Shell beads, typically known as wampum, gathered in strings or woven in belts with intriguing designs or pictographs, could be found throughout the colonial Northeast. First made by Native Americans but later modified and improved as a result of contact with Europeans, these seemingly innocuous beads served Native Americans and Europeans alike – consecrating ceremonies, stimulating the fur trade, meeting the currency needs of the colonial economy, and securing the friendship and support of allies across the frontier.

Paul Otto’s lecture traces wampum’s history from its native origin in the colonial Northeast to its production by Anglo-Americans and use in the far western and Oregon fur trade.

Paul Otto came to George Fox University in 2002 and holds a PhD from Indiana University, where he specialized in early America and Native American history. In 2010, he was awarded the faculty achievement award for research as an undergraduate professor. His research has focused on Dutch-Native American relations in colonial New York.

OCTOBER 5, 2010
7:30 P.M.
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