



**ALLEGANY COLLEGE**  
of MARYLAND  
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Allegany Center of Lifelong Learning Presents Silk Mill Revisited:

Featuring the Works of Historian Dan Whetzel and Photographer Dave Romero

CUMBERLAND, Md. (Aug. 14, 2018) – Join the Allegany Center of Lifelong Learning at the Allegany College of Maryland’s Zimmer Theatre on Aug. 30 at 6:30 p.m. for a revealing look into Lonaconing’s deserted silk mill by Dan Whetzel and Dave Romero. The event, free of charge, highlights the unique history of the Klots Throwing Company, later General Textile Mills, which hastily closed its doors after 50 years of operations in 1957 following a workers’ strike. All are welcome to attend.

Dan Whetzel, retired Allegany County Public Schools supervisor and social studies teacher and employee of Frostburg State University’s Education Department, will discuss the mill’s impact within the Lonaconing community. Much of his presentation will be based on interviews with former mill employees and research compiled by Allegany High School students as part of an oral history project. The students’ 1999 project publication, *The Lonaconing Silk Mill 1907-1957*, won the National Oral History Association Project of the Year award in 2000. Whetzel and Mike Lewis supervised the oral history project.

Award-winning photographer Dave Romero will share a slideshow of his images of the mill. Romero first visited and photographed the silk mill’s interior as part of *Maryland Life* magazine’s endangered places edition. He revisited the mill for a longer photo shoot in 2016 as part of a *New Yorker* magazine piece with author Russell Shorto. Images of Romero’s work can be found at daveromerophotography.com.

The Lonaconing Silk Mill, purchased by lifelong Lonaconing resident Herb Crawford in 1979, is a place of fascination with local history enthusiasts and preservationists. Unlike many local buildings, the mill was never cleared of its contents; rather, it remains a rare piece of history frozen in time. Whetzel and Romero first presented on the Lonaconing Silk Mill in 2016 to a standing room-only crowd at the LaVale Library.

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The Allegany Center of Lifelong Learning provides opportunities for adults to satisfy their thirst for fresh thinking. For more information about the Aug. 30 presentation, contact Denise Ware at [dware@allegany.edu](mailto:dware@allegany.edu) or 301-784-5069 or visit [allcoll.org](http://allcoll.org).

#### **ABOUT ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND**

Ranked among the top 20 community and technical colleges in the country by the Brookings Institution, Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) offers world-class education in a caring environment that transforms lives, strengthens communities and celebrates life-long learning. Serving more than 3,000 credit and 5,870 continuing education and workforce students annually, ACM offers over 80 associate degree, certificate, and letters of recognition programs at affordable rates. To learn more, visit [allegany.edu](http://allegany.edu) or call 301-784-5000.