



SENIOR COLLEGE of West Central Minnesota

◆ ALEXANDRIA TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE ◆

Season Calendar & Curriculum • Spring 2015

TUESDAYS

3:15-5:15 pm

THURSDAYS

March 17

Things Fall Apart: Crises in The Middle East and with Russia In Ukraine

– Thomas Hanson, *Diplomat in Residence, University of Minnesota Duluth*

March 24

"It's All Greek To Me"

– Jeremiah Reedy, *Classics, Macalester College*

March 31

Genes, Gnomes, and Grandmothers: New Research On Human Evolution

– Rebecca Dean, *Anthropology, University of Minnesota Morris*

April 7

Uncommonly Angry Minds: Modern Day Populism in English-Speaking Countries

– Claire Haeg, *Political Science, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University*

April 14

Rivers, Roads, and Tracks: Transforming Minnesota's Economy

– Louis Johnston, *Economics, College of St. Benedict and St. John's University*

April 21

Telling a Midwestern Story in a Midwestern Voice

– Annette Atkins, *History, College of St. Benedict and St. John's University*

April 28

State Of The Economy: Gary Eichten Talks with Chris Farrell and Louis Johnston

– Gary Eichten, *MPR*, Chris Farrell, *APM economics correspondent*, and Louis Johnston, *Economics, College of St. Benedict and St. John's University*

In partnership with the McCarthy Center at CSB/SJU.

March 19

Religion: Source of Violence or Path to Peace?

– Mark Berkson, *Religion, Hamline University*

March 26

Hubble: Pushing the Frontiers of the Universe

– Shawn Lawrence Otto, *award-winning writer and filmmaker*

April 2

The Family from 10,000 BC to the Present

– Mary Jo Maynes and Ann Walner, *History, University of Minnesota*

April 9

Mark Twain: An Enduring Voice in American Literature

– Anne Clark, *English, Alexandria Technical & Community College*

April 16

From Dream to Nightmare: American Indian Boarding Schools, 1880-1928

– Bert Ahern, *History, University of Minnesota Morris*

April 23

Minnesota's Prairies: Past, Present, and Future

– Margaret Kuchenreuther, *Biology/Environmental Studies, University of Minnesota Morris*

April 30

Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly

– Carrol Henderson, *wildlife biologist, photographer and author*

- subject to change -

Sponsored in part by:



Welcome to Senior College

Welcome to the Alexandria Technical and Community College and to Senior College of West Central Minnesota! We are glad you are joining this effort to learn and be part of conversations that explore our world. We've got a great season lined up for lively learning and exploration with a variety of scholars from around the state. This document serves as a guide for the season with information on Senior College and full descriptions of each of the lectures.

Amy Sunderland, Director

Advisory Committee members: Carol and Dave Dittberner, Lois and Ivan Wambheim, Katy Mohabir, Sue Engstrom, Dennis Thompson, Skeeter and Gerry Kingsberg

About Senior College

Senior College is a lecture series for adults in West Central Minnesota. A variety of stimulating lectures by college-level scholars fuel curiosity in a congenial setting at the Alexandria Technical and Community College. Three seasons of programming are offered. A public kick-off event launches each fall and spring season; and, a short-course winter session in January is offered for the winter hardy. Adults of all ages are welcome.

Senior College was established by Alexandria Technical & Community College in 2006 in response to community interest in informative and challenging college learning that is stimulating and social without the pressures of textbooks, grades, or degrees. The quality program and affordable fee is made possible with support from Alexandria Technical & Community College Foundation and Knute Nelson and special session partners.

Thanks to our Sponsors and Partners

Sponsors and partnerships support a consistently high quality program and affordable fees. The Alexandria Technical and Community College, Alexandria Technical and Community College Foundation, Knute Nelson and Bethany Community are founding sponsors along with individual gifts. Special session partners include the University of Minnesota Alumni Association West Central Chapter and McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict.

How Senior College Works - Things to Note

REGISTRATION

- **Registration** for Senior College entitles you to attend any and all sessions of Senior College. A single registration for the season allows us to offer a consistent, quality program at an affordable fee.
- **Name tags** - You will be provided a name tag the first week of the program. Your name tag is indication of your registration. Please wear your name tag to each session.
- **Admission** is by Season membership only. Season membership registrations may be purchased at the door, on-line or by phone (see contact information below.)
- **Friends** - If you have a friend you'd like to introduce to Senior College, please invite them to the Kick-Off (no charge) and encourage them to register for the season. If you happen to have a houseguest you'd like to bring to a single session, please advise the director to obtain a guest pass. This simple honor system allows us to keep costs low.
- **Parking** is available in the lot to the South of the building. Since classes at ATCC end before Senior College begins, you may park anywhere in the lot.

