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Greenfield Community College

# Senior Symposia

Fall 2017



Greenfield Community College  
Downtown Center  
270 Main Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
(413) 775-1661

*[www.gcc.mass.edu/non-credit/senior-symposia](http://www.gcc.mass.edu/non-credit/senior-symposia)*

**Online Registration, Payment, and Discounts  
NOW Available!**

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## **About Senior Symposia**

The Senior Symposia program at Greenfield Community College is a collaborative effort between Greenfield Community College's Office of Workforce Development & Community Education and area senior citizens. The program is a way for area seniors to continue their education in a format that best suits their needs, interests, and resources. Persons of all ages are welcome to attend these events.

## **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 [rabinskym@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:rabinskym@gcc.mass.edu).

## **Registration Policies**

While walk-ins are normally welcome, participants are strongly urged to register online at [www.gcc.mass.edu/non-credit/senior-symposia](http://www.gcc.mass.edu/non-credit/senior-symposia) or on the enclosed form. Online payment is secure, convenient, and fast. Pre-registration assures your seat and helps us plan for the event. A full refund will be made if a symposium is cancelled. Pre-registrants are also eligible to request financial assistance. A space for these requests appears on the enclosed registration form. Guest passes are available at the registration desk for first-time attendees.

## **Registration Fees**

A fee of \$10 is charged for each symposium. Pre-register and pay for all symposia before the Fall season commences and receive one free registration (\$70 cost).

**In case of inclement weather call: (413) 775-1010.  
If GCC is closed, the symposium will be cancelled.**

GCC is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the Workforce Development & Community Education Operations Supervisor at (413) 775-1677.

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# Remarks from the Hill

**Presenter: Stan Rosenberg**

***Friday, September 29, 2-4 p.m.***

***Special Location: Sloan Theater, GCC Main Campus***

State Senate President Stan Rosenberg will share his unique vantage point on issues confronting the Commonwealth. Topics may include health care, public education, infrastructure maintenance, refugee resettlement, and the opioid crisis.

**Stanley C. Rosenberg** was raised in foster care, attended public schools, and graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1977. He founded and became the first director of the Arts Extension Service at UMass and was later director of Community Development and Human Service Programs. After working as a senate aide and as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Democratic party, Rosenberg was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1986 and served as representative for Amherst and Pelham until 1991, when he won a special election for a senate seat. A leader in the struggle for same-sex marriage and a champion of public education, Rosenberg founded and co-chaired the state legislature's Foster Kid Caucus. In 2015 he was unanimously elected President of the Massachusetts Senate.

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# Around the World with Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland

Presenter: Matthew Goodman

*Thursday, October 5, 2-4 p.m.*

On November 14, 1889, Nellie Bly, the crusading young reporter for Joseph Pulitzer's *World* newspaper, left New York City by steamship on a quest to break the record for the fastest trip around the world. Also departing from New York that day — and heading in the opposite direction by train — was a young journalist from *The Cosmopolitan* magazine, Elizabeth Bisland. Each woman was determined to outdo Jules Verne's fictional hero Phileas Fogg and circle the globe in less than eighty days. Matthew Goodman will tell the dramatic story of the race that spanned 28,000 miles, captivated the nation and changed both competitors' lives forever.

**Matthew Goodman** is the *New York Times*-best-selling author of three works of non-fiction, including the award-winning *Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World*, which has been translated into eight languages. Goodman's writing has appeared in *The American Scholar*, *Harvard Review*, *Salon*, and many other publication.

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# The Powerful Rise and Sad Demise of Connecticut River Valley Industry

Presenter: Robert Farrant

*Tuesday, October 10, 2-4 p.m.*

For over 150 years in a prosperous 200-mile industrial corridor along the Connecticut River between Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Windsor, Vermont, hundreds of firms built the world's metalworking machinery, cutting tools and measuring and inspection devices. Other companies in the region purchased these machines and produced finished goods, including rifles, carriages, rail cars, ice skates, bicycles, motorcycles and automobiles. The Valley economy was vibrant and home to thousands of skilled workers. Things took a turn for the worse in the 1960s and 1970s as locally owned firms were purchased by outside investors and the industry was challenged by global competitors. Farrant will explain the remarkable rise and swift decline of industry in the region we call home.

**Robert Farrant** is Professor of History at UMass Lowell. The author of books and articles on industrial history and deindustrialization, he worked for many years as a machinist at the American Bosch plant in Springfield before its 1986 closure. He was named UMass Lowell Distinguished University Professor in 2016.

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# Punishment in the Early American Republic

Presenter: Jen Manion

*Thursday, October 19, 2-4 p.m.*

The penitentiary system in early 18th century America exploited racial ideologies, gender norms, and antipathy towards the poor to justify its existence and expansion. The first of the early penitentiaries was founded in Philadelphia in 1790 and functioned as a way to regulate the poor, especially poor women, indentured servants and African Americans, who attempted to lay claim to the new nation's promise of liberty. Criminal convictions were harsh on those charged with violating vagrancy laws, minor theft, or disorderly conduct. In this pattern, we see a precursor to the dramatic growth of the U.S. prison system in the last forty years.

