

FAMILY WEEKEND 2015

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:00 am–7:00 pm | Bookstore extended hours

11:00 am–8:00 pm | Tent at the flagpole

Registration

Please check in at the registration table for your welcome packet and refreshments.

1:00–2:00 pm | Dickinson 232

Science Workshop: Student Research Presentation

Current Bennington science students will present research conducted over the summer.

Evan Gall '16 worked this last summer on the Bennington Radio Telescope, helping to commission it, characterize its sensitivity, and design observing protocols.

Maddy Moberg '16 worked this past Field Work Term at SNOLAB, an underground science lab in a mine near Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, specializing in neutrino and dark matter physics.

Cody Jacobs '18 worked this past summer at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. He studied the role of plant extracts in preventing liver inflammation.

1:00–4:00 pm | Outside, between VAPA and CAPA

Inflatable Space Installation Open Hours

Climb inside a unique Bennington creation and experience something entirely new!

Designed to be transitory, transportable, and transforming, this experimental space was developed by the Field Research of Closed Cells class to be a structure that feels completely new and unknown. The design organically arose from studies of form, membrane properties, and dialogue. Digital modeling and pattern-making were employed to push the boundaries of the chosen materials which are sturdy, reusable, and ultimately recyclable. The industrial fan used to inflate the space is repurposed from the Dickinson Science Center. Created by Interdisciplinary Support Specialist **John Umphlett MFA '99**, faculty member **Guy Snover '06**, and students **Fae M. Blackmer '15**, **Douglas M. Campo '16**, **Adrien J. de Mones '14**, **Alec W. C. Gear '15**, **Elizabeth F. Gombert '15**, **Alexander M. Curth (Sandy) '16**, **Maren A. Johnson '15**, **Keyser A. Kesici '16**, **Lily N. Moore '16**, **Kevin P. Mulvey '16**, **Harlan M. Steed '16**.

1:00–4:00 pm | Tent at the flagpole

Thematic Campus Tours

Thematic campus tours will leave from the flagpole. Feel free to choose one tour or do all three!

1:00 pm | Leave from tent at the flagpole

Maker Space (3D Printer) and Inflatable Structure Tour

Explore Bennington's Maker Space, where art meets 21st-century technology. Sculpture faculty **Jon Isherwood**, Interdisciplinary Support Specialist **John Umphlett MFA '99**, and 3D technician **Michael Stradley** will be your guides through this intersection of old and new. Watch projects milled on the CNC machine, body scans come to life, and enter The Bubble. Amazement guaranteed.

2:00 pm | Leave from tent at the flagpole

Apple Picking

Come pick apples with the Bennington Sustainable Food Project! From McIntosh to Golden Delicious, there are quite a few tasty varieties of apple trees right on campus that are bursting with fruit. Come taste as you go and help us collect apples for making cider on Saturday. The tour will include a short walk to the orchard, and all ages are welcome.

3:00 pm | Leave from tent at the flagpole

Sustainable Bennington Tour

Learn more about how Bennington is meeting its sustainability goals by touring our biomass plant and current steam line project. Featuring various student-led initiatives, such as the Purple Carrot Farm, waste reducing project, compost facility, and clothesline project. Led by buildings and grounds systems manager **Todd Siclari** and students **Erika Lygren '16** and **Lauren Brady '18**.

2:30–3:30 pm | Crossett Library

Crossett Library Artists' Books and Graphic Novels

Artists' books are book objects that have been conceived as works of arts. Dean of the Library **Oceana Wilson** will share interesting examples of artists' books from the library's special collections, which will be available for hands-on viewing. Graphic novels are a type of text combining words and images typically telling a sequential story. **Wade Simpson**, library acquisitions coordinator and MFA graduate of the Center for Cartoon Studies, will share graphic novels from the library's collection, including his own series, and demonstrate some unconventional binding techniques.

4:00–6:00 pm | VAPA B210

Open Drawing Class

Visiting faculty member **Colin Brant** will lead current students and families in an open live model life drawing class. Supplies and materials will be provided. No prior experience necessary.

*Note: There will be a live nude model at this session, which may not be suitable for all.

5:00–6:30 pm | Purple Room, Commons Dining Hall

Bennington Community Harvest Dinner

Are your parents and/or family members not able to join you on campus for Family Weekend?

