Paris in the Spring!

Michael Lankester on Music and Art in Paris, 1855-1930

Berlioz & Delacroix
Debussy & Monet
Satie & Cocteau
Ravel, Gershwin, Stravinsky & Picasso

Mondays, April 4, 11, 25; May 2, 9, 2011
WE HAVE BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING LATELY about future directions for the President’s College. We are engaged at the moment in organizing a series of meetings on strategy involving some of the volunteers in the program, and I have been meeting with groups of faculty members to sound them out on their views on the President’s College and suggestions for the future. Arguably, we have achieved our immediate objective — to stabilize the President’s College and establish it as an important programmatic alternative among the offerings of the University. Now we must figure out how to make it as useful as possible to its various constituencies, and how to expand the base.

Faculty members enjoy teaching in the College because, among other things, they can teach their specialties and explore topics related to their research. Our regular participants like the range of courses that we offer, and many of them take multiple courses each semester. Some of these offerings (our recent course on Divine Rivalry, for example, and now Michael Lankester’s course on Paris in the Spring) appeal to those of us who are interested in the arts. It is tempting simply to concentrate our energies there. One of the hidden advantages of programming in the arts is that it helps to build audiences for the abundance of arts offerings that the University puts at the disposal of the community. These events matter to the teaching side of the University too: you can’t train performers without giving them opportunities to perform, and they can’t perform without audiences to perform for.

But, in addition to the arts, the University has so much else to offer — in the sciences, sociology, public policy, business, communication, and numerous other fields. We would like to broaden our base to include more courses in such fields, and to attract participants to them.

So we are giving some attention to these and other strategic issues. If you have thoughts on any of them we would love to hear from you.

As the sun begins to shine and the snow starts to melt, we also have our eye on some immediate priorities — raising money for our new classroom and seminar space (a fundraiser is in the works), our program for Community Day on April 30 (see page 9), our participation in Celebrate West Hartford (June 11 and 12) — and even Showcase 2011, on Sunday, September 18 (save the date!).

HUMPHREY TONKIN
An Introduction to the Dance with Stephen Pier

Dance is the most human of the arts. Its material is simply the human being in time and space, material of which we all have experience and knowledge in a personal way. Everyday gestures, recognizable throughout the world and across cultures, are the building blocks of this art form which has the ability to communicate the most profound aspects of the human experience in the most concise and resonant ways. In this course we will take a look at how choreographers and dancers throughout history have shaped these gestures into their own signature styles and techniques, how dance has collaborated with other art forms and what the current trends in dance are in the US and abroad.

Stephen Pier is Director of the Dance Division of the Hartt School. He has had a rich and varied career as a dancer, teacher, and choreographer. For many years he danced with the Jose Limon Company, going on to become a leading soloist with the Hamburg Ballet in Germany and the Royal Danish Ballet. He has taught at the school of the Royal Danish Ballet, the Alvin Ailey School, the Martha Graham Center, Regional Dance America, and the New York International Ballet Competition, and for many notable companies in Europe, America and Asia, and he was on the faculty of the Juilliard School from 1996 until 2010. He has created over 30 works for the concert stage, opera, theater, and film.

Wednesdays, March 30; April 6, 13, 20
4:00-5:30pm  $70 (Fellows $50)

Tuesdays, March 29
Tuesdays at Duncaster:
Natacha Poggio on design and empowerment

Natacha Poggio, assistant professor of visual communication design, will lecture in the Tuesdays at Duncaster series, March 29, at 5:30, on “Empowering the Women of the World through Education.” More than 600 million girls live in developing countries; over one quarter of them become mothers before age 18. Adolescent girls are often
overlooked by their communities, but if given the chance, they can be a powerful force of change. Professor Poggio will describe her own and others' projects that raise awareness and provide education to women through arts and design. They will include examples of projects implemented with Design Global Change students in India and Kenya, on water access, disease prevention, nutritional wellness, and the power of education.

Natacha Poggio, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication Design in the Hartford Art School, is an experienced multidisciplinary designer with an MFA in Design from the University of Texas at Austin. She examines objects and environments with which people interact, and looks for ways to make these interactions aesthetically pleasing and functional for the greatest number of users. Her design philosophy maximizes human experience, particularly the importance of engaging multiple senses in each designed activity, to create meaningful experiences fully accessible to all. Designs resulting from this approach serve a wider array of people—regardless of age, race, gender, abilities, economic or educational background.

Natacha Poggio. Tuesday, March 29, 5:30 pm. Reception and dinner followed by lecture. Program: $20 for Duncaster residents, $35 for others, including reception and dinner.

