Friendship belongs essentially to the human condition and underlies our ability to relate meaningfully to one another and our surroundings, whether individually or collectively. It signifies the care, concern, trust, hospitality and incommensuration that human persons extend to each other as we seek to build satisfying interdependent bonds. Relationships based on friendship may also exist, not just among individuals, but between communities and nations — and extend even to relationships with the environment and the divine. Throughout history, and across cultures, friendship has provided on of the foundational binding forces connecting human beings, institutions and societies, guiding their beliefs and actions.

Friendship can therefore be the source of intense emotions ranging from attachment, longing and hope to despair and betrayal. Through it, we understand a range of human experiences from the relations of prehistoric societies, to the foundational dreaming of the ancient Greeks, to the ongoing debates about human rights and global justice that continue to generate serious study and vigorous debate in years to come. These and other expressions of friendship will be explored in the 2011 Humanities Symposium.

Monday, Feb. 21
Opening Reception
Horne Atrium, Boyer Hall | 3:45–4:30 p.m.
Student Colloquia:
The Impact of Historic Power and Fame on Friendships
Boyer Hall 131 | 3:45–4:30 p.m.
Panel Discussion: Natasha Barnard, Elizabeth Coom, Megan Keller, Alexander Lovelace, Colin Riddle
Power, status and celebrity are factors that have always influenced friendship, but what if these take historic proportions? How would they shape friendships between historic figures? The History Club sponsors this session, in which students will explore such friendships between the historic figures George Patton and Dwight Eisenhower; C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien; Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels; and Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong.

Student Colloquia: Friends as Writers
Boyer Hall 134 | 3:45–4:30 p.m.
Alumni Panel Discussion: Rachel McGalley, Brittiny Munzert, Sarah Rindo, Alson Rcin
Writers by definition require a readership, yet what would be the dynamic of Christians and Muslims? A panel of faculty and students from across the campus of both the possibilities and the realities of Christian-Muslim friendship. A Student Colloquium will present examples of friendship throughout the past from a wide array of historical periods (ancient, medieval, modern) and geographic regions (U.S., Europe, Africa, Asia). Following the conversation with the audience about the lessons we can learn from an historical understanding of friendship.

Symposium Faculty Lecture Series: Becoming Acquainted With the History of Friendship
Boyer Hall 131 | 7–8:30 p.m.
Panel Discussion: John Fox, Joseph P. Hoffman, Jim LaGrond, Bernarde Michael, David Pettigrew, Anne-Marie Stoner-Eby, Norman Wilson
Friendship is a phenomenon as diverse as the number of cultures and historical moments in which it is experienced. The faculty of the Department of History will present examples of friendship throughout the past from the wide array of historical periods (ancient, medieval, modern) and geographic regions (U.S., Europe, Africa, Asia). Following the conversation with the audience about the lessons we can learn from an historical understanding of friendship.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:
Friendship in the Age of Social Media: Selections From ‘Edgework: A String Solo’
Pomeroy Recital Hall | 9–10:30 p.m.
Bethany Bogle, Joseph D’Ambrosi, Starleisha Gingrich, Eric Hartman, Kimberly Lambertson, Gabielle Saramato, Hannah Faye Zarate
Social networking and virtual relationships via a growing range of communication platforms are redefining how we experience friendship. An exploration of these emerging dynamics and their impact on friendship was explored in the recent musical ‘Edgework: A String Solo’ (2007), and this evening event will showcase a selection of these songs. A talk-back session on both the musical itself as well as our experiences of its insights will follow the performance.

Tuesday, Feb. 22
Common Chapel: Spiritual Friendship: Sowing on the Edge of Love
Brubaker Auditorium | 9–10:30 a.m.
Eldon Fry, College pastor
Drawn from historic biblical and spiritual writings on friendship, this address will consider the capacity of spiritual friendship to supplant exclusivity, loneliness and isolation with relationships that fulfill the human need for companionship.

Faculty-Student Colloquia: Christian-Muslim Friendships
Boyer Hall 130 | 1–2:30 p.m.
Panel Discussion: George Pickens, Richard Hughes, Jan Hughes, Jill Karn (adjunct professor at the University of Rochester), James Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities
This colloquium will therefore explore what friendship looks like that reaches historic proportions, not just among individuals, but between communities and nations. It will consider the capacity of spiritual friendship to supplant exclusivity, loneliness and isolation with relationships that fulfill the human need for companionship.

Wednesday, Feb. 23
Faculty-Student Colloquia: Building Unexpected Friendships Across Barriers of Ability
Boyer Hall 134 | 4–5:30 p.m.
Poster Presentation: Dr. Nance McCown and Lauren Schick (PRSSA president)
This colloquium seeks to extend assistance to other friends and their families dealing with cancer.

Center for Public Humanities Guest Lecture Series
Literary Friendship: Henry James and Edith Wharton
Boyer Hall 134 | 4–5:30 p.m.
Professor Karn will speak on the early 20th-century friendship between literary giants Henry James and Edith Wharton. In particular, she will focus on their letter correspondence, which reveals a literary exchange about fiction that formed the core of their friendship and deeply influenced their own literary production.

Center for Public Humanities Film Series
“The Wooden Camera: Friendship in Post-Apartheid South Africa”
Boyer Hall 137 (Parmer Cinema) | 8:30–10 p.m.
Anne-Marie Stoner-Eby
This engaging 2003 film by Nick Bokelmann explores the power of adolescent friendship in the context of the continuing divide between the poor black townships and the wealthy white suburbs of post-Apartheid South Africa. The filmmakers had an opportunity to consider the impact of self-esteem, which here includes poverty, cultural and ethnic divides, moral choice; and parental betrayal. History professor Stoner-Eby will introduce the film and then facilitate a time of discussion at its conclusion.

Faculty-Student Colloquia: Public Friendship and Civility in the Humanities
Boyer Hall 130 | 4–5:30 p.m.
Panel Discussion: Nancy Patrick, Jennifer Feder, G Fetchen Devere, Olivia King, Meghan Compton, Carolyn Partridge
A pilot program in a local school district has brought Messiah College education majors together with high school students with special education needs. The relationships that have resulted, however, are not defined merely by a bureaucratic mentoring model, but rather by a reciprocity based on friendship. This colloquium will therefore explore what friendship looks like that reaches across the social barriers of difference in cognitive ability.

Genesis of Relationships:
Common Chapel: Building Unexpected Friendships Across Barriers of Ability
Hev, Nangle and Wiener Residence Halls | 7–9 p.m.
First-year students will speak about their Core Course projects in an exhibit staged in Hev, Nangle and Wiener Residence Halls.

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James Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Friendship in the Public Sphere: Civility in a Fractured Society

Keynote Address | Hostetter Chapel |
Friday, Feb. 25 | 8 – 9:15 p.m. |
See box below for details.

This year’s symposium keynote speaker is James Leach, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Leach began his term as the NEH in 2009 after serving for 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a congressman representing southeastern Iowa, he chaired the Banking and Financial Services Committee, the subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs and the Congressional Executive Committee on China. A life-long supporter of the humanities, he also founded and co-chaired the Congressional Humanities Caucus. After leaving Congress in 2007, Leach joined the faculty at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, where he was the John L. Weinberg Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs until his confirmation as NEH chairman. Leach holds eight honorary degrees and has received numerous awards, including the Sidney R. Yates Award for Distinguished Public Service to the Humanities from the National Humanities Alliance, the Woodrow Wilson Award from The Johns Hopkins University, the Adlai Stevenson Award from the United Nations Association, the Edgar Wayman Award from The Sierra Club, the Wayne Morse Integrity in Politics Award, the William Borah Award for Distinguished Public Service, and the Wesley Award for Service to Humanity.

In keeping with this year’s symposium theme of “Friendship,” Leach will speak on the role of civility in public life. Friendship, he argues, reaches across ideological and political difference means not just politeness, but an openness to listen, learn from and even collaborate with others, even those whom one disagrees. Is the public life of a democracy in particular, such friendships—when seen in their public expressions of courtesy, curiosity in the other person’s views and decency in the treatment of that other person—builds up the republic and makes an example for the best in citizenship. Civicity as a virtue has meant not only “good citizenship,” however, but also a state of mind reframed by a liberal education. Therefore, Leach’s words on civility as a form of public friendship will prove beneficial to us both as citizens as well as members of a liberal arts community.