Join members of faculty and staff in the purple room of Commons Dining Hall to socialize, dine, and solidify the fact that Bennington is home, and that friends, colleagues, and fellow students can become family!

5:30–7:30 pm | Commons Dining Hall

Harvest Dinner

The Harvest Dinner will feature "Farm to Table" dining. The dining staff work with our own student-run Purple Carrot Farm and other local farms to serve you a taste of the memorable Vermont fall harvest season. Tickets are located in your packet if you prepaid for the dinner. If you have not prepaid but have decided to join us, we are delighted to have you; please have cash or credit available at the door.

8:30–10:00 pm | Student Center

An Evening of Music with "The Prescription," ft. Faculty and Alumni Musicians

Join Bennington faculty members **Kerry Ryer-Parke '90**, **Bruce Williamson**, and **Michael**

Wimberly for an evening of dance-heavy funk, soul, and Motown classics, set to the backdrop of a community-wide dance party!

8:45–10:00 pm | Meet in front of Commons

Stargazing at the Stickney Observatory

Please join physics and astronomy students for an evening guide to the stars while sipping hot chocolate. Meet in front of Commons at 8:45 pm and walk down to the Stickney Observatory. This event is weather-dependent. Check for updates on observatory.bennington.edu.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00 am–6:00 pm | Bookstore Extended Hours

7:50 am–3:00 pm | Tent at the flagpole

Registration

Please check in at the registration table for your welcome packet and refreshments. If you have already checked in, stop by for a light continental breakfast, including coffee, tea, and Bennington homemade granola.

**8:00–9:30 am | Commons Lawn, End of the World
(rain location: top level of Myer Rec Barn)**

Wake up your body and soul with an all-level flow yoga class. Stretch your body and center your mind for the day's activities through focused breath, deep body awareness, and joyful, flowing movement. This class will make you feel great as you have fun. All are welcome; no yoga experience necessary. Please bring a mat and comfy clothes (no jeans).

8:00–10:00 am | Commons Dining Hall

Wake Up with Bennington!

Continental breakfast will be served. Please bring cash or credit to pay at the door.

10:30–11:45 am | Faculty Sessions

Terry Creach—Modern Dance at Bennington, 1934

CAPA Symposium

How did Bennington College become the nurturing “Home of American Modern Dance” in America within just a few years of its founding in 1932?

We'll look at rare footage of dance on the College lawn from 1938, as well as excerpts from a new film focused on the pioneering leadership of Martha Hill—*Miss Hill: Making Dance Matter*. Pulling photos from the Bennington College Dance Archives, we'll review the early years, and also look at the decades of extraordinary artist-faculty who have contributed to the College's dance legacy from 1932 to today.

Kerry Woods—Reading the Local Landscape

Lawn in front of Jennings Music Building

We will use the Bennington College campus and its environs as a field laboratory, exploring how natural history observations can be used to generate insights into ecological dynamics and the short- and long-term histories of the landscape at a range of spatial scales. Similar exercises lead students to original research projects.

Note: This will be outside. Dress for the weather and for walking on forest trails. This outing may run a little past 11:45 am, but there will be enough time for lunch and the following activities.

Noëlle Rouxel Cubberly—What's in a (French) Film Title?

Cricket Hill

Before you see a film, you form a mental image from its title. Film titles, precisely because they are a lowest common denominator, are also a way to approach a language and culture. Explored as palimpsests, we will focus on American and French film titles in order to decipher what and how they reflect us. Excerpts from Freud's *Wit and its Relation to the Unconscious* and Barthes' *Semiotic Adventure* will serve as a framework for further reflection. We will also consider other forms of paratext related to titles, such as clips, film trailers, reviews, posters, and opening titles. Regardless of your level in French, you will learn a few new words and deepen your cultural understanding of French language, films, and culture.

Allen Shawn—Leonard Bernstein's Concert Music

Fireplace Room, Deane Carriage Barn

Leonard Bernstein (1918-90) was the best known American classical musician of his day. Celebrated in his lifetime as a conductor and teacher and as a composer for Broadway, he was also the composer of a considerable body of work meant for the concert hall, including three symphonies and a violin concerto; this work garnered at best a mixed reception from audiences and the press and tended to be ignored or scorned by academics and fellow

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composers. Yet somehow this body of work has continued to survive and has taken on new meanings since Bernstein's death. Even a brief look at this side of his work reveals that it contains much that is beautiful and worth revisiting, and that the perceived split between the “Broadway” Bernstein and the “Concert” Bernstein may have been more in the minds of the listeners than in the actual music.