SCHEDULE/FORMAT

- **Schedule** - All sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-5:15 in Auditorium 743. Announcements of any changes in the schedule will be made during session and can be found on the website, www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege
- **Break** - We take a break about half way through the session for coffee and cookies to nourish the conversation.
- **Q&A** – Questions and comments generally take place following the lecture. Please follow the lead of the presenter and raise your hand. Our presenter is in the best place to call on questions and to repeat the questions or direct the microphone to enable all to hear.
- **Cell phones** – Just a reminder to turn off your cell phones.
- **Your feedback and ideas** – We want to hear from you. Evaluations will be handed out at the end of the season.

WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If weather looks hazardous, please check for cancellations. Announcements will be made on local media, including KXRA, and the ATCC website at www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION CONTACT

Website: Alextech.edu/seniorcollege

Phone: Customized Training: 320-762-4510 or 888-234-1313

Email: seniorcollege@alextech.edu

U.S. Role in the World: Managing Global Crises and the Future of Our World (Kick-Off)

Eric Schwartz is professor and dean of the University of Minnesota Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Prior to his appointment at the University, Schwartz served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, the principal humanitarian position in the Department of State. He has also served at the United Nations, as the UN Secretary General's Deputy Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery after the Asian tsunami of 2004, and at the White House, as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs during the Clinton Administration. He holds a law degree from New York University School of Law, a Master of Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Sponsored in partnership with the University of Minnesota Alumni Association West Central Chapter

Things Fall Apart: Crises in the Middle East and with Russia in Ukraine

Today's worsening crises in the Middle East and Ukraine have deep historical roots and pose a serious challenge to U.S. foreign policy. This lecture will examine how the treaties that ended World War I one hundred years ago created the boundaries of the modern Middle East that now risk being torn apart. It will also describe the background to Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and will assess future prospects for the Middle East and U.S.-Russian relations.

Thomas Hanson is a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State whose diplomatic postings included East Germany, France, Norway, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and the former Soviet Republic of Georgia. He also participated in the opening of new U.S. embassies in Mongolia and Estonia, worked on the Foreign Relations Committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and served as Director for NATO and European Affairs at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Hanson currently serves as Diplomat in Residence at the Alworth Institute for International Affairs at the University of Minnesota – Duluth. He is also in charge of programming at the St. Paul-Minneapolis Committee on Foreign Relations and is a member of the Great Decisions advisory committee at the Minnesota International Center, where he is a frequent Great Decisions speaker. He contributes to local and international media and is a board member of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights (U.S. Foundation), the International Leadership Program at St. Thomas University, and the Cultural Entrepreneurship Program at the University of Minnesota - Duluth.

Mr. Hanson holds a BA degree from the University of Minnesota and graduate degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; the Institute of Advanced International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland; and the National School of Administration (ENA) in Paris, France.

Religion: Source of Violence or Path to Peace?

This lecture will explore the complex ways in which religion is connected with militancy and violence, and also how religion can contribute to peace and motivate people to acts of extraordinary kindness. Why does religion have the power to bring out the best and the worst in human beings? How do we draw on those aspects of religion that can lead to a better world while mitigating the harms that religion seems to unleash? We will focus on a case study of Islam, contrasting the periods of great flourishing and interfaith cooperation (Baghdad and Cordoba around the 10th century) with the rise of the extremist militant groups the Taliban and ISIL in the 20th - 21st centuries.

Mark Berkson is Professor and Chair in the Department of Religion at Hamline University. He teaches courses in Asian religions (including the Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist and Hindu traditions), Islam, and comparative religion. Mark received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in Religious Studies, his M.A. from Stanford University in East Asian Studies, and his B.A. from Princeton University. Mark's scholarly work has addressed topics such as Confucian and Daoist thought, death and dying, religion and non-human animals, and interfaith dialogue. His work has been published in numerous books and journals. His DVD/book project, "Cultivating Literacy for Religion," part of the Great Courses series, was released in 2012. His next project, "Death, Immortality and the Afterlife in the World's Religions" will be released in 2015.

