

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Family Weekend 2014

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

Noon-5:00 pm • Tent at the Flagpole

Registration and “Our Bennington” Tours

Please check in at the registration table for your welcome packet and a refreshment. Take a walk through Bennington's history in Crossett library with the “Our Bennington” project.

1:00-5:00 pm • Usdan Gallery, VAPA

Slipped Gears

Slipped Gears is a multimedia exhibition featuring the work of nine artists. The show offers challenging responses to a moment of tectonic cultural transition, when technology increasingly resides in and around us. The artists, many of whom have shown internationally, include Nick Hornby, Joon Oluchi Lee, Kristin Lucas, Rosa Menkman, Jaakko Pallasvuo, Katie Torn, Matias Viegner, and the collaborative duo of Birch Cooper and Brenna Murphy called MSHR. It is curated by Roddy Schrock, director of residencies and programs at Eyebeam, a leading art and technology center in Brooklyn, New York.

5:30-7:30 pm • Commons Dining Hall

Harvest Dinner

The Harvest Dinner will feature “Farm to Table” dining. Chef Mike Crane and the dining staff work with 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 bring cash or credit to pay at the door.

7:30-9:00 pm • Residential Houses

In the Place Where We Live

The following residential houses and their communities will open their doors to all families and visitors, providing student works in various academic and artistic areas. For details of each event, please refer to the insert in your welcome packet.

Franklin • Fine Arts Gallery: Student artwork in sculpture, painting, print, drawing, and ceramics will be displayed throughout the house and common areas.

Fels • Literature and Poetry Evening: Students will read their current work in literature (fiction and non-fiction) and poetry.

Leigh • Student Works Concert: Students will be performing their work in composition, performance, drama, and literature.

Kilpatrick • Museum of Oddities: Students will present installations describing their experiences at Bennington.

8:00 pm • Student Center

A Night of Music

Four musical acts featuring Bennington alumni will perform in one night: **Sneaky Mister** (aka Judith Shimer), **True Lucy** (led by Alice Tolan-Mee '11), **Rokenri** (led by Ethan Woods '12, Matt Evans, and Trevor Wilson '09), and **Anawan** (led by Trevor Wilson '09, with Michael Chinworth '08, Maia Friedman '09, Alice Tolan-Mee '11, and Ethan Woods '12). This evening's performers will make up Kitty Brazelton's vocal ensemble, which will perform her Essential Prayers on Saturday in the Carriage Barn.

8:45-10:00 pm • Meet in front of Commons

Stargazing with Hugh Crowl

Please join **Hugh Crowl**, faculty member specializing in Physics and Astronomy, for an evening with a 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: <http://observatory.bennington.edu>.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

7:50-11:00 am • Tent at the Flagpole

Registration and “Our Bennington” Tours

Please check in at the registration table for your welcome packet and a refreshment. Take a walk around campus and experience the “Our Bennington” tours hosted by our library staff.

8:00-9:00 am • End of the World
(Rain Location: Top Level of Meyer Rec Barn)

Restorative Yoga by Karma Cat Yoga Studio featuring Jeannie Gilson

Director of Karma Cat Yoga at Studio Gratitude, **Jeannie Gilson** will lead you in a Slow Morning Yoga Stretch Class. This easy, gentle class is suitable for all yoga levels. No experience is necessary. Warm up your sleepy muscles and embrace the day. We will decompress joints and lengthen muscles, preparing for the day's activities. All are welcome!! Please bring a mat (few will be available to loan) and comfy clothes!

9:15-10:15 am • Commons Dining Hall

Wake Up with Bennington!

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

10:00-10:30 am • North Gate Entrance

Opening of North Gate

President **Mariko Silver** and members of the North Bennington community will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at our newly renovated North Gate entrance.

10:30-11:30 am • Faculty Sessions

Jon Isherwood and Susan Sgorbati Bennington Oslo Project CAPA Symposium

How does the artist engage in the diplomatic arena? What are the implications of the arts as “soft diplomacy”? How do the social and political come into play when considering the cultural heritage of a country and how does an artist balance aesthetics with diplomacy and logistics? How are landscape, geology, and ecology considered when placing a work permanently? Come hear how students in this course are examining the definition, unique challenges, history, and implementation of public art.

Open Rehearsal of Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel Lester Martin Theater • 10:30 am – 2:00 pm

A chance to see students and faculty theater at work rehearsing this term's production of *Dancing at Lughnasa* directed by Drama faculty member Jenny Rohn. Please feel free to come (quietly!) in and out as you please.

Betsy Sherman - Do Coral Reefs Matter? Dickinson Science Center

Coral reefs are among the most diverse, unique, and beautiful ecosystems on the planet and home to 25% of all marine life. Alas, they are also quite vulnerable to various environmental assaults and most of the reefs on earth are in real jeopardy. Come see what the students and faculty in the **Bennington Coral Reef Project** are doing about it.

Carol Pal - Fun in the Archives: or, How to Read a Seventeenth-Century Letter EAC 1

This session provides a glimpse into the art of doing History with primary source documents. We will work through some archival material—in this case, a selection of seventeenth-century manuscript letters—documenting written conversations between scholars and scientists, countesses and queens. What we want to know is: who wrote this, and why? What is going on here? What are they really talking about? And, where does this fit into the bigger picture? We see what it is like to walk the historian's path, following a trail of clues, and assembling the structures that will help us to interpret our evidence.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm • Commons Dining Hall

To Brunch or not to Brunch

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

Noon-1:20 pm • Bennington Athletic Fields

Lunch and Activities on the Green

Please come to grab some lunch from local vendors, the Catamount Hot Dog cart, the Say Cheese food truck, and Bennington's own Madison's Restaurant (cash only). There will be pick-up volleyball along with a tennis

clinic hosted by Bennington Tennis Center. Yard games such as corn hole and lifesize Jenga will be on site. Cash lunch will also be served in the Dining Hall.

