

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 have 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 about Senior College and full descriptions of each of the lectures.

Amy Sunderland, Director

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

About Senior College

Senior College is a lecture series for adults in West Central Minnesota. A variety of stimulating lectures by college-level scholars fuels curiosity in a congenial setting at the Alexandria Technical & 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 the 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 and Community College Foundation, special session partners, and generous giving by individuals.

Donations to Senior College

Every gift makes an impact in our program, no matter the size. Gifts, memorials and bequests may be made through the Alexandria Technical & Community College Foundation, 318 17th Avenue East, Alexandria, MN, 56308. Donations may also be made on-line through the Foundation website: <https://www.alextech.edu/foundation/atcc-foundation-donation>.

**Please Note:* To make a donation to Senior College, please note "Senior College" in the Special Requests box on the Donate page. For more information: Phone: 320-762-4670 or 888-234-1222.

Information and Registration Contact

Website: www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege

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

Email: seniorcollege@alextech.edu

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. If you are unable to attend all sessions, know you are still supporting a good cause.
- Admission is by season membership only. Season membership registrations may be purchased at the door, on-line or by phone.
- Your name tag is indication of your registration. You will be provided a name tag following registration. Please wear your name tag to each session.
- 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.

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 typically 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 to enable all to hear.
- Cell phones – Just a reminder to turn off your cell phones while in the building.
- Evaluations will be handed out at the end of the season. A note-taking form is included at the end of your handout.

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 and www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege.

LECTURE TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

Alzheimer's Disease: What It Is and What Can Be Done

Approximately 94,000 Minnesotans live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, and a quarter million people provide unpaid care to these individuals. The value of this care to Minnesota and society is over \$3.5 billion dollars per year, which exceeds the annual revenue of some Fortune 500 companies. In a tour across the state, Professor Gaugler is meeting with families and professionals to talk about Alzheimer's disease, share information and stories, and help us realize we are not alone on the dementia journey.

- **Dr. Joseph Gaugler**, PhD. is the Robert L. Kane Endowed Professor in Long-Term Care & Aging in the Division of Health Policy and Management and School of Public Health at The University of Minnesota. His research examines the sources and effectiveness of long-term care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other chronic conditions. An applied gerontologist, Dr. Gaugler's interests include Alzheimer's disease and long-term care, the longitudinal ramifications of family care for persons with dementia and other chronic conditions, and the effectiveness of community-based and psychosocial services for older adults with dementia and their caregiving families.

In partnership with MinneSPARKS, University of Minnesota Alumni Association

What is Money? It's Probably Not What You Think

What is money? How is it created? How has it changed over time? We will address these questions and more by using both economic history and economic theory. You might find the answers to be surprising.

- **Louis Johnston** is professor of Economics 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.

How to Win an Argument: An Ancient Guide to the Art of Persuasion

All of us are faced countless times with the challenge of persuading others, whether we're trying to win a trivial argument with a friend or convince our co-workers about an important decision. Instead of relying on untrained instinct, we'd win more arguments if we learned the timeless art of verbal persuasion. Drawing on the writings of Rome's greatest orator, Cicero, this lecture will illustrate the ancient art of rhetoric, including strategies that are just as effective in today's offices, schools, courts, and political debates as they were in the Roman Forum.

- **James M. May**, Professor of Classics and Kenneth O. Bjork Distinguished Professor Emeritus, taught at St. Olaf College for 40 years, where he also served as Provost and Dean (2002-2011). An award-winning teacher, May has also been the recipient of four NEH grants and fellowships. He is a widely recognized expert on Cicero and classical rhetoric, and has written and edited many books and journal articles on these and related topics.

Historians and Historical Imaginations: Buffalo Man, A Life of a Boy Giant on the Minnesota River

Historian, writer, and long-time professor introduces his most recent work of historical fiction, *Buffalo Man: A Life of a Boy Giant on the Minnesota River*, and explores historians and their uses and types of imagination.

- **Joseph Amato**, a grandson who was told stories and a grandfather who tells stories, now writes them. With degrees from University of Michigan, Rochester, and the Université de Laval at Québec and forty years of teaching experience in high school, various universities, and Southwest State University in Marshall. Amato has written twenty-five books, including an array of books in European cultural and intellectual history, rural, regional, and family history, in addition to memoirs and recently poetry. For a complete biography and list of his writings see his website josephaamato.com or [joseph a amato](#) on Wikipedia.

Moral Combat: Sex at the Root of Our Religious and Political Conflicts

Abortion, Sex Abuse, #MeToo. Why does sex seem to underlie so many of our current religious and political conflicts? In this talk we will explore how the Christian consensus on sex unraveled in the 20th century, how this unraveling has provoked deep religious and political divides, how this division has been furthered and fanned by computer technology, and what might lie ahead for American Christianity in the 21st century.

