THE MWCC HUMANITIES PROJECT: WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA?

Funded by a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the MWCC Humanities Project strengthens the college’s humanities curriculum; supports collaborative and interdisciplinary teaching and research in the humanities; examines the intersection between the humanities and other academic disciplines; and engages MWCC and the community in the discussion of enduring themes from the world’s many cultures and traditions.
Like all great works of science fiction, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* explores what it means to be human. Published nearly 200 years ago, *Frankenstein* continues to raise important questions: Can science go too far? How do we tolerate difference? Who are the real monsters? Our world is witnessing rapid scientific and technological advances. How do works of the imagination help society cope with these changes? Other themes explored in the novel include nature vs. nurture, the effects of abandonment on children, beauty, good and evil, the limits and responsibilities of science, rationality vs. intuition, faith vs. reason, and, most of all, the power of a good story to invade our imagination and transform how we see ourselves and our world.

**FREE EVENTS** Open to the general public

**SEPTEMBER 2015**
- **24** ‪THU‬ Book Discussion: *Frankenstein* 6:30-8pm, MWCC Library, Gardner

**OCTOBER 2015**
- **14** ‪WED‬ Panel Discussion: “Frankenscience? – The Myths & Realities of Contemporary Science” with MWCC faculty Lara Dowland, Carrie Arnold, Tom Montagno & Heather Conn 6:30-8pm, Levi Heywood Memorial Library, Gardner
- **20** ‪TUE‬ Lecture: “Monsters on the Big Screen” with Fitchburg State University Professor Joe Moser 12:30-1:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner
- **31** ‪SAT‬ Fundraiser: Halloween Hike for the Humanities 10am, Wachusett Mountain, Princeton

**NOVEMBER 2015**
- **05** ‪TUE‬ Film Screening: Kenneth Branagh’s *Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein* 12:30-2:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner
- **12** ‪SAT‬ Lecture: “Mary Shelley: The Woman Behind the Monster” with Tufts University Professor Sonia Hofkosh 6:30-8pm, Leominster Public Library

**FEBRUARY 2016**
- **17** ‪FRI‬ Lecture: “Historical Perspectives on *Frankenstein*” with Mount Holyoke College Professor Robert Schwartz 12:30-1:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner
- **25** ‪THU‬ Author Talk: Elizabeth Young, author of *Black Frankenstein* 6:30-8pm, Fitchburg Art Museum

**MARCH 2016**
- **05** ‪TUE‬ Monster Movie Marathon: James Whale’s 1931 classic *Frankenstein* and Kenneth Branagh’s *Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein* – Two Films, Lunch, and a Lecture by Fitchburg State University Professor Joe Moser 11am–5pm, Leominster Public Library
- **24** ‪SAT‬ Lecture: “Girls and Their Ghost Stories: Feminism, Philosophy, and Frankenstein” with MWCC Faculty/Staff Dan Soucy and Shelley Errington Nicholson 6–8:30pm, Athol Public Library

**APRIL 2016**
- **05** ‪TUE‬ Film Screening: Mel Brooks’ *Young Frankenstein* 12:30-2:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner
- **27** ‪SAT‬ Student Presentations 12:30-2:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner

**HIKE FOR THE HUMANITIES**

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” -Margaret Mead

What is the challenge in the college’s recent National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant?

All money raised for MWCC’s Humanities Project will be matched by the NEH one to two. This money will create an endowment to support public humanities programming in our communities and at the college – in perpetuity.

Last year, MWCC faculty and staff hiked Wachusett Mountain, following the footsteps of Henry David Thoreau, whose book *Walden* was the central text in our first Humanities Project theme.

Since the Swiss Alps, where Mary Shelley conceived her masterpiece *Frankenstein*, is a little far away, we will hike our local mountain once again. Join us for a haunted Halloween hike. Help us meet the NEH challenge. Support arts and culture in your community. Maybe Dr. Frankenstein’s monster will make an appearance!

**Start getting in shape and join us for a walk up Wachusett to raise money for the MWCC Humanities Project**