

Reframing the History of Autoworkers in the 1950s

Daniel Clark
7 p.m. Wednesday, September 19, 2007
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B & C

While historians generally portray metro Detroit autoworkers as enjoying job stability and prosperity during the 1950s, investigatory interviews with former autoworkers complicate this historical representation.

Professor Clark teaches U.S. Labor History, Post-1945 U.S. History and Oral History. His book *Like Night and Day* examines the impact of unionization on textile mill workers in the South.



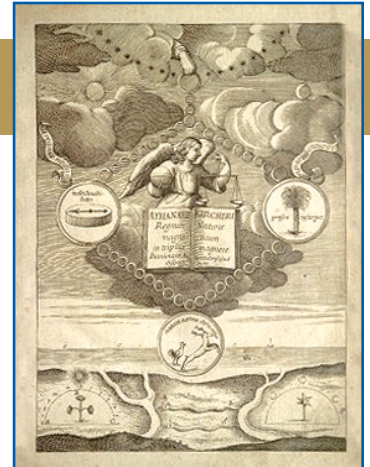
History
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The Concept of Weather in Renaissance Europe

Craig Martin
7 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, 2007
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

Shifts in weather and climate left the Renaissance philosophers grappling for explanations. Professor Martin will examine the way Renaissance thinkers questioned what weather meant to religion, health and scientific methodology, and discuss how these philosophers integrated knowledge taken from explorers to better understand the earth's climates.

Professor Martin teaches History of Science and has published work on Renaissance science, medicine and intellectual history. His current research is on Islamic intellectual influences in Renaissance Italy.



Election Mandates and Political Power: Herbert Hoover and the 1928 Election

Karen A.J. Miller
7 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B & C

In 1928, the Hoover campaign set out to reconfigure the Republican electorate and create an invincible Republican majority. Although he won the 1928 election by an extraordinary margin, Hoover's strategy proved to be a weak foundation for governance.

Professor Miller is the chair of OU's Department of History and a specialist in the history of American public policy. She is currently working on a book concerning the Republican Party during the 1920s.

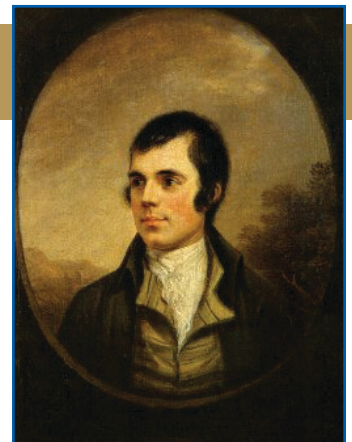


Robert Burns and the Scottish Nation

Seán Farrell Moran
7 p.m. Wednesday, January 23, 2008
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B & C

The week of January 20th marks the birthday of writer Robert Burns who, more than any other individual, is seen as the central figure in the formation of Scottish national identity; yet, Burns' vision of Scotland raises questions about the history of that identity and its nature today. Professor Moran will explore what it means to be a Scot, and what it means to be committed to the national idea of *any* nation.

Professor Moran is a specialist in the intellectual history of modern Britain and Ireland. One of his primary areas of research is the development of nationalism within the context of the British Empire.



A Contested Past: The American Centennial and the Reshaping of American History

Jeff Powell
7 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B & C

The celebrations of 1876, and the Centennial Exhibition in particular, created a "centennial mania" which caused America to pause and examine the meaning of its past, the success of its present and its vision for the future. The centennial became a unique moment during which many Americans challenged and reshaped the nation's historical memory to fit their perceptions of what America had become.

Professor Powell is a Ph.D. candidate at Wayne State University, and teaches at both Wayne State and Oakland University. His dissertation research is focused on how patriotic commemorations during the American centennial worked to reshape the nation's historic memory.



Across China's Gobi

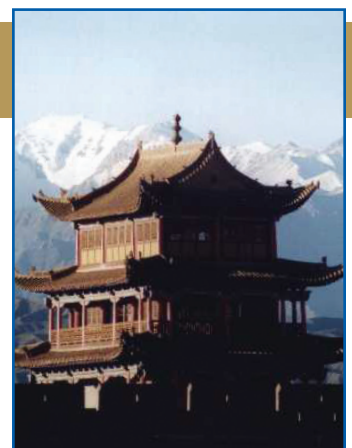
Linda K. Benson
7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Oakland Center, Gold Rooms B & C

women who "gossiped the Gospel" in Kazakh camps and desert oases. Their story provides a new chapter in the centuries-old saga of religious pilgrims traversing the Silk Road.

Professor Benson is author of the new book, *Across China's Gobi*, on which this presentation is based. Her other books include *The Ili Rebellion* (1990), *China's Last Nomads* (1998) and *China Since 1949* (2002).

In the 1920s, Christian missions extended toward China's far northwestern frontier in an effort to convert the region's Muslim peoples.

This presentation examines the lives of three



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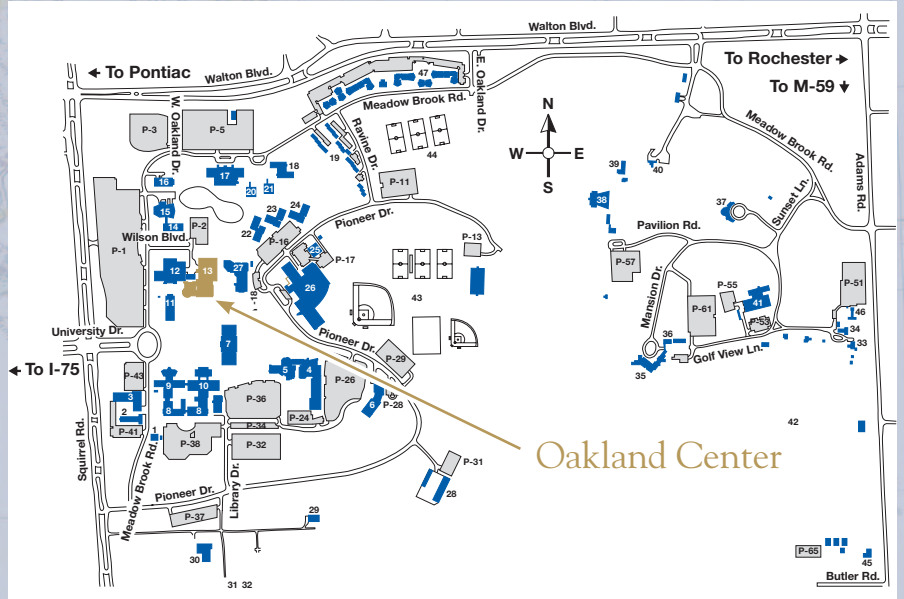
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Admission is free, but reservations are requested. To reserve your space call (248) 370-3511 or e-mail jkessler@oakland.edu.

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About Oakland University

When it opened in 1959, Oakland University provided its quality education to 570 students. Today, more than 18,000 students take part in the experience that better prepares them for a rapidly changing workplace and society, and to be leaders for the future. Oakland University's distinguished faculty includes world-class scholars and researchers who offer college students and the community the opportunity to learn from some of the most prominent educators in their fields.



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Serious — and sometimes not so serious — inquiries into the past highlighting a variety of historical experiences.

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