EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY:
THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, HISTORY DEPARTMENT,
AND THE PEDRO ARRUPE CENTER FOR BUSINESS ETHICS

THE HAMLET FIRE
A TRAGIC STORY OF CHEAP FOOD, CHEAP GOVERNMENT, AND CHEAP LIVES
BRYANT SIMON

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Tuesday, April 17
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Presidents’ Lounge

Eighty years after the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, industrial disasters were supposed to have been a thing of the past.

Then, on the morning of September 3, 1991, the day after Labor Day, the Imperial Food Product factory that had never been inspected, burst into flame. Twenty-five people — many of whom were black women with children, living on their own — perished that day behind the plant’s locked and bolted doors.

After spending several years talking to local residents, state officials, and survivors of the fire, award-winning historian Bryant Simon has written a vivid, potent, and disturbing social autopsy of this town, this factory, and this time that shows how cheap labor, cheap government, and cheap food came together in a way that was bound for tragedy.