

Digital Coffee Hour: February '12

I hope you are having a wonderful Field Work Term and a great start to 2012! We're looking forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks and hearing your FWT stories. We have compiled the information below to assist you with your return to Bennington and the start of the Spring term.

Enjoy the remainder of your FWT.



Eva Chatterjee-Sutton
Dean of Students

ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

Houses open for returning students at noon on Sunday, February 19. From 12-6:30 pm keys are available in the Office of Student Life, and after 6:30 pm keys will be available in the Campus Safety Office. Please note that students who arrive prior to noon on Sunday, February 19 and are given access to their room without advance permission from the Office of Student Life will be charged \$100. Please plan your travel accordingly. The meal plan begins with dinner on Sunday, February 19 in the Dining Halls.

If there is inclement weather on Sunday, students are encouraged to travel on Monday or Tuesday as classes begin on Wednesday. We are not equipped to open prior to noon on Sunday so please plan travel accordingly.

Important reminder

Your student billing account must be current in order to receive a room key, remain on campus, or attend classes. Please contact Lisa Harrington, Business Office Assistant, at 802-440-4353 or via email at lharrington@bennington.edu for student account questions.

HOUSING

Today you should receive your housing information for the spring term; housing confirmations will be sent to your Bennington email address. As a reminder, if you waitlisted for housing at the end of last term and a space opened up in that house, we may have automatically moved you-if your housing is different than what you expected, that is likely the reason. If you have any questions about your housing assignment or believe that there is an error, please contact housing@bennington.edu.

Earlier this week, you should have received an email noting any billing for either your room or shared billing for your house. We realize that specific information regarding your charges would have been helpful and will include that information in future terms. If you would like additional information for current charges, please email the Office of Student Life (studentlife@bennington.edu) or Sarah Walcott (swalcott@bennington.edu).

DINING SERVICES

The Dining Halls will be open starting with dinner on Sunday, February 19. The Snack Bar and the Snack Bar Express will be open starting with lunch on Wednesday, February 22.

STORAGE IN LESTER MARTIN

Storage in Lester Martin will be open from 12:00 -7:00 pm on February 16 for students returning early for Senior Conference and 12:00 -7:00 pm February 19 through 22. Moving vans will be available after 3:00 pm on these days. To obtain use of a moving van, call Campus Safety to have your name added to a list. All items in Lester Martin **must** be removed by Wednesday, February 22 by 7:00 pm. After Friday, February 24, all items still remaining in storage will be donated or disposed of at the College's discretion.

COURSE SCHEDULES

You may review your course schedule at <https://webinfo.bennington.edu/StudentNew/main.cfm>. You will be asked to log in using your Bennington webmail username and password. Once you have logged in, select "student schedule". Make sure the courses listed are those you intend to take. Also, prior to the first day of classes on Wednesday, February 22, please check your classroom assignments again in case they have changed.

Add/drop and letter grade request deadlines

March 2: Last day to add a class (Please note this deadline is shorter than in previous terms)

March 7: Last day to drop a class
Last day to request letter grades

FACULTY NEWS

Joining the College for the Spring Term

Visiting faculty members new to Bennington: Matthew Adelson, lighting; Rabbi Michael Cohen, conflict resolution; Jeff Feddersen, sound art; James Geary, CAPA, Michele Gilson, biology; Ain Gordon, dance; David Gordon, dance; John Gould, literature; Martha Herr, voice; Sam Hunter, drama; Rick Martin, lighting; Tony McCaffrey, psychology; Alex Mihailovic, literature; Daniel Schoenfeld, psychology; Kayvon Pourazar, dance.

Returning visitors: Josh Blackwell, drawing; Christine Dawson, CCT; Beth Goodman, environmental studies; Camille Guthrie, literature; Dan Hofstader, literature; Megan Mayhew-Bergman, literature; Erika Mijlin, CAPA; Joe Mundt, statistics; Rebecca Ossorio, CCT; Peter Pagnucco, mediation; Michael Rolleigh, CAPA; Marketa Rulikova, sociology; Stuart Singer, dance; Guy Snover, digital art; James Voorhies, art history and visual arts; Gwen Welliver, dance; Liz White, photography.

IMPORTANT DATES

Here are some important dates to know for the beginning of term. View these and many other events on the [College calendar](#).

February 21: Faculty advising, 11:00 am-12:30 pm
Registration in faculty offices, 2:00-5:00 pm
Dinner is in houses tonight!

February 22: Classes begin on campus
Health Services opens

February 23: Student Involvement Information Fair, Student Center, 7:00 pm

February 24: PAC Movie: *The Muppets*, Tishman, 7:30 pm

February 25: PAC Movie: *The Muppets*, Tishman, 7:30 pm

February 26: First Coffee Hour

THE BENNINGTON CARD

As you know, the Bennington Card is your official identification card and is required for students to access essential campus services and facilities, including meal plans, library privileges, and access to the Meyer Recreation Barn. The Bennington Card also has an optional declining balance account feature. By activating and adding funds to The Bennington Card declining balance account, students can make cashless purchases around campus.