"It's All Greek to Me"

"It is unfashionable to speak of a Greek miracle...But let the pendulum of fashion swing as it may, the Greeks invented science and philosophy." ---Jonathan Barnes

Edith Hamilton, author of *The Greek Way*, *The Roman Way*, and *Mythology*, is remembered for having said, "The surprising thing about the Greeks is that they were not only the first to do so many things, but they were also among the best." Some examples are: Philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), Tragedy (Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides), Comedy (Aristophanes), Logic (Aristotle), History (Herodotus, Thucydides), Geometry (Euclid), Biography (Plutarch), and Biology (Aristotle). Quite a number of Greeks are known as "The Father of _____." Examples are Theophrastus, the Father of Botany; Aristotle, the Father of Psychology; Pyrrho, the Father of Skepticism; Herodotus, the Father of History, and Hippocrates the Father of Rational Medicine. Given that inventions are usually made and then improved as the centuries go by, how can we account for these surprising accomplishments of the ancient Greeks?

Jeremiah Reedy is Professor of Classics Emeritus at Macalester College. Dr. Reedy earned his bachelor's degree in Italy, a master's degree in Classics from the University of South Dakota, another master's and a Ph.D. in Classical Studies from the University of Michigan where he specialized in classical philology and comparative linguistics. He taught Classics at Macalester College from 1968 to 2004, served as chair of the department, coordinator of the Humanities

Program and was a visiting scholar at Oxford while on sabbatical leave from Macalester. Dr. Reedy was the founder and director of the Macalester Center for the Teaching of Humanities which was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and books and is recipient of many awards.

Hubble: Pushing the Frontiers of the Universe

Edwin Hubble is one of history's most famous scientists, yet few people know anything about him. Award-winning science writer, screenwriter and novelist Shawn Lawrence Otto will share the amazing story of the scientist who at one point in time was the most famous man in the world, and whom the Hubble Space Telescope is named after. Hubble discovered that there were other galaxies outside the Milky Way, and went on to measure the Red Shift, which showed that the universe is expanding, leading to the idea of the Big Bang. But Hubble, like his trusty Minnesota-born assistant Milt Humason, was an improbable hero who told grand, false tales about himself and, though American, spoke with a British accent, wore a cape, and carried a cane. Come learn how a pathological liar came to discover some of the universe's most fundamental truths, create the field of cosmology, and change the course of science forever. Shawn will have copies of his award-winning non-fiction science book, [Fool Me Twice: Fighting the Assault on Science in America](#) on hand for sale, as well as his new literary thriller, [Sins of Our Fathers](#).

Shawn Lawrence Otto is the award-winning writer and co-producer of the Oscar-nominated film [House of Sand and Fog](#). He also writes for film and television's top studios, including DreamWorks, Lions Gate, and Starz. An award-winning science advocate and humanitarian who cofounded and produced the US presidential science debates, Otto's book [Fool Me Twice: Fighting the Assault on Science in America](#) won the 2012 Minnesota Book Award. His work has appeared in Science, Salon, and Scientific American among other publications. Otto is a frequent speaker and media commentator, and the former board chair of the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. [Sins of Our Fathers](#) is his first novel. He resides in Marine on Saint Croix, Minnesota.

Genes, Gnomes, and Grandmothers: New Research on Human Evolution

The last decade has witnessed a revolution in our understanding of human evolution, from the 2003 discovery of a tiny, contested new species of hominins on the isolated island of Flores, Indonesia; to the full sequencing of the Neanderthal genome in 2010; to our increasing recognition of the role of unique human social structures (alloparenting) in human evolution. This presentation will review 7 million years of human evolution, with a particular focus on the picture of our ancestry that is painted by this new data.

Rebecca Dean is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota Morris. She teaches human biodiversity, human evolution, and world prehistory. She has worked on archaeological sites in Jordan, Portugal, and the U.S. Southwest.

The Family from 10,000 BCE to the Present

Since the beginning of human culture, the family has been a key site where world-historical processes have unfolded. Family life, in turn, has always been shaped by local and global historical dynamics. In this session we will leap rapidly across time, from an examination of the family as the site of emergence of the earliest human societies (was it really all about “Man the Hunter”) up through contemporary debates about gay marriage and surrogate motherhood. The recurrent theme is that family life, often thought of as a relatively unchanging realm of merely private and local interest, in fact has played and continues to play a major role in world history.

Mary Jo Maynes is a professor of history at the University of Minnesota. She is a historian of Modern Europe with interests in comparative and world history. Her work explores the social and cultural history of the family, gender and generational relations, and class dynamics. Her books include The Family: A World History, co-authored with Ann Waltner; Telling Stories: The Use of Personal Narratives in the Social Sciences and History, co-authored with Jennifer Pierce and Barbara Laslett; and Secret Gardens, Satanic Mills: Placing Girls in European History, co-edited with Birgitte Søland and Christina Benninghaus.

