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News from Merced College

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MERCED COLLEGE PERFORMANCE AND LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS ORIGINAL PLAY ON ‘THE MEANING OF BEING HUMAN’

Merced College’s 2014-2015 Performance and Lecture Series continues on Saturday, April 18, with “In Search of Hallman,” an original play written by Merced College Philosophy Professor Lorraine Barnes. The performance, which will be held in the College’s Theater at 7:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

“This collective performance piece is an inquiry of what it means to be human, which is most profoundly addressed within the discipline of philosophy,” Professor Barnes said.

“While humans, in the modern era, may well be ensconced in the affairs of practical life, the deeper questions of meaning serve as do the roots of a tree, rarely noticed but essentially important,” she said.

“In Search of Hallman” presents various philosophical categories in the setting of a café. At each table are seated “believers” of the categories (metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics and religion). The audience is privy to the ongoing debate between the café goers, as to who holds the true answer of what it means to be human. As each group believes they are the sole benefactors of “the truth,” the debate illuminates for the audience the ongoing struggle inherent within human nature itself.

With humor, music and action, “In Search of Hallman” takes the audience members on an excursion of inquiry, mystery and ultimately reveals the answer to the question, “What does it mean to be human?”

Professor Barnes received her bachelor’s degree from Sonoma State University in Philosophy, with an emphasis in Women’s Studies, and her

master's degree in Humanities, specializing in Existentialism. She currently teaches Critical Thinking, Introduction to Philosophy, and Critical Reasoning and Writing.

The Performance and Lecture series is supported by a grant from the Merced College Foundation. For more information about the Performance and Lecture Series, contact the Office of Public Affairs at 209.381.6470.

Lecture Series 3 April 2015

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