## Alumni College | August 9-12, 2015
### Proposed Schedule

### Sunday, Aug. 9
- 3–5 p.m. General registration
- 5 p.m. Reception and dinner
- 6 p.m. Raffael Scheck welcomes Alumni College 2015
  - Elizabeth Leonard: Introduction to the Civil War
- 7:30 p.m. Concert: Centennial Brass Band
  - Civil War-era music played on period instruments

### Monday, Aug. 10
- 7–8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9–10:30 a.m. Lecture by Rob Weisbrot
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45–noon Lecture by Patrick Rael
  - Noon Lunch
- 2 p.m. Discussion
- Afternoon Free time
- 5:30 Reception and dinner
- 7 p.m. Movie

### Tuesday, Aug. 11
- 7–8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9–10:30 a.m. Lecture by Pat Brancaccio
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45–noon Lecture by Earle Shettleworth ’70
  - Noon Lunch
- 2 p.m. Discussion
- Afternoon Free time
- 5:30 Reception and dinner
- 7 p.m. Lecture by Bob Nelson

### Wednesday, Aug. 12
- 7–8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9–10:30 a.m. Lecture by Raffael Scheck
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45–noon Lecture by Lauren Lessing
  - Noon Lunch
- 2 p.m. Wrap-up presentation and discussion with Elizabeth Leonard
- Afternoon Free time
- 5:30 Reception and lobster bake/barbecue
- 7 p.m. Movie
The U.S. in 1865: War and Reconstruction

Alumni College 2015 looks at America’s difficult transition from war to peace 150 years ago, exploring the implications of abolition, the assassination of a president, and the challenges of rebuilding a nation after four years of intensive warfare. We will examine the cultural context of war and reconstruction in art and poetry, the international context of state-building, and the culture of photography and monument building in the aftermath of the war.

Presenters and Lectures

Elizabeth Leonard
Introduction to the Civil War

Elizabeth D. Leonard is Colby’s Gibson Professor of History and the author of five books on the Civil War-era, the most recent of which, Lincoln’s Forgotten Ally: Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt of Kentucky (2011), was named co-winner of the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize. Leonard is working on a new book that weaves together a deeper study of Joseph Holt’s transformation from slaveholder to advocate and enforcer of Emancipation, and the story of the lived experience of enslaved men from the region of Kentucky where Holt was raised, who joined the Union army and then returned to try and claim the promises of Emancipation.

Robert Weisbrot
A Civil War of Words: American Values in Conflict

Both sides in the American Civil War claimed to champion the highest values of civilization and the truest American values. What logic, traditions, and history did they draw upon in expressing their clashing visions? How did Lincoln, whom we rightly remember as the transcendent wordsmith of his era, shape his messages to the fortunes of war and, in so doing, help shape the national purpose?

Robert Weisbrot has taught American history at Colby since 1980. Rob was the winner of the Charles W. Bassett Senior Class Teaching Prize in 1995 and has published on the missile crisis and the civil rights movement. His book with Cal Mackenzie in the Government Department, The Liberal Hour: Washington and the Politics of Change in the 1960s (2008), was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History. Rob is currently writing a biography of Clara Lemlich, a Russian Jewish immigrant who, in 1909, sparked the Uprising of 20,000, the greatest strike in American women’s history.

Patrick Rael (Department of History, Bowdoin College)
A Contest not yet Closed

The Civil War ended in April 1865, yet somehow the struggle did not end. Over the course of the next decade, fierce political battles in the southern states often devolved into very literal battles, as the forces of southern conservatism and white supremacy fought a violent, and ultimately successful, struggle to recover their position atop
southern society. This session examines the prospects for Reconstruction as they stood in 1865. Though the war seemed over, very little agreement existed as to what the state of the union actually was, let alone what should happen next. Some viewed rapid reconciliation as paramount while others feared the return of a resurgent Slave Power. Ultimately, concerns over the rights of the freed slaves — questions about the very meaning of freedom — directed the course of Reconstruction.

Patrick Rael (pro. "rail") teaches American history at Bowdoin College and is a specialist in African-American history (1995 Ph.D., Berkeley). He is the author of numerous essays and books, including Black Identity and Black Protest in the Antebellum North (North Carolina, 2002). His most recent book, Eighty-Eight Years: The Long Death of Slavery in the United States, 1777-1865 (University of Georgia Press, forthcoming) explores the Atlantic history of slavery to understand the exceptionally long period of time it took to end chattel bondage in America.

