



Northwest Center for Creative Aging and Horizon House present



## DAY of LEARNING at Seattle University

An on-campus experience for older adults

Tuesday, June 16, 2015 8:45am-2:15pm • Pigott Building

All the stimulation and fun of college classes, without the tests! Enjoy three hours of class and a box lunch with some of Seattle University's most notable professors.

Choose one class from the following list and register online or by phone by June 4, 2015.

## **CLASS TITLES**

- Your Amazing Brain: A User's Guide Dr. Michael Spinetta
- Indigenous American Voices in Literature,
   Story, and Poetry Dr. Christina Roberts
- The Human Story: Between Cruelty and Generosity Dr. Michael Trice
- Forming the Chemical Elements and Life:
   We Are Stardust Dr. Joanne Hughes Clark
- Higher Ground: Soulful Secrets of Negro Spirituals Dr. Gloria Burgess

See reverse side for class descriptions and professor biographies

## **SCHEDULE**

8:45 am Registration/Check-In

9:00 am
Welcome/Orientation

9:15am-2:15pm
3 Hours of Class and Box Lunch
with Professor

Cost for class and lunch \$45 per person

Register through
Northwest Center for Creative Aging:
Online: www.nwcreativeaging.org
Phone: 206.382.3789

## Class Descriptions and Professor Biographies



Your Amazing Brain: A User's Guide Dr. Michael Spinetta The human brain is resilient and capable of change and growth throughout the lifespan. We will explore how your brain works to perform all of its remarkable feats and investigate recent research into the role aging plays in brain function and the tools to keep your brain young and healthy.

Dr. Michael Spinetta is an Assistant Professor of psychology at Seattle University. His interests and teaching include learning and memory, addiction, and psychopharmacology. He investigates the effects that drugs have on the learning process, including the formation, storage, and retrieval of memories.

Indigenous American Voices in Literature, Short Story, and Poetry *Dr. Christina Roberts* We will examine oral literature, short stories, and poetry performed and written by Indigenous peoples of this hemisphere. Starting with an historical overview to provide context, we will then discuss the ways that historical narratives shape understanding of Indigenous peoples. We will read and interpret oral stories from the region, short stories by E. Pauline Johnson, Zitkala-Sa, and Sherman Alexie, and the poetry of Joy Harjo, Paula Gunn Allen, Leslie Marmon Silko, Esther Belin, and others.

Dr. Christina Roberts is an Associate Professor in the English Department at Seattle University where she teaches courses in American literature. She is an enrolled member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and an alumna of the University of Washington and the University of Arizona. She authored articles related to Treaty in special edition of The Kenyon Review, as well as an article in Studies in American Indian Literatures.

The Human Story: Between Cruelty and Generosity *Dr. Michael Trice* Two presentations on cruelty and generosity will let us explore these topics as a way of reimagining together the integral parts of our human story. We will ask ourselves: How does what we are learning today suggest the direction of a human future tomorrow? There will be small and large group conversations throughout.

Dr. Michael Trice is with the faculty of Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, and is Assistant Professor for Constructive Theology and Theological Ethics. Dr. Trice served as the Associate Executive of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from 2004 to 2011. His current research interests include a theology of gratitude, the religious response to sectarian violence in the world, and the theological practicalities of reconciliation when trespass and trauma defy language.

Forming the Chemical Elements and Life: We Are Stardust Dr. Joanne Hughes Clark We will trace the origin of chemical elements in the Big Bang and generations of stars, leading to the building-blocks of life being scattered throughout the vast gas and dust clouds in the Milky Way. Recent discoveries of NASA's Kepler Mission suggest the probability of finding another Earth within a decade.

Dr. Joanne Hughes Clark is the current Arline F. Bannan Chair in Mathematics and the Natural Sciences, in the College of Science and Engineering, Seattle University. She is also the Murdock Science Research Program Director and an Associate Professor in the Physics Department. Dr Clark's research interests include star formation, globular clusters, stellar populations and dwarf galaxies.

**Higher Ground: Soulful Secrets of Negro Spirituals** *Dr. Gloria Burgess* The joyous power of the Negro spirituals revolutionized the world. Transcending time, culture, and generations, these beautiful songs lift our heart and spirit, transporting us to higher ground. We will learn calls, responses, rounds, and more, exploring the music, words, and history of the songs that helped a people survive generations of slavery and ultimately triumph over it. We will create a communal soundscape, culminated by singing several spirituals in community. No prior singing experience is required. Just bring your voice and an open heart.

Dr. Gloria Burgess has taught transformational leadership for 30+ years, beginning teaching at Seattle University in 2010. An award-winning musician, poet, and author, she is also a Distinguished Scholar in Theatre and Performance Studies. She has presented and performed in diverse venues, including Carnegie Hall, Washington National Cathedral, Benaroya Hall, Kenyan Parliament, and the South African Embassy. She has several degrees in Performance from the University of Michigan and a PhD in Performance Studies from the University of Southern California.