If you would like to add funds to your Bennington Card declining balance:

1. You, or any person with access to your Bennington Card account, can add funds at any time with a debit/credit card by using the 'Quick Add Value' option online at: <https://bennington.campuscardcenter.com/ch/login.html>. You will need to enter your name and ID number.
2. You can add funds, manage your account, or see a statement of transactions, once you have activated your card. To allow others access, simply add their name as a guest user for the account.
3. If you prefer to send a check, please make check payable to Bennington College and mail to:

Bennington College, Attn: Business Office
One College Drive, Bennington, VT 05201

Please include your five-digit Student ID # in the memo line, and **mail as soon as possible to ensure funds will be ready for the start of the term.**

4. Questions? Contact a Bennington Card Service Center representative at (877) 505-3007.

SHUTTLE SERVICE:

Shuttles will be offered at the beginning of the spring term, at the times listed below. The service costs \$35, which may be paid by cash, check or with your Bennington Card declining balance.

Students must reserve their place on the shuttle no later than Wednesday, February 8 at 3:00 pm for Senior Conference attendees and Monday, February 13 for other returning students.

Reservations may be made through the Office of Student Life at 802-440-4330 or via email at studentlife@bennington.edu, and must include:

1. Specific travel information
2. The exact number of bags that you will be bringing
3. A cell phone number where you can be reached on the day of travel

Reservation confirmations will be sent via email by Friday, February 10 for Senior Conference attendees and Wednesday, February 15 for returning students. Reservations cancelled after the deadlines noted above are non-refundable.

Shuttle Schedule:

Date	Train Station Departure	Bus Terminal Departure	Airport Departure
Thursday, 2/16 Senior Conference ONLY	12:00 pm	12:25 pm	1:00 pm
	4:00 pm	4:25 pm	5:00 pm
Sunday, 2/19	1:00 pm	1:25 pm	2:00 pm
	5:00 pm	5:25 pm	6:00 pm
	8:00 pm	8:25 pm	9:00 pm
Monday, 2/20	1:00 pm	1:25 pm	2:00 pm
	5:00 pm	5:25 pm	6:00 pm
	8:00 pm	8:25 pm	9:00 pm
Tuesday, 2/21	1:00 pm	1:25 pm	2:00 pm
	5:00 pm	5:25 pm	6:00 pm

POST OFFICE

The Post Office will be open for package pickup only on Saturday, February 18 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm; Sunday, February 19 from 12:00-4:00 pm; and Monday, February 20 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, February 21.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE VIRTUAL BOOKSTORE

In late January the College announced, via email, the launch of a [Virtual Bookstore site](#) for purchase of textbooks. Textbooks for the Spring 2012 term are available online; students can now order books online and have them shipped directly to the Bookstore for pick up. Flat rate shipping of \$4.99 is offered on all orders through March 2. Returns can be made by processing the return on the Virtual Bookstore site then print the return invoice and bring it with the books to the Bookstore. The Bookstore will have packing materials and will ship the package back for you.

Please remember that the Campus Bookstore will no longer stock textbooks. **All textbooks need to be ordered from the [Virtual Bookstore site](#).** Also, the Business Office will issue vouchers for students who would like to purchase their textbooks using funds from the Bennington Card, bookstore gift certificates, student refund checks, or personal check. Simply call the Business Office at 802-440-4458 (on campus ext. 4458) to start the process.

The Virtual Bookstore is secure, fast, easy and available 24/7. If you have questions or need assistance with ordering, please call MBS Customer Service at 800-325-3252. For other questions, call the Bookstore directly at 802-440-4361 (on campus x4361) or check the FAQs at the [Campus Bookstore site](#).

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION FAIR

Interested in getting more involved on campus? Want to join an existing student organization or start one of your own? Come to the Student Involvement Information Fair on Thursday, February 23 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Student Center. Representatives from all current student organizations and other involvement opportunities on campus will be there to talk about their groups, and registration forms will be available for people interested in starting something new. Hope to see you there!

FITNESS & RECREATION UPDATE

This spring, the Office of Student Life will be organizing a Dodgeball League for the Bennington Community. Get together with housemates, organizations, and friends to form your team of six or more. Further details will be available for those interested at a pre-season meeting at the beginning of term. If you have any questions please email Andrew Wu at awu@bennington.edu.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

SEVIS requires that all international students are registered (through SEVIS) for the upcoming term. In order to comply with this, all returning international students must stop into the Office of Student Life and fill out a short SEVIS registration form. Students who do not complete this process will not be registered and, as a result, will jeopardize their status. If you have any questions, please contact Eva Chatterjee-Sutton (ecs@bennington.edu).