Ann Waltner is a professor of history at the University of Minnesota, and served as the director of the Institute for Advanced Study there from 2005 to 2014. From 2000 to 2005 she served as the editor of the Journal of Asian Studies. She has written on kinship, gender and religion in China as well as comparatively. Her books include The Family: A World History (co-authored with Mary Jo Maynes). She has recently become involved with the musical group Sacabuche, in writing scripts for historically informed artistic performances.

“Uncommonly Angry Minds:” Modern Day Populism in English-Speaking Countries

The Tea Party is a recognized force in U.S. politics, with between 10 and 20% of Americans identifying as supporters, but it is by no means a uniquely American phenomenon. The UK Independence Party, representing very similar policies to the Tea Party, won 27.5% of the vote in recent EU elections. While members of the Tea Party look to the American Revolution for inspiration, the movement actually draws more from its populist forbears. From the People’s Party and William Jennings Bryan in the 19th Century, to George Wallace in the 20th, American political history has been host to a plethora of populist social movements. Nor can the Tea Party claim to be an aspect of “American Exceptionalism” since it shares defining characteristics with political parties and social movements in a number of other countries. The Tea Party shares ideation, cultural mythology, and rhetoric with movements in other English-speaking countries including Pauline Hanson’s One Nation Party in Australia, the New Zealand First Party in New Zealand, the Reform Party in Canada, and the United Kingdom’s Independence Party.

Claire Haeg is Associate Professor and chair of the department of political science at the College of St Benedict and St John's University. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Sydney in Australia, her Masters in Library Science at the University of Hawaii, and her Ph.D. in political science at the University of Oklahoma. She teaches courses on Congress, the President, and Political Parties and Elections, as well as Gender and Politics. Her current research examines the Tea Party as a populist movement, and she is also active in the scholarship of pedagogy in political science.

Mark Twain: An Enduring Voice in American Literature

American humorist and satirist Mark Twain's greatest novel *Huckleberry Finn* is a classic. This lecture will focus on who Mark Twain was, why he mattered and still matters in American literature and culture, including controversies surrounding changing some of his texts.

Annie Clark teaches English at Alexandria Technical and Community College. In addition, she is director of the college's writing center, The Writer's Block, and the faculty advisor for the Creative Writing Club and ATCC Book Club. Annie grew up in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. She earned a MA in English at St. Cloud State and a BA in English at the University of Minnesota.

Rivers, Roads and Tracks: Transforming Minnesota's Economy

We can understand much of Minnesota's economic history by studying the evolution of its transportation system from rivers to roads to tracks and back to roads. In this session, we'll examine the shifts in transportation modes over time and the impacts on the economy and economic stakeholders.

Louis Johnston is associate professor of Economics and holds the Joseph P. Farry Chair in Public Policy at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University and a regular media commentator on the Minnesota economy. His recent projects focus on analyzing the evolution of Minnesota's economy and how Minnesota became "above average" over the past 60 years. Johnston earned his B.S. at the University of Minnesota, and his M.A. and PhD at the University of California, Berkeley

From Dream to Nightmare: American Indian Boarding Schools, 1880-1928

This era was a time of great potential for Native American adaptation and one largely squandered by ethnocentrism and greed. Contrary to conventional wisdom, Native communities demonstrated striking resiliency and adaptability to the traumatic experience of conquest and confinement. They developed new economies of farming and, especially, stock-raising, and indicated an interest in achieving literacy and other skills useful to operating in this new world. Federal policies and programs

to assist them in transition proved to be ill-designed and short-lived. By 1900, even as Native communities were seeking to secure the skills and wherewithal to operate in this new world, to transform their reservations “from prisons to homelands,” federal policy turned more toward controlling them and easing access to their resources by non-Indians. The Boarding School is a central part of this story.

***Bert Ahern** is professor emeritus of History at the University of Minnesota Morris. After earning his doctorate in history from Northwestern University, Bert and his wife left their NYC area homes in 1967 to settle in Morris, MN, and join the faculty at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Bert served there for 43 years, teaching history and American Indian Studies. His research and publications explore the interaction between European immigrants, American Indians, and African Americans. His professional honors include the Solon Buck Award from the Minnesota Historical Society, a Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professorship of History, and the University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service.*

Minnesota’s Prairies: Past, Present and Future

Minnesota was once home to 18 million acres of tallgrass prairie but now less than one percent of that remains. This presentation will examine the geological and ecological factors that were responsible for the existence of prairie in our state, as well as the social and ecological factors responsible for its decline. Along the way we will explore the rich biodiversity of the prairie, best management practices for our remaining prairies, and prospects for restoration of this endangered landscape.

