



Lunchtime Speakers in the Humanities

Moving from Confrontation to Cooperation: Negotiating in Life and Work.

Thursday, September 27, 11am



Gary Noesner, retired FBI investigator and hostage negotiator

We've all seen dramas on TV involving tense hostage negotiation, but what really goes on in these life-and-death situations? Gary

Noesner will tell stories of his experiences on the front lines during his 30-year FBI negotiation career, and speak about the key communication approaches that provide guidance for avoiding conflict with others and gaining cooperation in everyday challenges at work and in life.

As head of the FBI's Crisis Negotiation Unit, Mr. Noesner was heavily involved in numerous crisis incidents covering prison riots, right-wing militia standoffs, religious zealot sieges, terrorist embassy takeovers, airplane hijackings, and over 120 overseas kidnapping cases involving American citizens. The Paramount Network TV Event "Waco", which aired in January 2018, is based in part on his book, Stalling for Time: My Life as an FBI Hostage Negotiator. He is portrayed in the six-part series by Academy Award nominated actor Michael Shannon.

The Importance of Critical Thinking

Friday, October 26, 11am



Dr. Mark Piper, Associate Professor of Philosophy at James Madison University

Although comparatively few people study critical thinking, most tend to think that they are inherently skilled in it. But is that the case? Are we

naturally adept at this ability? To answer these questions, we have to know what critical thinking is and why we should devote our time to honing their critical thinking chops. What's at stake? This presentation will give you a chance to test your own critical thinking skills along the way.

Widely and extensively published, Dr. Piper specializes in normative ethics, especially debates concerning well-being and autonomy. He teaches courses in critical thinking, virtue and character, moral theory, and advanced moral philosophy. He has also taught ethical reasoning and problems in applied ethics.

The Biochemistry of Violence

Thursday, November 15, 11am



Gina MacDonald, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at James Madison University

Why are some people violent and others not? The biochemistry of violence examines the genetic and environmental factors that alter brain biochemistry and increase impulsive violence in humans and animals.

MacDonald will offer insights into how the brain shapes human behavior such as violence through a scientific lens.

Professor MacDonald earned her PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1994, and has taught at James Madison University since 1996. She has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award in 2003. Gina's research focuses on exploring biological molecules, especially proteins, on a very small scale.



All Governor's School students, faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to attend these interactive presentations by masterful teachers, eager to share and converse with you. Each presentation will run from 11 to 11:45. Bring your own brown-bag lunch!