**Jen Manion** is Associate Professor of History at Amherst College and author of *Liberty's Prisoners: Carceral Culture in Early America* (2015), which received the 2016 Mary Kelley Best Book Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. Manion received a Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University. She is co-editor of *Taking Back the Academy: History of Activism, History as Activism* (2004).

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# The “Deep History” of Franklin County

**Presenter: Richard Little**

*Wednesday, October 25, 2-4 p.m.*

The “deep history” of Franklin County and vicinity, from Poet’s Seat to deep holes in the Connecticut River bed, is a geological story of drifting continents, towering mountains, volcanoes, and continental ice sheets over a half billion years. Rich Little will trace that dramatic history and explain how prominent local sites and our familiar landscape came to be, including the prominent role played by Lake Hitchcock, which was created as the last glacier melted 18,000 years ago. He will bring samples of rare Mesozoic armored mud balls he discovered. Participants are encouraged to bring their own local rock samples for identification.

**Richard Little** has an M.A. degree from the University of Southern California. He is Professor Emeritus at GCC, where he taught geology and oceanography for over 45 years. Little has written two books and produced two DVDs on Connecticut Valley geology. He continues to teach part-time and to lead “Fantastic Landscape Tours” to amazing geologic sites, mostly on the North American tectonic plate.

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# 18th Century Taverns in the Connecticut Valley

**Presenter: Anne Lanning**

***Wednesday, November 1, 2-4 p.m.***

Colonial taverns provided essential services for travelers and for towns where they were located. In addition to offering food and lodging for travelers and their animals, licensed public houses

served as a location for people to transact business, get the latest information, pick up mail or socialize with neighbors. Itinerants traveling the countryside took up short-term



*Photograph courtesy of Historic Deerfield*

residence in taverns, offering their specialized skills to the local community. This presentation will draw on travel accounts, diaries, license records, newspapers, almanacs, probate records, and account books to recount the experiences of the men and women who operated taverns, as well as those who frequented them. Deerfield's Barnard Tavern, currently under restoration, will serve as a case study.

**Anne Digan Lanning** is Senior Vice President at Historic Deerfield. She has worked at the Museum in a variety of positions since 1986. Lanning's research focuses on women's history from the colonial period to the colonial revival. She is currently researching Historic Deerfield's Barnard Tavern.

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# Jarice Hanson Performs Scenes from *Shirley Valentine*

Presenter: Jarice Hanson

*Thursday, November 9, 2-4 p.m.*

Willy Russell's romantic comedy *Shirley Valentine*, starring Pauline Collins, debuted on the London stage in 1986. It was an immediate popular and critical success. When the show traveled to Broadway, Collins won a Tony for "Best Actress," and *Shirley Valentine* was named "Best Play." In 1989 Collins won an Oscar for her movie performance of the lonely, middle-aged housewife from Liverpool who dreams of her youth and of finding love again. Over the years, many actresses "of a certain age" in the U.K. and the U.S. have found success — and joy — in sharing Shirley's story of transformation and the acceptance of aging while holding on to one's dreams.

**Jarice Hanson** started her acting career in Chicago and for the last 30 years has been performing regionally from New York to Maine. Locally, she has appeared at the Academy of Music, the New Century Theater, and the Majestic Theater. She is a member of Actor's Equity, the professional union of stage actors, and SAG-AFTRA, the union for film and television.

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## *It Happened One Night:* A Classic Movie and a Conversation

Moderator: Carolyn Anderson

*Thursday, November 16, 2-4:30 p.m.*

*It Happened One Night* (1934) lifted the spirits of Depression America and continues to entertain audiences. In this “screwball comedy,” Claudette Colbert plays a runaway bride with a mind of her own who meets fired newspaperman Clark Gable on a long-distance bus ride. Gable demonstrating how a guy undresses and Colbert proving she is the superior hitch-hiker are among the iconic moments from this classic. In the competition for Colbert’s heart, the cards are clearly and satisfyingly stacked against her wealthy, stuffy bridegroom. Frank Capra (who earned his chops in silent comedies) directed, and won one of five major Oscars bestowed on this delightful film.

**Carolyn Anderson**, Professor Emerita at UMass Amherst, was a founding member of the University’s Interdepartmental Program in Film Studies and represented UMass for many years on the Five College Film Council. She has published widely on film topics, lectured in a range of venues internationally, and routinely serves as a judge for film festivals.

**\*\* Note Extended Time \*\* Registration limited to 65 \*\***

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**Fall 2017 Calendar**  
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<b>Week of</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>9/25</b>				<b>9/29</b> Remarks from the Hill (Sloan Theater)
<b>10/2</b>			<b>10/5</b> Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland	
<b>10/9</b>	<b>10/10</b> Valley Industries			
<b>10/16</b>			<b>10/19</b> Prison History and Reform	
<b>10/23</b>		<b>10/25</b> Geological History		
<b>10/30</b>		<b>11/1</b> 18th Century Taverns		
<b>11/6</b>			<b>11/9</b> Scenes from <i>Shirley Valentine</i>	
<b>11/13</b>			<b>11/16</b> <i>It Happened One Night</i> Movie	

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