

James Madison, fourth U.S. president, 1809-1817

If James Madison was the Father of the Constitution, Why was He Such a Reluctant Parent?

Todd Estes
7 p.m. Tuesday, September 19, 2006
Oakland Center, Banquet Room A

When the Constitution was signed in September 1787, few were more disappointed with its contents than James Madison who, nonetheless, would come to be one of the document's most enthusiastic supporters. This talk will examine how and why Madison changed his mind and reconciled himself to the new Constitution, and how his political thought evolved in the process.

Professor Estes has published several works on early American history, including a recent book on the Jay Treaty debate. His current research is on the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.



Executing the Dead in the Middle Ages: Posthumous Trials and the Case of Thomas Becket

Ronald C. Finucane
7 p.m. Wednesday, October 18, 2006
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

The medieval practice of digging up traitors for postmortem punishment was common; Becket's "trial and execution" under Henry VIII will be discussed as an example.

Professor Finucane teaches Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation history. In 2002 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (U.K.).

The remains of a 13th century bishop. (Reproduced from Miracles and Pilgrims: Popular Beliefs in Medieval England, by Ronald C. Finucane)

Sex and God in the City of Angels: The Kidnapping of Aimee Semple McPherson



Aimee Semple McPherson

Matthew A. Sutton
7 p.m. Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms A & B

In the spring of 1926, celebrity evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished from a California beach only to reappear a month later with a fantastic story of kidnapping and escape. Skeptics accused her of running off with a secret lover. Professor Sutton will unravel the mysteries surrounding this controversial event, exploring its implications for modern religion, politics and mass media.

Professor Sutton teaches American intellectual, cultural and religious history. This talk is part of his forthcoming book on McPherson, to be published by Harvard University Press in fall 2007. He will also be featured in a PBS documentary on McPherson.

"They Love a Man in the Country": Dixie Demagogues and Southern Politics, 1900-1950

Carl R. Osthaus
7 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

Ornery and vile, or colorful and entertaining, or a little of both, the Dixie Demagogues of fact and fiction were prominent fixtures on the Southern political landscape. By reviewing their antics, appeal and impact, Professor Osthaus will shed light on Southern history and identity. (Rated R: language, sexual situations and general raunchiness)

Professor Osthaus teaches Civil War, Reconstruction and Southern history and has published studies of freedmen and banking during Reconstruction, nineteenth-century Southern journalism and the work ethic of antebellum Southern plain folk.



"The poor dirt farmer ain't got but three friends on this earth: God Almighty, Sears Roebuck, and Gene Talmadge." — Eugene Talmadge, Georgia governor in 1930s and 1940s

The Historical Roots of Modern Jihadist Movements



Osama bin Laden

Weldon Matthews
7 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, 2007
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

The spectacular emergence of militant Islamist organizations such as al-Qaeda at the end of the twentieth century was an unanticipated phenomenon. Professor Matthews explores the historical origins of these movements and their adherents' representations of history.

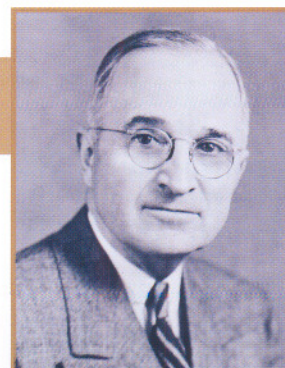
Professor Matthews teaches modern Middle Eastern history. He is the author of *Confronting an Empire, Constructing a Nation: Arab Nationalists and Popular Politics in Mandate Palestine* (I.B. Tauris, 2006)

Marking the Primrose Path to the Future: Harry Truman, Presidential Power and the Limited War in Korea

Bruce Zellers
7 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, 2007
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B & C

Presidents have long sought to enlarge their power in the area of national security. In the early Cold War, Harry Truman succeeded in dramatically increasing presidential authority in this area, provoking heated dissent as he did so. Later presidents, including the current one, have made use of Truman's template — and faced most of the same concerns.

Professor Zellers teaches history at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor and at Oakland University. For many years he has been a close student of the Truman presidency and the Korean War.



Harry Truman, 33rd U.S. President, 1945-1953

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