Tuesday, April 26
Tuesdays at Duncaster:
John Feierabend on music in infancy

“Music in Infancy: A Forgotten Art” will be the topic of John Feierabend’s Duncaster lecture on Tuesday, April 26, at 4:30. All children are born with some potential to succeed with music. With inappropriate or no music experiences in the early years, however, children consistently lose their intuitiveness for making accurate musical responses. The rich repertoire of folk songs and rhymes that has nurtured musical development in children for centuries has been fading in recent decades as we changed from a society of music makers to a society of music consumers. This has not only affected the musical development of today’s young people but deprived children of important interactions that play an important role in their social development. This presentation will discuss the work that has been done to preserve this precious repertoire and share some activities from our folk heritage that develop young children’s musical intelligence, musical behavior and musical spirit.

John Feierabend, a leading authority on music and movement development in early childhood, is a Professor of Music and the Director of the Music Education Division at The Hartt School and a past President of the Organization of American Kodály Educators. Dr. Feierabend makes frequent presentations both in the United States and abroad and is the author of over 60 books, CDs & DVDs.

John Feierabend. Tuesday, April 26, 4:30 pm. Lecture followed by reception and dinner. Program: $20 for Duncaster residents, $35 for others, including reception and dinner. Note the 4:30 start time!
Tuesday, May 17
Tuesdays at Duncaster:
Deborah Kidder on Restorative Justice

May’s Tuesdays at Duncaster program will feature Deborah Kidder on “Not ‘rights’ but the ‘right way to heal damaged relationships’: The philosophy of Restorative Justice.”

Professor Kidder writes: “The amount of damage that conflict can create at work is enormous, in terms of both money and time lost. Some estimate that supervisors spend up to 50% of their time on dealing with conflict and its fallout. The bad feelings that come with conflict have personal, physiological consequences too. And conflict is not confined to work: it can happen anywhere. In my presentation I will discuss the concept of Restorative Justice, which is a philosophy, a mindset if you will, on how to approach conflict, which is being adopted around the world in judicial systems as well as in the workplace. In my discussion, I’ll explore the promise and the risks of using Restorative Justice to help heal relationships that have been damaged because of conflict.”

Deborah L. Kidder, Associate Professor of Management, received her B.A. in Economics from Swarthmore College and her Ph.D. in Industrial Relations from the University of Minnesota. She has won teaching awards at three universities and published articles in many highly regarded journals. Her research interests involve fairness and justice in the workplace. She is a trained and practicing mediator, specializing in employment disputes, who volunteers for the New England Equal Employment Opportunity.

Deborah Kidder. Tues., May 17, 4:30 pm. Lecture followed by reception and dinner. Program: $20 for Duncaster residents, $35 for others, including reception and dinner. Note the 4:30 start time!
The course will consist of five lectures:
1. Self Portrait - Berlioz & Delacroix
2. Impressionism - Debussy & Monet
3. Ballets Russes - Satie & Cocteau
4. The Jazz Age - Ravel, Gershwin & Picasso
5. Modernism - Stravinsky & Picasso

Michael Lankester, former Music Director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, combines an international conducting career with work as composer, arranger and commentator in opera, theatre and broadcasting. He has worked as guest conductor with major orchestras in Britain and North America, and, in the theater, with such distinguished directors as Jonathan Miller and Franco Zeffirelli. He collaborated extensively with Laurence Olivier, working with him on several television productions. He studied at the Royal College of Music with Sir Adrian Boult and has had close professional collaborations with Benjamin Britten, William Walton, and Michael Tippett.

Mondays, April 4, 11, 25; May 2, 9. 4:30-6:00pm  $120 (Fellows $90)

Thursdays, April 21, 28; May 5. 5:00-6:30pm  $60 (Fellows $40).

If there is one sad way in which the United States leads the world, it is in the number of people that we lock up. The result is massive prison overcrowding, squalid conditions, and the creation of a breeding-ground of criminality and recidivism. You can get thrown into jail for failing to keep an appointment with a parole officer, or being in possession of a joint – and frequently the sentences are mandatory. And when prisoners are freed, they are frequently left to fend for themselves in a world in which employers are suspicious, officials are hostile, and the prisoners themselves have no income nor much chance of getting one. Sociologist Tim Black asks, “What is to be done?”

Timothy Black is associate professor of sociology and author of the recent highly acclaimed book When A Heart Turns Rock Solid, about the lives of three Puerto Rican brothers in Springfield, Mass. Among his scholarly interests is the problem of incarceration and public policy in the United States. He holds a PhD from the University of Massachusetts.

Thursdays, April 21, 28; May 5. 5:00-6:30pm  $60 (Fellows $40).

Steve Campo will be the speaker at Fridays at the Mortensen on April 29. Hartford’s TheaterWorks recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Steve Campo, the principal architect of the TheaterWorks dream, had the idea, all those years ago, of establishing a second theater in Hartford, and he did it by persuasion, shrewdness,
and determination. Not only has TheaterWorks brought a seemingly endless procession of exciting theatre to the city, but it has also helped strengthen downtown Hartford in significant ways. In 1993 TheaterWorks was able to acquire the splendid Moorish Revival building on Pearl Street that is its home; recently, under Steve’s leadership, the building has been transformed into City Arts on Pearl, a refurbished headquarters for several arts organizations, along with exhibition space for the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Each session of Fridays at the Mortensen begins with a reception (5:45 pm) and light dinner, prepared by President’s College volunteers, followed by a talk. Future dates: May 13, June 10.

Each session, incl. dinner, $45 (Fellows $35). Complete series of three (April, May, June): $100 (Fellows $90).

Cardin Lecture Series: “Leslie McGrath: A Conversation.” March 29. Auerbach Hall 323, 5:00pm. McGrath is author of Opulent Hunger, Opulent Rage (2009) and managing editor of Drunken Boat, an online journal of the arts. She holds an MFA in literature and poetry from the Bennington Writing Seminars and an MA in clinical psychology from Wesleyan University. Her poems have appeared in Slate, Nimrod, and Black Warrior Review.

On April 12, the English Department will host Dana Gioia (Wilde Auditorium, 12:15pm). An internationally acclaimed poet, he is former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. His 1991 volume Can Poetry Matter?, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award, is credited with helping to revive the role of poetry in American public culture.

Out of Connecticut’s forest, West Hartford Center grew up where two roads met – with a church and a burial ground. Soon it became the hub of an agricultural community. Later, as modes of transportation changed and the City of Hartford grew, it turned into a retail center serving suburban West Hartford. Today it has gone through a further transformation, emerging as a major retail and restaurant destination for the entire region. How much of this 300-year history can still be traced on the ground? Who were the heroes and villains of West Hartford Center’s development? Town historian Tracey Wilson will take us through that history, using the Noah Webster House and its numerous historical artifacts as a teaching base, and taking course participants on a tour of the town center, including the old burial ground, the town library and the town hall.

Tracey Wilson teaches history at Conard High School in West Hartford and has also taught at Trinity College and St. Joseph College. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Trinity College and a PhD from Brown University. Her publications include Cardin Lecture Series: “Leslie McGrath: A Conversation.” March 29. Auerbach Hall 323, 5:00pm. McGrath is author of Opulent Hunger, Opulent Rage (2009) and managing editor of Drunken Boat, an online journal of the arts. She holds an MFA in literature and poetry from the Bennington Writing Seminars and an MA in clinical psychology from Wesleyan University. Her poems have appeared in Slate, Nimrod, and Black Warrior Review.

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studies of women workers at Colt’s and Travelers, and of the Connecticut woman’s suffrage movement, and frequent columns in local newspapers. In addition to her role as Town Historian of West Hartford, she serves as an advisor to the Noah Webster House.

**Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25. 4:00-5:30 pm. At the Noah Webster House, South Main Street, West Hartford. The final session will be a tour. $70 (Fellows $50).**

**Mons. & Weds., June 1, 6, 8, 13, 15**

**Yeats and the Irish Literary Renaissance**

Did the Irish literary Renaissance of the late nineteenth century lead to the resurgence of Irish nationalism that ultimately brought independence, or was it simply one more element in the move to throw off British rule? Either way, the period saw an extraordinary convergence of artistic talent. The brilliant poet William Butler Yeats, after his years in London, returned to Dublin in 1896 to lead a revival of interest in ancient Irish history and myth, opening up the entire field of Celtic ancient history and art. His brother Jack established himself as a leading painter. Lady Gregory wrote plays and helped found the Abbey Theatre; her home at Coole became a center for the writers and artists of the Celtic Revival. The poet George William Russell (Æ) was also associated with the Abbey Theatre’s beginnings, as were Sean O’Casey and John Millington Synge.

Under the leadership of Professor Kathleen McGrory, this course will review the work of these contributors to Ireland’s revival as it moved from Celtic Twilight to Celtic Tiger.

**Kathleen McGrory** holds a PhD from Columbia University in comparative literature. A native of New York City, she was a Sister of Divine Compassion in New York, then professor of English and founder of the Irish Studies graduate program at Western Connecticut State University, Danbury. She was Dean of Arts and Sciences and Academic Vice President at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), President of Hartford College for Women until its merger with the University of Hartford, NEH fellow at Stanford University, and senior fellow at the University of Virginia’s Commonwealth Center for Literary and Cultural Change. As Executive Director of the Society for Values in Higher Education at Georgetown University, she also taught medieval literature at Georgetown. She currently teaches part-time at ECSU and is completing a book-length study of the legend of the Holy Grail.