Elizabeth White—Another Roadside Attraction: Travel and Photography

CAPA Design Lab 2

This workshop will examine the intertwined histories of travel and photography, providing context for critical thinking about photography's relationship to tourism and facilitating conversation about participants' own experiences.

Noon–1:45 pm | Commons Lawn

(rain location: Commons Dining Hall and Down Commons)

BBQ Lunch, Soccer Game, and Clubs and Orgs Meet and Greet

Join us on Commons Lawn for an exhibition match featuring Bennington's own Pioneers soccer team and SIT of Brattleboro, VT. A BBQ lunch will be available for purchase on site and a small cross section of Bennington's many student led clubs and organizations will be on hand for Q&As and more. Please bring your BBQ lunch ticket, cash, or credit to pay on site.

2:00–3:15 pm | Student Center

Life After Bennington and FWT Experiences Panel

Recent alumni share their experiences of life after Bennington and how they have balanced following their passions and building a career, and current students discuss how they are integrating their FWT experiences into the iterative nature of the academic Plan Process. **Andrea Tapia '15**, Kilpatrick Fellow for Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations, moderates the panel including **Yousuf Kerai '06**, a university faculty member for mathematics in Pakistan and musician; **India Kieser '12**, a copywriter and artist; **Brendan Mahoney '03**, a philosophy professor at SUNY Polytechnic Institute's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering in Albany; and **Chendru Starkloff '13**, a Master in Architecture candidate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. **Sam Burhoe '16** and **Nare Filiposyan '17** round out the conversation.

3:30–4:45 pm | Faculty Sessions

Open Rehearsal of *Daughters of Io* by Quincy Long

Lester Martin Theater, VAPA

Innocent milkmaids beset by bestial farm boys seek sanctuary at a progressive women's college in rural 1930's New England. Greek tragedy is repurposed as local comedy in *Daughters of Io*, Quincy Long's adaptation of Aeschylus' *The Suppliant Women*.

This is chance to see students and faculty theater at work rehearsing this term's production of *Daughters of Io*, directed by drama faculty member **Kathleen Dimmick**. Music by **Michael Chinworth '08**. Please feel free to come (quietly!) in and out as you please.

Annabel Davis-Goff in Conversation with Francis Greenburger P'19

CAPA Symposium

More than 2.2-million Americans are currently in prison or jail, and 7-million Americans are under correctional supervision. The United States of America has the highest documented rate of incarceration in the world. Faculty member **Annabel Davis-Goff** and **Francis Greenburger P'19** will look at the basic facts and discuss two new elements in criminal justice reform: the Bennington College Prison Education Initiative, and the Greenburger Center for Social & Criminal Justice's proposed Alternative to Incarceration facility for the severely mentally ill.

Michael Dumanis—*The Bennington Review* and Studying Writing at Bennington

East Academic Center 2

We will discuss the history and future of Bennington's newly relaunched national print literary journal, *The Bennington Review*, which was founded in 1965, was an influential literary magazine in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and published its last issue 30 years ago. We will talk about the process of resurrecting this journal, and of the new *Bennington Review* publishing practicum that students can take every fall term. We will also engage in a conversation about how students study creative writing at the College, perhaps looking together at several poems.

Eileen Scully—*Lost and Found in the 19th Century*

East Academic Center 1

This is an immersion in "portraiture," a unique methodology that "seeks to unveil the universal truths and resonant stories that lie in the specifics and complexity of everyday life." Using online materials we will draw up a list of people to "look for," such as runaway slaves, absconding debtors, eloping spouses, and so on, with the goal of crafting historically plausible narratives for individuals who in their own time were lost, exiled, or on the run.

5:00–6:30 pm | Petrie Terrace, VAPA (rain location: Newman Court, VAPA)

Faculty and Family Reception

Join current Bennington faculty for drinks and refreshments, as well as a musical interlude.

6:30–8:00 pm | North Bennington/Downtown Bennington

Dinner on your Own

Look to your *Bennington & Downtown Guide* and supplement located in your Family Weekend packet. Please enjoy the many restaurants in North Bennington, Bennington, and the surrounding Southern Vermont area.

