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NEA Chairman Launches Chapman Lecture Series

Who/What:

Dana Gioia, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, launches Chapman University's School of Communication Arts Spring 2005 Business and the Arts Lecture Series with "The Human Purpose of Literature," an address exploring the cultural significance of the landmark NEA study "Reading at Risk," which documents an alarming decline in literary reading.

"This report documents a national crisis," Gioia said in announcing the findings of the NEA study at a news conference at the New York Public Library in July 2004. "The decline in reading among every segment of the adult population reflects a general collapse in advanced literacy. To lose this human capacity and all the diverse benefits it fosters impoverishes both cultural and civic life." The NEA study measures the impact of this decline.

An internationally renowned poet, critic, translator, and literary anthologist, Gioia is the author of the influential volume of literary criticism "Can Poetry Matter?" as well as three books of poems, one of which, "Interrogations at Noon," won the 2002 American Book Award. Gioia also will read his own and other writers poems.

The lecture and poetry reading are sponsored by the School of Communication Arts and the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

When:

Tuesday, February 22, 2005.

Poetry Reading: 2:30 p.m.

Lecture: 7:30 p.m.

Where:

Poetry Reading: Wallace All Faiths Chapel of the Fish Interfaith Center on the Chapman campus in Orange.

Lecture: Chapman Auditorium.

Cost:

Free reserved tickets are required.

Contact:

For free tickets, call (714) 744-7903.