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THE KANKAKEE VALLEY, ILLINOIS

## 100 years of American history come alive at KCC

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By Kiera Allen

The past 100 years of American history will be presented through iconic photographs, Hollywood film clips and memorable music in a three-hour seminar on Nov. 8 at Kankakee Community College.

Seminar creator John LeGear, of Palos Hills, will show his presentation, U.S. History and Today from 9 a.m. to noon in room D123 at KCC's Riverfront Campus.

Forty-two TV and film clips — including "La La Land," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "The Andy Griffith Show," "Rocky," "Footloose" and many more — are blended with more than 400 historically significant images, many of which were captured by the world's finest photographers.

Topics will range from both world wars, the Vietnam War, the Great Depression, the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925 and beyond, into the media coverage of the 2016 presidential election.

This presentation was conceived by LeGear while he was sitting in an empty Kankakee Community College parking lot two years ago.

"On Jan. 1, 2015, I decided to drive south into Kankakee, and I was talking to a friend of mine who's a screen writer in Los Angeles the whole way there," LeGear said.

"By the time I pulled into an empty lot at KCC, the idea (for U.S. History and Today) hit me."

LeGear was throwing around ideas for a project he wanted to do, and his friend simply told him to pursue his passion. Although he's a journalism graduate from Southern Illinois University, his passion is history.

"I built the presentation around the Great Depression. That will act as a focal point," LeGear said. The presentation also will touch on the Cuban Missile Crisis and four presidential election years.

He continued, "What it comes down to is this: What will Americans gain from having a 100-year perspective in this country? I graduated 40 years ago, and I watch the news every day. So, I hope it will put today's news in perspective."

Mary Posing, KCC's assistant dean of students, was one of the first people who extended an invitation for the presentation. She also was the first to suggest to LeGear that he repackage his presentation into one three-hour seminar instead of three one-hour class sessions.

LeGear also said he hopes his presentation will appeal to a younger audience, as well as an older one.

"As tech-savvy as they are, I know that they won't want to see me talk for three hours. Young people need more than that," he said. "That's why the presentation includes pop culture. I know that young people need bells and whistles. This was designed with them in mind."

LeGear said he wants his prospective audience to know this will be a nonpartisan presentation. "It's not for me to step on people's beliefs," he said.

To attend this event, you can register at [kcc.edu](http://kcc.edu) by searching for the Lifelong Learning Institute or calling the LLI department at 815-802-8206. Cost for registration is \$10, and seating is limited.