Miller will visit St. Andrews as Carnegie Centenary Professor

William Ian Miller, the Thomas G. Long Professor of Law, has been named a Carnegie Centenary Professor at St. Andrews University in Scotland and will be in residence there from January-June as a visiting professor.

“A pleasant surprise, to say the least, and I even hate golf,” Miller said.

Miller, a member of the Michigan Law faculty since 1984, is a scholar of the Icelandic sagas, emotions (the Association of American Publishers named his book The Anatomy of Disgust [Harvard University Press] the best book of 1997 in anthropology/sociology), and the law of the talion, the ancient code that calls for “an eye for an eye” and punishment that equals the crime. Miller’s most recent book, Eye for an Eye (Cambridge University Press, 2006), is a meditation on the evolution of the code of revenge and the law of the talion and their continuing roles in contemporary life and law.

The Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland established the Carnegie Centenary Professorships in 2001 to mark the centenary of the trust. Nineteenth century business magnate Andrew Carnegie, who was born in Scotland, established the trust in 1901 with a gift of $10 million, a figure that was several times the total of the assistance the government then provided to the four ancient Scottish universities. The trust now supports 13 Scottish universities.

The Centenary Professorships’ Web page says the program chooses scholars “of the highest academic standing who will contribute to academic/scientific developments in the Scottish universities in their particular fields, whether in teaching or research or in both, in emerging as well as established disciplines or in interdisciplinary field. “Such senior scholars of high distinction, by their very presence, will confer benefits on the Scottish universities.”

Founded in 1413, the University of St. Andrews is Scotland’s oldest university and the third oldest in the English-speaking world. It has a total of about 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students.