THERE’S PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT in the President’s College as we enter a new academic year. In this issue of our newsletter – in its new look – you will read about SHOWCASE 2009, a truly incredible day of stimulating lectures by our finest professors, panel discussions on issues ranging from the Connecticut economy to women’s athletics, and even opportunities to brush up your foreign languages. A feature this year is the opportunity for President’s College Fellows to invite friends new to the College for a fraction of

the normal rate. We are sure that an opportunity to see the President’s College in action will be enough to bring them back for future programs.

We have arranged the program so that the most artistic will find something to interest them every hour of the day, and the most practical will find plenty as well. Art history at 9:30, literature at 10:30, archaeology at 11:30, music at 1:30, history at 2:30, art at 3:30 — matched by economics at 9:30, complexity at 10:30, athletics at 11:30, mathematics at 1:30, and the environment at 2:30!

And then there’s the fall program, beginning with my course in Shakespeare a day or two after Showcase, and ending in December with Lynn Pasquerella’s excursions into ethics and the law. Along the way, we have a wide variety of programs in our Fridays at the Mortensen series, and some of our neatest professors are back – Richard Freund, Catherine Stevenson, Kathleen McGrory. Look particularly at Catherine’s course on the Pre-Raphaelites, also featuring Patrick McCaughey and Michael Lankester. We’re also delighted to have Jane Barstow teaching for us, not least because her subject is the contemporary novel, specifically the novels of Toni Morrison.

Willie Anthony Waters has had to cancel his original dates because of a new and important commitment, and we are now trying to reschedule. If need be, we will hold the course over to the spring. But Bob Gruskay will be teaching his opera series during the fall.

And have you watched Bob Gruskay’s West Hartford TV program yet? “Conversations with the President’s College” is broadcast three times a month on WHC-TV (Channel 5 in West Hartford). Dates for the September program have still to be announced. The program is broadcast in Bloomfield and Simsbury as well. You can also watch in real time by going to WHC-TV’s website http://www.whctv.org. Go to the website for information on times.

So, welcome back to college for a new semester of learning, enlightenment, and good fellowship!

HUMPHREY TONKIN
Twelfth Night or What You Will
Shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria, Viola believes her twin brother drowned. She dresses as a boy and goes to work for Duke Orsino. But her brother is alive—and a series of mistakes and accidents involving the beautiful Olivia and her cousin Sir Toby Belch, along with the steward Malvolio and the clown Feste, leads eventually to Viola’s being reunited with her brother and her engagement to the Duke. The Hartt School will perform Shakespeare’s magical and thought-provoking comedy Twelfth Night in October. In this President’s College course Humphrey Tonkin explores the intricacies of the play and, with director Robert Davis, prepares us for the performance. The four-sessions begin on Tuesday, September 15 (4:30-7:00 pm), with a showing of the film version directed by Trevor Nunn (with Helena Bonham Carter, Imogen Stubbs and Ben Kingsley). On the three following Tuesdays, the course will meet from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The Hartt School’s production of the play will take place on October 15-18 (free admission for course members).

Tuesdays, Sept. 15 (4:30-7:00 pm), 22, 29, Oct. 6 (4:30-6:00 pm). Cost $80 (Fellows $60).

Fridays at the Mortensen, Sept. 25
The first “Fridays at the Mortensen” event of the new season will feature novelist (The Dawn of Days), essayist (Flotsam: A Life in Debris) and former Hartford Courant columnist Denis Horgan on “Storytelling, the World’s Oldest Profession.” Horgan’s political and social commentary were a popular feature in The Courant for 25 years, earning many honors and awards. Denis describes himself as follows: “Born in a Boston taxicab during a Thanksgiving snowstorm, he started life with a non-traditional outlook. This served him well in newspapering where he started as a copyboy at the Boston Globe. He worked in a variety of capacities — reporter, editor, columnist — for the Bangkok World, the Washington Star and the Hartford Courant. He studied at various colleges with no particular distinction, served as an officer in the Army with even less accomplishment and has committed various do-gooder type things like coaching youth baseball to avoid doing his more meaningful chores around the house. His principal vice is an addiction to the Boston Red Sox.”

