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STAC HOSTS AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER RONNIE FARLEY

Lecture and exhibit illustrate the lives of Native American Women

(SPARKILL, NY, September 8, 2008) – The Friends of the Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College, together with the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery, will host a lecture and exhibit by Ronnie Farley, award-winning photographer. The artist will present “Connecting with the Earth - Lessons Learned from a Life of Photography” as part of the Friends’ speaker series on Thursday, September 18 at 3:00 p.m. in the College’s Loughheed Library. A viewing of her work will follow in the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery with an artist’s reception from 4:30pm-6:30pm. The event is open to the community and light refreshments will be served.

Ms. Farley’s exhibit, “Earth Keepers: Portraits and Testimonies of Native American Women,” opened in the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery on Sunday, September 7 and runs through September 28. In documenting the lives of Native American Women, the exhibit endeavors to capture their central role in protecting and maintaining a traditional way of life that is attuned to the natural world. Qualities at the core of Native American culture – warmth, humor, integrity, friendship, hospitality, affection of the extended family, and the underlying connection to nature – are collectively reflected in Farley’s photographs.

Ronnie Farley’s work has been shown nationally. She has been critically acclaimed by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. She has published three books, [Women of the Native Struggle: Portraits and Testimony of Native American Women](#); [Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West](#); and [Diary of a Pedestrian: A New York Photo Memoir](#).

The Friends of the Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College 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 at 845-398-4221 or mlenk@stac.edu. For reservations to the upcoming lecture, call the Library at 845-398-4220.

Regular Gallery hours for the Fall are Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-2:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-12:30 p.m., and Sundays 2:00– 4:00 p.m. For more information or for other times for groups, call the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery at 845-398-4195.

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.