

The English Department Presents a Conference on the



Bicentennial of Mary Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Pope Lecture Hall

Faculty Presentations (Introduction by Dr. William Luhr)

- 10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. **Dr. William Luhr (English) - "*Frankenstein's* Many Lives"**
How can we account for the fact that the novel, written by a teenager and unknown on publication, has gone on to become a cultural icon adapted into multiple forms over two centuries?
- 10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. **Dr. Michael Held (Biology) – “Science: 19th Century Fiction, 21st Century Reality”**
***Frankenstein* begins discussions of the following:** What has been and is the role and place of science and technology in our society? What are the moral choices and unseen ethical responsibilities that come with advances in science? How will society decide to use these advances?
How will these discussions end?
- 11:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Dr. Michael Walonen (English) - "*Frankenstein* and the Generational Readerly Reinvention of Literary Texts"**
This talk examines the reception history of *Frankenstein* and uses the novel as a test case to consider how the meaning of canonical literary texts is continually renegotiated by new generations reading them against the backdrop of the concerns and anxieties of their era.
- 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. **Dr. Scott Stoddart (English) – *Gods and Monsters: Queering Classic Hollywood Technique***
Out-writer director Bill Condon's *Gods and Monsters*, adapted from Christopher Bram's novel *Father of Frankenstein* (1995), is a unique Hollywood bio-pic and cinematic adaptation. Condon, like Bram, turns away from traditional Hollywood story-telling that blends fact and fiction to create a story of out-director James Whale's declining years. By employing Hollywood techniques in new ways, Condon artistically revises the adaptation process, making us see how the self-reflexive nature of Hollywood cinema can help us all to forge closer ties with our fellow man.
- 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. **Student Presentations (Introduced by Dr. Rachel Wifall)**
- Nicholas Dawybida '19 - "Frankenstein and Dracula: Bridging the Gap Between Monsters and their Movements"
- Nicolette Scott '19 – “Through the Raven's Eye: Creative Writing Inspired by Frankenstein.”
- 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. **Film – *Young Frankenstein***

Please visit the first floor of the Theresa and Edward O'Toole Library to see the exhibit curated by Librarian, Reference & Exhibits Coordinator, Ilona MacNamara.