Fridays at the Mortensen is a series of lectures held after hours in the Mortensen Library on Friday evenings, beginning with a light dinner. Other programs for the fall: engineering professor Saleh Keshawarz, director of the University’s program to provide advanced education to Afghan university faculty, on Afghanistan (October 16), David Pines on the University of Hartford’s Engineers Without Borders projects in India and Kenya (November 13), and Richard Zeiser and Chuck Colarulli on the mysteries of college admissions (December 4).

Fridays 5:45-8:00 pm. Cost per session, including dinner, $45 (Fellows $40). Or sign up for the whole series of four for $130 (Fellows $110).
Digging Through the Bible
Richard Freund, Director of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and Greenberg Professor of Jewish History at the University, is known for teaching that combines accessibility and erudition. His new book, Digging Through the Bible, was nominated for a Book of the Year Award in Religion and highlights some of the most controversial parts of biblical archaeology. These issues will form the substance of the course. What do we know now that all of the Dead Sea Scrolls have been translated? Have the remains of Jesus and the Holy Family been found in a cave outside Jerusalem? Was there ever an Exodus of millions of Israelites from Egypt? What do we know about the major figures and places of the Bible? In the past quarter century Dr. Freund has been involved in many of the most important discoveries in biblical archaeology.

Wednesdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 7 & 14. 5:00-7:20 pm. Cost $65 (Fellows $50)

Folklore and the French Revolution
Historian and folklorist David Hopkin of Oxford University will be our guest at a special lunch and discussion on “The Soldier’s Tale: Folklore and the Experience of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars,” topic of his Hertford College Lecture. The lecture follows later in the afternoon. David Hopkin’s teaching focuses on European and in particular French history from the Enlightenment to World War I. By training an historical anthropologist and by inclination a folklorist, he studies the social and cultural life of rural communities, military and maritime institutions, popular and oral culture. His first book, Soldier and Peasant in French Popular Culture was joint winner of the Royal Historical Society’s Gladstone prize in 2002. Currently he is writing a book about oral culture in nineteenth-century France

Monday, Oct. 12. 12:00-2:00 pm. Cost $40 (Fellows $30)

Opera at the Met: Three Previews
Three operas...three women with fiery personalities: jealous Tosca, ambivalent Aida, and haughty Turandot.... Once again, Bob Gruskay will discuss three of the Met’s high-definition performance transmissions at Buckland Hills, with video previews and other guidance to help bring the performances alive. Each talk will take place on the Thursday preceding the Saturday afternoon broadcast. Puccini’s Tosca is the most richly drawn of his soprano roles. Based on a play by Sardou made famous on the Paris stage by Sarah Bernhardt, Tosca has the appeal of an intensely gripping murder trial. Verdi’s Aida has been termed forerunner of the Hollywood biblical blockbuster with its ritual obsession with Egyptology, the triumph of technology as manifest in the recently opened Suez Canal, all culminating in a triumphal scene involving God, death, revenge and mercy in ancient Egyptian costume. In Turandot, Puccini’s last opera, the opera’s two sopranos, Turandot and Liu, wage an ongoing spiritual battle for the love of the Calaf. Critics chose sides in the contest, and the public’s attitude toward the work has remained divided in the same way, usually depending on the cast. Ideally, both interpreters are lyric and dramatic at once: the icy Turandot should have her melting point; the humble slave Liu should have a vein of noble dignity. You, the audience, be the judge!
The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood: Stevenson, McCaughey, Lankester

Catherine Stevenson’s four-session course on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood promises to be something of a sensation. We have all admired those depictions of gorgeous strong-jawed women with wild hair—rendered in jewel-like colors. Think of Holman Hunt’s luscious Lady of Shallot in the Athenaeum. But what were these young, rebellious artists really about? Do their works go beyond being “eye candy”? The course will focus on the writings of Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Morris but will include two guest lectures—by Patrick McCaughey, art historian formerly of the Yale Center for British Art, on Pre-Raphaelite painting, and Michael Lankester, formerly music director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, on the music of the period, including the work of Granville Bantock and Frederick Delius. This one is likely to be a sell-out, so sign up soon! (Note: no meeting on October 20.)

