BECOME A FELLOW OF THE PRESIDENTS’ COLLEGE
with a sensational new benefit!

To make the most of your association with the Presidents’ College, sign up as a Fellow. Fellows enjoy significant discounts on our courses

- free parking privileges on campus
- access to the University Libraries, including borrowing privileges and access to data bases.

And now, for 2011-2012, comes a great new benefit! We’re organizing a series of monthly lectures (four in the fall and four in the spring) in our new meeting space in the Library on Fridays at 4:30. They are given by University of Hartford faculty members working on particularly interesting research and writing, and by occasional visitors. They are absolutely free to Fellows. Those who wish to stay are able (for a modest charge) to eat dinner with the speaker following the lecture (we are following the format already familiar to participants in the Fridays at the Mortensen series, which this new series replaces).

Your support for the Presidents’ College also assists the University Libraries. Any surplus generated by the College at year’s end goes to support the Libraries, thereby helping to assure the very best services and the most extensive collections that our resources allow. Take advantage of all the discounts and opportunities that membership brings.

Membership as a Fellow of the Presidents’ College costs just $100 for the full academic year.
Showcase 2011 Has Come and Gone. Many people are calling it the best Showcase yet. Over 100 people attended a full day of activities on a whole range of subjects, from psychology to opera, and from literature to business. We’re now poring over the evaluation forms to try to get a sense of what worked and what worked less well, so that we can make the program, or some variant of it, even better next year. What was your favorite event? How do you feel about future directions for Showcase? If you didn’t fill out an evaluation form, or even if you did, feel free to drop me a line at tonkin@hartford.edu.

Earlier in that same week, we opened our brand new seminar room, the KF Room, in Mortensen Library. Quite apart from the attractive design and the easily movable furniture (you can change the configuration of the room in a matter of minutes), the room has all kinds of technological aids that will make it ideal for videostreaming and other forms of contact with remote locations. The room, a gift from the Krasne family, is one ingredient in a larger fundraising effort for the University Libraries, including other physical changes and also the acquisition of new databases to make the Libraries more responsive to student and faculty needs. The Presidents’ College played an important role in bringing these changes about: money raised through our spring gala and other fundraising efforts allowed for the relocation of the reference office and the clearing of the space for the KF Room.

We anticipate that most of our programs will take place in this room. September 16 brought the first in our new series of Fellows Lectures. These lectures are provided free of charge as a service to Presidents’ College Fellows and members of the campus community. You must be a Fellow to enjoy this special privilege. We heard first from computer scientist Michael Anderson and philosopher Susan Anderson, who gave a fascinating presentation on the subject of machine ethics: the application of ethics to machines, particularly robots. On October 14 we’ll hear from Michele Troy, whose archival work on publishing in Germany under the Third Reich is turning up some fascinating information on the Nazis’ tolerance of English-language publishing. See details in this issue of the newsletter.

You’ll also find details of the Duncaster lecture series, Tuesdays at Duncaster, where our first lecture will be given by Stephen Pier — with demonstrations by some of the dancers in his studio. We’re making this series free for Duncaster residents who sign up as Fellows. All others, from Duncaster and beyond, are also welcome to attend.

Humphrey Tonkin
FELLOWS LECTURE

Michele K. Troy

The monthly Fellows Lectures take place on Fridays in the new home of the Presidents’ College, the KF Room, in the Mortensen Library. The lectures are free to Fellows of the Presidents’ College and to members of the University Community (on presentation of an ID). All others are charged $20 per lecture. The second lecture in the series takes place at 4:30 on Friday, October 14. This semester, further lectures will be given by Robert Logan (Friday, November 4) on the dramatist Christopher Marlowe, and Edward Cumming (Friday, December 2) on the composer Hector Berlioz.

Each lecture will be followed by a dinner with the speaker ($20) for anyone wishing to attend. Lecture fee for non-fellows: $20. (To reserve a place, please use the registration form with this newsletter.)

Friday, October 14, 4:30 pm
Michele Troy

Why The Nazis Sold English Books

Book historian Isabel Hofmeyr has noted that “When books travel, they change shape.” This was certainly true of the Albatross Press and the English-language paperbacks it sold across continental Europe in the 1930s; but it was especially true when the Nazi regime got its hands on them. Albatross was a British-funded firm with Jewish ties and a German branch whose heyday coincided with the rise of National Socialism. Based on German and private archives, this talk will discuss the strange contradictions that ensued when German officials tried to force particular Albatross books and leaders to “change shape” to fit Nazi ideals. Ultimately, this is a story of adaptation that had real costs, but it was not always the Albatross Press that adapted.

