Continuing the long-standing tradition of connecting established and emerging authors with the community, the College of Southern Maryland’s Connections series brings nationally recognized talent up-close and personal with a Southern Maryland audience this fall with Authors Marc Leepson and Wayne Karlin, and Poet Jehanne Dubrow.

Leepson will kick off the series beginning at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 14 at the Center for Business and Industry (BI Building), Room BI0113 on the La Plata Campus. His focus will be his latest book, “Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General,” a concise biography of the Marquis de Lafayette. The book part of the World Generals Series by Palgrave Macmillan was chosen as a History Book Club selection.

Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, better known as the Marquis de Lafayette was made lieutenant in the French Royal Guard at age 14 and married into the royal family at 16. Enamored with the ideals of the American Revolution, he traveled to the colonies at his own expense to fight alongside his comrades in their battle for freedom and democracy. By age 20, he was commissioned a major general in the Continental Army and was embraced by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who became his life-long friends. Leepson provides an insightful account of this general, an icon of American and French history.

A historian and journalist, Leepson has authored six books, including “Desperate Engagement,” “Saving Monticello: The Levy Family’s Epic Quest to Rescue the House That Jefferson Built” and “Flag: An American Biography.” He is a former staff writer for “Congressional Quarterly” in Washington, D.C., and his work has appeared in many newspapers and magazines, including “USA Today,” “The New York Times,” “The Washington Post,” “Civil War Times” and the “Chicago Tribune.” Leepson also teaches U.S. history at Lord Fairfax Community College in Warrenton, Va.

The second program in the Connections series will feature Karlin, a CSM professor, and his book “Wandering Souls,” beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 4, on the La Plata Campus in Room BI-103-104. “Wandering Souls” reflects on the struggle of veteran Homer Steedly Jr. to find peace for himself and the family of Hoang Ngoc Dam, a man he killed in Vietnam.

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