Tuesdays, Oct. 13, 27, Nov. 3, 10. 4:30–6:00 pm. Cost $105 (Fellows $90).

Toni Morrison: The Big Three

Jane Barstow, one of the University’s best loved and most talented English professors, introduces us to Toni Morrison’s novels. The first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature, Morrison has enjoyed an extraordinary degree of popular success and critical acclaim. The course will examine her three best-known novels, The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon, and Beloved, in terms of their thematic concerns and artistic style, and will consider how these novels have been received at home and abroad. And the course will engage in its own debates about Morrison’s long-term impact on American history and literature. Whether you have always wanted to read Morrison but never have, or look forward to delving more deeply into the multiple layers of her wonderful fictions, join Professor Barstow for new insights and lively discussion.

Wednesdays, Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4. 1:30–3:00 pm. Cost $65 (Fellows $50).

Willie Anthony Waters on “The Operas of Giuseppe Verdi”: **Postponed**

This three-session exploration of the works of Italy’s greatest and most beloved composer will focus on the three periods of Verdi’s compositional output, early, middle, and late. With audio and video examples, Maestro Waters will explore the elements that distinguish these periods, showing Verdi’s development as a composer. Nabucco, Macbeth, Rigoletto, Il Trovatore, La Forza del Destino, Don Carlos, Aida, Otello— the succession of operatic masterpieces that he created tells us much not only about musical and theatrical taste of the second half of the 19th century but also about Italy’s struggle for unity and the deep identification of that country with the operatic style. Because of a new conducting engagement, Maestro Waters has been obliged to postpone the course. We will announce new dates as soon as we can.

Tuesdays, Oct. 8 (Tosca), Oct. 22 (Aida), Nov. 5 (Turandot). 2:00–3:30 pm. Cost $20 per session (Fellows $15), $40 for all three (Fellows $30).

Hertford College Lecture

Every year, a faculty member from Hertford College, University of Oxford, gives a lecture at the University as part of the Hartford-to-Hertford program. This year’s lecturer is Dr. David Hopkin, Lecturer in Modern European History at Oxford, whose topic will be “The Soldier’s Tale: Folklore and the Experience of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.” Date: Monday, October 12, 2009. Time: 4:30 p.m. Place: Wilde Auditorium, Harry Jack Gray Center. Sponsor: The President’s Office. The lecture is free and open to the public. For tickets, call 860.768.4228 or 800.274.8587. Note that the President’s College is also organizing a lunch for Dr. Hopkin (see this issue).

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Poets of Faith and Doubt

Literature professor Kathleen McGrory tackles the great question of the relationship between scientific knowledge and belief in God. Did Science kill Faith? A focused study of poetry from ages of faith, neo-pagan and postmodern-pagan times can provide some unexpected answers and raise further questions. While rumors of the death of Faith, as distinct from Religion, are greatly exaggerated, faith and doubt in poetry as in life are close allies. The course will examine poems of faith and doubt from early British and American traditions through the Romantic and Victorian periods, when modern scientific studies in biology and geology began to change ways of looking at “the problem of God,” and will leave us in the 20th and 21st centuries. Copies of major poems for discussion will be distributed in class. Participants are urged to dust off their own poetry books and to bring to class a favorite poem of faith or doubt for discussion. A few contemporary examples illustrating both sides of the question will be provided, with an invitation to participants to provide more.

Mondays, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.  4:30-6:00 pm.  Cost $90 (Fellows $75)

Philosophical Problems in the Law

In this course, philosopher Lynn Pasquerella, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at the University, will explore contemporary conundrums in the law. For instance, if society has a general obligation to protect individuals from harm by others, what happens when society fails to observe this obligation? To what extent do the victims have the right to intervene either to protect themselves or to punish the offenders? And what role does culture play in excluding illegal behavior? Given our track record, should society abandon the ideal of rehabilitating criminals in favor of focusing on making hard time even harder? The course will give particular attention to legal dilemmas related to the role of race, class and gender.

