Ireland Reborn!

Kathleen McGrory
Yeats and the Irish Renaissance

Mondays and Wednesdays
June 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 2011
The President’s College is the outreach program of the University Libraries, so we have a special responsibility to support the Libraries’ efforts to serve their various constituencies better. Any surplus that our activities generate in a given year go directly into the Libraries’ budget to buy books and other materials. Right now the Libraries are conducting a fundraising campaign to raise half a million dollars for three major purposes: first, to create and equip a new seminar and meeting space in the Mortensen Library, primarily for the use of the President’s College and other organizations based in the Library; second, to make various other physical adjustments in the Library to accommodate the new space; and, third, to augment the Library’s reference capabilities by acquiring new databases and printed materials and digitizing some of its existing materials to make them more easily searchable and to conserve space. The program has been going very well, thanks particularly to a number of major gifts, which will be announced shortly. To date, some $370,000 has been raised towards the goal of $500,000. The President’s College has been asked to contribute $50,000. That is the reason why, on Wednesday, May 4, we are organizing a fundraiser that will feature the three living presidents of the University of Hartford, Stephen Joel Trachtenberg (1977-88), myself (1989-98), and Walter Harrison, the current president. We’re calling the event “Moving the Apostrophe” because we plan to turn the President’s College into the Presidents’ College in celebration of all the presidents who have led or are leading the University over the years. Tickets for the event, by the way, start at $125. At the time of writing, we still have a few spaces. Please call 860.768.4269 to check on availability.

And don’t forget some other upcoming activities: Community Day (April 30; see page 6), Celebrate West Hartford (page 8) — and Showcase 2011, on Sunday, September 18.

One major contributor to the fundraiser was Pat Cremins, who signed up immediately as a member of the Presidents’ Circle, the highest giving category. Many of us remember Pat’s untiring efforts on behalf of the President’s College over many years. To say that we will miss her presence is to understate her importance to the entire enterprise. Let us make the continued success of the President’s College serve as a memorial to her energy and courage.

Humphrey Tonkin
Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25

Center Story:
The History of West Hartford Center

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 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).

Friday, May 13

Fridays at the Mortensen: Sue Fitzgerald & Lee Peters on Surviving College: The View from the Inside

As one group of students graduates and the next group prepares to arrive, those of us in the higher education business wonder what went right with the last lot and how we can do better with the next lot. Much of it depends on how effectively the students look after themselves. Lee Peters and Susan Fitzgerald at the University of Hartford are nationally recognized as experts on the question of students’...
FAQ

What do I do if the University closes?
Closings are announced online at www.hartford.edu, the University's website. You can also call the University: 860.768.4100. WTIC - 1080 AM/96.5 FM, WRCH - 100.5 FM, Channel 3 (WFSB), and WWUH - 91.3 FM announce closings. Local television stations use automated systems with limited choices for colleges and universities. So please follow up by checking www.hartford.edu or by calling 860.768.4100.

Parking on Campus
If, as a Fellow of the President's College, you have been issued a parking permit, please hang it on the inside rearview mirror of your vehicle whenever you park on campus. You may park in any legal and unreserved space in any of the faculty, student or visitor lots at any time of the day, but if you park in a student or faculty lot without displaying the permit you will be ticketed. If you run into problems or have questions, please call the President's College at 860.768.4269 or the Office of Public Safety at 860.768.7985.

college survival: the third edition of their manual The Everything College Survival Book has just been published to much acclaim. In this session of Fridays at the Mortensen, they will tell us about college from the inside out - how to cope and how to prosper.

Susan Fitzgerald, after nearly twenty years of service in student affairs at the University of Hartford, is now Associate Secretary of the University and Senior Advisor to the President.

J. Lee Peters holds a doctorate in education from the University of Utah, was Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs at Montana State University, Billings, and is now Vice-President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the University of Hartford.

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. Final session of the season: June 10.

Friday, May 13, incl. dinner, $45 (Fellows $35). Registration for two sessions (May and June), $80 (Fellows $65).

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!
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, National Endowment for the Humanities 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)
was established in 2009. The two previous winners are Michael Robinson, associate professor of history in Hillyer College, and Catharine (Cat) Balco, assistant professor of painting in the Hartford Art School.