Michele K. Troy is associate professor of English and directs the Honors Experience in the University of Hartford’s Hillyer College. She has two articles on the Albatross Press, drawn from her book-in-progress, Strange Bird: The Albatross Press and the Third Reich. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), has just awarded her a grant to spend a month in Germany next summer following further leads in her Albatross story.
Upcoming Courses

Wednesdays Oct. 19, 26, Nov 2

Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, Fukushima: What Are the Risks of Nuclear Power?

A few years ago, Tom Filburn, an engineering professor at the University and director of the NASA Space Grant Consortium in Connecticut, kept his Presidents’ College audience spellbound in the lectures he gave on space exploration and space-suit design. Now he is turning his attention to nuclear power, focusing on nuclear reactor accidents and our relative risk. It’s something we should all be informed about. This course offers a non-technical approach for the layperson.

Thomas Filburn, Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, is Director of the Engineering Applications Center, Director of the Connecticut NASA Space Grant Consortium, and Assistant Director of the Clean Energy Institute.

Wednesdays, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2.
4:30-6:00pm. $60 (Fellows $40).

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

When Swedish journalist and writer Stieg Larsson died of a heart attack at the age of 50 in 2004, he was known primarily for his political activism and his exposés of political extremism. But he left behind three sensational manuscript novels, subsequently published to worldwide critical acclaim. The so-called Millennium trilogy, consisting of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played with Fire, and The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest, has beaten almost all sales records for crime novels, selling 30 million copies worldwide. These raw, shocking, and gripping narratives raise numerous questions about privacy, the role of the state, and personal responsibility.

Dianne Harrison did graduate work in English at the University of Michigan and is widely sought-after as a lecturer on modern detective novels and Victorian literature. She has taught for the Presidents’ College in the past, most notably on Anthony Trollope. “These won’t be romantic Victorian novels, but works that hit hard and ask difficult questions,” she says of the novels of Stieg Larsson.

Tuesdays, October 25, November 1, 8.
11:00am-12:30pm. $60 (Fellows $40).

Mondays, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5

Michael Schiano on early and not-so-early Mozart

Mozart wrote ten violin sonatas by age 8, four symphonies by the time he was 9, and two operas by age 12. But he got even better at it. Michael Schiano juxtaposes early and late, listening for what’s Mozartian even in his first attempts, and see where these attempts lead. The results may surprise you.

Michael Schiano, Associate Professor of Musical Theory in the Hartt School, is
Hartford Announces Annual Gala
Each year, the entire Hartford community joins to celebrate the performing arts at Hartford, and to ensure Hartford’s bright future. This year’s spectacular event, Hartt Celebrates Its Future, will take place on Saturday evening, October 15, at the Hartford Marriott Downtown and will feature a special performance by renowned soprano Carolyn Blackwell, known for her expressive and exuberant performances on Broadway, and on opera stages and in recital halls around the world.

Joining her are Hartt’s newest faculty members Kevin Gray, who has sung and acted in thousands of Broadway and national tour performances, and noted jazz vocalist and Hartt faculty member Shawn Monteiro.

Hartt’s new director of orchestral activities, Maestro Edward Cumming, former Music Director of the Hartford Symphony, has taught piano at the Hartt School for half a century. He began his career as a jazz trumpeter, taking up piano at age 18 and going on to receive his doctorate from Boston University. In addition to teaching, he has performed under many noted orchestral conductors and on radio and television, and has served four terms on the Fulbright National Screening Committee for pianists.

Thursday, November 3. 10:15-11:45am. $25 (Fellows $20)

1930s Hartford: How Dali, Picasso & Gertrude Stein Came to Town

Hartford in the 1930s became the center of a cultural flowering so vivid that in 1936 Variety called the city “America’s new Salzburg.” Such an accolade was possible because of Chick Austin, the legendary director of the Wadsworth Atheneum from 1927 to 1944, who showed Hartford and America what it meant to be modern. Among his eye-popping events were the first surrealist exhibition in a museum, introducing the unknown Salvador Dalí to the United States; the first comprehensive Picasso exhibition in America, amid architecture as modern as the pictures; and the premiere of Gertrude Stein’s cubist opera Four Saints in Three Acts. With music by Virgil Thomson, direction by John Houseman,
choreography by Frederick Ashton, cellophane sets by Florine Stettheimer, and the first African-American cast in an opera, Four Saints was the most written-about artistic event in the country. Before long, Dali and Stein would appear on stage at the Atheneum. Eugene Gaddis will give three in-depth lectures on how each of these moments became an American cultural landmark, featuring music, film, and the voices of Dali, Stein, Thomson, Houseman, and Chick Austin.

Eugene R. Gaddis is the William G. DeLana Archivist and Curator of the Austin House at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. He holds an A.B. from Amherst College and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of a biography of A. Everett Austin, Jr., Magician of the Modern: Chick Austin and the Transformation of the Arts in America (Alfred A. Knopf, 2000) and editor and principal author of Magic Façade: The Austin House (Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 2007).