FWT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

FWT essays are due Friday, February 24. Essays must be submitted through [WorkLink](#); instructions for doing so can be found in the Document Library. The essay questions are different from last year, so be sure to get the questions for 2012. If you will need a one week extension for your essay, you must request one before February 24 by emailing fwt@bennington.edu or calling 802-440-4321.

FWT evaluations from employers are due on February 24. We **must** receive an evaluation for every FWT job that you registered, even if you did not complete all of your hours there. All supervisors have been sent instructions for completing the evaluation through [WorkLink](#). Please check with your supervisor before you leave your job to make sure that he/she has submitted this evaluation.

Supplemental hours: If you have worked unregistered supplemental hours (up to 70 maximum) be sure to keep track of your hours on a time sheet which must be signed by you and a supervisor at the site. You must turn in this signed timesheet to the FWT/CDO no later than February 24 in order to have these hours counted.

The FWT Photo Contest submission deadline is March 9. The submission form, as well as more details about the contest, is available in the Document Library. Don't forget to vote for your favorite pictures during the week of March 12.

Evaluate your FWT site. Instructions for evaluating your site are available in the Document Library of [WorkLink](#). This information is very helpful to students who may be interested in working at a particular site in the future. The only way we can provide student reviews of sites is for you to let us know about the place where you worked.

FWT Success. We know that you do amazing things over FWT. Now is your chance to share these successes with the rest of the Bennington College community. In early March we will be hosting a display of student work from FWT. This can be a poster, photos, video, samples of work you participated in, music or artifacts. More information can be found in the Document Library of [WorkLink](#).

Summer Opportunities

The FWT and Career Development Office is receiving summer opportunities now! They are posted on [WorkLink](#) and many of them have early deadlines. Check them out and set up a search agent for yourself (instructions in the Document Library) to get updates on new opportunities that meet your needs and interests.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

On-campus jobs for Spring 2012 will be posted on [WorkLink](#) before the end of FWT. The on-campus Student Employment Application and instructions for applying are available in the Document Library of [WorkLink](#).

As a reminder, positions on campus are for one term only, so if you worked on campus in the fall and would like to work on campus this spring, check with your supervisor regarding their plans to rehire for the spring. If you have worked on campus before, Work Authorization forms will be sent to your student mailbox. If you plan to work on campus during the Spring term, please sign this form and bring it to your supervisor for completion. If you have not worked on campus before, you need to visit the Payroll Office in Barn 101 first. Direct deposit is available to all student workers.

In order to create as many campus opportunities as possible, student positions have an earnings limit of \$1,150 per term, which averages to around 10 hours per week. Please keep this in mind as you are scheduling your campus work hours for the term. You can find more information about student employment on campus, as well as all the necessary paperwork including the application and Terms and Conditions in the Document Library of [WorkLink](#).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT would like to remind you to update your anti-virus software before reconnecting to the campus network, as you are responsible for keeping your computer virus-free while connected to the network. If you need an Anti-Virus Program and prefer not to purchase one, AVG-Free is one possible solution. It is available at <http://www.avg.com>. Another free solution for Windows users is Microsoft Security Essentials, available at http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials/.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Every student will need to pick up their Spring 2012 validation sticker which you will receive when you check in at either the Office of Student Life or at the Campus Safety office. The sticker is affixed to the front of the College ID card and validates the use of the CABS/GMX shuttle service. Students will not be permitted access to the shuttle without the sticker. The sticker is free and can be picked up at any time.

Campus Safety Staff Updates

Kenneth Collamore, Director of Campus Safety

Darrin Lillie, Assistant Director of Campus Safety

John Bouthillette, Field Supervisor

Michael Zhuraw, Campus Safety Officer

Susan Landry, Campus Safety Officer

Bob Harrington, Campus Safety Officer

David Lemieux, Campus Safety Officer

Travis Oakes, Campus Safety Officer

Laura Hain- Campus Safety Per Diem Officer

Colin Webster Marsh, Campus Safety Coordinator

Fran Galvin, Campus Safety Coordinator

Parking decals

Students who have a vehicle on campus and have not yet registered it with Campus Safety must obtain a parking decal immediately. The cost for a decal is \$60 (which may be charged to your Bennington Card). To get your decal, you will need to provide a valid registration and proof of insurance. Students who registered their vehicle last term need not do anything; their student account will be billed for this term. If you had a vehicle on campus last term but will not this term, you must let the Office of Campus Safety know in writing to Darrin Lillie, Assistant Director of Campus Safety (DLillie@bennington.edu) so that your account is not charged.

Students wishing to obtain either of these stickers during the first few days of the term may do so at the office of the Director of Campus Safety between 10:00 am-4:00 pm Sunday, February 19-Tuesday, February 21.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Keep an eye out for the new Grants and Fellowships Advising webpage coming soon! In the meantime, stay up to date on opportunities available to students by “liking” the Bennington College Grants and Fellowships Advising page on Facebook.

Noelle Everett Murphy, Academic Services Advisor, will be hosting a series of informational sessions on the major national fellowships this term; if you're at all interested in traveling for further study, applying to graduate school, landing a prestigious fellowship, or seeking funding to pursue independent work or research, you should plan to attend! (These sessions will be particularly applicable to second term juniors, who may want to apply for post-grad opportunities.) And, as always, feel free to stop by the office (Barn 120c) to talk with Noelle about your interests and goals and the fellowship options that might be a good fit for you.

STUDY ABROAD

Students returning from study abroad

As you know, official transcripts are due on February 10. If you are uncertain about the status of your transcript and transfer credit, please contact Sean Lanigan (slanigan@bennington.edu). Transcripts should be sent to the attention of Assistant Registrar Nikki Bronson (nbronson@bennington.edu).

A study abroad reentry meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 6 from 12:00-1:30 pm** (Location TBA). We hope you can all attend!

Students studying abroad Spring 2012

Once you have settled in and registered for classes abroad, you will need to send your contact information and course registration to Laurie Kobik (lkobik@bennington.edu). Please continue to check your Bennington email address for updates from the College.

Students planning to Study Abroad

If you are planning to go abroad for the Fall 2012 term, make an appointment to see a staff member in Academic Services based on the first letter of your last name:

Sean Lanigan: Last names beginning with A – G	slanigan@bennington.edu
Laurie Kobik: Last names beginning with H – O	lkobik@bennington.edu
Julia Moffitt: Last names beginning with P - Z	jmoffitt@bennington.edu

If you are thinking about studying abroad for the Spring 2013 term, please plan to attend the Study Abroad Information Session on **Tuesday, March 13 from 1:00-2:00 pm** (location TBA).

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST-YEAR ADVISORS

First-Year Welcome Back Reception

First-year students are invited to reconnect with each other, share FWT stories, and eat good food!

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 28 at 9:00 pm in the UpCaf.**

Questions? Contact Julia Moffitt (jmoffitt@bennington.edu) or Sean Lanigan (slanigan@bennington.edu). We look forward to seeing you all then!

DEAN'S OFFICE NEWS

Noelle Everett Murphy joins Academic Services

The Dean's Office is thrilled to share that Noelle Everett Murphy joined the College at the end of October as Academic Services Advisor. Noelle will advise students on resources and applications for national grants and fellowships. In addition, Noelle will join Laurie Kobik,

Assistant Dean for Academic Services, to provide general academic advising to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Please stop by the Academic Services Offices in Barn 120 to welcome Noelle to Bennington if you didn't get a chance to do so at the end of the Fall term.

Academic Progress Addendum

As you will recall, a new Academic Progress and Academic Standing policy was implemented July 1, 2011. Updates were made to the policy and can be reviewed in the Academic Progress Addendum:

http://www.bennington.edu/Libraries/docs_Academic/AcademicProgressAddendum.sflb.ashx.

You can also find a link to the addendum under QUICK LINKS on the Student Resources page of the college website.

Student files online

We are excited to announce that you can now access your academic file through the College web site. The files are updated regularly and include scanned versions of your latest evaluations, Plan essays and minutes, and any Dean's Office correspondence. Please note, however, that this means that your evaluations will no longer be sent to you in the mail.

You can access your file by going to the [Student Online Tools](#) section of the Bennington website.

Log in using your usual Bennington username and password; you will find the link for Student Record under the menu on the left. Once on the student record page, select the PDF link under your picture to view your file.

The files were scanned using bookmarks to indicate sections: "Evaluations"; "Plan"; and "Miscellaneous." Whether or not these bookmarks will be visible to you depends on what browser and PDF viewer you use. Please see [this document](#) to get an overview of PDF support in browsers on Macs and PCs.

FOR SENIORS

2012 Commencement

Nikki Bronson or Nancy Mitton will be contacting you via your Bennington email accounts regarding your Commencement. Commencement Weekend will take place Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. Friday's events will include a senior dance performance, music concert and art

show in the afternoon, followed by Commencement Dinner, which will include addresses by President Coleman, the senior class speaker, and the commencement speaker, beginning at 6:00 pm. The senior party will follow the Friday evening events. The conferring of degrees will be held on Saturday morning at 10:00 am followed by a reception under the tent. If your family has not booked rooms for Commencement Weekend, they should do so soon, as several college commencements in the area occur on or around June 2. The Dean's Office will be sending out Intent to Graduate forms to seniors graduating in June. All other commencement related information will come from Nancy Mitton in the Office of Communications.