About Senior Symposia
The Senior Symposia program at Greenfield Community College is a collaborative effort between Greenfield Community College’s Office of Community Education and area senior citizens to provide a way for area seniors to continue their education in a format that best suits their needs, interests and resources.

Registration Policies
While walk-ins are always welcome, participants are urged to pre-register on the enclosed form. This assists us in planning and, in some cases, ensures you a seat for the lecture(s) of your choice. A full refund will be made if Senior Symposia cancels a symposium for any reason.

Those who pre-register are eligible to request financial assistance. See the space provided on the enclosed pre-registration form.

Bring a friend for free! Guest passes are available at the registration desk for first-time attendees.

Senior Symposia Program Planning
The program is planned by a volunteer committee drawn from the community. The committee welcomes suggestions for topics and speakers. We sometimes have openings on this committee. If you are interested in serving, please email barba@gcc.mass.edu.

In case of inclement weather call: (413) 775-1010. If GCC is closed, Senior Symposia are cancelled.

last fall...

First Family: Abigail & John Adams (Joe Ellis)
A fantastic history lesson. All learning should be like this.

The History and Future of the Book (Martin Antonetti)
Learned, lavishly illustrated—an eye-opener!

Lost in Siberia (Vivian Leskes and Frank Ward)
Charismatic, informative. Thanks!

Hijacking Islam (Monica Ringer)
Excellent presentation, timely topic. Superb!

Picture Book Art (Nick Clark)
An unforgettable and inspiring presentation, deeply intelligent and superbly delightful.

Health Care (Sarah Kemble)
Too bad we can’t include this information in the national discussion.

The Night Sky (Peter Talmage)
Very informative! Great stories and examples … understandable to the lay person.

When Unions Mattered (Bruce Laurie)
Informed, passionate. So rich!
April

Sailing Sisters: Women at Sea in the 19th Century
Presenter: Jim Coogan
Tuesday, April 10, 2-4 p.m.

The sea has always been viewed as the domain of men. Yet, another side to the seagoing experience during the age of sail is the presence and role of women aboard ship. The 19th Century saw literally hundreds, perhaps thousands, of women from Maine to Long Island who were at sea aboard whaling ships, coasting vessels, and cargo ships. Drawing on the letters and diaries that were the basis of his award-winning book, *Sail Away Ladies: Stories of Cape Cod Women in the Age of Sail*, Coogan will discuss the experiences of these “sailing sisters” as they did their best to cope with life on the ocean.

Jim Coogan is the author of eight books related to Cape Cod and its history. A retired high school teacher, he is a resident of Sandwich, MA, and is a regular columnist for the *Cape Cod Times*.

Global Resources: The Race for What’s Left
Presenter: Michael Klare
Wednesday, April 25, 2-4 p.m.

Throughout history, human communities have exhausted the resources found in their immediate surroundings and so have been forced to migrate to neighboring areas—there to begin the process of resource exploitation and depletion all over again. As a consequence, early humans migrated from Africa to all of the other habitable continents, and later European imperial powers conquered and colonized the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Today, with many of the world’s existing resources facing depletion at the same time, the race is on to secure control over the reserves that remain, wherever they can be found. This final assault on the earth’s precious bounty will produce political strife, economic risk, and environmental devastation. What’s needed now, Klare argues in his most recent book, *The Race for What’s Left*, is a “race to adapt” in order to avert a collapse of human civilization.

Michael Klare, Five College Professor at Hampshire College, also directs the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies. He has written widely on U.S. military policy, international peace and security affairs, and the global arms trade.

February – March

Costa Rica: A Conservation Success Story
Presenter: Laurie Sanders
Wednesday, February 15, 2-4 p.m.

Costa Rica is one of the biologically richest countries on earth, boasting more species of birds and butterflies than all of North America. Located in Central America between Panama and Nicaragua, this small nation has become a leader in ecotourism and an international model for other developing countries over the last 20 years. Naturalist Laurie Sanders will explain the “why” behind these biological and economic phenomena, and how they intersect with history and, no surprise, politics. Sanders’ presentation will include photographs and other images of Costa Rica that showcase the diversity of the country’s animal and plant life. In describing the country’s eco-friendly image, she will show how this occurred—including the surprising roles played by individuals such as evangelist Jimmy Swaggart and President Ronald Reagan.

Laurie Sanders is an independent biologist and naturalist who leads tours to Latin America. She is the former host of “Field Notes,” a weekly natural history program that aired on WFCR for ten years, and is occasionally heard nationally on NPR’s “Living on Earth.”

The Utopian Vision: Local Communes of the ’60s
Presenter: Dan Keller
Thursday, March 1, 2-4 p.m.

The Sixties, remembered as a decade of social change and turmoil (the Civil Rights Movement, assassinations of national leaders, the Vietnam War) also saw widespread experiments in communal living. Many such “intentional communities” or communes existed in our local area. Dan Keller will discuss the history and influence of these local communities with a focus on the Montague Farm, of which he was a member, and from which the alternative media Liberation News Service operated. Drawing on a selection of books about the Farm and on his own documentary film footage, Keller will reflect upon how these communities extend a long utopian tradition in Massachusetts.

Dan Keller, documentary film maker and organic farmer, is also a long-time member of the Selectboard in the Town of Wendell. Dan will be joined in his comments by his partner Nina Keller, environmental activist and former local teacher, who was also a member of the Montague Farm Community.
March

Journey of Discovery: Treasures of Northern China
Presenter: Thomas Loughman
Tuesday, March 13, 2-4 p.m.

In June the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown will open a major exhibit of Chinese archeological treasures inspired by the expedition of its founder, Robert Sterling Clark, across northern China over 100 years ago. The regions through which Clark travelled are among the most historically significant and culturally rich in all China. Entitled “Unearthed,” the exhibition will include important objects, most of which have never been seen before outside of China, and will help to redefine our understanding of ancient Chinese culture, from the Neolithic through the Tang Imperial Dynasty. For this talk, Loughman will present the story of Clark’s expedition and furnish historic, cultural, and artistic contexts for the objects to be on view at the Clark Museum from mid-June through fall of 2012.

Thomas Loughman is Assistant Deputy Director at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, where he is serving as administrator for “Unearthed,” and curator for an adjunct show on Clark’s expedition.

New Explorations of the World’s Oceans in an Era of Global Climate Change
Presenter: Steven Carey
Wednesday, March 21, 2-4 p.m.

More is known about the surface of Mars than about what lies beneath the oceans of our own planet. However, new technologies can now map large areas of the sea floor with high resolution, both from ships on the surface and the direct observations of unmanned robotic vehicles. The need to understand the oceans is critical at this time of global climate change. Carey will examine two issues of particular importance, sea level change and ocean acidification, and how they are likely to affect coastal communities and various ecosystems in the world’s oceans.

Steven Carey, Professor of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, has carried out research in 13 different countries and three ocean basins. Recently he has been chief scientist on three cruises in the Mediterranean Sea aboard Dr. Robert Ballard’s new research vessel the E/V Nautilus.