Wednesdays, November 9, 16, 30. 4:30-6:00pm. $60 (Fellows $40).
Fridays, November 11, 18, December 2
Stephen Sondheim and the Modern Musical Theatre

An exploration of the artistic style and craftsmanship of the foremost musical theatre composer/lyricist of the late 20th century, the course will include several audio/video presentations and short lectures detailing Sondheim’s early work as a lyricist on West Side Story and Gypsy through his groundbreaking work on pieces such as Company, Follies, A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd, and Into the Woods. The course will conclude with the class attending a performance of Sunday in the Park with George, presented by The Hartt School Drama Division in December. [Note also that Company will be playing at Playhouse on Park, in West Hartford, from Nov. 30 to Dec. 18.]

John Pike teaches theatre at The Hartt School. For 15 years he was Artistic Associate for Goodspeed Musicals where he worked on more than 90 productions including Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Broadway), King of Hearts, Red, Hot and Blue! and A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.

His stage direction and/or musical direction credits include: Titanic, Big, Cabaret, A Little Night Music, The Wild Party, The Apple Tree, Company and The Frogs. He has served as publisher of Show Music, written for Playbill, The Sondheim Review and Dramatists Quarterly and is the author of The Grand View and The Womb. He holds degrees in theatre, music, management and Latin from Wake Forest, University of Pennsylvania and Yale.

Fridays, November 11, 18; December 2.
2:45-4:15pm. $60 (Fellows $40).

Thursdays, Nov. 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8
Darwin’s Dangerous Idea

Despite broad awareness of Charles Darwin as the father of evolution, the public’s knowledge of the man and his "dangerous idea" contains important misconceptions. Darwin was not the first person to discover evolution, nor did his work immediately touch off a war between scientists and religious authorities. Fortunately for us, as historian Michael Robinson explains, the story of the "Darwinian Revolution" is a far more interesting and complicated chapter of scientific history, one that grew from many sources: exploration, geology, natural history, economic theory, and even the Romantic movement. Who Darwin was and how his idea changed the world are the subjects of this course.

Michael Robinson is associate professor of history at Hillyer College, University of Hartford. He is the author of The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006), which won the 2008 Book Award...
for the History of Science in America. He has lectured on his work at the American Museum of Natural History, The Explorers Club, and the Geographical Society of Philadelphia.

**Thursdays, November 10, 17; December 1, 8 2:00-3:30pm. $75 (Fellows $50).**

**Reading Virgil's *Aeneid***

Virgil's *Aeneid* was, for many centuries, the most influential work of literature ever written in Europe. It not only defined great storytelling for its readers; it taught them where their cultures came from and what it meant to have a national identity. We will follow the wanderer Aeneas and his band of refugees from the Trojan war through adventure, war, and tragic romance as they travel to Italy to find what would become the Roman empire. As we read, we will consider how Virgil's questions about empires and about the individual's obligation to his country resonate with issues of our own day, and discuss the Aeneid's influence on Western literature, art, and culture.

**Amanda Walling** is assistant professor of English at the University of Hartford. She received her Ph.D. in English from Stanford University, and studies late medieval English literature, politics, and religion. She teaches courses on medieval literature, the legacy of Latin, and the later influence of the Middle Ages, as well as on the history of English, folklore, and drama.

**Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14 1:30-3:00pm. $60 (Fellows $40).**

**Announcing The Faerie Queene Book Club**

*Friday, December 9, 1:00 pm*

The year 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the first collected edition of the works of Edmund Spenser, greatest of the poets of the Elizabethan era outside Shakespeare. His massive poem *The Faerie Queene* is difficult for the uninitiated, but a delightful and instructive collection of stories for those willing to explore beneath the surface. Monsters, maidens, saints, robbers, knights, dragons — all compete for our attention in this rich and complex allegory. In studying the poem, the reader learns about the arts and culture of the Elizabethans, and about their ideas and the court politics behind them.

Spenser scholar Humphrey Tonkin plans to lead a small group in reading selections from the poem during the spring semester. The Faerie Queene Book Club will meet for four sessions spread over the spring semester, concentrating mostly on Book One of the poem, with excursions into the later books. A preliminary session on Friday, December 9, will provide an introduction to the poem and serve as an organizing session for the spring.

**Humphrey Tonkin** is author of two books and numerous articles on Edmund Spenser. He is a former president of the International Spenser Society and a contributor to *The Spenser Encyclopedia.*

**Friday, December 9. 1:00-2:30pm. $25 (Fellows $20).**
Tuesdays at Duncaster is a series of lectures by University of Hartford faculty offered at Duncaster Retirement Community, Bloomfield. Lectures are at 4:45 pm. Each lecture is followed by a reception and dinner with the speaker.

