

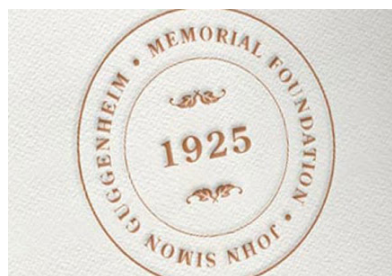


BENNINGTON BULLETIN



Face Masks and Shields

Thank you to Richard MacPike, who has been [making fabric masks](#)—both health-conscious and stylish!—for the Bennington students remaining on campus. The College [has also lent](#) its 3D printers to Hale Mountain Research to support the company's increased production of 3D-printed face shields for Southwestern Vermont Medical Center personnel. Thank you to Farhad Mirza '12, Susan Sgorbati, and Jon Isherwood for coordinating these efforts. If you have skills or materials to contribute to this ongoing and urgent work, please contact [Communications](#).



Achievement and Promise

J. Blackwell '95, Bennington Writing Seminars faculty member Jenny Bouilly, past BWS commencement speaker Garth Greenwell, and Helen Mirra '91 [have been selected](#) as 2020 Guggenheim Fellows.



A Different Kind of Tour

In this virtual campus tour, Kim Nguyen '20 and Emma Bushmann '20 [take us to their favorite spots](#) on campus. Featuring: Crossett Library, Commons Dining Hall, Dickinson platform, and VAPA lookout. Filmed by Adi Kang '19 and edited by Clare Maceda '20.



Love Is Love Is Love Is Love

Bennington students, faculty, and staff in Kerry Ryer-Parke's Sing course [go virtual](#) with this arrangement of *Love Is Love Is Love Is Love* by Abbie Betinis. #BenningtonIsHome

Collective Grief

As we begin another week of remote teaching and learning, we want to take a moment to acknowledge that this is another spring that has come with significant challenges to our campus community. While we continue to be amazed at our resilience and growth, we also know that many of us are still actively processing and healing. If you are in need of information, resources, and continuing support, please see [this message from Natalie Basil](#), Dean of Students.

Health Updates from Dr. Randy

- Social distancing, meticulous hygiene, and compassion for the real people all around us (and not just the numbers) are working to flatten the curve!
- That being said, the curve continues to move upward at an increasingly rapid rate, even in our “brave little state.” The worst is yet to come, so we cannot let up on the diligence we’ve applied to mitigation measures. Every single person has an incredibly important role to play in reducing the impact of this pandemic.
- We still have not seen a confirmed case of COVID-19 on our campus, but remain prepared to house, feed, and care for anyone who becomes ill.
- Think “physical distancing,” instead of social distancing. We all need to remain socially connected (from a small distance) in a way that makes the physical distance less important. Reach out, stay connected, and support everyone you can.

Transition to Remote Learning

We are now in the third week of remote teaching and learning. Most students and faculty have been pleasantly surprised by the transition and report that, if nothing else, the experience has made them appreciate each other in a new way. The generous spirit displayed by everyone that has made this transition as smooth as it has been is truly remarkable. Most courses have established a new rhythm, and we are optimistic that the close interactions between faculty and students that characterize the Bennington education will continue unabated, regardless of the distance that separates us.

Access to Campus

To protect the health and safety of our students and staff remaining on campus, faculty and staff who are working remotely are asked to not come to campus. If you do have a need to visit campus for any reason, please submit a request using the [access campus form](#).

Masks

- We recommend all students, faculty, and staff wear masks whenever they are outside of their homes/rooms. Please see the [Vermont Department of Health guidelines on wearing and cleaning masks](#).
- All essential staff who are still coming to campus have been issued masks and are wearing them while at work.
- Students who remain on campus are asked to wear masks (or other face covering) whenever they are outside of their rooms, notably when they go to the Dining Hall or the Post Office. Face coverings can be made from a [bandana](#) or other cloth.
- Campus safety is distributing Bennington buffs to students on campus; if you are having trouble accessing masks, please contact [Student Life](#).

Technology updates

As a reminder, strategies to harden yourself as a target against “Zoom-Bombers” are available in [Appendix N](#) of the [Remote Instruction Technology Support document](#).

Commencement 2020

Please see the [Commencement webpage](#) for an important announcement regarding Commencement 2020 from Interim President Isabel Roche.

Bennington Bright: A connection to community

In this time of social distancing and collective loss, we feel the absence of our in-person connections deeply. Yet, as we know, our connection to our Bennington experience is not just about the beautiful 300-acres in Vermont, but something we take with us wherever we are. We are inviting you to join us in showing this connection in action. On **Friday, April 17, 2020 at 9:00 pm EST**, we invite all of the Bennington College community—students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, friends—to shine a light from their window, while standing outside or wherever they are to show connection, solidarity, and hope. As you do this, remember that the Bennington College community is sharing their light with you. We are connected even when apart. If you are not able to join at that moment, join on Friday, April 17, at 9:00 pm in your own time zone. Members of the Bennington College community have agreed to shine lights in their windows for a 48 hour period so that individuals can know, no matter when you share your light, that your Bennington is with you.

Post Office Hours

Beginning **Monday, April 13**, the Post Office and Packaging Department hours will be 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday, until further notice.

Students—2020 Academy of American Poets Prize

Submission for the annual Academy of American Poets prize is open to all undergraduate students. The selected Bennington poet will receive an honorarium of \$100 and official recognition from the Academy of American Poets. Submit three of your poems (one per page) as one document attachment in Word or Google Docs (no pdfs) with the heading Academy of American Poets Prize Submission to [Michael Dumanis](#) by **Wednesday, April 22**. Please include your name on each poem. The winner and one honorable mention will be announced in May.

Retirement Planning—Virtual Counseling Sessions

The College is offering confidential, one-on-one virtual counseling sessions to assist all employees with retirement planning. TIAA, the College's retirement plan provider, is offering virtual individual counseling sessions on **Thursday, April 23**. A session can assist you with such questions as: Are my investments properly allocated? Am I on track to meet my retirement goals? How and from where do I draw retirement income? To register, [visit the website](#) and click "Meet at Work", or contact TIAA directly at 800-732-8353 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-8:00 pm). **Please register by Monday, April 20**. Please note that TIAA also offers a host of [online retirement-planning tools](#).

Call for FYF Workshops—Fall 2020

First-Year Forum is a 1-credit fall and spring term course that all first-year students are required to take. It is made up of two core components, including an hour long weekly workshop led by faculty, staff, or upper-class students on campus. These workshops give students an opportunity to access campus support, meet faculty, staff, and more advanced students, and explore interests and try new things. If you have an idea for a FYF workshop that you would like to offer for the Fall 2020 term, please complete [this Google Form](#) by Friday, April 17. If you have questions or concerns, email [Kate Child](#) to talk through the FYF workshop structure. Please note that space to offer FYF workshops is limited, especially in the spring term.

Promoting Events

To ensure your May (virtual!) event is considered for inclusion in local media listings, be sure to [submit to the online calendar](#) by the middle of this month, noting that the event is open to the public.

Suggestion Boxes

Please share your thoughts about working at Bennington by submitting comments [electronically](#), or, if you're on campus, in the black boxes marked "Staff Feedback" located in Buildings & Grounds, and the staff kitchen on the second floor of the Barn. Submissions are anonymous, if you choose.

Spring 2020	Event Series
	Check out the series happening this term.
April 13 CAPA Symposium 7:00-9:00 PM	CANCELED—Using Civil Rights Data to Understand Race and Gender Discrimination CANCELED This previously scheduled event has been canceled. More.
April 15 Remote 12:00–1:30 PM	Vinyasa Flow Yoga (via Zoom) STAFF AND FACULTY All staff and faculty are invited to remotely attend a flow yoga class via Zoom with Tracey Forest. See Calendar Event for information. More.
April 15 Deane Carriage Barn 7:30-9:00 PM	CANCELED—Music of West Africa with Famoro Dioubate & Yacuba Sissoko CANCELED This previously scheduled event has been canceled. More.
April 17 Dickinson 232 1:00-2:00 PM	CANCELED—Science Workshop with Genelle Rankin CANCELED This previously scheduled event has been canceled. More.
April 17 Various locations 9:00 PM	Bennington Bright: A Connection to Community CAMPUS COMMUNITY ONLY we invite all of the Bennington College community— students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, friends —to shine a light from their window at the time listed above, while standing outside or wherever they are to show connection, solidarity, and hope. As you do this, remember that the Bennington College community is sharing their light with you. See the announcement above for more information.
April 19 Remote	BenningtonWorks Admitted Students Day

CAMPUS COMMUNITY | A day of live programming and pre-recorded events to welcome new students to Bennington and help them explore our community. All events will be accessible remotely, with sign-up or access info shared with registrants prior to the event.