The annual prize, together with an endowed chair for junior faculty, were established through a generous gift from Belle K. Ribicoff, a long-time supporter and life regent of the University. Each year, the prize recognizes an outstanding junior faculty member – one who is in a tenure track position, but not yet tenured. Every three years, one of the prize recipients from the prior three years will be chosen to hold the Belle K. Ribicoff Professorship for a period of three years.

Bryan Sinche is a scholar of 19th-century American literature, and he has done extensive work in the areas of African American literature and the literature of the sea. He was nominated for the President’s College annual prize.

Friday, June 10
Fridays at the Mortensen:
Window into the Jurassic World – Fossils of the Connecticut Valley

Our guest at Fridays at the Mortensen in June will be Nicholas G. McDonald, Connecticut Valley fossil expert whose new book, Window into the Jurassic World, takes an authoritative look at early Mesozoic life in Connecticut and Massachusetts, including dinosaurs, fishes, invertebrates and plants. The author will describe local Triassic and Jurassic environments and the animals that created the famous trackways at Dinosaur State Park.

Nicholas G. McDonald is a geology and biology instructor at Westminster School in Simsbury and emeritus chairman of the Science Department. His abiding interest in paleontology was awakened at the age of 12 during a Sunday afternoon field trip to a local Jurassic fossil site. After graduating from Franklin and Marshall College, he continued his geologic studies at Wesleyan University, completing a Master’s thesis on the fossil fishes of Connecticut and Massachusetts. An inveterate collector, Nick has brought to light literally thousands of well-preserved specimens from early Mesozoic rocks once thought to be largely devoid of fossils. His discoveries of fishes, plants, mollusks, insects, crustaceans and trace fossils have broadened the understanding of Jurassic ecosystems in the region. For more than 20 years the author has been a Visiting Scholar (research associate) in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Wesleyan, and he is currently a Curatorial Affiliate at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

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. Final session of the season: June 10.

Session, incl. dinner, $45 (Fellows $35). Registration for two sessions (May and June), $80 (Fellows $65).

The President’s College announces
POETS IN THE SPRING

a program of spring celebration on the occasion of the University of Hartford’s Community Day
Sat, April 30, 2011 – 11:00-3:00pm

We need readers and musicians – to read poems 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.
prize by Mark Blackwell, associate professor of English and associate dean of Arts and Sciences. “Bryan has been an energizing force in the English Department since he arrived at the University of Hartford in Fall 2006,” Blackwell wrote in his letter of nomination. “He has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to balance the competing demands of teaching, scholarship, and service — and to excel in all three.” He is well known to members of the President’s College, having lectured in Showcase and also presided over the Moby-Dick Book Club, which won him high praise from those who participated in it last fall.

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=woRjnNs2sYg

PC Plans Trips: Any Takers?

Use the registration form with this newsletter to let us know of your possible interest in the following:


Monomoy Theater. We’re looking into the possibility of organizing a trip to Cape Cod to see The Comedy of Errors at the Monomoy Theater, Chatham, Mass., in the last week of August. The director of the Monomoy Theatre is Alan Rust, director of the Theatre Division of the Hartt School. The Monomoy productions are some of the best summer theatre in this part of the country. We would probably go down to the Cape in time for dinner on one evening, spend time with the cast talking about the play the following morning, take a trip around the harbor (or to some other location) in the afternoon, see the play in the evening, and return to Hartford the morning after that. We would stay the two nights in an inn in Chatham. Probable dates: August 23-25. Minimum number needed: 10 people.

Farmington Public Library announces lecture series

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

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.
MAKE A DATE WITH

CELEBRATE! WEST HARTFORD

Celebrate! West Hartford is a highly attended, annual tradition that promotes, embraces and celebrates community life.

Attracting well over 30,000 people each year, Celebrate! also provides festival attendees with a wide range of wholesome family activities – an award winning juried arts & crafts show, great food, entertainment, games, rides, a certified 5K road race – as the saying goes, "something for everyone".