As of this fall, the series will be free to Duncaster residents who sign up as Fellows of the Presidents’ College, $20 for Duncaster residents who are not Fellows, $25 for all others (including dinner).

Tuesday October 11

Stephen Pier
Director of the Dance Division
The Hartt School

Inside the Art of Dance

In this guided demonstration, Stephen Pier and members of Hartt Dances will offer an intimate view of the creation and practice of Dance, our most human art form. The presentation will include segments of current repertoire ranging from classic master works through contemporary trends and bring audience members inside the creative process as well as the education of a dancer.

Stephen Pier is Director of Dance at the Hartt School. His credits as a performing artist began with the Jose Limon Dance Company where the New York press hailed him as “...one of the most gifted dancers on the modern dance scene today.” He became a leading soloist with the Hamburg Ballet in Germany and the Royal Danish Ballet. As a master teacher, he works with companies in Europe, America and Asia and has been on the faculty of The Juilliard School, the Alvin Ailey School, and the Martha Graham Center. In 2004 he founded PierGroupDance to explore and collaborate with dancers and artists in various art forms. He has created over 30 works for the concert stage, opera, theater, and film, and recently completed the first in a series of dance films to the music of David Rosenmann-Taub commissioned by the Corda Foundation, to be released in 2012.

Coming Soon

Tuesday November 15

Marissa Cloutier
Instructor in Biology and Human Nutrition, Hillyer College

Tuesday, December 13

Jacob Harney
Professor of Biology
College of Arts and Sciences
Why not take an elegant trip to London in November with Malcolm Morrison and Humphrey Tonkin? See London theatre at its best, meet actors and critics, and even do some holiday shopping! See page 6 for details.

And what about the Spring? We’re already planning courses for the spring semester 2012. Look for more details on: Humphrey Tonkin on Shakespeare’s major tragedies, Stephan Bullard on the ecology of Long Island Sound, Michele Troy on the Third Reich, Catherine Stevenson on George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*, Tim Reagan on Latin, Maria Esposito Frank on Machiavelli, Carol Padberg on an artist’s life, Walter Woodward on the history of Connecticut — and more.
Registration Form and RSVP

Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ Fellow of the Presidents’ College 2011-2012. $100
☐ London. November 11-18. $3600 double occupancy; $3750 single

I plan to attend the following Fellows Lectures (no charge for Fellows, $20 per lecture for non-Fellows)

☐ Michele Troy on English-language publishing under the Nazis (Oct. 14)
  ☐ Dinner following the lecture. $20

☐ Robert Logan on Christopher Marlowe (Nov. 4)
  ☐ Dinner following the lecture. $20

☐ Edward Cumming on Hector Berlioz (Dec. 2)
  ☐ Dinner following the lecture. $20

I plan to attend the following Tuesdays at Duncaster (no charge for Fellows who are Duncaster residents, $20 per lecture for other Duncaster residents, $25 including dinner for non-residents of Duncaster)

☐ Stephen Pier on the Art of Dance (Oct. 11)
  ☐ Marissa Cloutier (Nov. 15)
  ☐ Jacob Harney (Dec. 13)

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Total: _______

Total Side B (if applicable):_____

Grand Total:_______

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Telephone: ________-______-______-______

To receive correspondence from course coordinators, please include your email address, if available.

E-mail: _______________________________

Fee may be paid by: ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card# ______________________________ Security Code ________ Exp. Date________

Signature__________________________________________ Date __________

Checks payable to: University of Hartford.
Send form and (where appropriate) check to:

Presidents’ College: Education for a Lifetime
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West Hartford, CT 06117-1599.
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- Risks of Nuclear Power. Wednesdays, Oct 19, 26; Nov. 2. $60 (Fellows $40)
- Girl with the Dragon Tattoo. Tuesdays, Oct. 25; Nov. 1, 8. $60 (Fellows $40)
- Early and not-so-early Mozart. Mondays, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28; Dec. 5. $90 (Fellows $65)
- Liszt at 200. Thursday, Nov. 3. $25 (Fellows $20)
- Dali, Picasso & Gertrude Stein. Wednesdays, Nov. 9, 16, 30. $60 (Fellows $40)
- Stephen Sondheim. Fridays, Nov. 11, 18; Dec. 2. $60 (Fellows $40)
- Darwin's Dangerous Idea. Thursdays, Nov. 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8. $75 (Fellows $50)
- Virgil's Aeneid. Wednesdays, Nov. 30; Dec. 7, 14. $60 (Fellows $40)
- The Faerie Queene Book Club. Friday, Dec. 9. $25 (Fellows $20)

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