LET IT SNOW?
On second thoughts, maybe not!

In this issue you’ll find details on what to do if the University is closed. This week, though, the University was only half-closed, an eventuality we didn’t count on. We decided to postpone all Presidents’ College activities for the week and will reschedule the Liszt event planned for November 3 and Robert Logan’s lecture on Marlowe, scheduled for November 4. We expect that we will be able to make up any other course sessions that were missed. We will do our best to notify everybody of changes in the calendar. Check your e-mail regularly, visit our website, or, if in doubt, call 860-768-4269.

The Mortensen Library is keeping regular hours. If it’s cold out there, or if you have no power, we invite you to come and visit the library and stay awhile. The cafe is functioning — and the place is full of good books....

This just in: the final session of the Vienna course has been rescheduled to Monday, November 7, 1:30-3:00, in Wilde Auditorium. Sadly, there will be no Viennese coffee to follow. The session will take the form of a panel discussion involving all three lecturers (Michael Lankester, Patrick McCaughey, Christian Rogowski), chaired by Humphrey Tonkin.
THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES BOARD OF VISITORS met recently. As usual, we presented a brief report on the Presidents’ College. Here are some of the highlights.

**Fall Semester Program.** The College is offering a total of 12 courses, two lecture series (the monthly Fellows Lectures and the monthly series Tuesdays at Duncaster), a week-long theater trip to London, and several additional individual events. It began its activities with Showcase 2011, a day-long event with 17 separate lectures and panel discussions and two language conversation sessions, attended by over 100 people and organized in cooperation with the deans of the schools and colleges and the Office of the President. In August, a Presidents’ College group went on a two-day trip to the Monomoy Theater on Cape Cod.

**Fall Courses.** Fall semester courses range from a six-session program on Vienna (with a little over 100 participants) and an upcoming course on Hartford in the 1920s and 1930s, to courses on nuclear power, Mozart, Charles Darwin, the career of Stephen Sondheim, and Virgil’s *Aeneid*.

**Finances.** The College generates an annual surplus, which, under agreement with the Office of the Provost, goes directly to purchase books and other materials for the University Libraries, particularly to build the general collection (those parts of the collection needed for a strong teaching library yet falling outside the purview of a particular academic program). In fiscal year 2011, the College contributed over $23,000 to the University Libraries.

**Spring 2012.** The spring semester program is still in preparation. It will include courses on Shakespeare, the history of baseball, the aesthetics of dance, the ecology of Long Island Sound, George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*, the Latin language, the operas of Verdi, and numerous other topics.

**The KF Room.** The College received an enormous boost recently with the opening of the KF Room in the Mortensen Library, a generous gift of the Krasne family. The room provides a base for many of the College’s courses and is equipped also for distance teaching and learning. Members of the College helped bring the KF Room into being by organizing a fundraising program to relocate the office of the Reference Department, which previously occupied the newly-rebuilt space. The opening of the KF Room has made Presidents’ College members feel newly invested in the success of the College and eager to do their part in broadening its reach and its objectives.

**Expansion.** Between the academic year 2010 and the recently-completed academic year 2011, the college experienced (in a single year) a sixty-percent increase in the number of people taking at least one course from among the College’s offerings. This growth was accompanied by a sharp increase in total enrollment.

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HUMPHREY TONKIN
Edward Cumming

What makes Symphonie Fantastique so … fantastic?

Friday, December 2, 4:30

Many know the story behind Hector Berlioz’s Symphonie Fantastique – how the composer fell in love with the Irish actress Harriet Smithson and wrote a symphony as an expression of that love. But the real life story pales next to the life and blood of the music. Alone among the great composers, Berlioz is inimitable, and his music sounds as modern today as when it was premiered.

Edward Cumming is the Primrose Fuller Associate Professor of Orchestral Studies at The Hartt School. Before leading the Hartford Symphony (2002-11), he was Resident Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and has been a guest conductor with orchestras throughout Europe, Asia and South America. He studied at the University of California, Berkeley, and Yale University, and received an honorary doctorate from Trinity College.

Robert Logan:
Shakespeare’s Marlowe and Ours: Reacting to Christopher Marlowe’s Nonconformity [postponed]

In the late 1590s, when Shakespeare first appeared on the London theatrical scene, Christopher Marlowe was the Shakespeare of the day, boldly overturning dramatic conventions and creating remarkable improvements that would forever transform English drama. But Marlowe was also the poster child of bad behavior—brash, transgressive, and unruly. Were he and Shakespeare therefore at odds, bitter rivals, or comrades-in-arms?

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Upcoming Courses

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 interested in every aspect of 20th-century music— from Schoenberg to pop—and in the history of music in earlier periods, particularly Beethoven. He has lectured for the Presidents’ College on the Beatles and on Beethoven, in addition to Mozart.

Mondays, November 7, 14, 21, 28, December 5. 4:30-6:00. $90 (Fellows $65)

Watson Morrison 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) Owing to the closure of the University on this date, this event has been postponed. A new date will be announced shortly.

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 Dali 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.


**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. 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).

Wednesdays Nov. 30; Dec. 7, 14
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 found 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 PhD 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 the history of English, folklore, and drama.

Wednesdays, November 30; December 7, 14. 1:30-3:00pm. $60 (Fellows $40).
Friday, December 9, 1:00 pm
The Faerie Queene Book Club

The year 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the first collected edition of the works of Edmund Spenser, greatest poet of the Elizabethan era outside Shakespeare. His massive poem *The Faerie Queene* may be 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 (see the right-hand column on this page). 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 the poetry of 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).

Coming Up In the Spring Semester: A Sampling of Our Offerings**


**Jilda Aliotta** leads a reading group on John Paul Stevens’ memoir *Five Chiefs,* Tues., Jan. 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

**Humphrey Tonkin** on Shakespeare’s Major Tragedies: *Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth,* Mon., Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 5.

**Michele Troy** on Books and Reading in the Third Reich, Wed., Feb. 8, 15, 22.

**Catherine Stevenson** on George Elliot’s *Middlemarch,* Tues., Feb. 28; Mar. 13; Apr. 3, 17.


**Jane Barstow** on Edith Wharton, Thurs., Mar. 8, 29; Apr. 5, 19.

**Maria Esposito Frank** on Niccolò Machiavelli, Tues., Mar. 27; Apr. 3, 10.

**Carol Padberg** on The Life of the Artist, Thurs., Mar. 29; Apr. 5, 12

**Walter Woodward & Kate Steinway** on The History of Connecticut, Thurs., Mar. 29; Apr. 5, 12, 19.


**Humphrey Tonkin and Willie Anthony Waters** on Verdi and Shakespeare: Macbeth, Othello, Falstaff, May 14, 16, 18.

**Jilda Aliotta** with a Round-up of the U.S. Supreme Court, May 21, 23, 25.

**Humphrey Tonkin’s Faerie Queene Book Club:** Fri., Jan. 27; Feb. 17; Mar. 9; Apr. 13.

**Registration opens December 1. Dates are tentative.**
TUESDAYS AT DUNCASTER 2011-2012

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, November 15

Marissa Cloutier
Instructor in Biology and Human Nutrition, Hillyer College

Beyond Healthy Eating: Diet and the Environment

Diet is the pattern of an individual’s food intake. We know a lot about the internal biological impact of diet, most notably how it affects the onset or treatment of heart disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. But we know a lot less about the impact of diet on such large-scale phenomena as climate change, or air and water pollution – vitally important issues from a public health standpoint, since the individual consumer sits at the end of an often long chain of industrial processes that have potentially vast environmental consequences. Marissa Cloutier’s thinking has evolved from that of a conventional dietitian to that of a researcher on the worldwide consequences of human diet. It has led her to return to the academy as faculty member and doctoral candidate. She will share with us some of her recent findings.

Marissa Cloutier is author or co-author of several publications, among them The Mediterranean Diet (with Eve Adamson), a major best-seller. She is now a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Science in Hillyer College at the University of Hartford and a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Science in Public Health Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health. She is also a Registered Dietitian with a Master of Science degree from Boston University.

Tuesday, December 13

Jacob Harney
Professor of Biology
College of Arts & Sciences

Diets, Environment and Cognition: What Can We Learn From Animals?

The saying “you are what you eat”, has many connotations in our society. It is well established that animals (including humans) consume food primarily to provide energy to do work. The nutritional make-up of the food impacts the overall “quality” of the diet and that quality, combined with quantity and environment, determine the overall fitness of the animal. While fitness generally refers to cardiovascular and muscular quality, this talk will focus on cognitive function including learning, memory, anxiety and depression. Can results in animal models be applied to humans?
Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

- Fellow of the Presidents’ College 2011-2012. $100
- I plan to attend the following Fellows Lectures (no charge for Fellows, $20 per lecture for non-Fellows)
  - Robert Logan on Christopher Marlowe [to be rescheduled]
    - Dinner. $20
  - Edward Cumming on Hector Berlioz (Dec. 2)
    - Dinner. $20
- I plan to attend the following Tuesdays at Duncaster. No charge for Fellows who are Duncaster residents. For other Duncaster residents: $20 per lecture
  For all non-residents of Duncaster, $25 including dinner
  - Marissa Cloutier (Nov. 15)
  - Jacob Harney (Dec. 13)

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DAYTIME: (____)________ - ___________ EVENING: (____)________-___________

To receive correspondence from course coordinators, please include your email address, if available.
E-mail: _______________________________.

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Credit Card# ________________________________ Security Code ________ Exp. Date__________

Signature __________________________________ Date ______________

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West Hartford, CT 06117-1599.

Questions? 860.768.4269 or pcollege@hartford.edu.
Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

- **Early and not-so-early Mozart.** Mondays, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28; Dec. 5. $90 (Fellows $65)
- **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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