**Mondays and Wednesdays, June 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. $90 (Fellows $70)**
President’s College, University of Hartford
Education for a Lifetime

announces

POETS IN THE SPRING

a program of spring celebration
on the occasion of the University of Hartford’s
Community Day
Saturday, April 30, 2011 – 12:00-3:00pm

We are looking for readers and musicians – to read poems that we have selected, or to read poems or sing songs of their own choosing – including their own compositions.

Each performer will be allotted five minutes for his or her presentation.

To sign up to read or perform, call Judy Kacmarcik at 860.768.4269 or write pcollege@hartford.edu.
We will assign you a reading if you do not wish to choose your own.
Hartt Professor Robert Davis directs William Shakespeare’s Henry V, Thursday to Sunday, April 28 - May 1

For tickets and information contact the University of Hartford Box Office, 860.768.4228 or 1.800.274.8587 or buy tickets online at www.hartford.edu/hartt. Special discounts available for Fellows of the President’s College.

If you are signed up for our course Shakespeare’s English Kings, special arrangements will be made to allow you to attend a performance of Henry V.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances for both productions begin at 7:30pm. Sunday performances at 3:00pm.

For a taste of Hartt School performances of Henry V, watch two recent Hartt students perform a scene at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0RjnNs2sYg

Hartford Art School invites you to get “Down and Dirty,” Friday, April 15, 5:30-9:00 pm.

Once again the Hartford Art School invites you to “Down and Dirty,” an opportunity to participate in a studio class followed by a casual supper, and to support the programs of the school. Studio classes include Ceramics, Life Drawing, Photography, Book Arts, Sculpture, Media Arts, Design, and Drawing. Dress so you can get down and dirty! A donation of $150 will put you in the Totally Filthy category; for $100 you can join the Just Messy category; for $60, you’ll be “Just Dirty.” Call Marie Flaherty for details: 860.768.5281.

Farmington Public Library announces lecture series

In cooperation with the President’s College, the Farmington Public Library is offering a series of three spring lectures by University of Hartford faculty at the Library’s Barney Branch, 71 Main Street. The lectures will take place on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

On March 30, Jane Barstow, Professor of English Emerita, will discuss “In Search of Edith Wharton’s Passions and Repressions.” Decades after the novelist Edith Wharton’s life, revelations about her mid-life sexual awakening have sent biographers and critics scrambling to re-evaluate her life and work. Dr. Barstow will discuss the dynamic interplay between the works and this new view of their author.

On April 27, Louis Manzione, Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture, will lecture on “The Internet and Nanotechnology: Creating a Sustainable Future.” Two profound technological movements in the drive toward a sustainable society are the megatrends of the internet and nanotechnology. Dr. Manzione will examine how the two trends may complement each other in reconfiguring inner space.

On May 25, Humphrey Tonkin, University Professor of the Humanities, will survey “A Summer of Shakespeare,” giving an advanced review of upcoming summer productions of Shakespeare’s plays in the Hartford area, in New Haven, and at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA.

The lectures are free and open to the public. For information call 860.673.6791.
Precedents for Life
Newsletter of the President's College

Registration Form and RSVP

Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ President's College Fellow, Spring 2011 (campus parking, library privileges, discounts)
   If you are not currently a Fellow, register for Spring 2011 at a discounted rate of $75 ____

☐ Steve Campo: Fridays at the Mortensen: April 29. $45 ($35 Fellow) ____

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen. Complete series of three. $100 ($90 Fellow) ____

☐ Visual Communication: Tuesdays at Duncaster. March 29. $100 ($90 Fellow) ____

☐ Introduction to the Dance. Wednesdays, March 30, Apr. 6, 13, 20. $70 ($50 Fellow) ____

☐ Paris in the Spring. Mondays, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9. $120 ($90 Fellow) ____

☐ Incarceration, Decarceration. Thursdays, April 21, 28, May 5. $60 ($40 Fellow) ____

☐ Music in Infancy: Tuesdays at Duncaster. April 26. $35 ($20 Duncaster Resident) ____

☐ Restorative Justice: Tuesdays at Duncaster: May 17. $35 ($20 Duncaster Resident) ____

☐ History of West Hartford: Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25. $70 ($50 Fellow) ____

☐ Irish Renaissance: Mondays and Wednesdays, June 1, 6, 8, 13, 15. $90 ($70 Fellow) ____

Total: ________

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________

Telephone: DAYTIME: (______)______-__________ EVENING: (______)______-__________

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:

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West Hartford, CT 06117-1599.

Questions? 860.768.4269 or pcollege@hartford.edu.