DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL TO HOST WEEK-LONG ARTS CELEBRATION

DURHAM, N.C. -- Duke Divinity School will host “A Celebration of the Arts” next week, featuring Montana novelist David James Duncan, local sculptor William Moore and New Mexican dramatist Lynn Gottlieb. The celebration, Monday through Friday, is free and open to the public.

The event is meant to bring together Duke Divinity School students, faculty and staff, along with local community members, to recognize these artists’ contributions, said Brett Webb-Mitchell, Duke assistant professor of Christian nurture.

“God gives us a vibrant world,” Webb-Mitchell said, “with colors, textures, smells and good things to taste. Artists can take these materials and craft works, trying to name the unnameable God and express praise to God. We want to celebrate this.”

Duncan writes on outdoor and spiritual themes, and will give a reading on Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m., in the Divinity School’s York Chapel. After the reading, there will be a reception and book-signing, co-sponsored by Duke’s Gothic Bookshop, at 8:30 p.m. in Shelton Smith Lounge.

Duncan is the author of two novels, The River Why and The Brothers K, both of which won the Pacific Northwest Bookseller’s Award. The Brothers K also was a New York Times notable book. Duncan has, in addition, a short-story collection, River Teeth. His fiction, memoirs, essays and fishing stories have appeared in such publications as Harper’s, The LA Times Magazine, North American Review and Northern Lights. Originally from Portland, Ore., he lives by a Montana trout stream with his wife and family. He currently is at work on a new novel, Letters from God.
Moore will open his exhibit with an artist reception on Monday, at 4 p.m., in the Divinity School’s Alumni Memorial Common Room. The sculptures will be on display through March 27. Moore lives and works near the town of Pittsboro, on the Haw River. A native of Oregon, he sculpts primarily abstract forms in marble and has been influenced by Pacific Northwest Native American traditions. He has exhibited at the N.C. Botanical Gardens Invitational Show and at private galleries in Winston-Salem, Pinehurst and Washington, D.C. Currently, he is at work on a sculpture, “Turn Your Weapons to Ploughshares,” using guns purchased by the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro through a gun buy-back program.

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb will perform “Women on the Edge: A One-Woman Drama” on Thursday, at 7 p.m., also in York Chapel. Gottlieb is rabbi at Congregation Nahalat Shalom in Albuquerque, N.M. Her aim is to promote dialogue between Jews and Arabs, based on a feminist theology that stresses compassion and justice for all people. She is the author of the book, *She Who Dwells Within* (HarperCollins, 1995).

Also on the week-long program will be “Live at the Lampstand,” a monthly performance showcase featuring Divinity School students, faculty and staff. On Thursday, March 25, students Adam Seate will perform on guitar and Judson Dunlap on piano, along with the African-American Gospel Ensemble and the Rev. Dr. Clayton R. Schmit on guitar and doing vocals. Schmit is the 1998-99 Luce preaching fellow. The showcase will be held at noon in the Alumni Memorial Common. Brown bag lunches are encouraged; soft drinks and cookies will be provided.

Parking will be available in the Divinity School parking lot at the intersection of Science and Research drives after 4 p.m. on weekdays.

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For more information, call the Duke Divinity School Center for Continuing Education at 660-3448 (or e-mail <Lydia@duke.edu>).

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