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Bruce Springsteen looks out from the stage in Moncton at the Magnetic Hill Concert Site when he performed here in August. Springsteen's music will be a focus during The Mount Allison Faculty Association's Lunch and Learn series in Moncton.

Mount A faculty to host public lectures

■ Series of five talks
bring Bruce Springsteen,
opera tunes into
academic sphere

BY GINABETH ROBERTS
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

This fall Metro Monctonians have the chance to get educated on some historical and contemporary figures and events.

The Mount Allison Faculty Association (MAFA) has planned five talks as part of its Lunch and Learn series, to be held at the Moncton Public Library.

The five presenters are active and retired Mount Allison faculty members, both full-time and part-time.

Retired Spanish professor Judith Weiss will lead the first talk on tomorrow with her presentation "That Other 250th Anniversary: Amherst, Monckton and the British siege and conquest of Havana."

Weiss will explore connections between the Maritimes, American colonies and the expedition planned by generals Monckton and Amherst at the peak of the Seven Years' War in the Caribbean.

Using anecdotes from both sides, she will show the human dimensions of an adventure she says enriched British coffers, as well as strengthened the expansionist impulse that saw Canada and Cuba as two locations ripe for the taking by the United States.

On Oct. 16, John Perkin of the religious studies department will present a talk titled "The Gospel According to Bruce: The Spiritual and Social Vision of Bruce Springsteen's Songs."

Calling Springsteen "one of the most enduring musicians in the last generation," Perkin said his 40 years worth of songs have been delving deeper into the fabric of American society.

The singer draws on biblical imagery and traditional Christian theology to create songs of redemption and promise that "play against his prophetic indictments of the ills of society," according to the professor.

"Through his music and words there is both a proclamation of hope and celebration of life," noted Perkin.

Perkin said he will "explore the good news of both personal redemption and the social gospel which run as a constant current through the music" of the Boss.

Christopher Anthony Dieni, the Margaret and Wallace McCain Post-doctoral Fellow in the department of chemistry and biochemistry, will speak on the defences against human disease on Oct. 23, during his talk "Natural Answers."

On Nov. 13, Jennifer Farrell, from the department of music, will speak on famous opera songs that have made their way into mainstream culture.

The final talk of the fall will be given by David Fleming of the department of physics on Nov. 20. Fleming will speak on tracking arsenic, an acute poison, using x-ray spectrometry. This talk will begin at 1 p.m.

Except for the talk on Nov. 20, the free talks take place at noon on Tuesdays in the multi-purpose room at the Moncton Public Library on Main Street. Coffee, tea and cookies are provided, and audience members are welcome to bring their lunches.

For more information contact Geoff Martin at 364-2289 or Heather Patterson at 536-1323.