Patrick Brancaccio

Drum Taps and Battle Pieces: Poetry of the American Civil War

Walt Whitman’s collection Drum Taps depicts his experiences while tending the Union wounded on the battlefields, and the death of Lincoln inspired his masterly elegy “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed.” Melville recorded the battles and crises in his collection Battle Pieces (1866), while Emily Dickinson completed more than 800 poems from 1861 to 1865 meditating on death and eternity. On the rebel side, Henry Timrod earned the title of the poet laureate of the Confederacy. Through a reading of key works by these poets, this lecture will examine a period that marked a watershed in American consciousness.

Patrick Brancaccio is John Zacamy Prof. of English Emeritus. Through a long career in the English Department at Colby, he served as chairman of the department, was the co-founder of the African American Studies Program, directed the Colby Theater Program in London, and was Fulbright Senior Lecturer at the University of Madagascar. Some of his essays appeared in American Literature, The New England Quarterly, The Nathaniel Hawthorne Journal and BA-SHIRU: The University of Wisconsin Studies in African Literature. Since 2007 he has taught the Colby January course in Modern Italian Fiction in Verona, Italy.

Earle Shettleworth ’70

Remembering Maine in the Civil War Through Images and Monuments

The first part of this lecture will explore Maine’s role in the war through historic photographs. Maine sent more than 70,000 men to fight for the Union, and photographers both in and out of the state made an extensive record of the soldiers, their training grounds, and their encampments. From the close of the war to the present, moreover, communities through the state built 170 public monuments to honor those
who participated in the conflict, and the second half of this lecture will look at the wide variety of ways that Mainers chose to commemorate the war through their monuments.

A native of Portland, Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., attended Deering High School, Colby College, and Boston University and was the recipient of honorary doctorates from Bowdoin College and the Maine College of Art. In 1971 he was appointed by Governor Curtis to serve on the first board of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, for which he became architectural historian in 1973 and director in 1976. Shettleworth has lectured and written extensively on Maine history and architecture, his most recent publication being *The Blaine House* (2014). Mr. Shettleworth has served as State Historian since 2004.

**Robert Nelson**
*Geologic Underpinnings of the Gettysburg Battlefield*

Rarely are landforms random, and the Appalachian Mountains are the product of great collisions between continental masses. What we see today is the end product of millions of years of erosion on giant folds and intrusions of what were once great masses of molten magma, now igneous rock. These igneous rocks are tougher and more resistant to erosion, thus often form topographic highs on the landscapes. All the high ground on which the Confederate and Union troops set up lie atop these igneous units, which in turn, helped to determine the outcome of the battle.

Robert Nelson: Over 3,000 Colby students have taken at least one geology course with "Dr. Bob" since he joined the faculty in 1982. Born in Massachusetts but raised in California, he received his B.A. from San Francisco State and his M.S. (in geology) and Ph.D. (in quaternary paleoecology) from the University of Washington. His focus has been on introducing Colby students to the practical, real-life importance of understanding the geology of the world around them.

**Raffael Scheck**
*Europe during the Era of the American Civil War*

The era of the American Civil War was a volatile period in Europe leading to the unification of Italy and Germany, with a civil war occurring in the German lands in 1866. Meanwhile, Austria prevented an internal breakup by reconstituting itself as a dual monarchy (Austria-Hungary); Russia sought to consolidate and modernize by, among other things, abolishing serfdom in 1861; France reconstituted itself as a democratic republic; and British politicians thought about ways to integrate the working-class masses (at least the men) into a participatory democracy. How did these processes relate to the American Civil War and Reconstruction?

Raffael Scheck is Katz Distinguished Teaching Professor of history at Colby, where he has taught since 1994. He published five books and more than thirty articles and chapters on German and French history 1871-1945. His book *Hitler’s African Victims: The German Army Massacres of Black French Soldiers in 1940* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), was translated into French and German. His latest book is *French Colonial*
Scheck started a new project on the forbidden love relationships of French POWs and German women during the Second World War.

Lauren Lessing
Art and the American Civil War

After exploring works of art related to the Civil War in the Colby College Museum of Art's renowned collection, participants will hear a lecture and take part in a discussion about the art and visual culture of the United States from the period immediately preceding secession through Reconstruction.

Lauren Lessing is an art historian and educator with twenty years of experience working in museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. In her current position as Mirken Director of Academic and Public Programs at the Colby College Museum of Art, she directs community outreach and programming, links the Museum’s collections and exhibitions to curriculum at the college, and oversees American paintings and sculptures created before 1900. Lessing completed her Ph.D. in art history at Indiana University in 2006 under the guidance of Sarah Burns and she has authored numerous books, articles, catalogue essays, and papers on eighteenth and nineteenth-century American art.