The Fellows Lectures are sponsored by the Fellows of the Presidents’ College as a service to the campus and community. They are free and open to the public. All classes start at 12:15 p.m. and are held on Thursdays in the KF Room of the Mortensen Library.

Those wishing to do so, may order lunch with the speaker at the 1877 Club following the lecture. Payment may be made on the day of the lecture; please indicate you will stay for lunch on the registration form.

Fellows Lectures

SPRING 2016

» Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities
  —Ted Sussman
  Thurs., Jan. 28; 12:15 p.m.

» The Evolution of the Poster: From the Pre-Victorian Era to the Secessionist Movement
  —John Nordyke
  Thurs., Feb. 25; 12:15 p.m.

» Slowing Down, or Thinking Better? The Interaction Between Aging, Thought, and Speed
  —Matt Costello
  Thurs., March 24; 12:15 p.m.

» Art and the Search for Meaning
  —Cat Balco
  Thurs., April 21; 12:15 p.m.

Online registration now available at hartford.edu/presidentscollege
January 28—Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities
—Ted Sussman

The challenge of upgrading American infrastructure is only outweighed by the economic threat of allowing infrastructure to decay. America’s infrastructure supported the economic expansion that fueled globalization and social change for much of the 20th century. That change has led our country to improved environmental standards and societal expectations that add to the challenge posed by today’s deteriorating conditions. In this talk, Sussman will discuss the technical challenges posed by the infrastructure problem along with the changes over the last 50 years that make infrastructure renewal more of a challenge than the original construction. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) created the Infrastructure Report Card to highlight the challenges posed by infrastructure deterioration. We will use figures from the ASCE report card to frame the problem while highlighting local infrastructure.

TED SUSSMAN is a civil engineer with a focus on geotechnical infrastructure engineering. He received his BSCE, MSCE, and PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His research has focused on inspection technologies to characterize materials and evaluate their influence on safety, life-cycle cost, and maintenance requirements to help improve infrastructure sustainability. His technical interests include infrastructure engineering, advanced materials and processes for infrastructure renewal, infrastructure management, and local technological history such as the canals and early infrastructure of New England.

February 25—The Evolution of the Poster: From the Pre-Victorian Era to the Secessionist Movement—John Nordyke

This presentation will display the developments of poster design while explaining how 19th-century ideals, technology, and artistic influence led to a rapid evolution of this form of outdoor advertising.

JOHN NORDYKE is professor of visual communication design and chair of applied arts in the Hartford Art School. He received a BA in graphic design and art history at Purdue University and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. His work has received recognition from the American Center for Design, Type Directors Club, University and College Designers Association, American Institute of Graphic Arts, American Corporate Identity and the American Graphic Design Awards. It also has been published in Brand Identity Essentials, Emigré, Fingerprint, Graphis, LogoLounge, and Print. He was selected as a Master Designer by the U.S. Mint, and his drawing for the Nevada state quarter was a finalist.

March 24—Slowing Down, or Thinking Better? The Interaction Between Aging, Thought, and Speed—Matt Costello

It is a truism that as we age, we slow down. Yet when applied to cognition, the phenomenon of age-related slowdowns is complex. With regard to simple and speeded decisions, older adults do indeed exhibit deficits when compared to younger adults. Yet, when cognition is defined in terms of wisdom-based thinking made without time constraints, such deficits disappear. In this lecture, we will explore the research detailing the complex relationship between aging, thought, and speed, with a specific focus on recent findings from Matt Costello’s laboratory.

MATT COSTELLO is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Hartford specializing in gerontological studies. He received his undergraduate degree from St. Joseph’s University (Philadelphia, Pa.) where he majored in English and minored in philosophy. Costello went on to receive an MA in liberal arts from St. John’s College (Annapolis, Md.), his PhD in developmental psychology from Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, Pa.), and his post-doctoral training at the Center for Aging at Duke University. His research examines the underlying mechanisms in age-related changes to cognition and perception.

April 21—Art and the Search for Meaning—Cat Balco

Art has long been used to help individuals connect with hidden aspects of themselves, express difficult emotions, and effect personal change. Join Cat Balco for an exploration of the connections between art and the search for meaning and depth, both through a discussion of the research behind her recent Ellipses Project, which explores the way that art can intervene at the end of life, and through hands-on exercises that can be used in daily life.

CAT BALCO, an associate professor at the Hartford Art School, is an artist and educator with a special interest in the arts and health-care field. She has shown her paintings and murals widely. Her most recent arts and health-care project, the Ellipses Project, a collaboration with Masonicare Home Health and Hospice, was exhibited at Real Art Ways in Hartford in 2014. At the University, she teaches Arts and Health-care, a service learning course that provides students with hands-on experience in the arts and health-care field and that won an Innovations in Teaching award from the University in 2013.