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**Westfield**  
*State College*

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## GUEST PROFILES

# Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D.

Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery,

Johns Hopkins Children's Center

Monday, January 26, 2009

6:30 Reception · 7:30 Program · Dever Auditorium



Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D., had a childhood dream of becoming a physician. Growing up in a single parent home with dire poverty, poor grades, a horrible temper and low self-esteem appeared to preclude the realization of that dream until his mother, with only a third-grade education, challenged her sons to strive for excellence. Young Ben persevered and today is a full professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery, and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and he has directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center for nearly a quarter of a century.

Some career highlights include the first separation of craniopagus (conjoined) twins joined at the back of the head in 1987, the first completely successful separation of type-2 vertical craniopagus twins in 1997 in South Africa and the first successful placement of an intrauterine shunt for a hydrocephalic twin.

In 2001, Dr. Carson was named by CNN and TIME Magazine as one of the nation's 20 foremost physicians and scientists. That same year, he was selected by the Library of Congress as one of 89 "Living Legends" on the occasion of its 200th anniversary. He is also the recipient of the 2006 Spingarn Medal which is the highest honor bestowed by the NAACP. In February 2008, Dr. Carson was presented with the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal by President Bush at the White House. In June 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by the President, which is the highest civilian honor in the land. He has literally received hundreds of other awards during his distinguished career.

He is president and co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, which recognizes young people of all backgrounds for exceptional academic and humanitarian accomplishments. He also co-founded Angels of the OR, which provides grants to assist families with non-covered medical care expenses involving both adult and pediatric neurosurgery. Both programs are in national expansion mode.

His first three books, *Gifted Hands*, *THINK BIG*, and *The Big Picture* provide inspiration and insight for leading a successful life. His fourth book, *Take The Risk: Learning to Identify, Choose, and Live With Acceptable Risk*, was released in early 2008. Dr. Carson has been married for over 30 years to his wife, Candy, and is the father of three sons. And yes, his mother, Sonya Carson, who made all this possible, is alive and well.

# Ralph Nader

Consumer Advocate, Presidential Candidate

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

6:00 pm Reception · 7:00 pm Program · Woodward Center



Honored by *Time* magazine as “One of the 100 Most Influential Americans of the Twentieth Century,” and recently as “One of the 100 Most Influential Figures in American History,” by *The Atlantic*, consumer advocate and presidential candidate for the Green Party, Ralph Nader, has devoted his life to giving ordinary people the tools they need to defend themselves against corporate negligence and government indifference.

With a tireless, selfless dedication, he continues to expose and remedy the dangers that threaten a free and safe society. Nader was featured recently as the subject of the critically acclaimed documentary, “An Unreasonable Man.” He has also written his introspective book, *The Seventeen Traditions* about the earliest days of his own life, where he revisits seventeen key traditions he absorbed from his parents, his siblings, and the people in his community, and draws from them inspiring lessons for today’s society.

Nader’s foray into public life began in 1965 when he took on the Goliath of the auto industry with his book, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, a shocking exposé of the disregard carmakers held for the safety of their customers. The Senate hearing into Nader’s accusations and the resulting life-saving motor vehicle safety laws catapulted Nader into the public sphere.

Believing that Republicans and Democrats are so ideologically close he calls them “tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum,” Nader organized the Green Party’s first presidential campaign in 1996 to challenge the “duopoly” of the two-party system. He received 700,000 votes on a limited campaign budget of \$5000 and he ran again in 2000, receiving 2.8 million votes. His goal is to build the foundation of a third political party and a robust progressive political movement that rally around issues rather than empty slogans and figureheads.

# Katrina Browne

*Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*

Screening & Discussion

Monday, February 9, 2009 · 7:00 pm Program

Scanlon Banquet Hall



In “Traces of the Trade,” Producer/Director Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, viewers will be surprised to learn that Browne’s ancestors were Northerners. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England’s hidden enterprise.

Katrina Browne is the seventh generation descendant of Mark Anthony DeWolf, the family’s first slave trader. Before launching this film and family process in 1999, Ms. Browne served as Outreach Planning Coordinator for the film adaptation of Anna Deavere Smith’s critically acclaimed play about the LA riots, *Twilight: Los Angeles*. She consulted with race relations and media experts to plan a national outreach campaign to use the PBS broadcast and video distribution as the basis for community dialogue on race, ethnicity and equity. She came to that work and filmmaking from writing a Masters thesis comparing the role that Greek tragedies played in civic life in ancient Greece to the untapped potential of film to catalyze civic dialogue today. She wrote this thesis while earning a Masters in Theology at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. Prior to her graduate studies, she worked as a senior staff person at Public Allies, an AmeriCorps program now operating in 15 cities that she co-founded in 1991 in Washington, DC to recruit more young people and people of color into nonprofit careers. She held responsibilities in national start-up, site program development, evaluation and fundraising. She has a B.A. from Princeton University, where she studied cultural anthropology with a focus on oral history, and wrote a senior thesis on France’s role in the Holocaust. [www.tracesofthetrade.org](http://www.tracesofthetrade.org).

# Dr. Salem Mekuria IMAGinING TOBIA

Triptych Video Installation and Presentation, New England Première

February 3 – March 7, 2009

# Sofia Kifle Ethiopia Whispers

February 3 – March 7, 2009

Gallery Reception featuring Ethiopian music of Debo Trio, refreshments

Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Westfield State College Downtown Art Gallery, 105 Elm Street, Westfield

## Dr. Salem Mekuria, IMAGinING TOBIA, Video Presentation



Salem writes, “I offer IMAGinING TOBIA as a mirror on which to reflect issues confronting the nation, and as a space in which to meditate on the disjunction between our ‘real’ and imagined knowledge of Ethiopia and its multi-faceted history. As an Ethiopian-American I examine my own gaze on my native land as I take in impressions of the variety and diversity of the landscape and its people. In this way, TOBIA (a vernacular pronunciation for Ethiopia) represents a travelogue recorded by a hybridized explorer’s camera, then layered and juxtaposed in infinite ways to create a multitude of meanings and associations. The triptych is a reference to Ethiopia’s traditional religious art. Salem Mekuria, originally from Ethiopia, is now a Professor of Art at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She has worked with NOVA/Public Television and with numerous film productions focusing on issues of African women and development. Her films have been broadcast internationally and have screened at venues around the world.

## Sofia Kifle, Ethiopia Whispers



Drawing from her life growing up in Ethiopia through simple colorful patterns and symbols Sofia Kifle’s paintings express the movements, journeys, and crossroads of her life experiences. “My paintings incorporate the fusion of experiences, observation, influences and contemplation spanning my entire life. Growing up in my native Ethiopia, my childhood imagination was always moved by the ragged lines, the warm colors, the expressive eyes, and the stories told by ancient religious paintings in the churches. These stories visualize and portray my story, the stories of the Africans, the stories of the Americans and the stories of the world.”

## Ethiopian Musicians of Debo Trio

Debo Trio is comprised of three members of the Boston-based group, Debo Band, an eight-piece Ethio-groove project. The trio performs chamber-like renditions of the funk and dance music for which Debo Band is known, while focusing on the more traditional elements of Ethiopian music, including the music of the \*azmari\*.

# Fred Shapiro

## *White Collar Crime Jeopardy*

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 · 7:00 pm Program

Scanlon Banquet Hall



“Fred’s informative and interactive presentation of ‘White-Collar Crime Jeopardy’ at the FBI Financial Institution Fraud Conference showed how easy it really is for a respected and seemingly ‘good’ person to become involved in illegal activities when they lose sight of their moral compass. Yet it also tells the remarkable story of how that same person can turn it all around, and live to tell about it. Fred’s presentation leaves attendees with a vast amount of understanding regarding fraud prevention.

Shapiro’s presentation is one of the best that I have seen, and

I would recommend him to any organization which deals with matters of ethics, fraud prevention or white collar crime.” -Brian Cosgriff, Special Agent, FBI

Fred Shapiro utilizes his 30 years of experience as an attorney, accountant, professor, inmate and undercover operative to powerfully convey the catastrophic personal and professional consequences of committing a white collar crime. He started his career as a tax accountant for Coopers & Lybrand, CPA’s, and would eventually form his own law firm two years later. Fred earned his MBA and JD at Temple University in Philadelphia and served as Director of the Temple University Accounting and Tax Institute. Fred Shapiro is also a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. All those credentials, however, did not stop Fred Shapiro from succumbing to extreme financial pressure, gambling, in addition to other “demons” and leading a secret life as a criminal. Inevitably, this once well respected member of the legal, financial, accounting and business communities, committed the largest mortgage, real estate and title insurance fraud in the history of the City of Philadelphia. After spending over twenty-four months in Federal prison, Fred Shapiro finally changed his life by doing what he loves: Teaching everyone how to stay off that slippery slope, and stop fraud before it happens.

Today Fred is a Sr. Counselor at a correctional, educational and treatment organization and a keynote speaker and guest lecturer at various forums including law schools, business schools, accounting firms, law firms, title insurance companies, fortune 500 corporations and professional societies.

# Debbie Reese

*American Indians in Children's Literature*

Tuesday, February 24, 2009 · 6:00 pm Program

Scanlon Banquet Hall



Debbie Reese, author of the blog *American Indians in Children's Literature*, will offer critical perspectives and discussion of American Indians in children's books, the school curriculum, popular culture, and society at large. She has taught at two schools for American Indians: Riverside Indian School in Anadarko and Santa Fe Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she has taught Social Studies Methods, Elementary and Early Childhood Education, Politics of Children's Literature, Intro to American Indian Studies, and History of American Indian Education.

# Dr. Richard Handler

*The Anthropology of American Academic Administration*

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 · 4:30 pm Program

333 Western Avenue, Garden Level Conference Room



Dr. Handler is a cultural anthropologist who studies modern western societies. His initial fieldwork was in Quebec (1976-1984) where he studied the Québécois nationalist movement. This has led to an enduring interest in nationalism, ethnicity and the politics of culture. Upon coming to Virginia in 1986, he pursued the latter topic by looking at history museums. Beginning in 1990, he worked with Eric Gable (Ph.D. Virginia 1990) and Anna Lawson (Ph.D. Virginia 1995) on an ethnographic study of Colonial Williamsburg, an outdoor museum and a mid-sized nonprofit corporation. In addition to examining the invention of history and tradition, his study focuses on corporate culture, class, race and gender.

A century ago, in *The Higher Learning in America*, Thorsten Veblen sketched the struggle between "pure" scholarship and commercial interests that characterizes American colleges and universities to this day. Currently, higher education administrators struggle to "brand" and market their institutions, to raise private money in the face of declining state

support. Yet, no one brand appeals to all stakeholders. While faculty still honor scholarship and teaching for their own sake, the corporate world demands a “skilled” workforce and students are increasingly demanding “service learning” that speaks to their understanding of social justice and ecological sustainability. Administrators, often drawn from the ranks of the professoriate, struggle to describe their institutional missions in competing vocabularies that different “stakeholders” can understand. In the process, do they risk diminishing the role of critical thought in the American institution that has been most able to promote it?

## A Celebration of Music With Westfield State College

The Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield MA

Sunday, March 8, 2009

2:30–3:30 Reception · 3:30–5:00 Performance

## Gary Mule Deer

Comedian

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

6:00 pm Reception · 7:00 pm Program · Woodward Center



Gary Mule Deer, whose unique comedy and music have set him apart as one-of-a-kind, has performed on every major concert stage in the country. He has made over 350 television appearances, including many on both the *Tonight Show* and *The Late Show with David Letterman*. He was one of six comedians, along with Jay Leno, to star on the very first HBO Comedy special, was the co-host of *Don Kirschner's Rock Concert* for four years on NBC and a regular on *Make Me Laugh*. He is currently featured on the DVDs “Jeff Foxworthy's Comedy Classics” and “The World's Greatest Stand-up

Comedy Collection” hosted by Norm Crosby.

Bob Goen of Entertainment Tonight has said of Gary Mule Deer, “This guy has got to be the funniest man on the planet.” An equally great singer and musician, he has been singing the music of Johnny Cash in his show for four decades. Gary has a music CD, “Six Days On The Road,” with his Duck and Cover Band and some of Nashville's greatest musicians, including guitar great Steve Wariner and bluegrass legend Dan Tyminski. He also has a “Gary Mule Deer Live” CD of his comedy and music. Gary is currently one of the most played comedians on the Clean Comedy Channels of both Sirius and XM Satellite Radio. Will Ferrell was asked by Dan Patrick at ESPN Magazine, “It's the seventh game, ninth inning of the World Series of Comedy. You have to pick a comedian to put on the mound.” Will's answer was Gary Mule Deer.

# Hershman R. John

Poetry readings from *I Swallow Turquoise for Courage*

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 · 6:00 pm Program

Scanlon Banquet Hall



Hershman John is both a poet and a short fiction writer. He will read from his 2007 poetry collection, *I Swallow Turquoise for Courage* published by The University of Arizona Press. John says of his poetry, “My writing reflects who I am and where I come from. I am Navajo, and I am from Sand Springs, Arizona. My clans are of the Deer Spring People (my Mother’s clan) and the Bitter Water People (my Father’s clan). Other stories and poems come from my travels and from my friends and family who tell some of the greatest tales.”

He received his BA in English and MFA in Creative Writing, both from Arizona State University. As a full time faculty member at Phoenix College, Arizona, he teaches composition, poetry and American Indian Studies courses.

His works have been widely published by anthologies and literary journals: Arizona Highways, Flyway-A Literary Review, Hayden’s Ferry Review, Journal of Navajo Education, Puerto del Sol, Wicazo Sa Review, O Taste and See: Food Poems, Family Matters: Poems of our Families.

