Teaching Racism and other Diversity Issues to Students Who Don't Believe Racism Exists." Willingham's paper was inspired by a few of her students who said young people don't see color and racism will go away when the "older generation" dies.

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Friday Forum

All SBU faculty, staff and administrators are welcome to Friday Forums.

Date: March 20, 2009

Speaker: Lindsay Pohlman, Pauline Hoffman, Zachary Rodriguez

Time: 12:20 to 1:30 p.m.

Place: University Club

Topic: Embrace It Africa: How microloans and community involvement improve life for those in poverty in southern Uganda

Abstract: The speakers will present a look at the SIFE-sponsored student trip to rural Uganda in May of 2008. The presentation will include videos and photos of life in Uganda and detail what their fundraising efforts support.

Cost: \$3

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