The event offers civic, service, sports, schools and charitable organizations a way to increase community awareness and an opportunity to raise funds for their worthy causes.

Saturday and Sunday

June 11 & 12, 2011

ONCE AGAIN THE PRESIDENT'S COLLEGE WILL BE REPRESENTED.
SIGN UP NOW TO HELP RUN OUR BOOTH.
CALL 860-768-4269.
The US Supreme Court: Taking the Pulse

Hartford Masterclass
Featuring Dr. Jilda Aliotta, Associate Professor of Politics & Government

Thursday, June 23, 2011
1877 Club, Harry Jack Gray Center, University of Hartford
5:30-6:00pm – Registration & Cocktails
6:00-7:30pm – Presentation & Discussion

Masterclasses come to Hartford! These highly popular alumni events, held at various locations up and down the East Coast, come to Hartford. The Alumni Association and the President’s College invite you to join us for a Masterclass featuring Dr. Jilda Aliotta, associate professor in the Department of Politics and Government. Recently, all eyes have been on the Supreme Court as it carves out for itself a particular historic position on aspects of jurisprudence. As its current session comes to an end, a number of major and far-reaching decisions are likely to be handed down in the next several weeks. What are their likely outcomes, what will their impact be on both society and the law, and what can we expect from the Justices in the coming session?

Dr. Aliotta, a popular teacher and an exacting scholar, teaches classes in law, American politics, and women in politics. She has published on decision-making in the Supreme Court, women in law, and related topics. Her current research investigates the impact of women on the judiciary in the United States.

Cost: $25 per person; includes hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine.

Registration will be handled by the President’s College. Use the registration form with this newsletter to sign up.
The President's College at the University of Hartford is deeply saddened to announce the passing, on April 12, 2011, after a brief illness, of Patricia A. Cremins. She was 73. Pat was the founding director of the President's College, building it up over a period of some fifteen years from its beginnings into the flourishing program it is today. She worked with the newly-appointed President Humphrey Tonkin to organize his marathon series of lectures on Shakespeare. With the early success of the series, it became clear that there was a demand for additional offerings, and so further lecture series were created, taught by a variety of experts, and finally the President's College was founded at a celebratory reception on the lawn of Russell House, the residence of the President, in the early 1990s. Pat created a program of Fellows of the President’s College to broaden the base of the College. She also began organizing President's College trips to various parts of the world, including opera trips to Budapest, Prague, St. Petersburg, Seattle, and Sydney, and visits to Ireland, and to Oxford, Cambridge, Cornwall, and the Lake District in England. She remained director of the President’s College until the year 2006, after which time she continued to teach at the University in the All-University Curriculum.

"Pat's spirited and energetic leadership of the President's College established it as an important feature of the University’s outreach to the surrounding community," said University President Emeritus Humphrey Tonkin, director of the President’s College. "She continued to support the work of the President's College after she left the directorship and frequently attended President's College courses and other events.

Pat was daughter of the late Patrick and Mary (Coady) Cremins, and sister of the late Maureen Cremins. She received her BA from Emmanuel College in Boston, MA, and her Masters in Education from Boston University and Oxford University in the U.K. As an educator and administrator, she held positions in New York, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania, coming to the University of Hartford in 1983. She is survived by many cousins of the Cremins and Coady families, and by numerous friends. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the "President's College in memory of Patricia Cremins." Please send donations to University of Hartford, President's College, c/o Toni Robinson, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.
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
  ______

☐ Survival in College: Fridays at the Mortensen: May 13. $45 ($35 Fellow)
  ______

☐ Fossils in Connecticut: Fridays at the Mortensen: June 10. $45 ($35 Fellow)
  ______

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen. May & June sessions. $80 ($65 Fellow)
  ______

☐ 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)
  ______

☐ Monomoy Theatre: Yes, I’m potentially interested in the trip (August 23-25)
  ______

☐ London: Yes, I’m potentially interested in the trip (November 11-18)
  ______

☐ The US Supreme Court: Thursday, June 23. $25
  ______

Total: __________

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________

Street: ___________________________ City: ___________________________ State: ________________________ Zip: ___________________________

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 ______________