# Jared Diamond

Celebrity Scientist, Author, Lecturer

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

6:00 pm Reception · 7:00 pm Program · Woodward Center



Jared Diamond — author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Guns, Germs and Steel* and *Collapse* — is the epitome of the celebrity scientist. His lectures routinely draw thousands of rapt listeners who walk away with a deeper and more nuanced view of the development of human civilization and the continued gulf between rich and poor in the global community.

Diamond’s lectures tackle the giant questions: why do some societies thrive and prosper, while others shrivel and die; how can humanity maximize the opportunity for human happiness, while saving the planet from ecological ruin and collapse; are there lessons we can learn from other great civilizations who have grown to world dominance? The huge crowds that attend his talks

are testament to his reputation as a great speaker -- to his ability to spellbind an audience with insights into the most important issues we face.

Currently a professor of Geography at UCLA, Diamond is also the author of two other bestselling books, *The Third Chimpanzee* and *Why Is Sex Fun?* He has received some of the world's most prestigious awards, including a MacArthur Foundation genius grant, the Conservation medals of the Zoological Society of San Diego and the National Medal of Science, America's highest civilian award in science.

# Larry Lansburgh

Academy Award nominated and Emmy winning Filmmaker

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

6:00 pm Reception · 7:00 pm Program

333 Garden Level Conference Room



Filmmaker Larry Lansburgh has produced and directed films about varied subjects including aviation, a desert museum and the inspiring lives of young adults with mental retardation. Some of these films have received recognition such as an Academy Award Nomination and an Emmy.

However, when he went to southeast Ecuador to make a documentary called *Dream People of the Amazon* his view of the world changed. It changed when he realized that he was in a part of the rain forest that has not changed in a thousand years. It changed when he sat in a thatched roof house in the jungle sipping manioc beer with Achuar friends who patiently explained to him that they could understand the language of plants, and that their dream was to protect their forest. It changed when he was on his knees on the moist forest floor watching a procession of leaf-cutter ants returning to their nest, each ant with part of a leaf held above it like a huge green sail. It changed when he filmed an indigenous protest march through the streets of Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Marching shoulder to shoulder were leaders of the Shuar and Achuar people—former blood enemies. One Shuar leader began to shout, “¡El pueblo Shuar/Achuar unido jamás será vencido!” (Together, the Shuar and Achuar people will never be defeated!)

His view of the world changed when he realized that the Achuar—and many indigenous people all over the world—know something that we in the “developed” world do not. They know how to exist sustainably on the planet that we all call home.

Several years ago, he began to stand up in front of groups and speak of these things. He showed parts of *Dream People of the Amazon* and answered questions. He spoke with people informally after his presentations. He found that what he was saying resonated with people because it wasn't doom and gloom. He doesn't talk about the same old sad story of poor indigenous people losing their old ways to the modern world.

Larry brings his audiences an inspiring message from an extraordinary group of indigenous people still living a traditional life in the greatest rain forest on earth—and at the same time using ingenious strategies to deal with the pressures and threats of the modern world. His presentation includes selected scenes from his documentary film *Dream People of the Amazon*.

## Debby Applegate

Author, *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*

Thursday, April 16, 2009

6:00 pm Reception · 7:00 pm Program

Scanlon Banquet Hall



Debby Applegate has spent 20 years researching and writing about Henry Ward Beecher. She first discovered Beecher as an undergraduate in the college archives at Amherst College, where she graduated summa cum laude in 1989. She continued her work on Beecher while a Sterling Fellow in American Studies at Yale, where she earned her Ph.D. in 1998. Her research for the book spanned the American Revolution to the Gilded Age, and took her to scores of historical archives and scholarly libraries across the country, from country athenaeums to ivy covered towers to the damp basements of elderly great-grandchildren.

Her writing has won her numerous prizes and fellowships, has appeared in publications from the *Journal of American History* to *The New York Times* and she has taught at Yale and Wesleyan Universities. A sample of her syllabi can be found in the American Studies Syllabus Library online. She has just been named a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle award for “The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher.” She will have copies of her book available for sale and signing.

# Admission is free.

Parking is available in the church, commuter and south lots for events. Signs will be posted for parking.

## DIRECTIONS:

### From the North:

- Take Interstate 91 South.
- Get off I-91 at Exit 14, which is I-90/Mass. Pike.
- Take Mass. Pike West five miles to Exit 3 (Westfield).
- Turn right onto routes 10/202 South, travel for about two miles through town to the Westfield Public Library (on your right).
- Turn right onto Court street/Western Avenue for 2.5 miles.
- Westfield State College is on your right.

### From the South:

- Take Interstate 91 North.
- Follow directions from above.

### From the East:

- Travel to I-90/Mass. Pike until you reach Exit 3.
- Follow directions from above.

## Address:

Westfield State College  
577 Western Avenue  
Westfield, MA 01086

**Westfield**  
*State College*

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