

**The Medieval Studies Program and the Early College Experience Program
at the University of Connecticut present the
Eleventh Annual Medieval Studies Secondary Schools Outreach Seminar**

CHARLEMAGNE: HISTORY, MYTH & LEGEND

A One-Day Seminar for High School Teachers of History, English and the Social Sciences on Friday, **April 3, 2009** (with Connecticut Department of Education CEUs Available)

Location:

TBA

University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut

Intent and Description:

The focus of this year's outreach is the figure and the reign of Charlemagne, "Charles the Great", *Carolus Magnus* (768-814), a rare example of an early medieval political "success story." Not only did Charlemagne maintain and invigorate the tradition of Frankish kingship; he is also credited with fostering a "renaissance" in scholarship and textual transmission. In fact, roughly 90% of the texts of late Roman antiquity survive today in their earliest form in a Carolingian manuscript. Thus, the Carolingian scribes who preserved and transmitted precious religious, literary, and other texts to the later medieval world have played a critical role in shaping the modern Western world. We shall explore the ideals and realities of this larger-than-life figure and his 45-year reign with the assistance of UConn faculty presenters drawn from the departments of Music, Modern and Classical Languages, and History.

The Medieval Studies Outreach series, which began in 1998, is designed to bring together students and teachers interested in the history of Europe and the Mediterranean world in the pre-modern era, and to foster the exchange of ideas and information. The program's mission has been enhanced, since 2004, by making this a cooperative venture with the University of Connecticut's Early College Experience Program. (For a description of the outreach and all past program offerings, go to <http://medievalstudies.uconn.edu> → Special Projects → Annual Secondary Schools Outreach Program).

Faculty Participants:

Eric Rice is Assistant Professor of Music History and Director of the *Collegium Musicum* at the University of Connecticut. A specialist in music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, in his scholarship he focuses on music of the Western liturgy and its relationship to architecture, politics, and secular music. Current projects include a book entitled "Music and Ritual at Charlemagne's Marienkirche in Aachen, Germany."

Thomas Jambeck is Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Medieval Studies Program at the University of Connecticut. His specialty is medieval drama and the history of the English language. He has recently published, with Professor Robert

Hasenfratz, *Reading Old English*, and is now working on an essay on the religious backgrounds of the Towneley Creation Play.

Daniel Caner is Associate Professor of History and Modern & Classical Languages at the University of Connecticut. He teaches Greek, Roman and early church history and specializes in late antique history and early Christianity. He has written extensively on early monasticism, and is currently finishing a book on the late antique Sinai and beginning a book on religious gifts in early Byzantium.

Sherri Olson is Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut. Her interests are the social and cultural history of medieval agrarian society. Her book, *A Mute Gospel: The People and Culture of the Medieval English Common Fields*, will be published this year by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. She is working on a book entitled *Daily Life in a Medieval Monastery* for a series at Greenwood Press.

Seminar Program

- 9:00-9:45 Registration and Coffee
 Period music will be provided during registration by
 The University of Connecticut *Collegium Musicum*
 Director, Eric Rice (Music)
- 9:45-10:00 Welcoming Remarks
 Sherri Olson (History), ECE Coordinator for History
 Thomas Jambeck (English), Chair, Medieval Studies Program
- 10:00 -10:45 Daniel Caner (History and Modern & Classical Languages)
 “Charlemagne and Christendom”
- 10:45-11:30 Eric Rice (Music)
 “What Beethoven Owes Charlemagne: Carolingian Liturgical Reform and
 the Western Musical Tradition”
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 – 1:45 Sherri Olson (History & Medieval Studies Program)
 “Doing History”: Group analysis of primary sources: documents of law,
 poetry, biography, and tales of miracles (texts provided)
- 2:00 Closing