From Dartmouth to Tierra del Fuego: Writing History at the World’s End
Laura Ogden, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Charles Darwin’s vivid descriptions of the Yagán as “savage” barbarians shaped European encounters with this Indigenous community for over a century. Living in the southernmost village in the world, along the glacier-lined Beagle Channel, the Yagán have had little opportunity to change these depictions. We will explore the ways colonial accounts and archives continue to shape the present circumstances of Indigenous communities, as well as a unique collaboration with the Yagán to produce new histories of Tierra del Fuego using colonial archives from Dartmouth College’s Rauner Special Collections Library.

Follow the RED balloons—Location: 111 Wilder

How Great Authors Really Worked: Understanding 19th-Century Writers’ Notebooks as Creative Tools
Petra McGillen, Assistant Professor of German Studies

The Romantics promoted the image of the writer as original genius: they claimed that literary creativity is essentially a question of inspiration. We will confront this myth by examining writers’ notebooks from the 18th and 19th centuries, cracking open the black box and figuring out what really drove inventive minds. With an approach that combines methods of material media analysis and literary studies, we will read notebooks as creative tools and explore how they enabled writers to think on paper. Case studies will include the literary “lab notes” of the physicist/writer G. Ch. Lichtenberg, the working notes of Charles Dickens, and the doodles of Fyodor Dostoevsky. We will conclude by discussing what we can take away from these historical sample cases for our own note-taking practices in the college classroom and beyond.

Follow the YELLOW balloons—Location: 105 Dartmouth Hall

Ice, Climate, and You
Mary Albert, Professor of Engineering and Executive Director of U.S. Ice Drilling Program Office

With climate change upon us now, how can we look at current changes in the context of the past? What evidence do the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets contain about changes that have occurred over hundreds of thousands of years? Do you know how atmospheric changes in your lifetime compare to those over a glacial cycle? We’ll compare measurements made during your lifetime to evidence from ice cores from ancient times, we’ll think about the future, and we’ll consider what’s going on around town now to see our potential to power the course toward a bright future.

Follow the PINK balloons—Spanos Auditorium

Sex, Lies, and Sperm Sorting
Ryan Calsbeek, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

Males and females share almost all of the same genetic material, but the attributes of a high quality male are rarely the same as those of a high quality female. How does a single genome produce such varied types of individuals and how does natural selection handle the controversies that arise when traits that are beneficial to one sex are costly to the other? This genetic form of sexual conflict has led to a bizarre array of solutions in an otherwise unassuming lizard from the Caribbean. We will explore the ways that evolution has resolved this battle of the sexes.

Follow the WHITE balloons—Location: 100 Life Science Center

Doing Native American History at Dartmouth: Why Does It Matter?
Colin Calloway, Professor of History and Native American Studies

Dartmouth, which will celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2019, was originally founded as a school dedicated to the education of Native students. But that was a long time ago and for most of the college’s history, as in most of the nation’s history, Native Americans have been sidelined. So why bother to revisit what some people regard as “ancient history”? This talk will suggest that understanding the Native American strand that runs through the history of Dartmouth, as it runs through the history of the United States, is essential to understanding how things happened the way they did and where we are today.

Follow the BLUE balloons—Location: Filene Auditorium

Network Models for the Mammalian Circadian Clock
Scott Pauls, Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Department of Mathematics

How does your body know when to wake up in the morning or go to sleep at night? Why do you get jet lag and why does it take so long to get over? Mammals produce a master circadian rhythm (circa means “about” and dian means “day”) in a small portion of the brain that sits above the optic chasm called the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN). The SCN comprises oscillatory neurons that entrain to the light-dark schedule transmitted by the optic nerve and transmit that signal to other systems in the organism as a master time-keeper for the body. This signal needs to be both robust and flexible – it should resist rapid resetting but be responsive to daylength changes throughout the year. While much is known about the oscillatory neurons in the system, little is known about how they connect and communicate with one another, which we believe is at the heart of the necessary robustness and flexibility. I will talk about ongoing work modeling the network connectivity within the SCN to better understand this dynamical process, demonstrating synchronicity among the oscillatory neurons and larger structures that help encode environmental information.

