Pizza and Prof Night - Fall 2010

About Pizza & Prof Night

Held every Tuesday evening in the Commonwealth Honors College Lounge, Pizza & Prof is a program designed to bring students and some of the amazing faculty at UMass together in a casual setting. Each week, a new professor comes to talk to students about a topic he or she chooses. In addition to the casual discussion, conversation and Q&A, students enjoy pizza from Sibies. Come join us each week for good times and good eats!

When

Every Tuesday starting at 6:00pm (pizza served at 5:45 pm)

Where

504 Goodell, ComCol Lounge

RSVP Required - Acceptances Only

(RSVP: pizzaprof@honors.umass.edu)

Sponsors

Pizza & Prof Night is made possible by the generous donations of parents, friends and alumni of Commonwealth Honors College.

2010 Presentations

September 14th, 2010

"Discussion with the Dean": Dean Clarkson will discuss current updates in Commonwealth College. The Dean will provide a forum for returning students to voice their opinions, feedback and ideas related to Commonwealth College.
For new students, this will be an opportunity to connect with the Dean in a more informal venue as well as learn about the Commonwealth College community.

September 21st, 2010

"Reflections on Culture, Language and Cuisine in 'The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down'": How do culture, language and cuisine impact the players in "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down"? How do these three factors impact you on a daily basis? How have these components of daily life impacted the history of the United States, including the history of Hmong people in the United States? We'll talk about aspects of culture, language and cuisine in relation to "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" and in a broader sense about how these factors impact all of us on a regular basis.

We'll also talk about Flats Mentor Farm in Lancaster, Massachusetts, which works closely with immigrant farmers of diverse ethnic backgrounds and provides them with access to land, farming infrastructure and marketing assistance. Among those helped are Hmong farmers.

September 28th, 2010

"The Politics of Things": Can a car be "democratic? How about the atom bomb? Do objects have politics inherent to their design and/or use? If they do, is the context the most important factor in determining their politics? Or, is it simply how a technology is used? Or by whom? Or in the interest of a particular cause? We'll look historically as a number of technologies from cars, to the bomb, to computers to see whether or not things have a politics.

October 5th, 2010

Professor Brian Levine from the Computer Science Department.

October 12th, 2010

Breast Cancer Related, Professor Kathleen Arcaro from Animal Science will be addressing students.

October 19th, 2010

"When Gods Ruled on Earth: The 3,000 Year History of Ancient Egypt": The Pharaonic period of ancient Egypt was the longest lasting and unquestionably one of the greatest civilizations in the history of the world. Using photos and video from
personal trips to Egypt plus other material, I will examine some of the most exciting aspects of this fabulous civilization, which built the only surviving Wonder of the Ancient World— the Great Pyramid of Giza (for nearly 4,500 years the tallest human-made structure in the world).

Pharaohs discussed include Queen Hatshepsut (one of the few women to rule as pharaoh), Thutmose III (the greatest warrior pharaoh), Amenhotep III (ranked by Forbes Magazine as the 12th richest person in history), Akhenaten (the heretic pharaoh who some consider to have been the first monotheist in history), Tutankhamun (the boy-king whose tomb is generally considered to have been the greatest archeological discovery in history), and Rameses the Great (who ruled for 67 years and had over 100 children). Monuments and places shown include the Step Pyramid of Saqqara (the first pyramid in history), Karnak Temple Complex (the largest religious site in the world), Valley of the Kings (where most New Kingdom pharaohs were buried), the Village of the Workmen at Deir el-Medina (where for nearly 500 years the builders and artisans who constructed the tombs of the pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings lived), and the Temple of Rameses the Great at Abu Simbel (which literally was carved out of a mountain).

October 26th, 2010
Professor Alex Dechamps from Women Studies

November 2nd, 2010
Professor John Gerber from Plant Soil and Insect Science

November 9th, 2010
Professor Rebecca Spencer from Psychology

November 16th, 2010
Professor Michael Hannahan from Political Science

November 30th, 2010
Professor Heather Richardson from Neuroscience

IMPORTANT: Please be prepared to stay until at least 7:30. People leaving early can cause a distraction for the other students and speaker. We ask that only those who plan to stay for the entire program attend and RSVP. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.