- **Noreen Herzfeld** is the Nicholas and Bernice Reuter Professor of Science and Religion at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict. She holds degrees in both Computer Science and Theology and teaches in both fields. Herzfeld is the author of *In Our Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Human Spirit* (2002), *Technology and Religion: Remaining Human in a Co-Created World* (2009), and *The Limits of Perfection in Technology, Religion, and Science* (2010) as well as numerous articles on topics ranging from the prospects of AI to reconciliation between Muslims and Christians in Bosnia.

Sagas, Landscapes, and Environmental Change in Medieval Iceland

Iceland had no permanent inhabitants before the Norse arrived in about 870, and both the literature that the Norse settlers subsequently produced and the land itself reveal much about how attitudes and practices shaped and were shaped by environment.

- **Janet Schrunk Ericksen** is an Associate Professor of English and Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota, Morris, and the Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean. She became fascinated with Iceland first in graduate school coursework on Old Norse language and literature, then spent a summer studying in Reykjavík. Her primary field of research is Old English literature (*Beowulf* and more), which she regularly teaches, but she teaches the sagas whenever she can; she also teaches Modern English grammar, history of the English language, and a broad array of medieval literature.

The Groves of Athena: A Brief History of Olive Oil Through the Ages

The olive and its oil played a fundamental role in the beginnings of western civilization. This lecture Dr. will track the origins, development, and functions of olive oil from antiquity to the present. We will also discuss contemporary olive oil production, fraud, and marketing -- and sample some of the best extra virgin olive oil in the world, harvested from the foothills of Sparta, Greece!

- **Peter Schultz** is an archaeologist, conservationist, and entrepreneur. He is the former Olin J. Storvick Chair of Classical Studies at Concordia College and current Scholar in Residence at North Dakota State University's Department of Visual Arts. He took his PhD in Classical Archaeology from the University of Athens in 2003. He is the co-editor of *Early Hellenistic Portraiture: Image, Style, Context* (2007, Cambridge), *Aspects of Ancient Greek Cult: Ritual, Context, Iconography* (2009, Århus), *Structure, Image, Ornament: Architectural Sculpture in the Greek World* (2009, Oxbow Press), *Artists and Artistic Production in Ancient Greece* (with Kristen Seaman; 2016 Cambridge University Press), and the author of numerous articles on ancient Greek art and culture.

The Amazing Kidney

The kidney has marvelous abilities and functions, and it is unfortunate it is simply referred to as an excretory organ. We will explore many of these functions as we try to understand why the kidneys are so vital to our health. Kidneys regulate ions in the blood such as sodium, potassium and hydrogen (pH). They produce some important hormones. They play a role in blood pressure. Removal of urea, certain drugs, and certain hormones occurs in the kidneys. We will learn why we cannot drink salt water but whales can.

- **Van Gooch** is professor emeritus in Biology at the University of Minnesota Morris with a Ph.D. in Biophysics from the University of California Berkeley. Dr. Gooch received the Morse Award for distinguished teaching from the University of Minnesota. His specialty is cell biology and the focus of his research is daily biological clocks. His captivating lectures at Senior College have cultivated a fascination with science and its relevance in our lives today.

The Value of Government: What it does Right, Wrong, and Why it Matters

Government is often criticized as inept and inefficient, but is it? This lecture examines what the government does, compares its performance to the private sector, and evaluates its major accomplishments and failures, seeking to understand what it does right and why.

- **David Schultz** is a Hamline University Professor of Political Science who teaches across a wide-range of American politics classes including public policy and administration, campaigns and elections, and government ethics. David is author of 30 books and 100+ articles on various aspects of American politics, election law, and the media and politics, and he is regularly interviewed and quoted in the local, national, and international media on these subjects including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, the Economist, and National Public Radio. His most recent book is *Presidential Swing States: Why Only Ten Matter*. (2015)

What to do about North Korean Nuclear Weapons

Over the past several decades, North Korea has worked hard to develop both nuclear weapons and the ballistic missiles necessary to deliver them to the United States. They now have that capability. How should the US respond to these developments? Deterrence? Negotiated disarmament? Military preemption? In this lecture, Professor Andrew Latham discusses the current state of play and the prospects for peaceful de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

- **Andrew Latham** was born in England, raised in Canada and currently lives in the United States. He holds a PhD from York University in Toronto. Since 1997 Andrew has been a member of the Political Science Department at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he regularly teaches courses in Medieval Political Thought, International Security, Regional Conflict and Chinese Foreign Policy. His most recent publications include a non-fiction book entitled *Theorizing Medieval Geopolitics: War and World Order in the Age of the Crusades* published by Routledge in 2012, and *The Holy Lance*, his first novel, published by Knox Robinson in 2015.

Refugees and Global Migration

Today, no countries have open borders. Every state in today's global system has its own laws and policies about who is permitted to cross its borders, and how they will do so. Who determines whether someone is a refugee or a migrant? How have different countries, including the United States, reacted to migration? How effective are the international laws, policies and organizations that have evolved to assist and protect refugees and migrants?

- **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. He contributes to local and international media. 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.

Perks and Perils of Living in the Age of Insects

Insects are by far the most successful group of animals on the planet. Their diversity and evolutionary innovations astound, inspire, and sometimes frighten us. We'll explore ways in which we depend on and are threatened by insects, particularly in this time of global change.