Tuesdays, Dec. 1, 8 & 15.  4:30-6:00 pm.  Cost $65 (Fellows $50)

Theatre in London with Malcolm Morrison and Humphrey Tonkin

Join former Hartt School Dean Malcolm Morrison and former President Humphrey Tonkin, both born and raised in Britain, for a London theatre trip from the evening of Friday, November 13, to the morning of Friday, November 20. Accommodation will be at the comfortable and well-appointed Strand Palace Hotel, a stone’s throw from London’s theatre district and convenient for all of the delights of London’s West End. Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements. The trip will include four theatre visits, talks by London experts on theatre, back-stage visits, historic walks around London’s theatre district, dinners, lunches, and other pleasures of the heart, head, and stomach. Cost $2950 per person, double occupancy (single supplement $350). Price includes hotel, full breakfast, all taxes, entrance fees, theatre tickets, and most meals. A deposit of $500 per person is required, with full payment necessary by October 1. Participation will be limited to sixteen people, on a first-come-first-served basis.

A. S. Byatt to Lecture

The English Department and the University will host British novelist A. S. Byatt, famed author of Possession and Angels and Insects and numerous other works, on the evening of Wednesday, October 7. Her novel The Children’s Book will be released this fall. Wednesday, October 7, 2009, in Lincoln Theater: 7:30 pm Reading (50 minutes) followed by Q&A (20-30 minutes) and book signing. Lecture free and open to the public.

Our Very Own Blog

Several months ago, someone asked if we could have space for commentary on our website – a place where people could tell their stories.

t: 860.768.4269  f: 860.768.4274  e: pcollege@hartford.edu  w: www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege
Sunday, September 13, is
Showcase Time!

Back to college for a day! We are offering a full day of lectures and panel discussions with some of the University’s best professors and some of the finest President’s College teachers. Designed for adult learners with a passion for learning, Showcase will be a veritable intellectual feast – with something for everyone. Sessions will be spread throughout the day, with six time-slots, each with three different program events to choose from. Many sessions will feature previews of courses to be offered in the President’s College. Registration begins at 9:00 am, and the day ends with a reception for all participants at 4:30. A box lunch will be provided. Here’s what we have in store:

9:30-10:20
Patrick McCaughey, “Elgin to Euphronios: A Brief History of Looting Antiquity.” Former Director of the Yale Center for British Art and a star attraction in the President’s College, Patrick McCaughey will be teaching a course on Romantic painting (Goya, Turner, Constable, Friedrich, Delacroix) next January and February.

Catherine Stevenson, “Visionary Painting/Fleshly Poetry: the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.” English professor Catherine Stevenson, one of our most popular teachers, will be offering a course on the Pre-Raphaelites in the fall – with the assistance of Patrick McCaughey on art and Michael Lankester on music. Her talk will explore some of the literary work of this remarkable group of artists, poets and thinkers.

Humphrey Tonkin, “A Language for the World?” Linguist and humanities professor Humphrey Tonkin will talk about his lifelong involvement with the international language Esperanto and provide a brief introduction to the language. His course on Twelfth Night will be offered in September and October.

10:30-11:20

Tom Filburn, “Staying Alive in Space: Life Support Technologies for Space Travel.” The Director of the Connecticut NASASpace Grant Consortium will introduce us to the issues surrounding requirements for the life support systems planned for use on NASA’s new Orion Crew Vehicle.

Jane Horvath and Jean-Pierre van Rooy on complexity. Director of the University’s new Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis, economist Jane Horvath will lead a team of experts including Jean-Pierre van Rooy, the Center’s founder and former president of Otis Elevator, in a discussion of the nature of complexity in the various disciplines and its relationship to such concepts as chaos theory.


Other News:
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Other News:
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President’s College Member Publishes Volume of Poetry

Join the President’s College! Renew now for 2009-2010!

