Monty Python’s Terry Jones speaks at Augsburg

On October 5, 2007, Terry Jones gave a lecture at Augsburg College entitled “Medieval Lives,” then answered audience questions and signed books.

Jones is perhaps best known as part of Monty Python, the comedy troupe that from 1969 to 1974 wrote and performed Monty Python’s Flying Circus. Jones co-directed the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail with Terry Gilliam and directed Monty Python’s Life of Brian and Monty Python’s Meaning of Life. He also wrote the screenplay for Jim Henson’s film Labyrinth.

Jones has presented numerous television documentaries, including The Crusades, Medieval Lives and Barbarians. His scholarly works include Chaucer’s Knight (1980) and Who Murdered Chaucer? (2003).

Medieval Lives is Jones’ attempt to slay the dragons of cliché and platitude, to combat the image of the Middle Ages as a time of ignorance, misery, and superstition. The presentation took place in Hoversten Chapel to a crowd of over 500 people.

“My interest in medieval history began when I was reading Chaucer while attending Oxford,” Jones said. “I thought many of the parts were incredibly boring … I thought that I must not have been reading it right.”

Jones came to Augsburg at the invitation of history professor Phil Adamo, who also directs the Medieval Studies Program. The evening concluded with Jones having dinner with twelve Medieval Studies majors at a neighborhood restaurant.
Our faculty ...

**Phil Adamo** was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in the Spring of 2007, when he also became Director of Medieval Studies. Phil’s paper “Monks and Heretics: Using Umberto Eco’s *The Name of the Rose* as a Textbook in an Upper-level, Undergraduate History Seminar,” will be published as the lead chapter in Alison Ganze, ed., *Postscript to the Middle Ages: Teaching Medieval Studies through Umberto Eco’s The Name of the Rose* (Syracuse University Press, forthcoming).

**Jacqueline deVries** was engaged in new travels and teaching experiences this past summer. She taught HIS 103 ("The Modern World") to 24 inmates at the Shakopee Women’s Correctional Facility, who challenged her with their passion for learning. In July, she took a break from prison teaching to travel to southern Germany, where she continued preparations for the upcoming May 2008 course "The Aftermath of World War II." In September, her book, *Living Faith: Stories from the first 150 years of Westminster Presbyterian Church*, was published and will be available soon in the Augsburg bookstore. Her main project at the moment is gestating a baby, due on December 31, 2007.

**Bill Green** continues his role as superintendent of the Minneapolis schools. See the story about Bill’s new book, opposite page.

**Don Gustafson** is still living at the family farm on the edge of what used to be known as the Great Woods and is busy mulching leaves, digging carrots, and cutting wood for the winter. He’s smiling about having finished the account of the first 150 years of the St. Peter Church with which he has been connected most of his life. He’s currently mid-way thru *My Name is Red* by the Turkish Nobel prize winner Pamuk which he recommends to the adventurous reader. In his current Che seminar, students learned how to smoke Cuban cigars, the “Cuban way.”

**Jeff Kolnick** gave a paper in June 2007 at the annual meeting of the Agricultural History Society entitled, “The Mission San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala: Toward a Resolution of Rural Poverty in Guatemala and Spiritual Poverty in Rural Minnesota.” In July 2007, he received news that the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute was awarded another NEH grant to conduct two one-week residential institutes on the Civil Rights Movement for Community College Faculty in Jackson, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee.

**Michael Lansing** organized and participated in a U.S. History workshop for Advanced Placement U.S. history teachers in July and is currently working on a proposal for a new Environmental Studies major and minor, alongside Joe Underhill (political science) and Christina Erickson (social work). He’s also co-editing and contributing to a volume of scholarly essays tentatively titled *Midwesterners Abroad: Regional, Identity, and Travel in the Twentieth Century* and writing a history of Mount Olive Lutheran Church (Minneapolis), which will celebrate its centennial in 2009.

Our students ...

**Charles Stiers**, a first-year major in Medieval Studies has had a paper selected for presentation at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in the spring of 2008.

