
March 26, 2009

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Founder of Public Enemy, Chuck D, to discuss rap, race during St. Bonaventure lecture

St. Bonaventure University will host Chuck D, the recognized leader and co-founder of legendary rap group Public Enemy, for a candid discussion on “Race, Rap and Reality.” The free program is slated for 7 p.m. Friday, April 24, in the Reilly Center Arena on campus. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Chuck D has made a loud impact in the music industry, which few have transcended. He redefined rap music and hip-hop culture with the release of Public Enemy’s explosive debut album, “Yo! Bum Rush the Show,” in 1987.

His lecture will address serious issues that go beyond rap music, such as electoral politics, Internet file sharing, the representation of urban space and culture, and race in the media, offering his audiences a jolting combination of intelligence and eloquence.

Born Carlton Ridenhour in Roosevelt, Long Island, Chuck D formed Public Enemy in 1982. Two decades after the group’s debut album was released they went on to produce 12 more albums, which delivered powerful messages about race, rage, reality and inequality. Three of the 12 went multi-platinum. Chuck D and Public Enemy were celebrated in the May 2004 issue of Rolling Stone magazine as one of the “fifty most important performers in rock and roll history.”

Chuck D is a national spokesperson for Rock the Vote, the National Urban League and the National Alliance of African American Athletes. He is featured in the critically acclaimed documentary, “Public Enemy: Welcome to the Terrordome,” a retrospective of the group and its incredible impact on American music. Variety magazine has called the film “one of the best of its kind – intimate, powerful, astute and absorbing.

In 1999, he was named to Upside magazine’s “Elite 100” list of Internet leaders, alongside the likes of Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. In 2001, Chuck D created an online, offline and midline artist distribution channel through his record label SLAMjamz and launched a radio station on the Internet, bringthenoise.com, which made Public Enemy the first multi-platinum-selling act to release an album via the Web before it was available in retail stores.

He continues to write his own books and music that highlight social injustice and community empowerment. As a result, he is often called upon to be a spokesperson for hip hop and rap music on television, radio, documentary and book projects.

This program is sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Journalism/Mass Communication, School of Education, University Ministries, Orientation, First-Year Experience program, Office of Admissions, Damietta Center, Vice Provost for Enrollment, Campus Activities Board, Student Government Association, Higher Education Opportunity Program and the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

High schools and colleges that plan to bring a group of students to the lecture are asked to reserve seating by contacting Jonelle Massey at jhmassey@sbu.edu.

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University trustee from Olean honored by governor's office for business excellence

Olean's Laurie Branch was among seven women honored Tuesday by Gov. David A. Paterson and First Lady Michelle Paige Paterson with New York State Women of Excellence Awards.

The Patersons recognized trailblazers in the areas of business (Branch), health, justice, law enforcement, community service, and education during the sixth annual Women of Excellence Awards Celebration in the State Capitol.

"New York has a strong tradition of remarkable women whose contributions have enriched our communities and set an example for generations to come," Gov. Paterson said. "In their work to improve our businesses, protect our health, expand our knowledge and keep us safe, these seven women continue this legacy. I am honored, particularly during Women's History Month, to celebrate their achievements."

Branch is chief executive officer and president of The Iroquois Group Inc., one of country's oldest and largest insurance associations that negotiates insurance rates for small businesses. Branch is responsible for The Iroquois Group's financial and organizational management, working to ensure that small businesses have access to high-quality, affordable insurance.

Branch has been a St. Bonaventure University trustee since 2002, and serves on the Olean City School District's Board of Education.

The citation honoring Branch said, in part:

"You have shared your vision, intellect, and genuine concern for the welfare of others, through your generous philanthropic and educational efforts in the role of President, Vice President and Trustee on the Olean City School District Board of Education, as a Trustee at St. Bonaventure University, and among memberships on numerous other supervisory boards in your grateful community. In light of your extraordinary achievements, you are heralded as a woman of excellence in business, who reflects the amazing resolve and spirit of women from our past, with the insight and ingenuity to build a brighter future."

The governor established the Women of Excellence Awards when he served as Senate minority leader to honor inspiring women within the Harlem community. He expanded the program to include communities across New York while serving as lieutenant governor. The criteria include dedication to service and volunteerism that focuses on solving community-based problems.

"Each March, we commemorate the women who have led to true progress, who have inspired us to make a real difference in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces," Ms. Paterson said. "The honorees exemplify the spirit of Women's History Month. I

commend them for their service and applaud them for their achievements.”

The Women of Excellence Awards Celebration takes place in March to coincide with Women’s History Month.

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Senior visual arts majors at SBU to open exhibition at The Quick Center for the Arts

Three senior visual arts majors at St. Bonaventure University will open an exhibition of their works on April 3 at The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts on campus.

The exhibition will open at 7 p.m. with a talk in the West Gallery. A reception will follow.

Titled “Divergence” to reflect the students’ differing perspectives on the creative process, the exhibition features the art of Grant Lytle, Tracy Rathke and Amy Vena. The pieces were created while the three attended SBU.

Lytle, a graduate of Victor High School near Rochester, is a modern artist with a strong focus on electric abstraction. His main body of work is acrylic painting with mixed media, such as chewing gum, broken glass and children’s toys incorporated into the design. He will include a study of self-portraits in the exhibition, and he encourages people to visit the gallery to interpret the “unique style and personality” of his pieces.

After graduating with honors from Williamsville North High School in Buffalo, Rathke began her journey in the field of art at St. Bonaventure. She will graduate in spring 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in visual arts and a minor in marketing. A member of the women’s swim team, she is a four-year student-athlete who takes pride in her ability to balance art and her passion for athletics. Rathke has become skilled in portraying the human form.

