RENEWED PSYCHOLOGIST STEVEN PINKER TO LECTURE ON LANGUAGE AND HUMAN NATURE AT USCB’S SAGE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE MIND

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (January 16, 2007) – Harvard University Psychology Professor Steven Pinker, a leading researcher in language and cognition who has been named one of Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people, will deliver a free public address titled “Language as a Window into Human Nature” at the SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind at UC Santa Barbara at 4:00 p.m. on February 2, 2007 in Corwin Pavilion.

A dynamic and entertaining speaker, Pinker will explore how language is used in our society, examining such ideas as:

- whether politicians can manipulate voters by using metaphors to frame debates
- why people swear and why others take great offense in response
- why legislators are passing tougher legislation to ban profanity from the airways when, at the same time, cursing is exploding on satellite radio, the Internet, and cable television
- the use of innuendo and double speak for sensitive propositions such as bribes, threats, and sexual come-ons
- how people deal with sexual harassment, veiled threats, or bribes to politicians by lobbyists, when the propositions are not stated clearly

Steven Pinker, the Johnstone Family Professor at Harvard University, has received numerous awards for his work. In addition to being named one of Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people in 2004, he was named one of Prospect and Foreign Policy’s 100 top public intellectuals in 2005. He also received the Troland Award from the National Academy of Sciences and two prizes from the American Psychological Association for his experimental research on cognition and language.


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About SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind

UCSB’s SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind brings together scholars from a broad range of academic disciplines to explore the multidimensional nature of the human mind. It was established by a generous gift from SAGE Publications, a leading international publisher for scholarly, educational, and professional markets. For more information, visit: www.sagecenter.ucsb.edu/index.htm or call (805) 893-5006.

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