For further details of the History programs, visit hartford.edu/presidentscollege
MORE OF WEST HARTFORD’S HIDDEN HISTORY —Jennifer DiCola Matos and colleagues

This, the second in the West Hartford’s Hidden History series, will explore specific areas of West Hartford’s history, including some of the major farms that put it on the map, the industry that helped West Hartford become a town, the architecture that followed the suburban expansion, and the cemeteries where past residents have been laid to rest. Museum of Connecticut history curator Dave Corrigan will present his research on one of the earliest industries in town, the Goodwin Pottery Works, using objects from the museum’s collection. Mary Donohue (Connecticut Explored), will take an in-depth look at the architecture that began to pepper the landscape as industry brought more and more residents to West Hartford. Noah Webster House staff will explore the three cemeteries in town, covering the evolution from the 18th-century church burying yard to today’s modern municipal-run cemetery. The concluding bus tour will emphasize the areas discussed in all four lectures and highlight some other “hidden” gems that are passed along the way.

Alumni Welcome Program Course.

THE CRUSADES —Jonathan Elukin

In 1096, Pope Urban II issued a call for Christian soldiers to re-conquer the Holy Land from Muslims. Within three years, thousands of armed pilgrims captured Jerusalem and carved out Christian-ruled territories in the Levant. The seizure of Jerusalem and the struggle with Muslim armies inspired subsequent armed pilgrimages in the Near East and in Europe against a variety of enemies. Church-sanctioned warfare, with the promise of salvation for crusaders became a fundamental but contested part of medieval culture. The crusading movement drove European expansion and shaped how Christians engaged with non-Christians. The cultural memory of the Crusades continues to shape modern relations between the West and Islam.

THE RISE OF THE SCIENCES: HOW SCIENCE SHAPED THE 20TH CENTURY —Michael Robinson

This course examines the rise of the sciences in the 19th and 20th centuries. Looking at the fields of physics, biology, astronomy and the cognitive sciences, it traces theoretical breakthroughs such as relativity theory, quantum mechanics, and the evolutionary synthesis. It also tracks the rise of “big science” in projects such as the Manhattan Project, the space program, and the human genome project.

CONTROVERSIES IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SPORTS —Warren Goldstein

Looking at three controversial aspects of American sports history (performance-enhancing drugs in baseball; women’s sports and Title IX, and public relations and the truth in college sports), historian Warren Goldstein will draw on his scholarly and popular work on American sports to illuminate the deeper trends and currents shaping the sports we watch, follow, listen to, and read about.

Alumni Welcome Program Course.