

University of Delaware

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Distinguished Scholars Series

Public Lecture

“Smoke and Mirrors:” Translating the Eerie Imaginings of

Franz Kafka

by

Mark Harman

Mark Harman, a native of Dublin who has written extensively about modern German and Irish literature, is a professor of German and English at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. His translation of Kafka's *The Castle* received the Modern Language Association's first Lois Roth Award in 1998.

In his lecture, Dr. Harman will explore the hidden autobiographical implications of works such as "Metamorphosis," in which Kafka's hero, Gregor Samsa, famously wakes up to find himself transformed into a bug. Drawing on his experience translating Kafka's *The Castle* and *Amerika: The Missing Person*, he will also discuss some of the challenges Kafka poses for translators. Which English-language authors are most helpful in considering how to render Kafka effectively? How can one best render such qualities as Kafka's unflappable demeanor and dry humor?

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

4:00 p.m.

Perkins Gallery

(Reception to follow lecture:
East Lounge in Perkins Student Center)

**This is the fiftieth public lecture in the Distinguished Scholars Series sponsored by the
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.**