- **Tracey Anderson**, Associate Professor of Biology, has been at the University of Minnesota, Morris for over 20 years where she teaches Evolution of Biodiversity, Freshwater Biology, Entomology, and Introduction to Paleontology. Her research interests focus on the ecology of aquatic insects and other invertebrates in streams in lakes in Minnesota. Undergraduate students are frequently involved in her research, several of which have gone on to graduate school in freshwater ecology. She is an avid, though not always successful, angler and would always prefer reading a book to watching TV.

Laughter

Human beings seem to be the only creatures who laugh. One might contend that laughter is too simple and trivial for deep thought, but it has serious implications for human life and character. Laughter is more than just a hard-wired, semi-voluntary, physical event. It should be understood in all its complexity and mystery, and an adequate understanding offers a glimpse into key elements of human nature and living well. We ignore laughter only at our own peril. Thus, we shall do our best to illuminate laughter and maybe even share a few laughs as we do.

- **Tony Cunningham** is a Professor of Philosophy at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. He works in ethics, with a special interest in literature. His books include *The Heart of What Matters* and *Modern Honor*. He is currently on sabbatical and writing on a book on fortitude entitled, *Strong: The Story of Strength*. Born and raised in New York City, a child of Irish immigrants, he loves to write fiction and play the fiddle.

Beethoven and Freedom: Politics, Aesthetics, Ethics

This session will explore the diverse ways in which the music of Ludwig van Beethoven intersects with the notion of freedom, both in the late 18th century, when the modern idea of "human rights" was first articulated, and today, when the idea of freedom remains hotly contested.

- **Mark Mazullo** is Professor of Music History and Piano at Macalester College. He is the author of the book *Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues: contexts, style, performance* (Yale, 2010) and numerous essays in such publications as *The Yale Review*, *Music & Literature*, *The Musical Quarterly*, *Popular Music*, and *American Music*. His recent performances have included recitals at the Mendelssohn-Remise in Berlin, Germany and the National Museum of Colombia in Bogota. The recipient of Macalester's 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award, Mazullo is known for his broad range of courses, which include the seminars *Late Beethoven*, *Music and Freedom*, and *Musical Fictions*. He is also a popular pre-concert lecturer for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Schubert Club.

Academic Freedom, Tenure and Campus Culture: A Fifty-year Retrospective

From God and Man at Yale (1951) to The Coddling of the American Mind (2018), higher education in America has been the object of criticism in the popular press. Having spent forty consecutive years on college campuses as student, professor, and administrator, Pence reflects on his experience and imagines what college will be like for our grandchildren with focus on the past and future of academic freedom, faculty tenure, and campus culture.

- **James Pence** worked for twenty years in executive leadership positions in colleges and universities, including service as the Chief Academic Officer at Wartburg College, St. Olaf College, and Pacific Lutheran University. The recipient of a major fellowship from the American Council on Education, Jim also served two terms as the Chair of the American Conference of Academic Deans. He is the author of articles on faculty governance, academic leadership and strategic planning.

Senior College Evaluation Notes – a form will be distributed at end of term

*Top Topics	*Top Presenters	Presentation	Comments
		Alzheimer's Disease: What It Is and What Can Be Done - Dr. Joseph E. Gaugler, Health Policy and Management and School of Public Health, University of Minnesota	
		What is Money? It's Probably Not What You Think - Louis Johnston, Economics, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		How to Win an Argument: An Ancient Guide to the Art of Persuasion - James May, Classics, St. Olaf College	
		Historians and Historical Imaginations: Buffalo Man, A Life of a Boy Giant on the Minnesota River - Joe Amato, author and professor emeritus, History, Southwest State University	
		Moral Combat: Sex at the Root of Our Religious and Political Conflicts - Noreen Herzfeld, Theology/Computer Science, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		Sagas, Landscapes, and Environmental Change in Medieval Iceland - Janet Schrunck Ericksen, English/Medieval Studies, University of Minnesota, Morris	
		The Groves of Athena: A Brief History of Olive Oil Through the Ages - Peter Schultz, Scholar in Residence, Visual Arts, North Dakota State University	
		The Amazing Kidney - Van Gooch, Biology, University of Minnesota Morris	
		The Value of Government: What it does Right, Wrong, and Why it Matters - David Schultz, Political Science, Hamline University	
		What to do about North Korean Nuclear Weapons - Andrew Latham, Political Science, Macalester College	
		Refugees and Global Migration - Thomas Hanson, Diplomat in Residence, University of Minnesota Duluth	
		Perks and Perils of Living in the Age of Insects - Tracey Anderson, Biology, University of Minnesota – Morris	
		Laughter - Tony Cunningham, Philosophy, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		Beethoven and Freedom: Politics, Aesthetics, Ethics - Mark Mazullo, Music, Macalester College	
		Academic Freedom, Tenure and Campus Culture: A Fifty-year Retrospective - James Pence, retired faculty and dean, St. Olaf College	