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The Center for Public Humanities

Messiah College

Box 3024

Grantham, Pa. 17027

messiah.edu/schools/humanities/center/symposium

Thursday, Feb. 24

Alternate Chapel:
Breaking the Silence: Friendship and Sexuality
Baylor Hall 131 | 11:45-30 p.m.
Panel Presentation: Ellie Addleman, Mike Blomt and students
Both student and College staff members who participate in the sexuality reading group will offer a panel presentation on their findings concerning how friendships affect sexual choices, ethics and healing.

Faculty-Student Colloquium:
The Transformation of Friendship in St. Augustine’s Confessions
Baylor Hall 131 | 1-3:30 p.m.
Panel Presentation: Cynthia Wills and students in the Core Course
St. Augustine had a great deal to say about friendship and its influence on his spiritual journey. Students and faculty from the Core Course, in which his autobiography The Confessions is read, will consider St. Augustine’s theology of friendship. They will explore in particular how his theology transfigured the classical Greco-Roman understanding of friendship and what, in his own experiences of friendship, led him to this transformed understanding.

Faculty-Student Colloquium:
Cross-Cultural Friendships in Colonial Hispanic America
Baylor Hall 131 | 1-3:30 p.m.
Gladyss Robledo and Spanish literature students
Complex and varied relations between early Spanish conquistadors and colonizers of America sometimes produced unexpected forms of alliance with Native Americans. Students from the trans-atlantic Hispanic colonial literature course will present their discoveries of cross-cultural friendships in early Spanish colonial America. They will analyze the contexts and conditions that determined these friendships as well as their lessons on the basis for Spanish-Native American relations in the continent.

Symposium Co-Curricular Educator Lecture Series:
Loneliness and Its Place in Friendship
Baylor Hall 131 | 7-8:30 p.m.
Rhonda Good, director of Housing/associate director of Residence Life
Loneliness is something that almost everyone experiences at some point in life, yet it is a topic that is rarely discussed. Some might even conclude that it is the antithesis of friendship. This presentation will offer a typology of loneliness based on current social science research and how it interacts with our friendships and closest relationships.

Center for Public Humanities Film Series
“Cautiva (Captive)” Recovering Identity through Friendship
Baylor Hall 131 | Parmer Cinema | 8-9:30 p.m.
Robin Lauermann, Fabrizio Cilento
Couched in the speaker of Alegria’s “dark war,” this 2003 film by Gustau Reventós titled “Cautiva” (or “Captive”) reveals the trauma of military government and the value of friendship in recovering lost families. In the film, Sofia, a young woman who was taken as a baby by her dissident parents and given a false identity with another family, relies on the help of friends to learn her true identity as well as the impact of the war on her nation’s identity. Professors Lauermann (politics) and Cilento (communication) will introduce the film and then facilitate a time of discussion at its conclusion.

Keynote Address of the Symposium | 8 – 9:15 p.m. | Hostetter Chapel
James Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Unequal Friendships
Political Friendship and the American Revolution
Baylor Hall 131 | 1-3:30 p.m.
Norma Guerra (history major)
How did widely separated communities of artisans, farmers, yeomen and gentlemen find the means to unite across 13 different colonies and stage a successful political revolution of astonishing scope against the world’s greatest colonial power? This lecture will explore how a network of inter-colonial political friendships from Boston to Charleston functioned as a means to create feelings of sympathy and brother/sisterhood sufficient enough to unite the colonies in a common political purpose we know as the American revolution.

Friday, Feb. 25

Symposium Student Lecture Series:
The Politics of Friendship
Baylor Hall 131 | 1-3:30 p.m.
Chomene Jackson (international business major)
Christian service can certainly be an act of friendship, yet only when the recipient is capable of being understood as a friend and not merely a recipient of charity. How then to bring the two parties into an equal and mutual friendship? This lecture will examine the idea of Christian service in a “Third World” context, where such service when offered by Christians from developed nations can promote unequal friendships that stifle genuine intercultural understanding.

Keynote Address
Friendship in the Public Sphere:
Civility in a Fractured Society

Keynote Address of the Symposium | 8 – 9:15 p.m. | Hostetter Chapel
James Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities

See box below for details.

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