***Margaret Kuchenreuther** is associate professor of biology at the University of Minnesota, Morris and is coordinator of its environmental studies program. She holds a Ph.D. in botany from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on prairie ecology and management and she teaches a variety of undergraduate courses including Ecology, Evolution, and Plant Systematics.*

Telling a Midwestern Story in a Midwestern Voice

In this talk, Annette will draw on a wide range of midwestern fiction to talk about the Midwest as a specific region with its own way of seeing and being in the world. If you have your own Midwestern favorites, bring them along -- from Laura Ingalls Wilder to Jon Hassler to Ole Rolvaag to Ignatia Broker. We'll also talk about more recent Midwesterners, too, and their voices in this choir.

***Annette Atkins** is professor Emerita of History at the College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University. She is author of 4 books, including *Creating Minnesota: A History from the Inside Out* and is a regular guest on *Talks History with Cathy Wurzer on MPR Morning Edition*. Dr. Atkins earned her BA from Southwest MN State College and her MA and PhD from Indiana University.*

STATE OF THE ECONOMY: Gary Eichten Talks with Chris Farrell and Louis Johnston

MPR's Gary Eichten hosts a discussion about the state of the economy with APM economics correspondent Chris Farrell and economics professor Louis Johnston – with plenty of time for audience questions and discussion. The session will be taped for broadcast on MPR.

In partnership with the McCarthy Center at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict

Gary Eichten, is MPR News Editor-at-Large and retired host at Minnesota Public Radio. Gary Eichten wore many hats during his 40-plus-year career at Minnesota Public Radio, including news director, special events producer and station manager. He served as host for Minnesota Public Radio's live, special events news coverage, and hosted all of the major news programs on Minnesota Public Radio, including *Midday*, which he hosted for more than 20 years. A graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, Eichten began his career at Minnesota Public Radio as a student announcer.

Chris Farrell is economics editor of *Marketplace Money*, a nationally syndicated one-hour weekly personal finance show produced by American Public Media. Chris is also economics correspondent for *Marketplace*, the largest business program in broadcasting and chief economics correspondent for *American RadioWorks*, the largest producer of long-form documentaries in public radio. He is also contributing economics editor at *Business Week* magazine. He was host and executive editor of public television's *Right on the Money*. He is the author of two books: *Right on the Money: Taking Control of Your Personal Finances*, and *Deflation: What Happens When Prices Fall*. Chris is a graduate of Stanford and the London School of Economics.

Louis Johnston is associate professor of Economics and holds the Joseph P. Farry Chair in Public Policy at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University and a regular media commentator on the Minnesota economy. His recent projects focus on analyzing the evolution of Minnesota's economy and how Minnesota became "above average" over the past 60 years. Johnston earned his B.S. at the University of Minnesota, and his M.A. and PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.

Birds In Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly

This program will take us through the stages of an "Avian Flight School 101" to learn about the physics-based miracles of flight ranging from "Bernoulli's effect" to the "secret of the alula", the venetian blind effect, dynamic soaring by albatrosses, and the amazing process by which hummingbirds hover—all illustrated with photos taken by Carrol Henderson in the course of his international travels.

Carrol Henderson is a wildlife biologist, photographer and author. He has long been captivated by the phenomenon of birds in flight. He brings a unique background to this fascinating topic, including study of physics, service in the US Air Force, work with wildlife and as an avid bird watcher and photographer. Henderson has worked in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program since 1974 and has been instrumental in projects for research, surveys, restoration, habitat protection, and conservation of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, eastern bluebirds, white pelicans. He has written five books for the Department of Natural Resources that have sold over 250,000 copies, including such popular titles as Woodworking for Wildlife, Landscaping for Wildlife, Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality, Traveler's Guide to Wildlife in Minnesota, and Wild About Birds: the DNR Bird Feeding Guide. Henderson and his wife Ethelle have led 54 international birding trips since 1987. He has authored four field guides for the wildlife of Costa Rica, Oology and Ralph's Talking Eggs, and Birds in Flight: the Art and Science of How Birds Fly. He is currently co-authoring a book titled Bird Feeding in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation which should be out by spring of 2015.