

Welcoming the Class of 2025



Bennington College Office of Alumni Relations Thu, Sep 9, 2021

BENNINGTON ALUMNI NEWS

A Newsletter
for Alumni
and Friends



Welcoming the Class of 2025

This fall, Bennington College welcomed over 250 first-year students and 18 transfer students. This entering class is the largest in the College's history.



Spotlight on Summer Field Work Term

This summer, 186 Bennington students completed their annual Field Work Term, working either in-person or remotely on a variety of internships, independent study projects, professional trainings, and more.



The January 6 Project

CAPA [presents this weekly series](#), organized by faculty members **Brian Champion** and **Susan Sgorbati**, that examines the historical, cultural, and political events that led to the attack on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. The series aims to understand its context in order to shed light and expose truths for an informed citizenry to prevent this type of assault on democracy.



A Day in the Life

Every 7 years, **Jay Paris MFA '07** and his daughter Sophie spend a day [photographing residents](#) in North Bennington. Their photos capture the neighbors, changes, and life in the village and were displayed at North Bennington's Left Bank.



Mary Ruefle in Conversation

Vermont State Poet Laureate **Mary Ruefle '74** joined Director of the Bennington Writing Seminars **Mark Wunderlich** for a [Facebook Live interview](#) to discuss her exhibition [Mary Ruefle: Erasures](#), on view at the Robert Frost Stone House Museum through October 31. For more, [read Ruefle's interview](#) in *Hyperallergic*.



"I Did That for Them"

This spring, **Stevie Martinez-Farias '21** [became the first in her family](#) to graduate college, earning her degree in Anthropology and Latin American Studies. Now, she plans to start working with Breakthrough Central Texas, whose support made her college dreams possible.

Announcements:

Dean of Student Life

Dr. Li-Chen Chin [has been appointed](#) Dean of Student Life and will start October 11. She is currently serving as the Assistant Vice President of Intercultural Programs at Duke University. She looks forward to taking a lead role in developing, assessing, and maintaining a truly student-centered and equity-driven office.

Calling All Young Writers!

Invite the 9th to 12th grade students in your life to submit to Bennington College's annual [Young Writers Awards](#), which awards cash prizes of up to \$1,000 and Bennington scholarships up to \$60,000 for students' poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Submissions are open through November 1.

Staff Departure

Faith McClellan is stepping down at the end of this week as Associate Dean of [Career Development and Field Work Term](#) to take a position at Smith College as Dean of Career Services. We are grateful to Faith for all of the work she and her team have done including: expanding FWT to a flexible, year-round model; growing the FWT social change fellowships program; and partnering with student groups to create a more inclusive approach to career education.

A Notable Remaster

Alison Nowak '70 has [released an album](#), *Lionel Nowak: Works for Cello and Piano*, a treasure of music for cello and piano by her late father, former faculty member **Lionel Nowak**.

Cancer and Genomic Dark Matter

Carlos Mendez-Dorantes '15, now a research fellow at the [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#) in Boston, is a recipient of a [Jane Coffin Childs Fellowship Award](#) for medical research. He has also been selected as a [2021 Forbeck Scholar](#) by the William Guy Forbeck Research Foundation.

Outstanding Design

Art Director **James Bolenbaugh '05** [has been nominated](#) for an Emmy for Outstanding Production Design For A Narrative Program (Half-Hour) for *Hacks*.

Events:

September 10 | Hopewell Theater Reopening | Hopewell, NJ

Hopewell Theater is reopening its doors after a year and a half pandemic shutdown with [celebratory concert](#) featuring **Danielia Cotton '90**.

September 11 | *Entangled in Truth* | San Francisco, CA

Jenkins Johnson Gallery [presents](#) a solo exhibit from **Philemona Williamson '73**, with an opening reception show and conversation with the artist on Saturday, September 11.

September 12 | Prose and Poetry at Park McCullough | North Bennington, VT

Faculty member **Camille Guthrie** and **Genevieve Plunkett '11** [will read](#) excerpts from their recent work at Park McCullough.

Through September 18 | *Gesture* | Pelham, NY

Gesture, a nearly 3,000-piece painting [installation](#) by **Manju Shandler '95**, is a memorial to those lost on September 11th, 2001.

September 28 | Alumni Community Meeting with Laura Walker | Virtual Event

[Join](#) President **Laura R. Walker** and Provost **Maurice Hall** in conversation about Bennington and answer questions from the alumni community.

September 29 | The Dance Historian is In | Virtual Event

In an event hosted by the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, **Wendy Perron '69** will [show and discuss](#) excerpts of the dances and interviews from the Bennington College Judson Project.

October 20 | Bay Area Book Festival | Virtual Event

Jasmin Darznik MFA '14, who recently published her new novel *The Bohemians* will [take part](#) in an event with the Bay Area Book Festival's "Women Lit" program.

Through October 31 | *Mary Ruefle: Erasures* | Robert Frost Stone House Museum

Mary Ruefle: Erasures, the first solo exhibition of visual work by Vermont State Poet Laureate **Mary Ruefle '74**, is [currently on view](#).

Bennington College | Office of Alumni Relations
One College Drive | Bennington, Vermont 05201-6003
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