Rustomji to dispel myths about Islamic culture

Renowned Islamic culture scholar Dr. Nerina Rustomji will share her insights on Islamic societies and the Middle East and attempt to dispel myths prevalent in American society during a lecture at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 2, in the Burke Auditorium.

The lecture and multimedia presentation titled, “The ‘Virgins’ of Islamic Paradise: From Quranic Image to Contemporary American Media,” is sponsored by King’s Women’s Studies Program, the Honors Program, the History Department, Office of College Diversity, and Academic Affairs.

An assistant professor of history at St. John’s University, Rustomji studies the intellectual and cultural formation of Islamic societies and the Middle East. She teaches courses in medieval Islamic history, modern Middle East history, and Iranian history.


She is currently completing her second book, Images of Houris and Visions of Islam, which examines how contemporary Muslims, American media, and European intellectuals represent one of the most sensational figures of speech about Islam: pure female companions or houris in Islamic Paradise.

The project, which has received fellowship support from the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan, seeks to show how varying religious and political interpretations use medieval tropes and reconfigure them for battles about Islamic religion and society in the twenty-first century.

For more information, contact Dr. Robin Field, Director of Women’s Studies, at ext. 5771 or e-mail robinfield@kings.edu.

Sabol lecture focuses on homelessness in community

Human rights activist Rob Robinson of Picture the Homeless will deliver the Peace and Justice Center’s Annual Barbara Sabol Memorial Lecture at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 25, in the Burke Auditorium.

The lecture “So Much to Be Thankful for ...” will focus on homelessness in the community. The program is sponsored by King’s Campus Ministry in cooperation with the Economics Department.

Robinson’s work as an activist began as a board member and housing campaign leader with Picture the Homeless, a grassroots organization in New York City. He is a member of the Campaign to Restore National Housing Rights, which is supported by the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative. He is also a member of the Land and Housing Action Group of the Take Back the Land Movement, which asserts that housing is a human right.

The Barbara Sabol Memorial Lecture is named for a founding member of the Peace and Justice Center who died in 1997. The Peace and Justice Center is Northeastern Pennsylvania’s interfaith resource center for issues of peace and justice.

The topic of this year’s lecture reflects this semester’s theme of the King’s Towards the Common Good program, which features a series of discussions, action, and reflection on contemporary social justice issues in light of Catholic social teaching.
Chemistry Club to perform Halloween experiments for kids

King’s Chemistry Club students, under faculty supervision, will present the College’s traditional ghoulish exhibition of chemical delights in commemoration of National Chemistry Week and Halloween at the 14th Annual “Things that Go Boom in the Night.”

More than a dozen chemistry students will be performing fiery demonstrations, including balloon explosions and a flaming pumpkin finale. They will also be freezing objects with liquid nitrogen, performing some color changing reactions, and making slime. The show will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26, in the Burke Auditorium of the William G. McGowan School of Business.

The presentation is designed for a young audience; Children 12 and under with an accompanying adult are welcome to attend free of charge. The show will last approximately 90 minutes. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact Kristi D. Concannon, associate professor of physics, at ext. 5390.

People at King’s

Dr. Terrence Mech, director of the D. Leonard Corgan Library, participated in a panel discussion titled, “Buddies in Action: Building Information Literacy Partnership among HBCUS (historically Black colleges and universities),” at the 7th National Conference of African American Librarians in Birmingham, Ala.

Dr. Ronald Supkowski, associate professor of chemistry, recently delivered a lecture with Chris Gillis of Solution Mining Inc. at the 32nd Annual National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs in Scranton. The talk was titled: “History of the Old Forge Borehole and How the Chemical Properties of the Outflow Can be Used to Refine a Remediation Method.”

Dr. Ann Yezerski, associate professor and chair of biology presented a workshop entitled, “Genotyping SNP’s Associated With Dyslexia” at the annual meeting of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

King’s hosts debate on proposed Home Rule Charter

Principals in the current debate on different approaches to county government and the proposed Home Rule Charter will participate in a free public forum at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 25, in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center. The proposed Home Rule Charter will be on the Nov. 2 ballot.

James Haggerty and Rick Morelli, both members of the Luzerne County Government Study, will discuss the benefits of a new form of county government. Luzerne County Solicitor Vito DeLuca will discuss the detriments of the ballot initiative.

Each party will speak for approximately 10 minutes, followed by a question and answer session with audience members. The forum is sponsored by The Pre-Law Society.

The proposed charter would replace three full-time commissioners with an appointed full-time professional manager, 11 elected part-time council members, and two row officers.

For further information on the debate, contact Dr. David Sosar, associate professor of political science, at ext. 5376 or e-mail dpsosar@kings.edu.

Experiencing Arts

Campion Literary Society Writing Workshop
Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 3:30 p.m.
Themed, hour-long informal writing classes.
Room 117, Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

The 8th Invitational Emerging Artists Exhibition
Nov. 8- Dec. 10; Meet the artist reception, Nov. 12, 6-8 p.m.
Collection of works by area high school students, coordinated by artist Sue Hand.
Widmann Gallery, Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Share your News with the King’s Community

The next issue of Monarch Notes is scheduled for the week of Nov. 15. If you would like to include an item, please e-mail the information at least 10 days prior to the event to: Assistant Director of Public Relations Joseph Giomboni at josephgiomboni@kings.edu or call ext. 5957.