Sign up as a Fellow of the President’s College for 2009-2010. And if you were a Fellow last year, it’s time to renew. Benefits include lower registration fees for courses, free parking on (Continued on page 8)

11:30-12:20
Jane Barstow, “Women Writers Negotiating Fame.” One of the English Department’s most engaging professors and for many years on the faculty of the Hartford College for Women, Jane Barstow will be offering a course on Toni Morrison during the fall semester. This lecture will discuss Morrison, her contemporary Margaret Atwood, and their precursor Edith Wharton.

Richard Freund “Digging Through the Bible: What Archaeology Reveals about Ancient Peoples and Places.” The ever-productive and consistently fascinating director of the Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and Greenberg Professor has recently written two new books on the archaeology of the Bible. They will feature in his lecture and also in the course that he will be offering this fall.

Walter Harrison and Pat Meiser, “Women’s Athletics through the Years: Title IX and the Pursuit of Excellence.” How does a university make the best use of its athletics programs for the good of all, and particularly for the advancement of women? This panel discussion will feature President Harrison as moderator, with Athletics Director Pat Meiser and a panel consisting of women’s basketball coach Jennifer Rizzotti, assistant cross country coach Nicole Toney, and assistant compliance administrator Alex Morley.

12:20-1:30
Lunch. A box lunch will be served. Those who are interested are invited to join Professor Maria Esposito Frank and her colleagues Marie Healey, Nicholas Ealy, and Marco Cupolo in brush-up conversations in French, Spanish, and Italian. Beginners and silent observers are welcome!

1:30-2:20
Michael Lankester, “On Wings of Song: The Life and Music of Felix Mendelssohn.” On the 200th anniversary of the composer’s birth, the former music director of the Hartford Symphony looks at his remarkable career not only as Romantic composer but also as reviver of the music of Bach and a founder of modern conducting. The talk will be illustrated with excerpts from Mendelssohn family letters. Michael Lankester will teach a course on the English musical tradition this coming spring.

Jean McGivney-Burelle “It’s in the Numbers: Investigations in Elementary Number Theory.” An exploration of fundamental ideas in number theory by using patterns to explore prime numbers, perfect numbers, Pascal’s Triangle and more. Bring papers, pencils, and willingness to puzzle through problems. Mathematician Jean McGivney-Burelle taught a brilliant President’s College course on problem-solving in mathematics this past spring.

Randi Ashton-Pritting, “The Wonders of Connecticut Libraries.” The director of libraries and education lecturer at the University, current president of the Connecticut Library Association, will lead a panel of Connecticut librarians on the unique holdings, special pleasures, and ongoing challenges associated with libraries in Connecticut. She will be joined by Connecticut State Librarian Kendall Wiggin, and by Peter Chase, Director of the Plainville Public Library, one of the Connecticut Four who successfully resisted efforts to hand over library patron information to the FBI under the Patriot Act.

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(Continued on page 8)
Michael Robinson, “Lost White Tribe: Expeditions in Search of the White Race.” Professor of history Michael Robinson examines some of the more remarkable efforts in the 19th century to discover “lost white tribes” in distant parts of the world – and the anthropological, cultural and political implications of such efforts.

Humphrey Tonkin and colleagues in a celebration and reading of the poetry of the Victorian poet Alfred Lord Tennyson to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria’s poet laureate and one of the greatest poetic voices of the 19th century. Tennyson’s work will figure in both Kathleen McGrory’s and Catherine Stevenson’s courses this fall.

Joseph Voelker, “The Liberal Arts and the Environment.” Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Joe Voelker joins colleagues Sherry Buckberrough (Art History), Laura Pence (Chemistry), and Jay Stewart (Sociology) in a discussion of how to integrate knowledge of the environment into education in the arts and sciences.

Kathleen McGrory, “Poets of Faith and Doubt.” Literature professor and former President of Hartford College for Women, Kathleen McGrory asks how English and American poets have addressed issues of religious faith from the Middle Ages to today (taking in such poets as John Donne, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Emily Dickinson along the way), in a preview of the course she will be teaching this fall.

Aaron Flagg, “Steve Reich: The Aesthetics of Minimalism in Music.” The newly appointed dean of the Hartt School will discuss the work of one of the greatest of contemporary American composers, a leader of the Minimalist school, whose richly contextual and highly collaborative work embraces the music and culture not only of the western tradition but of the entire globe.

