

History Comes Alive



The First U. S. National Election Contest: The Ways and Means of Politics in the Early American Republic

Todd Estes
Tuesday, September 25, 2012 ♦ 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Gold Room C

In the midst of the current presidential election, this lecture looks back to the first American political campaign to ratify the Constitution. Although many would like to believe that it was purely a high-minded deliberation over serious issues, the ratification debate also included many of the hallmarks of contemporary political campaigns: negative campaigning, spinning, attacks and rapid response to those attacks. This lecture highlights and analyzes some similarities — as well as the significant differences — between modern political practices and tactics and the debate over ratification.

Samurai in Fiction and Fact

William Londo
Tuesday, October 23, 2012 ♦ 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

The enduring interest in samurai in the U.S. is reflected in the popularity of movies ranging from *The Seven Samurai* and *The Magnificent Seven* to *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai* and *The Last Samurai*, to name only a few. But what was the life of a samurai really like? Were they superbly disciplined fighting machines bound by an immutable Bushido code? This presentation will outline the history of samurai in Japan and compare Western images of samurai with their historical reality.



Life and Death in the Georgia Lowcountry, 1854-1868: The Letters of the Charles Colcock Jones Family

Carl Osthaus
Tuesday, November 13, 2012 ♦ 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

The letters of the highly intelligent, cultured and devout Charles Colcock Jones family capture the texture of everyday life of plantation society at a pivotal moment of Southern history. As we observe the Joneses face the vicissitudes of life, it is hard to imagine a more intimate and revealing account of the South's tragedy.

The Tudors and the Unity of England

Seán Farrell Moran
Wednesday, January 23, 2013 ♦ 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

The ultimate significance of the Tudors in English history was in the way they — through guile, seduction, cruelty, administrative genius and the sheer force of personality — unified England as it had never been before. We will move beyond the various wives and the myths to consider how this was achieved.



The Consequences of Disillusionment: World War I, Isolationism, and the Shaping of American Strategy in World War II

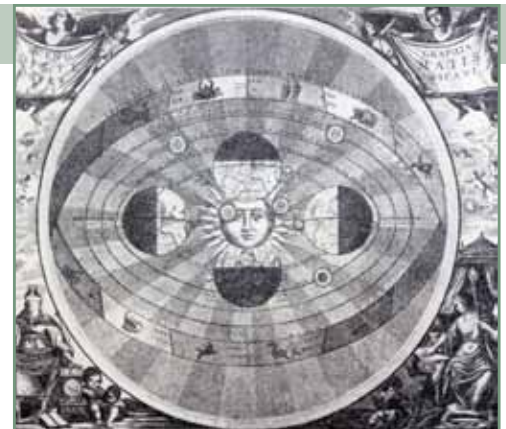
Bruce Zellers
Tuesday, February 12, 2013 ♦ 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

Americans came away from World War I feeling used — by their allies, by their own leaders and by their own idealism. As a consequence, during the 1920s and 1930s, the United States followed a pattern of disarmament and disengagement from the world's crises. This pattern continued after the outbreak of World War II. Thus, when the Americans again found themselves at war, they confronted grave strategic perils with very limited military means. The consequences helped shape the Cold War for the next generation.

Modern Historical Methods and the Scientific Revolution

Craig Martin
Tuesday, March 5, 2013 ♦ 7 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

Modern methods of thinking about nature, now often labeled the “scientific revolution,” took place during the same time in which scholars adopted new ways of thinking about the ancient and medieval world. Despite the differing subjects, the techniques used by historians and naturalists were similar and informed each other's conclusions.



**OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™**

Department of History
College of Arts and Sciences
416 Varner Hall
2200 North Squirrel Road
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

This lecture series is made possible by generous contributions from:

- The Knudsen Family Foundation
- The Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- The Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Special thanks to Founding Sponsors John and Annette Carter

Tell us you're joining us
Admission is free, but reservations are requested.
To reserve your space, call (248) 370-3511
or email jkessler@oakland.edu.