His paper, “Guy of Lusignan and the Fatal Decision at the Horns of Hatting,” examines Guy of Lusignan’s choice to follow the council of Renaud of Châtillon and Gerald of Ridefort — essentially advising a quick strike against Saladin — and the consequences of leaving his men exposed to an indefensible counterattack, without the benefit of water to replenish them. The Congress, held every spring at Western Michigan University, hosts around 3,000 medievalists from around the world.

Gus smokes a Cuban cigar while wearing a T-shirt of Che smoking a Cuban cigar while taking a break from teaching the Che seminar.

**Augsburg History Society Co-sponsors Human Rights Advocacy Trip to School of the Americas**

Over its 59 years, the School of the Americas (SOA) has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics at Fort Benning, GA. These graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people. Among those targeted by SOA graduates are educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, “disappeared,” and massacred by soldiers trained at the SOA.

A coalition developing on campus is looking for the support of the student body. They are planning on sending 30+ Augsburg students to attend a protest at the SOA. They will be among 22,000+ people in a peaceful protest from November 15-19. The Augsburg History Society has decided to join the many student groups co-sponsoring this effort. If you’d like to get involved or need more information, contact Augsburg History Society president Adam Nelson at nelsona5@augsburg.edu
Annette Atkins to Give Chrislock Lecture

The Augsburg History Society is pleased to announce that this year’s Chrislock lecturer is Annette Atkins. The lecture will take place on-campus in mid February 2008 and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

Annette Atkins is Professor of History at St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict and a prominent historian of the Upper Midwest. Her works include Harvest of Grief: Grasshopper Plagues and Public Assistance in Minnesota, 1873-1878 (1984) and We Grew Up Together; Brothers and Sisters in Nineteenth Century America (2000). Her newest book, Creating Minnesota: A History from the Inside Out (2007), offers an innovative take on the state’s past.

Bill Green Publishes Book on Race in Early Minnesota

Associate Professor of History Bill Green has published his first monograph, titled A Peculiar Imbalance: The Fall and Rise of Racial Equality in Early Minnesota (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2007). Professor Green examines the experiences of African Americans in territorial Minnesota by situating them in the broader context of how race also affected the lives of Irish Catholics, American Indians, and people of mixed heritage. Through his exploration of how race relations in antebellum Minnesota depended on the imposition of a legal system from which racial understandings flowed, Green successfully argues that racial formation proved crucial to the creation of a new state.

Alumni Profile: Alissa Kappes ‘07

Alissa “Ali” Kappes had barely gotten her diploma when she was offered a job at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). She is currently the Regional Coordinator for Minnesota History Day, a competition in which Middle School and High School students show their skills as historians on selected topics. Ali landed the job after a semester interning at the MHS. She has since returned to Augsburg to address students in the History Workshop (HIS 280), about possible careers in history.

Ali is shown, left, hiking the medieval pilgrimage trail known as the “chemin de Saint-Jacques”, on a study abroad excursion in spring 2006.

Study Abroad in 2008

For the first time ever in the history of the History Department: three study abroad courses led by department faculty!

Make plans now! For more info, contact Andrea Wojtanowicz in the Office of International Programs, at wojtanow@augsburg.edu

NICARAGUA

January 4-12, 2008
Michael Lansing
HIS 195/WST 233
Promoting Justice and Seeking Equality: Globalization and Women’s Grassroots Movements in Latin America

In a place where history remains deeply contested, students in this class will find themselves in conversations with Nicaraguan politicians, scholars, activists, workers, and peasants, alongside representatives from US government and businesses. Confronted with a wide variety of perspectives, students will better understand the context in which Latin American women live.

GERMANY, POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC

May 10-24, 2008
Jacqueline deVries
HIS 195/ENL 270
The Aftermath of World War II: Film, Literature, and History

This course, co-taught with Professor Bob Cowgill of the English Department, examines the cultural impact of war. It will be offered in the Spring WEC schedule, and includes a 2-week travel component to important World War II sites in Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Fulfills a Humanities LAF and Aug Experience. Open to all Augsburg students, especially those in WEC.

FRANCE

May 11-June 4, 2008
Phil Adamo
HIS 440
Religious Experience in Medieval France

This is the second offering of this course, which features a ten-day pilgrimage, hiking the countryside of southern France, as students learn about medieval pilgrimage, monastic life, heresy, orthodoxy, and the inspiration for Gothic cathedrals.

The course is paired with ART 100, Plein-air Drawing, taught by Tara Sweeney in the Art Department.
**REGISTRATION INFO**

Registration dates for Fall Semester (day):

- Nov 12-13: Seniors (24 or more credits)
- Nov 14-15: Juniors (16 – 23.99 credits)
- Nov 16-19: Sophomores (7 – 15.99 credits)
- Nov 20-21: Freshmen (0-6.99 credits)
- Nov 22-Dec 20: Open enrollment for all students

*Be sure to contact your advisor to discuss your schedule for Spring 2008.*

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**1945 Seminar, Spring 2008**

- Taught by Jacqueline deVries

*"History," Stephen said, 'is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake."* -- James Joyce

Ever had a bad year? As bad as 1945? For many alive at the time, 1945 was Joyce's nightmare from which one had little hope of awakening. This seminar invites students to focus deeply on one messy, disruptive and destructive moment with consequences for decades to come. Our readings and research will take us from Berlin to Moscow, New York to Buenos Aires, Calcutta to Okinawa and invite us grapple with the experiences and memories of 1945 as they have been told through film, novels, memoirs, and historical monographs. Fulfills the AugCore Keystone Requirement.
**HONORS**

Got a GPA of 3.6 in the major (3.0 overall)? Plan to take the equivalent of two years of a foreign language? Consider pursuing an honors degree in history? The following timeline can help you plan ahead. Usually, honors students enroll in an independent study (HIS 499) during the fall or winter semesters of their senior year. For more information, talk to any history department faculty member.

**Junior Year:**
- Fall: indicate your interest to your history advisor
- Spring: choose a topic for your project and a professor with whom to work

**Senior Year:**
- October 1: submit a project proposal to the department
- November 1: receive feedback from the department on your proposal
  
  February 1: present draft of the project to your supervising professor  
  (and receive feedback within 2 weeks)
- March 15: submit completed essay
- April 15: oral presentation completed
- May 1: final revisions submitted

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**“Handbook for History Majors” on MOODLE ...**

The department’s newly-launched “Handbook for History Majors”, is now available on moodle. Not only that, any student signed up for any history course now has access to the handbook during that semester. This means that nifty web resources and writing guidelines are now available to all history students, when they need them, not just history majors.

The handbook lists requirements for the major and minor; the departmental writing style sheet; resources for conducting research; internship and study-abroad possibilities, links to the History and Medieval Studies websites, and info on the Augsburg History Society and the Alpha Mu Lambda chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. And it’s all on line!

If you’re already a major, this should have shown up automatically on your moodle page. If for some reason you’re not enrolled, please contact **Heather Hultquist** at hultquis@augsburg.edu.
Stay in touch …

Please send your alumni news, or other history related activities to adamo@augsburg.edu.

We have many opportunities for you to support our students through the following scholarships:

- The Carl H. Chrislock (formerly H.N. Hendrickson) Memorial History Scholarship
- The John R. Jenswold Memorial History Scholarship
- The Dr. Bernhardt Kleven Memorial History Scholarship
- The Theodore and Lucille Nydahl Memorial History Scholarship

To support these scholarships, or to find out about other opportunities, please contact Jeremy Wells, VP for Advancement, at wells@augsburg.edu, or 612-338-1177.

CALENDAR (Check A-Mail for updates.)

November 15-19 — Fort Benning, Georgia

Augsburg History Society and other student groups travel to the School of the Americas for protest. For more info, contact Adam Nelson at nelsona5@augsburg.edu

Wednesday, December 12, 3:30-5:30 PM


Tuesday, February 5, 6:30 PM, Hoversten Chapel

Goliard Society of Medievalists

Mardi Gras Madrigals, medieval style banquet. Tickets: $20. All are welcome.

Mid-February — On campus

Augsburg History Society

Annette Atkins, Chrislock Memorial Lecture