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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY LECTURE ON UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

SCRANTON--An expert on African American history will discuss Pennsylvania's Underground Railroad in a lecture at The University of Scranton on Monday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. in Hyland Hall, Room 102. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Nilgun Anadoli Okur, Ph.D., Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, will give the talk. Her presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Co-sponsors are the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library and the Lackawanna Historical Society.

The Underground Railroad was a series of secret routes and hiding places used by Abolitionists to help slaves escape. Philadelphia was a center for the railroad's operations, but northeastern Pennsylvania was also a major hub. Dr. Okur's slide-illustrated talk will cover the passages, inns and isolated private homes in the woods used by the escaping slaves.

Dr. Okur, the recipient of two Fulbright awards, is an assistant professor of African American history and literature at Temple University. She received her Ph.D. in American literature and drama from Hacettepe University in Turkey. She has researched African American history extensively and published articles on that subject and on the Underground Railroad.

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, which represents the state in the Federal-State Partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities, promotes awareness of cultural traditions through public programs that renew our memories and ideals. The council joins with local organizations to create learning through reflection and discussion.

For more information on Dr. Okur's Nov. 1 lecture, call the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library at (570) 941-4008.