

**SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY'S  
Center for Lifelong Learning**

**Presents: FREE COMMUNITY LECTURE**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012  
7-8:30 p.m.**

**Harry F. Byrd School of Business, Stimpson Auditorium**



**“History Teaches us to Hope”  
Drawing Inspiration from the  
Shenandoah Valley’s Civil War**

Amid the chaos of postwar reconstruction, Robert E. Lee, former Confederate general and then president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, tried to instill optimism in his friend, Charles Marshall, by explaining to him that in moments of great crisis “it is history that teaches us to hope.”

Using Lee’s idea as a thread, this lecture will examine how the experiences endured by the Shenandoah Valley during our American Iliad lend credence to Lee’s observations: examinations of the best and worst of human nature exhibited on the region’s battlefields, the conduct of the Valley’s diverse population, and how the area’s population and veterans of Union and Confederate armies pursued a course of national healing and reconciliation. Participants will come to understand both the crutch-like importance of history and the power of forgiveness.

**Jonathan A. Noyalas**, an alumnus of Shenandoah University (History, '01), is assistant professor of history and director of the Center for Civil War History at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia. He is the author or editor of eight books on Civil War Era history and has also written scores of essays, book chapters, articles and reviews for scholarly and popular publications such as *America’s Civil War*, *Civil War Times*, *Blue & Gray*, *Civil War News*, and *Hallowed Ground*. In addition to writing and teaching Prof. Noyalas has served as a consultant on a number of Civil War projects related to the Shenandoah Valley’s Civil War history. Most recently he served as the Civil War historian for the National Park Service’s Historic Resource Study at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park and served as the Civil War content expert for the Civil War Trust’s development of a battlefield app for Cedar Creek. He also served as a historical consultant for National Geographic’s “Civil Warriors” which debuted in the United States in April 2011.