The McAuley lectures feature outstanding faculty members from the University of Hartford. The lectures take place once a month on Fridays at 2 p.m. at The McAuley Retirement Community, Asylum Avenue and Steele Road, West Hartford. Visitors should take the Steele Road entrance and park in visitors parking. The lectures are held in the main building, at the foot of the hill.

Non-residents of McAuley who are Fellows of the Presidents’ College may attend the lectures without charge. Non-residents who are not Fellows, may register for $15. A reception follows each lecture.

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<td>Fri., Jan. 8</td>
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<td><strong>Treasure and Treachery in the Nutmeg State</strong></td>
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Check forms payable to: University of Hartford

Questions? 860.768.4495 or pcollege@hartford.edu

Online registration is now available at hartford.edu/presidentscollege
Saints and Sinners: Good Kings and Bad Kings in English Medieval History—Richard Koch

Medieval chroniclers, along with writers of songs and epics, were specific in their judgment of their kings and monarchs. Some were deemed to be ‘good’, and worthy of divine praise, others were relegated to the status of sinners, and a few were beyond comprehension. We will survey a number of English kings, from the first saint, St. Edmund, down to outright villains such as Richard III, and also Henry Tudor. How did contemporaries view them? And then, how should we assess and judge them today? Despite all the faults and character flaws, the English monarchs left behind a legacy of law and administration that remains to this day. Wrapped as they are in myth, legend, and gossip, the English kings have also left a legacy that we see today in works of historical fiction and television dramas. Just how ‘good’, or how ‘bad’ these rulers were is a question that we can decide upon, using our modern standards and interpretations.

RICHARD M. KOCH teaches history within the Department of Humanities at University of Hartford’s Hillyer College. A native of the United Kingdom, Richard read history at the University of Leeds, Yorkshire, where he earned his BA, MA, and MPhil degrees in British medieval history, plus a PhD at the University of Connecticut. In 2005, he participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar at Yale University on the Bayeux Tapestry.

Treasure and Treachery in the Nutmeg State—Wick Griswold

Pirates! Centuries after their last voyages they still conjure elemental excitement in our collective imagination. We thrill to images of sleek sloops silhouetted against full moons. The legends and lore of long-buried treasures evoke fancies of gold, diamonds, and silver.

Connecticut’s waters hosted some A-list buccaneers. David Marteens, Blackbeard, and Captain William Kidd all sailed along Long Island Sound. This talk will unravel some of their stories from the fantastical to the factual. These well-dressed bad boys make for lively conversation. Tales of corsairs and their treasures in the Nutmeg State will be the theme—pirate attire optional.

RENEWIC GRISWOLD teaches history in Hillyer College. He is author of The History of the Connecticut River; Connecticut Pirates and Privateers; and Griswold Point: History From the Mouth of the Connecticut River. He is commodore of the Connecticut River Drifting Society.

Much Ado about Something": What We Can Learn from Shakespeare’s Much Ado about Nothing—Humphrey Tonkin

Much Ado is one of Shakespeare’s so-called mature comedies, dating from the final years of the 16th century and contemporaneous with Twelfth Night and As You Like It. Centered on a deception—an event that doesn’t in fact take place—it is a classic story of a community disrupted by a malcontent and restored to order by love. At the same time, it raises some disquieting questions about the nature of community and the disruptive power of the passions.

HUMPHREY TONKIN, former president of the University and former University Professor of Humanities, is teaching a course at the University of Hartford’s Hartt School this spring on Shakespeare’s Much Ado in preparation for The Hartt School Theatre Division’s performance of the play at the end of April.

Utopian Dreams: Does a Scientific World Still Need Religion—Catherine Borck

Bill Thomson will make a visual presentation about his work and illustration career that has encompassed the advertising, editorial, and, more recently, children’s book markets. His lecture will provide insight into his working approach and methodology.

BILL THOMSON illustrated Karate Hour, Building with Dad, Baseball Hour, and Soccer Hour; and he also created the wordless books CHALK, Fossil, and The Typewriter. His books have received numerous awards and accolades including the American Library Association’s Children’s Book Notable, National Parenting Publications’ Gold Award, and the International Reading Association’s Teacher’s Choices. Bill’s books have also been honored with the Connecticut Book Award (2009, 2011), Ohio’s Buckeye Children’s Book Award (2011), Kentucky’s Bluegrass Children’s Book Award (2012) and the Prix Livrentête in Paris, France (2013). His artwork has also received more than 75 awards in juried illustration competitions and appeared in exhibitions across the United States. Thomson is a professor of illustration at the University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School.