

BENNINGTON

Family Weekend 2012



Friday, September 28

Noon – 5:00 pm

Registration • Tent at the Flagpole

Welcome (or welcome back) to Bennington! Stop in at the Registration tent to check in for the weekend, get information about campus and the surrounding area, and pick up your gift.

3:00 pm

Biomass Tour • Meet at the Flagpole

See the inner workings of Bennington's primary heating system, which featured a conversion from oil to wood chips.

4:15 pm

Archival Footage of the College • Tishman Lecture Hall

This archival footage of Bennington's early days provides a brief yet thorough introduction to the fascinating history of the campus. The film was originally the work of a class taught in 2007 called "Bennington Past & Present". Join current members of this class and History faculty member Eileen Scully for a viewing of the film and a short discussion and additional information about Bennington's rich history.

Local Hike – Blue Trail • Meet at the Flagpole

Enjoy a relaxing hike/walk along the Blue Trail, which begins on campus and continues into the town of North Bennington.

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Dinner • Commons Dining Hall

7:00 pm

Student Acoustic Performance • Downstairs Cafe

A selection of student performances.

8:00 pm

Observing at Stickney Observatory • Stickney Observatory with Physics faculty member Hugh Crowl

Come observe the night sky through one of the telescopes at the Stickney Observatory. Faculty and students will guide your viewing of celestial objects including the moon, stars, and star clusters. Observing is weather-dependent and if the skies are cloudy please be sure to check observatory.bennington.edu after 5pm to see if observing will still happen.

9:00 pm

Open Mic Night for Students and Families • Student Center

An open invitation to sing, dance, read poetry, or share any other hidden (and not so hidden) talents with other students and families! All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Saturday, September 29

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration • Tent at the Flagpole

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9:30 am

Faculty Workshop • EAC Room 1

John Rawls and the Problem of Justice
Paul Voice, Philosophy faculty member

American Philosopher John Rawls was arguably the most important political thinker of the 20th century. Barely a word of political philosophy is written today that is not indebted in some way to the philosophical paradigm that Rawls laid out. This session will address a few of Rawls' main arguments concerning justice and reflect on his influence.

Faculty Workshop • EAC Room 2

The Royal Body: Images of Louis XIV
Stephen Shapiro, French faculty member

Using a wide variety of images of Versailles and portraits of France's Louis XIV with an eye toward analyzing how the absolute monarchy harnessed 17th Century media to convey political messages, this workshop will also look at modern political images and ask why our leaders' bodies, even today, are still the source of national myths, values, and anxieties.

Faculty Workshop • Dickinson 239

It's 9:30, Do You Know Where Your Water Is?
Tim Schroeder, Earth Science faculty member

We commonly take the supply of safe, clean drinking water for granted in the U.S., but in many parts of the world peoples' primary daily struggle is finding safe water. This problem will only become more acute in coming decades and will increasingly impact the U.S. This workshop will provide a broad overview of the Earth surface processes that dictate the distribution of fresh water around the planet, and how humans intentional and unintentional modification of these systems affects the security of clean water sources.

11:00 am

"Bennington Today" with President Elizabeth Coleman • Student Center

Bennington's 9th president, Elizabeth Coleman, will give a brief talk on the College as it stands today, and will then address questions and comments from parents and families.

continued ▶



Saturday continued

Noon – 1:00 pm

Brunch • Commons Dining Hall

1:00 pm

Biomass Tour • Meet at the Flagpole

See the inner workings of Bennington's primary heating system, which featured a conversion from oil to wood chips.

Archival Footage of the College • Tishman Lecture Hall

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Open Rehearsal of *The School for Lies* by David Ives

• **Lester Martin Theater, VAPA**

A chance to see students and faculty at work rehearsing this term's production, directed by Drama faculty member Kathleen Dimmick. Please feel free to come (quietly!) in and out as you please.

Cynthia Weber – Uniting States of Americans Open Exhibit

• **Usdan Gallery, VAPA**

An exhibition of conversations among U.S. citizens using films, photographs, and texts, as the anniversaries of 9/11 and Occupy Wall Street are fresh in our minds. These works examine experiences of citizenship that fragment, de-idealize and refigure equality and patriotism, while inviting people to engage in debate.

1:30 pm

Annual Family Weekend Soccer Game • Soccer Field

Come cheer on the Bennington soccer team (and enjoy raffles and half-time festivities) as they take on their traditional Family Weekend rival, SIT (School for International Training).

3:00 pm

Faculty Workshop • CAPA Design Lab 2

Media and Democracy
Erika Mijlin, Media Studies faculty member

This workshop, based on a current course offering, will take a brief look at how contemporary media influences public opinion, and shapes our political process—with examples from current and past political seasons.

Faculty Workshop • Kinoteca, VAPA

Investigating Digital 3-D Thinking
Jon Isherwood, Visual Arts faculty member
and Guy Snover, sculpture technician

Object-making is undergoing an intense transition into digital production. Additive manufacturing has been posed as the next trillion dollar business; in your lifetime you will be able to download objects and manufacture them in your own home. Designers, architects, and artists are finding digital design and fabrication processes to be common ground for communication and collaboration, because many new projects necessitate multi-dimensional thinking about form and making.

4:30 pm

Young Alumni Panel • Tishman Lecture Hall

Recent alumni will speak about their experiences at Bennington and beyond.

5:30 pm

Faculty, Family, and Alumni Reception • Petrie Terrace, VAPA
(Rain Location: Newman Court, VAPA)

Join Bennington faculty members, students, families, and recent alumni for a light reception before dinner.

6:15 – 7:30 pm

Harvest Dinner for Families • Commons Dining Hall

An annual tradition which includes special menu featuring local and organic foods from neighboring farms.

8:00 pm

Student Works Performance • Martha Hill Dance Theater, VAPA

Reception to follow in Newman Court, VAPA

Samplings of drama, dance, music and art work by Bennington students.

Sunday, September 30

8:00 – 11:00 am

Continental breakfast • Commons Dining Hall

11:00 am – noon

Brunch • Commons Dining Hall

Bookstore Hours

Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm