

## ***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 and Lois 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/donation>. Please note "Senior College" in the Special Requests box on your check or the Donate page on-line. For more information: Phone: 320-762-4670 or 888-234-1222.

## ***Information and Registration Contact***

Website: [www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege](http://www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege)

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

Email: [seniorcollege@alextech.edu](mailto: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 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](http://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](http://www.alextech.edu) and [www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege](http://www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege).

## LECTURE TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

### **Mining the Local Mythology**

With locally raised, award-winning author Leif Enger

Chart-topping novelist Leif Enger burst onto the literary scene in 2001 with *Peace Like a River* – one of this century’s few fiction debuts to sell a million copies. Set in northern Minnesota in the 1960s, audiences fell in love with the arcadian small town setting and young narrator every bit as memorable as Huck Finn or ‘Scout’ Finch. Enger’s follow-ups to date include *So Brave, Young and Handsome*, a classic Western with a Minnesota spin. Along with older brother Lin, he also penned an Edgar Award nominated mystery series about a retired baseball all-star and his less-than-restful retirement in the Northwoods. Enger’s newest, *Virgil Wander*, centers on a small industrial town past its prime, and the band of residents who love it fiercely. The *Wall Street Journal* raved: “*Virgil Wander* brings out the charm and downright strangeness of the defiantly normal.” Since its publication, it has garnered a host of honors, including being named a #1 Indie Next List Pick.

Leif Enger was raised in Osakis, Minnesota and worked as a reporter and producer for Minnesota Public Radio for nearly twenty years.

Great stories surround us - in the epics of grandparents, the dreams of oddball neighbors, the gardens of secret insomniacs. Enger will talk about writing novels that make the most of his Midwestern heritage, and how to unlock your own best work using keys already in your pocket.

### **How Minnesota’s Economy Became Above Average: Lessons from History**

Garrison Keillor touted Lake Wobegon as the place where, “all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.” Many Minnesotans have the sense that our state has always been “above average,” but that is not the case. Minnesota’s economy did surge above the mean in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century but then plummeted in the 1910s. By the early 1940s, Minnesota’s per person income was 15 percent below average and it was not until 1973 that it again rose above the national average, where it has remained ever since. How did this happen? In this lecture, Professor Johnston will lay out Minnesota’s economic history from timber, farming, and mining to computers, medical devices, and health care.

- **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. He specializes in macroeconomics and economic history. Johnston is special contributor to the 4th, 5th, and 6th editions of *Principles of Economics* by Robert H. Frank and Ben S. Bernanke, with responsibility for developing and writing all of the macroeconomics chapters. 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.

## **Rural Matters: Understanding Rural Identification as a Political Influence**

The election of Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election featured a strong shift among rural voters toward the Republican Party and reminded everyone that rural Americans' votes can make a difference in national politics. Many scholars have ignored or overlooked the important role that rural residents in the United States play within the political system in the 21st-century. Conversely, some in the media have overreacted to the 2016 election assuming that rural residents are a conservative monolith which could deliver the 2020 presidential election to Trump. Professor Lindberg, drawing on his own research as well as other recent studies, will highlight the importance of rural identity to political behavior and attitudes. Using data from the 2016 and 2018 election cycles, this lecture will discuss why rural politics matter, in what ways they are different from partisanship and ideology, and how they might impact the 2020 elections.

- **Tim Lindberg** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota – Morris. He teaches courses on constitutional law and the judicial process as well as on political behavior. He is currently working on a survey of rural Minnesotans which explores how identity as residents of a rural community and perceptions of rural life interact with political values and behavior.

## **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)

## **National Parks in American History**

The US National Park Service currently manages 419 sites of dramatically varied size, nature, and mission. Exploring the history of the national park idea and the development of the system will provide insight into American history and the challenges facing our parks today.

- **Derek Larson** came to College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in 1998 from Indiana University, where he earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in United States History. He completed an M.A. in Religion at Yale University and a B.A. in History and Religious Studies at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. An environmental historian by training, he holds joint appointments in the History and Environmental Studies Departments at CSB/SJU where he teaches courses on American environmental history, the history of the American West,

American environmental literature, environmental sustainability, and most recently a first-year seminar called “Imagining the Future.” He has written a monthly opinion column for the St. Cloud Times since 2002, his latest academic work includes a book titled *Keeping Oregon Green: Livability, Stewardship, and the Challenges of Growth, 1960-1980*, published by Oregon State University Press in 2016, and he is currently working on a novel about survivors of a pandemic set in the near future.

## **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? This lecture will look at reactions to migration and the effectiveness of 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.

## **Government’s Role in the US Economy**

Government’s role in the economy has waxed, waned, and evolved throughout American history. We will examine the various parts government played in the story of US economic development, ranging from land policy to transportation to finance. We will then address current debates about the interaction between the size of government and economic growth.

- **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. He specializes in macroeconomics and economic history. Johnston is special contributor to the 4th, 5th, and 6th editions of Principles of Economics by Robert H. Frank and Ben S. Bernanke, with responsibility for developing and writing all of the macroeconomics chapters. 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.

## Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics

Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat, which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Russia has been accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and China is highly committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy. Dealing with cyber conflict will require new ways of looking at 21<sup>st</sup> century warfare.

- **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.

## Church and State, Indian-Style

India has a history of religious diversity and co-existence. How to govern amidst religious difference? This lecture will look at three figures in the history of India who formed policies of governance that sought to establish ground rules of how religion would relate to politics: (1) King Ashoka of the third century BC, who patronized Buddhism; (2) the Mughal emperor Akbar (d. 1605), a Muslim ruler who sponsored inter-religious dialogue; and (3) Mahatma Gandhi (d. 1948), seen as a spiritual icon in the West, and in India as the leader of the "secular" Congress party and opponent of Hindu nationalism.

- **James Laine** is professor of Religious Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul. He grew up in Texas. After graduate school at Harvard, he moved with his family to Minnesota in 1985, becoming a professor at Macalester College where he has been ever since. He is a specialist in the religious traditions of India. His book "Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India" (Oxford, 2003) was the subject of controversy, leading to a government ban, indictment, and death threats. He was exonerated by the Supreme Court of India in 2010. He wrote "MetaReligion: Religion and Power in World History" in 2014.

## The Privatization of Seeds: Food Justice, Seed Sovereignty, and Intellectual Property of Plant Genetic Resources

Food and crop systems have been built on community stores of seeds since humans turned to agriculture approximately 10,000 years ago, yet questions about the privatization of seed varieties have reached an unprecedented pitch of urgency in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. At the international level, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization based in Rome wrestles with the contentious issues of farmers' rights and benefit-sharing as part of the international treaty that governs global exchange of

seeds. In Geneva, the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization struggles to determine how indigenous knowledge should interact with intellectual property rights in regard to plant genetic resources. Peasant and indigenous organizations such as La Via Campesina, arguing that such decisions have critical global and local implications for the political, cultural, and economic sovereignty of agricultural communities, are raising alarms about a global system that steadily has moved away from seeds as a community storehouse of wealth and toward privatized genetic resources. To analyze this trend and its implications, this talk will examine some of the central issues regarding the privatization of seeds, focusing on intellectual property rights, farmers' rights, benefit-sharing, and indigenous knowledge, and illustrate these issues through an examination of international law, national seed policies, and food sovereignty organizations in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

- **Sheri Breen** is Associate Professor of Political Science, affiliated faculty in the Environmental Studies Program, and serves as faculty coordinator for study-abroad programs at UMM. As a political theorist, she teaches courses in the history of political thought, international political theory, environmental political theory, and political ethics. Her research focuses on the political role of property and ownership and she is writing a book manuscript on intellectual property in relation to food and crop seeds. She is a former newspaper journalist and editor and has a lifelong interest in agricultural and environmental issues.

### **The New Middle East**

Today's Middle East is radically different from that of even a decade ago. Whereas in the past the Arab-Israel conflict defined the geopolitical relations of the region, now those relations are defined by a regional cold war between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The question is, what should America's role be in this new geopolitical situation.

- **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.

### **Ireland: Today's Borders and History's Barriers to Peace**

In a September, 2018 article seeking to explain why the Northern Ireland border is a sticking point in negotiations around Britain's exit from the EU ("Brexit"), *The Guardian* newspaper's only real moment of explanation came with a phrase acknowledging that a borderless border was necessary to ensure the "fragile peace" of the region (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/19/brexit-and-the-irish-border-question-explained>). Articles like this mirror England's long term incapacity to fully deal with or explain the fraught historical relationship between the "United" Kingdom's nations. The Good Friday accords that ended The Troubles in Northern Ireland were signed decades ago, but relationships among

Irish nationalists and British loyalists are still considered sufficiently volatile to stall one of the most important economic and political changes of this decade. This talk goes back in time to the religious, political and cultural tensions of the medieval through modern periods in Anglo-Irish relations, tracing not just the history, but the memory of conflict to explain why distant battles and policies remain such traumatic monuments to discord.

- **Susannah Ottaway** teaches European history at Carleton College, in Northfield, MN. Her research has focused on the history of old age and poverty (e.g. in *The Decline of Life* (Cambridge, 2004), and *The History of Old Age 1500-1800* (Pickering and Chatto, 2008-09), as well as recent work on the history of the English workhouse). She served on the Minnesota Humanities Center's Board of Directors and now directs Carleton's Mellon-funded initiative, "Public Works: Connecting Communities to the Arts and Humanities".

### **The Trump Administration in Latin America: The Return of the Monroe Doctrine**

In October 2018 at a speech in Miami National Security Advisor John Bolton declared that the Monroe Doctrine was alive and well pointedly reversing a position taken during the Obama administration by Secretary of State John Kerry that the doctrine which declares the hemisphere to be a US domain was outdated. Under Bolton's leadership the United States has declared that Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela are a "troika of tyranny" and that their governments must be replaced. This presentation analyzes the impact of this shift on relations within the Western Hemisphere.

