As part of the University’s continuing cooperation with the Duncaster Retirement Community in Bloomfield, monthly lectures are offered on the Duncaster campus. Each lecture begins at 4:45 p.m. and is followed by a light buffet reception, providing an opportunity to talk informally with the speaker and mingle with other participants.

Residents of Duncaster and Fellows of the Presidents’ College may attend the lectures, and the reception following without charge. The cost per lecture for non-resident, non-Fellows is $15. Duncaster Retirement Community, where the events will be held, is at 40 Loeffler Road, Bloomfield, Ct. There is parking adjacent to the building.

**Tuesdays at Duncaster**

**SPRING 2016**

- **Abstraction and Uncertainty**—Power Boothe  
  Tues., Feb. 9; 4:45 p.m.
- **Putin’s Way**—Mari Firkatian  
  Tues., March 8; 4:45 p.m.
- **The Case for Cuba**—Christine Grant  
  Tues., April 5; 4:45 p.m.
- **An Overview of Music in Iceland: 540–2015**—Ken Steen  
  Tues., May 10; 4:45 p.m.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

- **Presidents’ College Fellow.** Jan.–June 2016 year (parking on campus, library privileges, discounts on courses, information about events). $75
- **Abstraction and Uncertainty.** Non-resident $15
- **Putin’s Way.** Non-resident $15
- **The Case for Cuba.** Non-resident $15
- **An Overview of Music in Iceland: 540–2015.** Non-resident $15

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**Presidents’ College**  
Mortensen Library  
University of Hartford  
200 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117-1599

Questions? 860.768.4495  
or pcollege@hartford.edu

Online registration now available at hartford.edu/presidentscollege
**February 9—Abstraction and Uncertainty—Power Boothe**

The talk will present the idea of abstraction as an emergent order that requires the full participation of the viewer to complete the aesthetic process. Abstraction is defined as “to draw from” and consequently the word can be understood as a simplification or a shortcut. On the other hand, abstraction in art can be a set of non-literal relations that reveal a world of meaning that words cannot describe. The cave paintings in Spain and France, dating from 40,000–11,000 BC, are cathedrals of abstraction and attempts to represent the mysterious forces that these early humans experienced as they began to reflect on their lives. The small goddess figures, found throughout old Europe and dating from before the neolithic era, channel forces of fertility and sexuality that are deeply felt but not fully understood. The talk will ask the question: Do we use art to control that which is uncertain, or to align ourselves with those non-literal forces we cannot convey with words?

**POWER BOOTHE** is a professor of painting at the Hartford Art School and has had over 20 one-person exhibitions in New York and nationally. His work is in many public and private collections, including the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as the Wadsworth Atheneum and the New Britain Museum of American Art in Connecticut. He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for painting, a National Endowment Individual Artist’s Fellowship, and a Pollock/Krasner Fellowship. The Fred Giampietro Gallery in New Haven, Ct. represents his work exclusively.

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**March 8—Putin’s Way—Mari Firkatian**

Can we anticipate what Putin wishes to do with Russia’s foreign policy? Can any of his past moves or his personal background give us a clue as to what he anticipates? Does he have a plan other than to distract Russians from domestic economic downturns? This talk will touch on all these questions and more as we explore Russia’s newest enigmatic leader.

**MARI A. FIRKATIAN** is professor of history at the University of Hartford. She has been a Fulbright Scholar and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow as well as a Yale University Fellow and a recipient of International Research and Exchanges Board scholarships. She has lived and traveled extensively in southeast Europe and the Soviet Union. Trained as a linguist and a historian, her research interests include minority populations, diplomatic history, and intellectual history.

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**April 5—The Case for Cuba—Christine Grant**

On Dec.17, 2014, President Obama made history when he announced his intention to normalize relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of Cuba. For over 50 years, the economic embargo that was put in place has severely restricted trade and travel between these two nations. For most Americans, Cuba remains a mystery, and for Cubans, a distant memory of what was destroyed and lost in the revolution and exile.

The change in the countries’ relationship has created curiosity and an increased desire for Americans to travel to the Republic. An understanding of the island’s history will make the travel experience more valuable. We will discuss the historical background and events that lead to the infamous embargo and the realities of Cuba, behind the images of beautiful beaches, cigars and classic cars. An examine of Cuban history from the Pre-Columbian times to the island’s present day struggles and challenges confronting this nation will make for an interesting evening.

**Christine B. Grant** is manager of the University of Hartford’s Corporate and Community Relations department, and also has taught courses for UHart’s All-University Curriculum for eight years. She received the Gordon Clark Ramsey Award for Creative Excellence in Teaching for part-time faculty. Grant holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in industrial relations from the University of Bridgeport and a master’s degree in organizational behavior from the University of Hartford. She serves on a number of boards in the Hartford community and has made presentations on the topic of Caribbean colonialism in the U.S. and abroad, most recently in Portugal.

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Iceland is currently a very popular tourist destination that primarily highlights the largely untouched natural environment of this isolated volcanic island in the North Atlantic. While music has certainly had a place in Icelandic culture through the centuries, including some very intriguing practices, it is now in a flourishing period of musical creativity and production.

**KEN STEEN’S** music and sound art is recognized internationally for its authentic vitality, and distinctive personal vision. In the last five years, Steen’s work has enjoyed more than 100 performances on five continents. Steen is professor of composition and music theory in The Hartt School, and was the 2012 recipient of the University of Hartford’s Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching.