Lectures: Period III
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Chemistry of Stained Glass
A Tour of the Tiffany and LaFarge Windows in Vassar’s Chapel and the Cornaro Window in Thompson Library
CHRISTOPHER SMART / Associate Professor of Chemistry

An Historian’s Tour of Vassar
COLTON JOHNSON / Professor of English Emeritus and College Historian

An Horticulturist’s Tour of Vassar
JEFF HORST / Former Director of Horticulture

Why Myth Matters
“We tell ourselves stories in order to live,” Joan Didion teaches us. Myths are humanity’s oldest stories and come from deep within the human psyche. Over the years and in diverse cultures they take new forms, with different characters and settings, but their underlying shapes remain the same. Why do we need myths? What function do they serve for us in the 21st century? Why do Eve, King Arthur, and Harry Potter compel our attention today?
BETH DARLINGTON / Professor of English Emerita
From Vassar to Uganda and Tokyo: An International Collaboration of Music, Dance and Education with Ashinaga Foundation for Orphaned Children
CHRISTINE HOWLETT / Associate Professor of Music

America in a Dangerous World
This lecture explores several foreign policy crises facing the United States today. From the Middle East to the Ukraine, how policy makers in Washington respond to intractable conflicts will shape our world for years to come.
BOB BRIGHAM / Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of History and International Relations

A Philosophical Tour of Skepticism:
How to Question Everything to Arrive at Knowledge
How have philosophers come to question everything, and why have they done this? We will survey the ancient and contemporary forms of skepticism and its uses.
BARRY LAM / Associate Professor of Philosophy

China, Religion and Human Rights
MICHAEL WALSH / Associate Professor of Religion
Ecology & Evolution of Sexual Reproduction:
The Evolutionary Biology of Homosexuality
Homosexuality is clearly a natural and enduring part of life, but simple application of the theory of natural selection can’t explain why. Evolutionary biologists are exploring several possible resolutions of this apparent paradox.
MARK SCHLESSMAN / Professor of Biology

Boys and Girls:
How They Get That Way and Everything In Between
WILLIAM STRAUS / Associate Professor of Biology

Imperial Augsburg: Renaissance Prints and Drawings 1475-1540
An introduction to this exhibition, organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, followed by a self-guided tour.
PATRICIA PHAGAN / Philip and Lynn Straus Curator of Prints and Drawings