Follow the PURPLE balloons—Location: 104 Wilder

Equal Treatment and Downstream Consequences of Waiting In Line to Vote
Michael Herron, Professor of Government and Chair of the Quantitative Social Science Program

Looking at a collection of several million voter check-in times from Florida in the 2012 and 2016 General Elections, we’ll discuss how this data illustrates the extent to which some types of voters have to wait longer than others. We’ll also look at how waiting in line can lead to slight decreases in the willingness to vote in a future election.

Follow the ORANGE balloons—Location: 028 Silsby

Mukul Sharma, Professor of Earth Sciences
When Dialects Collide: A Sample of Sociolinguistics
James Stanford, Associate Professor of Linguistics
Do you say ‘soda’ or ‘pop’ or ‘coke’? Do you say ‘sneakers’ or ‘tennis shoes’ or something else? Why don’t we all speak the same? What are the major accents of North American English? Why do certain dialects sound more prestigious than others? Have you ever felt self-conscious about the way you were speaking? Why? In this lecture, we’ll explore one of the key defining characteristics of human society: language. We’ll show how subtle differences in words, pronunciation, and grammatical forms can distinguish social groups, express different aspects of personal and cultural identity, and affect power structures on all levels of society.
Location: 100 Life Science Center

Game of Thrones and its Fascination with Poison, Contagion, and Beheading
James Dobson, English and Creative Writing
Why does everyone lose their head over George R. R. Martin’s A Song of Fire and Ice and the HBO Game of Thrones adaptation? In this lecture, we’ll link HBO’s phenomenally successful epic fantasy show, created by Dartmouth alumnus David Benioff ’92, to a variety of political concerns that have much more to do with the present than the medieval past. Instances of contagion, poisoning, and beheading reveal complex networks of characters that illuminate a range of unexpected relations and trouble our understandings of sovereignty and social exclusion.
Location: 105 Dartmouth Hall

Reading Lincoln in the Age of Trump
Leslie Butler, Associate Professor of History
How can our current political moment inform how we think about the past, specifically the presidency of Abraham Lincoln? Using President Trump’s novel reliance on Twitter as a mode of political and presidential communication as our point of departure, this lecture will offer a reconsideration of the sixteenth president’s own innovative efforts at communicating with the public. Lincoln developed a sophisticated understanding of the role that opinion played in a representative government. Both before and during his presidency, he pioneered new efforts to shape that opinion and to attach fresh meaning to American ideals.
Location: 028 Silsby

Medical Devices: Defining Success When Surrounded By Failure
Douglas Van Citters, Associate Professor of Engineering
Sometimes the financial and regulatory discussion around healthcare evolves faster and in different directions than the life-changing medical devices coming to market. How can scientists and engineers prioritize the definition of “value” in medicine given the divergence of stakeholder motivations? This lecture will explore the opportunity to use failure analysis of medical devices to motivate objective “success analysis” and best practices in artificial joint design.
Location: Spanos Auditorium

Iron: From Big Bang to Big Bucks
Mukul Sharma, Professor of Earth Sciences
Recent imposition of a 25% tariff on the import on steel has brought into sharp focus the important role that iron plays in the smooth functioning of modern society. In this lecture, we will trace its origin from within the stars to how its efficient extraction from ores underpinned the Industrial Revolution that continues through the present day. Along the way, we will learn not only how iron shaped planetary evolution and supported early life but also how life caused it to be concentrated into giant ore deposits about 2.4 billion years ago.
Location: Filene Auditorium

Dying to Succeed: Reading Homer’s Iliad at Dartmouth
Paul Christesen, Professor of Ancient Greek History and Chair of the Department of Classics
Homer’s Iliad, composed in 750 BCE, represents the earliest surviving work of Western literature. In this lecture, we will explore how the Iliad can help Dartmouth students make good choices about what to do with their most precious resource – time – both here at Dartmouth and beyond.
Location: 104 Wilder

What Does Studying Music (Art) Mean Today?
Spencer Topel, Assistant Professor of Music
Creative cultural activities such as theater, art, and music are in continual change. What does this mean for the education of these subjects? Our discussion will include examples of how institutions of higher education address this question, and how the proliferation of music, art, information, and technology will ultimately redefine how we teach, study, and create.
Location: 111 Wilder

THURSDAY, APRIL 12 • 4:15- 5:00 PM
Professor Van Citters and students in the Biomedical Engineering lab

Mary Albert, Professor of Engineering and Executive Director of U.S. Ice Drilling Program Office

Spencer Topel, Assistant Professor of Music, and a student work on a research project