- **Gary Prevost** is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at St. John's University/College of Saint Benedict. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Minnesota and has published widely on Latin America and Spain. His books include *Democracy and Socialism in Sandinista Nicaragua*, coauthored with Harry E. Vanden; *The Undermining of the Sandinista Revolution*, coedited with Harry E. Vanden; *Cuba: A Different America*, coedited with Wilber Chaffee; *The Bush Doctrine and Latin America*, and *Cuban-Latin American Relations in the Context of a Changing Hemisphere*, both coedited with Carlos Oliva Campos; *Revolutionaries to Politicians*, coedited with David Close and Kalatowie Deonandan; *United States-Cuban Relations—A Critical History*, co-authored with Esteban Morales; *Latin America: An Introduction*, co-authored with Harry E. Vanden; and *Social Movements and Leftist Governments in Latin America: Confrontation or Co-optation and U.S. National Security Concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean: Failed States and Ungoverned Spaces*, both co-edited with Carlos Oliva Campos and Harry Vanden, in addition to numerous articles and book chapters on Nicaragua and Spanish politics. His research on Latin America has been supported by a number of grants, including a Fulbright Central American Republics Award.



## **The Road Not Taken: Abraham Lincoln and the Peaceful Abolition of Slavery**

Slavery was abolished in the United States through a long and bloody civil war. But that was not the way Abraham Lincoln originally hoped slavery would end. During the 1850s and as a candidate for president in 1860, Lincoln's plan was to abolish slavery gradually, peacefully, and democratically. He believed that the majority of American voters could be persuaded to support this course of action. Events didn't take that direction -- not because Lincoln's plan was unrealistic, but because slave state leaders considered it very realistic and likely to succeed over the long run. They urged slave states had to secede from the Union before Lincoln could take office, so that he wouldn't have a chance to take the first step. Even though Lincoln failed to abolish slavery peacefully, his "road not taken" is worth examining all the same. Our American democracy today is more deeply divided than at any time since the 1850s. Lincoln preserved his faith in democracy under circumstances even more challenging than those we face today.

- **Jim Read** has been a Professor of Political Science with CSB|SJU since 1988. He received his B.A. at the University of Chicago in 1980, M.A. at Harvard University in 1983 and Ph.D in 1988. He was the Joseph P. Farry Professor of Public Policy at CSB/SJU, and has been Visiting Professor of Political Science at the University of California-Davis. Dr. Read is the author of *Majority Rule versus Consensus: The Political Thought of John C. Calhoun* (University Press of Kansas, 2009), *Power versus Liberty: Madison, Hamilton, Wilson, and Jefferson* (University of Virginia Press, 2000) and *Doorstep Democracy: Face to Face Politics in the Heartland* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008).

## **Removing Presidents**

Since the origin of our Republic, Congress has taken serious steps toward removing four presidents, one in 1868 (Andrew Johnson) and three in a twenty-five year span at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton). Why? What triggered a call for removal? Why did the results differ? What tentative conclusions can we draw about how Americans have come to see the process over time?

- **Ken Jones** is professor of History at College of St. Benedict/St. John's University. He has taught History and First Year Seminar at CSB/SJU since 1976. He teaches courses on Pursuing the American Dream, the US Since 1960, US and the World, and Sport and Society in Recent US History. He is also the Director of the Learning Enhancement Service, which is the CSB/SJU program for helping faculty teach effectively. His most recent book (with his wife, Diane Veale Jones) is "The Loaf That Became a Legend: A History of Saint John's Bread." Before settling in Central Minnesota, he taught briefly at Arizona State University. He earned his PhD at Cornell University, and a BA at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

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

*Top Topic	*Top Lecturer	Presentation	Notes
		<b>Mining the Local Mythology – Leif Enger</b> , locally raised, award-winning author	
		<b>Minnesota Economy - Louis Johnston</b> , Economics, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		<b>Rural Matters: Understanding Rural Identification as a Political Influence - Tim Lindberg</b> , Political Science, University of Minnesota Morris	
		<b>The Value of Government - David Schultz</b> , Political Science, Hamline University	
		<b>National Parks in American History - Derek Larson</b> , Environmental Studies/History, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		<b>Refugees and Global Migration - Thomas Hanson</b> , Diplomat in Residence, University of Minnesota Duluth	
		<b>Government's Role in the US Economy - Louis Johnston</b> , Economics, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		<b>Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics - Thomas Hanson</b> , Diplomat in Residence, University of Minnesota Duluth	
		<b>Church and State, Indian-style - James Laine</b> , Religion, Macalester College	
		<b>Seeds as Intellectual Property - Sheri Breen</b> , Political Science, University of Minnesota Morris	
		<b>The New Middle East - Andrew Latham</b> , Political Science, Macalester College	
		<b>The Trump Administration in Latin America: The Return of the Monroe Doctrine - Gary Prevost</b> , Political Science, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		<b>Ireland: Today's Borders and History's Barriers to Peace - Susannah Ottaway</b> , History, Carleton College	
		<b>The Road Not Taken: Abraham Lincoln and the Peaceful Abolition of Slavery - James Read</b> , Political Science, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	
		<b>Removing Presidents- Ken Jones</b> , History, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University	