Power Boothe, “Out of Order: Art Crossing Borders.” The dean of the Hartford Art School contends that artists push and prod culture and test the central myths we have by engaging in subversive innovation. Today, all the artistic boundaries have been crossed and all the geographical borders have given way to an artistic Global Village (or is it a global corporation?). Joining Dean Boothe will be professor of art Carol Padbury and professor of art history Amanda Carlson.

Registration for Showcase
- Registration is $150 for the entire day, including lunch and reception.
- Fellows for 2009-2010: $100 (couples, if both are Fellows: $150 for two).
- Fellows who wish to introduce or reintroduce a friend to the President's College may register him or her for $20 (to cover lunch and registration). Only one friend per Fellow, please. A friend is anyone who has not been a Fellow for the past three years (since 2005-2006).
- Full-time members of the faculty or staff may register for $20 (to cover lunch and registration).
Registration Form and RSVP

Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ President’s College Fellow, 2009-2010 (parking on campus, library privileges, discounts on courses, information about events). $100

☐ London Theatre with Malcolm Morrison & Humphrey Tonkin
  Deposit to reserve a space. $500
  □ Single
  □ Double (sharing with ________________)

☐ Twelfth Night or What You Will. 4 sessions. $80 ($60 Fellow)

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen (includes dinner). 4 sessions. $130 ($110 Fellow)
  □ Denis Horgan only (includes dinner). $45 ($40 Fellow)
  □ Saleh Keshawarz only (includes dinner). $45 ($40 Fellow)
  □ David Pines only (includes dinner). $45 ($40 Fellow)
  □ Zeiser & Colarulli only (includes dinner). $45 ($40 Fellow)

☐ Toni Morrison. 3 sessions. $65 ($50 Fellow)

☐ Digging Through the Bible. 3 sessions. $65 ($50 Fellow)

☐ Poets of Faith and Doubt. 5 sessions. $90 ($75 Fellow)

☐ Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. 4 sessions. $105 ($90 Fellow)

☐ Philosophical Problems in the Law. 3 sessions. $65 ($50 Fellow)

☐ Folklore and the French Revolution. Lunch. $40 ($30 Fellow)

☐ Opera at the Met with Bob Gruskay. 3 sessions. $40 ($30 Fellow)
  □ Tosca only. $20 ($15 Fellow)
  □ Aida only. $20 ($15 Fellow)
  □ Turandot only. $20 ($15 Fellow)

TOTAL

Please turn

Showcase 2009
The basic registration fee is $150 for the entire day, including lunch and reception. Fellows register for $100, if they have paid the Fellows fee for 2009-2010. If they have not already done so, they may pay their Fellows fee using this form.

Couples, if both are Fellows: $150 for two. Please give registration information for both.

Friends. Fellows who wish to introduce or reintroduce a friend to the President’s College may register him or her for $20 (to cover lunch and registration costs). Only one friend per Fellow, please. A friend is anyone who has not been a Fellow for the past three years (since 2005-2006). Please give full registration information for both people.

☐ Registration. $150 ($100 Fellow)

☐ Couple, if both are Fellows. $150  (Please fill out both names below)

☐ Friend of a Fellow. $20 (To qualify for this rate, the friend must not have been a Fellow since 2005-2006)  (Please fill out both names below)

☐ Please order a vegetarian lunch for me.
☐ Please order a vegetarian lunch for the person accompanying me.

TOTAL (first & second page)  ___

NAME:_______________________ADDRESS:__________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________ZIP:_________TEL#  (day) (____)______________  (evening) (____)______________  E-MAIL:___________

Second person (Showcase only)

NAME:_______________________ADDRESS:__________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________ZIP:_________TEL# (day) (____)______________  (evening) (____)______________  E-MAIL:___________

Fee may be paid by: (circle one)  Check  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Credit Card#

_________________________________________________ Exp. Date ____________

Signature__________________________________________________   Date___________________

Checks payable to University of Hartford. Send