8:30-10:00 pm | Martha Hill Dance Theater and Newman Court, VAPA

Student Works

An evening of original music, dance, theatre, and spoken word as written, choreographed, teched, and performed by current students. Visual artwork and a variety of science posters will also be displayed in Newman Court, VAPA. Light reception to follow.

8:45–10:00 pm | Meet in front of Commons

Please join physics and astronomy students for an evening guide to the stars while sipping hot chocolate. Meet in front of Commons at 8:45 pm and walk down to the Stickney Observatory. This event is weather-dependent. Check for updates on observatory.bennington.edu.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:00–10:00 am | Commons Dining Hall

Breakfast

Continental breakfast will be served. Please bring cash or credit to pay at the door.

9:00 am–5:00 pm | Bookstore Extended Hours

10:00–11:00 am | Student Center

Bennington Today: A Conversation with President Mariko Silver

Join President **Mariko Silver** for a conversation about Bennington and its future.

11:15 am–12:15 pm | East Academic Center 2

Exploring Parent Engagement at Bennington College

As your student forges their Bennington path, we invite you to get involved. Please join President **Mariko Silver**, Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Paige Bartels**, Dean of Field Work Term **Holly McCormack**, and members of the Admissions team for coffee, tea, cider donuts, and conversation about how you can participate in the College community and become an integral part of the Bennington network. All are welcomed and invited to share their expertise and ideas about furthering Bennington's mission through involvement in Admissions, Field Work Term, career mentoring, and fundraising.

Noon–2:00 pm | Down Commons

Fill the Bowls: A Lunch to Combat Hunger in Bennington

An extension of the local initiative, the Empty Bowls Soup Supper, this lunch invites families to make a contribution to fight hunger in Bennington County. Select a handcrafted bowl, made and decorated last year at Family Weekend by students and families. Then fill the bowl with a harvest soup made with ingredients donated by the Bennington College student-run Purple Carrot Farm and made by our very own dining hall staff. Then see students at work—current ceramic students will be demonstrating hand wheel-throwing on site. \$15 suggested donation for handmade bowl and bottomless soup—all proceeds will be donated to the local Food and Fuel Fund.

As an alternative, brunch will be service in the Commons Dining Hall, 11:30 am–1:30pm. Please bring cash or credit to pay at the door.

1:30 pm | Crossett Library

Ball Drop

Which of us hasn't, as a child, longed for a quarter from our parents to buy a super bouncy ball from a vending machine? Come enjoy the experience of not one, not one hundred, but five hundred super bouncy balls raining down from above, while you stand protected under clear glass watching them bounce. Featuring an installation by Interdisciplinary Support Specialist **John Umphlett MFA '99**, maker extraordinaire.

2:00–4:00 pm | Ceramics Studio, VAPA

Bowl Making Workshop

No experience necessary! Join ceramics faculty member **Aysha Peltz**, in a bowl making workshop. All bowls made today will be glazed and fired to be used in next year's Fill the Bowls fundraiser.

ONGOING EVENTS

Campus and Blue Trail Walking Path maps available at the registration tent.

1:00–5:00 pm | Usdan Gallery, VAPA

Campus Surplus, by artist Penelope Umbrico

Featuring artwork by Penelope Umbrico, including photographs, video, and a site-specific installation, the exhibition explores the connections between the modern school and office: the rationalized spaces, tools, and systems that promise efficiency and productivity. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays. Free admission.

10:00 am–5:00 pm | Bennington Museum

People/Place: American Social Landscape Photography, 1950–1980

This exhibition was curated jointly by faculty member **Jonathan Kline**, Bennington Museum curator **Jamie Franklin**, and students **Michael Ash '18**, **Iris Bennett '16**, **Amelia Bois-Rioux '17**, **Rocco Farano '16**, **Cassandra Langtry '18**, **Abby Mahler '16**, **Nathaniel Miller '17**, **Nathan Paul '15**, and **Hannajane Prichett '18**. Located 10 minutes from campus at 75 Main Street in Bennington; call 802-447-1571 for more information. Free admission for students and their families when students show their Bennington ID.

11:00 am–5:00 pm | MASS MoCA

Gallery 4.1.1

A solo project by faculty member **Liz Deschenes**, who takes the medium of photography itself and its conditions as the subject of her work. Open Wednesdays through Mondays and located 40 minutes from campus at 1040 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA; call 413-662-2111 for more information. Admission is \$18 for adults; \$12 for students with ID. A limited number of free passes are available to be checked out at Crossett Library.