1:00-5:00 pm • Usdan Gallery, VAPA

Slipped Gears

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1:30-2:45 pm • Student Center

Bennington Today—A Conversation with President Mariko Silver

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

3:00-4:00 pm • Tishman Lecture Hall

Life After Bennington Panel

Recent alumni share their experiences of life after Bennington and discuss how they have balanced following their passions and building a career. Michaela Levin ’13 Kilpatrick Fellow for External and Alumni Relations moderates the panel including Jay Schuntero ’11, masters in engineering student at Boston University, Ryan Biracree ’07, an adjunct professor of English; Jane Burns ’11, a videographer at MassMoCA; Sarah Crow ’07, a writer for digital publications; and Farhad Mirza ’12, graduate student at the Harvard University Graduate School of Architecture.

4:15-5:15 pm • Faculty Sessions

Kitty Brazelton - Essential Prayers Project

Deane Carriage Barn

Bennington composer Kitty Brazelton has made prayer’s role in this age of technology. So she’s made nine “a cappella” settings of well-used invocations for public domain download. Hear them live—Serenity Prayer, Psalm 23, “May the road rise...” and more—sung by Brazelton and members of Brooklyn bands Anawan, Rokenri, The Sneaky Mister, and True Lucy.

Annabel Davis-Goff - Incarceration in America

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. How did this happen? We will look at the basic facts, ask the important questions, and discuss causes, possible solutions, and the principal obstacles to reform.

Barbara Alfano - Italian and Food

EAC 1

“Italian and Food” is a workshop in which you will discover a few elements of Italian food culture while also learning some language. You will experience an introductory lesson of Italian in the same way our students did on their first and second day of class. No previous knowledge of the language is necessary.

Ben Anastas - Puritan Justice: the Execution Sermon in New England

EAC 2

For the Puritans who settled New England, crime and punishment was a scriptural matter. “Public Justice,” especially in capital cases, was meted out in a strange, primitive theater combining sermonizing, anguished confession, and public execution. We’ll look at famous examples from the genre of the Execution Sermon and ponder what their artful surfaces tell us about the Puritan mind and its tightrope walk of contradictions.

Terry Creach - Dance for Camera

Tishman Lecture Hall

As we increasingly interface with our world via “screens,” large and small, contemporary dance-makers are embracing the technology to create and present their work to audiences via film and video online. Dance on Film is emerging as an art form on its own terms, not attempting to replace live performance. These dances are available to us at numerous Dance on Film festivals nationally and internationally, as well as on YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, and other online outlets.

We’ll look at dances on film from the 1980s to today—from high-end feature-length productions—to informal YouTube clips that have gone viral. We will attempt to understand what is lost and what is gained when we experience dance through the perspective of the camera.

5:30-6:30 pm • Petrie Terrace (Rain Location: Newman Court)

Faculty and Family Reception

Join Bennington faculty for conversation and refreshments.

6:30-8:00 pm • North Bennington/Downtown Bennington

Dinner on your Own

Look to your Bennington Downtown Guide located in your Family Week-end packet. Please enjoy the many restaurants in North Bennington, Bennington, and the surrounding Southern Vermont area. From 5:30-7:30 pm dinner will be served in the Dining Hall. Please bring cash or credit to pay at the door.

7:00-8:00 pm • DownCafé

International Community Reception

With so many of our International students having family far away, the Bennington International Community and their friends and family are invited to come together to socialize and solidify the fact that Bennington is “home” and friends, colleagues, and fellow students can become “family!” Come join us for dessert and drinks.

8:30-10:00 pm • Martha Hill Dance Theater

Student Works

A night of showcasing many of Bennington’s talented students. A collection of music, dance, and drama will be performed. Visual artwork by students will be displayed in Newman Court, VAPA.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

8:00-10:00 am • Commons Dining Hall

Breakfast

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

10:00-11:00 am • Cricket Hill Barn

Exploring Parent Volunteerism at Bennington College

Parents are an important part of the Bennington network and experience. As your child forges a Bennington path, we invite you to become a part of the extended network here. Join President Silver, Hung Bui, Vice President and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, Holly McCormack, Dean of Field Work Term, and Paige Bartels, Vice President for External Relations for coffee, cider donuts, and conversation about ways to engage as a Bennington parent.

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.

11:30 am – 1:00 pm • Lower Commons

Preparing for Peace: Send off Lunch

Fill the bowls! Select a handcrafted bowl made by Bennington community members. Fill the Bowl with a harvest soup. Ingredients donated by the student run Purple Carrot Farm and the Bennington Dining Hall. All proceeds will go to the Local Food and Fuel drive.

\$15.00 for the purchase of bowl and bottomless soup.

See students at work! Current ceramic students, Olivia Brooks and Molly Brown, will be demonstrating hand wheel throwing on site.

Grab a chair massage from our local guests from Green Mountain Oasis Spa and enter to win a free massage.

SEPC Freshman at Large, Asmita Saha and Chole Shelford, will lead you through “Make Your Own Aromatherapy” to promote stress reduction and improved sleep.

Varney Glassman, our Davis Project for Peace recipient will have an interactive table presenting the work she did over the summer in Nanyuki, Kenya.

11:30 am – 1:00 pm • Commons Dining Hall

Brunch

Please bring cash or credit to pay at the door.

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 years “Fill the Bowls” fundraiser.

Friday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm • Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Bookstore Hours