F&M Alumni College At A Glance

Alumni College is a series of interesting and informative presentations highlighting the work of F&M faculty and alumni during Thursday and Friday of Alumni Weekend.

Thursday, June 2

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Learning After Dark: Reflections on the House System, Dr. Dean Hammer, The John W. Wetzel Professor of Classics and Professor of Government, New College House Don. Ten years ago the College created the House system with the idea of fostering a third space that bridges the academic and residential experience. Even as the Houses have become a major selling point of the College, what the Houses actually do – what makes them part of a student’s life of the mind – remains less visible, particularly to alums who graduated before the system was created. Having just finished his fifth year as House Don, Dr. Hammer will reflect on what makes the experiences in the Houses both special and educational.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Business of Conducting, Brian Norcross, Senior Director of Instrumental Music and Conducting Services. Dr. Brian Norcross has created a unique conducting book that is now in use at F&M for his unique conducting class. This presentation will review how this class is designed and some inside looks at the new conducting book titled, “All I Want Is Everything... Now.”

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Representing Europe's Migrant Crisis: A Cinematic Perspective, Giovanna Faleschini Lerner, Associate Professor and Chair, Italian Department. Well before Greece came into the spotlight as the main European point of entry for refugees from areas of civil conflicts, Italy played that role for migrants from countries divided by war and civil strife. In this talk, we will see the different ways in which Italian filmmakers have captured the impact of the migrant crisis, in documentaries, dramas, and now comedies that represent the tension between suspicion and welcome, integration and rejection, which Italian society must constantly negotiate.

Friday, June 3

10 – 11 a.m. An English Class on Comics!? Teaching Graphic Literature, Kerry Sherin Wright, Ph.D., director, Writers House, and adjunct assistant professor of English. Readers who grew up on the Sunday funnies may be surprised to hear that comics have entered the literary canon. In this session we will read a section of Chris Ware's graphic novel *Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth* to see how this contemporary text transforms both the cultural legacy of Superman and the formal techniques of literary modernism.

11 a.m. – Noon From Stressed To Centered: A Practical Guide to a Healthier and Happier You. Book discussion. Life discussion, Dan Guerra ’91, Psy.D., Dr. Guerra will speak about his new book of the same title, weaving his F&M history and influences, and sharing his journey to become one of the leaders in the field of stress management. His talk will include hands-on stress management and relaxation practices.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. The Presidential Election: Ready or Not, Dr. G. Terry Madonna, Director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs, Professor of Public Affairs, and Director of the Franklin and Marshall College Poll. Dr. Madonna will examine the factors likely to matter in the 2016 elections, focusing on the candidates, the issues, and the most recent polls. He will also provide an assessment of past elections, with an emphasis on how they might shed light on the 2016 elections.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Finding Lincoln... in the Atlantic World. Dr. Louise Stevenson, Professor of History and American Studies. In an illustrated discussion, Professor Stevenson will analyze why the republican Lincoln could not have chosen a more appropriate play to attend on the night of his assassination. Our American Cousin conveys the ideals and values that made the sixteenth president a hero of the Atlantic world.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Pam's Son Productions Presents, Randy Wilkins ’01. Two time Emmy Award winner Randy Wilkins '01 will discuss his journey from accidentally taking a film class senior year to working with Spike Lee and directing films that have premiered on HBO and ESPN. The presentation will include clips of Randy's diverse work including a special screening of his new film.