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MVC TO HOST MID-AMERICA MEDIEVAL

Marshall, Mo. (February 4, 2008)—Missouri Valley College will welcome the Mid-America Medieval Association (MAMA) for its annual conference February 23 on the MVC campus. MAMA is an organization that brings together scholars in many different disciplines teaching at colleges in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Iowa.

The plenary speaker for the 32nd annual conference is Dr. Daniel C. Scavone, emeritus professor of history at the University of Indiana-Evansville. Scavone has discovered connections between medieval conceptions of the Holy Grail and religious rituals surrounding the so-called Edessa Icon, a relic housed for several centuries in Constantinople (modern Istanbul). Scavone's ideas have radically revised Arthurian studies in recent years.

Another notable attendee is Tom Shippey, who is known for his analysis of *The Lord of the Rings—J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century*. Shippey will present a paper on film versions of the Old English epic poem, *Beowulf*.

Dr. Mark Adderley, MVC English professor and 32nd annual conference organizer, said other papers will be presented on topics such as Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, medieval monsters, and Christian encounters with Muslims in the Middle Ages.

According to the MAMA Web site, 80 to 100 people are expected to attend the 32nd annual conference at MVC.

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

Missouri Valley College is a liberal arts college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers 27 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 12 sports and 20 varsity teams. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit www.moval.edu.

ABOUT MID-AMERICA MEDIEVAL ASSOCIATION

The Mid-America Medieval Association, affectionately known as MAMA, was established in 1977 to enhance medieval studies in the Midwest region. MAMA was founded by Jim Falls ([UMKC](http://www.umkc.edu)), Lynn Nelson and Skip Kay (both from [KU](http://www.ku.edu)). [Kansas City](http://www.ku.edu) is the nexus of the group; therefore, its members come largely from the six states around Kansas City: Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Since Kansas City is the geographical center of the membership base, the annual conventions are held at UMKC every other year. In the alternate years the annual meetings take place at one of the universities in the MAMA region. At the convention there is a plenary address by a nationally-known medievalist, papers on any medieval topic are read and the Jim Falls Paper Prize is awarded.

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