

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY HOSTS AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR DR. MICHAEL BESS

Lecture and open forum discuss the impact of the Environmental Movement

(SPARKILL, NY, November 2, 2008) – The Friends of the Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College together with the Writers@Work will host a lecture by Dr. Michael Bess discussing “What Americans Can Learn from the First 50 Years of the Environmental Movement in France” on Thursday, November 13 at 2:45 in the Loughheed Library on campus. Following Dr. Bess’s lecture will be a viewing of the group exhibit, “Planet in Crisis” in the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery until 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 845-398-4220 or email mcollins@stac.edu.

Dr. Michael Bess holds a Ph.D. in History from University of California, Berkeley, an M.A. in History from Berkeley, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Reed College. He is an award-winning teacher and author of three books: *The Light-Green Society: Ecology and Technological Modernity in France, 1960-2000* (2003); *Choices Under Fire: Moral Dimensions of World War II* (2006); and *Realism, Utopia, and Mushroom Cloud: Four Activist Intellectuals and Their Strategist for Peace, 1945-1989* (1993). His upcoming book, *Icarus 2.0* will discuss the pressures on the concept of “the human” by revolutionary biomedical and information technologies.

Dr. Bess’s book *The Light-Green Society* won the George Perkins Marsh Prize (2004) of the American Society for Environmental History and Honorable Mention by the Pinkney Prize Committee, Society for French Historical Studies (2004) for his book. He has also received Vanderbilt University’s Ingall Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching in 1995 and Chair of Teaching Excellence in 2001-04. He has been awarded grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2008-09), the American Council of Learned Societies (2008-09), and the National Institutes of Health/National Human Genome Research Institute/Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications Research Program (2005-06), as well as many others.

The Friends of the Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College organizes and sponsors lectures in the library by notable speakers from within and outside the College. All lectures are open to the community. Community members interested in joining The Friends of the Library, participating in Friends activities, or making donations to the College designated for The Friends of the Library may contact Ms. Mary Anne Lenk, Director of Library Services at 845-398-4221 or mленk@stac.edu. For reservation to the upcoming lecture, call the Library at 845-398-4220.

MORE ABOUT ST. THOMAS

The College’s 2,700 full and part time students can choose from over 60 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs across five divisions: The Humanities; Business Administration; Social Sciences; Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Teacher Education or are enrolled in one of our graduate programs. St. Thomas has expanded its offerings to include: a Master of Science in Education with specializations in Literacy, Special Education, and Educational Leadership, a Post Masters Certificate program in Education, a Master of Science in Teaching, a Master of Business Administration program, a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Education, and an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree, the latter two offered at the West Point Military Academy. For more information on the College visit www.stac.edu.