

Town and Gown Frequently Asked Questions

What is Town & Gown? This is a series of eight lectures held during the lunch time period (from 11:45 to 1:15) on specific dates during the semester. Usually they are held on a Thursday (with a rare exception due to speaker scheduling or room availability). These lectures bring together the "town" (YOU) and the "gown" (faculty at W&M or community leaders). This is a brown bag "lunch and learn" type of event, where you can bring in your own food items or purchase them on-site. It's a time to sit with others at a table, socialize, eat and hopefully learn a little something new from a guest lecturer. Generally, the lecture itself will start at 12:15 and end around 1:00, leaving 10 to 15 minutes for questions and answers.

Why don't we have cookies anymore? Several years ago, when the budget for Town & Gown (T&G) expenditures was different and many of the resources were provided by W&M, we were able to allocate funds to cater dessert. In the past few years, CWA took over all of the expenses for T&G (bus shuttle rental and coffee/tea drinks are approx. \$800 per week) and there was no extra money available for catered desserts. However, since the event is a "brown bag lunch," members can bring in their OWN dessert or cookies to their liking! A cookie compromise is in the works for fall of 2015, so stay tuned!

Will a beverage service be offered? The School of Education does not have catering/kitchen available to provide this service, but has graciously included bottled water and sodas in their rental costs for T&G. Plus, there is an on-site coffee and sandwich shop for purchase of other items.

Why do we not have enough time at the end for plenty of Q&A? We need a firm time cutoff for CWA members to get to afternoon classes and to their residential shuttle bus. However, beginning in the fall 2015, the lecture time period will increase by 15 minutes to give the speaker more time for Q&A. Lectures will now start at 12:15 and end at 1:15. Those CWA members wishing to remain after the lecture can have more one-on-one time with the speaker, if available.

Can you provide a more descriptive topic name in the catalog for the T&G lectures? Since the speakers are secured between six to nine months in advance of their lecture (for catalog publication purposes), many times a general topic is named as a placeholder. As the speaker narrows down his lecture closer to the actual date, we will try to give a more specific description/title on the reminder flyer email.

Why is W&M University Events no longer supporting Town & Gown? W&M has a very large capital campaign starting in the fall of 2015 which will require more of the University Events resources, and they cannot provide a dedicated staff person or student intern for T&G. The School of Education has its own on-site events coordinator and can better support our administrative and logistical needs for T&G in the future. We hope you will like it!

Can I suggest a speaker for Town & Gown? Yes, you certainly can. Please realize that lectures are scheduled up to six to nine months in advance in order to meet the catalog publication deadlines, so someone you recommend may not get a slot until the following semester or academic year. We also try to have a wide variety of speaker topics in order to avoid all military lectures, or all history, or all fine arts. Suggestions are always welcome by emailing or calling the CWA office.

Can I be on the Town & Gown Committee? SURE YOU CAN! Just email or call the CWA office and we can sign you up: 221-1506.