

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: BRIDGET F. CLARK, 845-398-4020  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER: MS. MARY ANNE LENK, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

## STAC CELEBRATES NATIONAL BANNED BOOKS WEEK

*Lecture and open forum discuss freedom of expression*

**(SPARKILL, NY, September 25, 2008)** – The Friends of the Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College together with the Division of Social Sciences will host a lecture in observance of national Banned Books week entitled “Banned: Harry Potter and other children’s tales, censored for your protection!”. Brief presentations by College faculty will be followed by an open discussion on freedom of expression on October 1 at 4:00 p.m. in the Loughheed Library on campus. The public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 845-398-4220 or email [mcollins@stac.edu](mailto:mcollins@stac.edu).

Faculty participants in the Banned Books event include: Dr. Ellen Chayet, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, who will introduce the presenters: John Durney, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Richard Heath, Professor of Psychology; Dr. Michael Shaw, Professor of Education; and Dr. Gwen Sussman, Associate Professor of Education. Dr. Stacy Kinlock Sewell, Associate Professor of History and Chairperson of the Division of Social Sciences, will lead the audience discussion on freedom of expression.

The next Friends of the Library series event will be held on November 13 at 2:45pm. Co-sponsored by Writers@Work, the lecture, "What Americans Can Learn from the First 50 Years of the Environmental Movement in France," will feature Dr. Michael Bess.

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](mailto: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](http://www.stac.edu).