Vena grew up in Olean and has always had a passion for art. She said drawing has always been a way to express her feelings, and that she relies heavily on color to convey those emotions. She said she maintains a strong emotional connection to her artwork. Vena graduated in fall 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in visual arts and a minor in biology. She said she hopes to continue a connection to the art scene.

The exhibition runs through May 16.

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SBU Theater opens spring production, 'The Seagull'

SBU Theater opens its spring production tonight with Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull." This is the first full-length Chekhov play produced at SBU in more than 40 years. Read more about "The Seagull" cast

"The play is about people struggling to find love and the mistakes they make on the way," said Dr. Ed. Simone, chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts and director of St. Bonaventure's Theater Program.

The production is designed by Becky Misenheimer, assistant professor of theater at SBU. The set will contain very painterly elements that utilize skills taught in her scene painting class and also reflect the "dreamy" nature of the play's setting — a farm on a lake in the Russian countryside.

"The Seagull" will run Wednesday through Saturday, March 25-28, at 7:30 p.m. in The Garret Theater on the SBU campus. An audience talkback, a regular feature of SBU Theater productions since 2005, is scheduled after the Friday, March 27, performance.

Tickets for "The Seagull" are available by calling (716) 375-2492. They are \$8 for the public, \$6 for subscribers, seniors and employees, and free student rush seats are available at the box office beginning at 6:30 p.m. the night of the show with a valid student I.D.

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SBU professor co-authors book on special education counseling

Dr. Barbara Trolley, associate professor of the counselor education program at St. Bonaventure University, co-authored a book titled "The Counselor's Guide to Special Education." The book, published by Corwin Press, is now available for sale.

The book educates school counselors on how to assist the increasing number of students with disability classifications through the special education process, said Trolley.

"School counselors are getting more and more children on their caseloads with special needs, yet the majority of training programs for school counselors do not require a class in special education and few offer such elective courses," said Trolley. "We felt it was essential for school counselors to have an easily accessed guide to special education issues across the age levels of preschool through college."

The book covers topics such as assessment and intervention, behavioral and academic challenges, collaboration with school, community and medical personnel, individual and group counseling and special education terminology.

Although the authors originally set out to cover the special education process in New York state, the book uses examples from throughout the nation.

"While there were certainly some differences across the states, there are many similarities in the special education process. Many state education departments have very detailed special education information that can be accessed by all, including the common federal guidelines," said Trolley. "Our original draft addressed issues within New York state, but by the time we were done, we had reviewed and included samples in each chapter from across the states, making the book more user-friendly to all."

In addition to teaching at St. Bonaventure, Trolley is a licensed psychologist and a certified rehabilitation counselor. She is the editor of the New York State School Counseling Journal and author of two previous books on cyberbullying and school counseling resources.

St. Bonaventure graduates Heather Haas, '04, and Danielle Campese Patti, '02, co-authored the book with Trolley. Both hold master's in education degrees in counseling from St. Bonaventure. Haas has worked as a special education teacher, school counselor and chairperson for a committee on special education.

Patti began her education career as an elementary school counselor. She chaired the Southwestern School District's Committee on Preschool Education and made presentations to the New York State School Counseling Association on the importance of counselors in the special education process. After becoming an assistant principal at Southwestern Elementary School, she is now the principal at Robert H. Jackson Elementary in Frewsburg, N.Y.

For more information on the book, go to <http://www.corwinpress.com/booksProdDesc.nav?prodId=Book232915>.

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Newsmakers for Spring 2009

Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M., vice president for the Franciscan mission and associate professor in the School of Franciscan Studies, will be a presenter on healthcare ethics and the Franciscan tradition March 28, 2009, at Saint Francis University. Br. Ed will speak on "Serving Generously and Loving Rightly: Insights for a Value-Centered Life from the Franciscan Tradition."

John McGrath, '09, a political science and history major, presented his senior capstone paper, "Welfare Policy: Decreasing Rolls after TANF," at The State University College at Oneonta's first Undergraduate Political Science Conference on March 21, 2009.

Dr. John Mulryan, Board of Trustees Professor of English, gave a paper on Guillaume du Choul and Numismatics at the Renaissance Society of America meeting in Los Angeles.

Dr. Paula J. Scraba, associate professor of physical education, has been recognized for inclusion in the 2009-2010 Cambridge "Who's Who of Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs."

Dr. Ed. Simone, professor of theater and chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, has been invited to return to the Michigan Shakespeare Festival (MSF) this summer to play Prospero in Shakespeare's "The Tempest." 2009 will be Simone's fourth season with the festival. He has played King Claudius in "Hamlet," Peter Quince in "Midsummer Night's Dream," Sir Toby Belch in "Twelfth Night," and Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice" for which he won a 2006 Wilde Award for Best Actor. In 2007, Simone directed "Henry V" for MSF. "The Tempest," directed by John Neville-Andrews, head of performance for University of Michigan's Department of Theater and Dance and former Artistic Producer of the Shakespeare Theater in Washington, D.C., will perform in repertory with "As You Like It" (in which Simone will play Duke Frederick), and the musical revue "Side by Side by Sondheim" July 18 through Aug. 2, 2009.

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Friday Forum

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

Date: March 27, 2009

Speaker: Adam Brown

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

Place: University Club

Topic: To Test or not to Test: that is the answer.

Abstract: Professors assess students in a variety of ways, each claiming that theirs is the best way. We will look at several types of assessment and how studying and testing match up head to head for the title of "best retention".

Cost: \$3

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