THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR when programming for the fall gets fully underway and we are heavily engaged in planning the program for spring. It’s also a time when there are lots of other activities going on around campus that might be of interest to President’s College members. Our first fall event, SHOWCASE, the all-day presentation of lectures and other activities, held on September 13, was a great success. One hundred people registered and attended, so that, with speakers and staff members, over 140 people were on hand. Many signed up on the spot for our fall courses. Evaluations were highly positive, with 82% rating the program “excellent.” Among the comments: “Informative, enjoyable, challenging,” “Thought-provoking,” “A wonderful intellectual experience.” Among the particular successes: informal lunchtime conversations in foreign languages for those wishing to brush up their knowledge. We have tentatively selected Sunday, September 12, for next year’s Showcase. Mark it down!

My course on Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night began two weeks ago, and has been enlivened by the presence of colleagues Bob Davis (who is directing the play at the University on October 15-18) and Henry Fonte. We disagree just enough to prove that there is no single interpretation of this fascinating play. Next week, some of the students who will be performing will visit us to discuss the production.

Richard Freund’s course on biblical archeology is off to a good start, and October starts include Bob Gruskay on Tosca (Oct. 8), Catherine Stevenson on the Pre-Raphaelites (Oct. 13), and Jane Barstow on novelist Toni Morrison (Oct. 21). There’s a lunch with David Hopkin, historian of Oxford University, on October 12. A dinner in the Fridays at the Mortensen series follows on October 16, Our guest will be engineering professor Saleh Keshawarz on Afghanistan.

Our London theatre trip, which Malcolm Morrison and I are organizing, starts November 13. We are at capacity with 16 participants. Among the theatre highlights will be The Habit of Art, a new play by Alan Bennett (author of The History Boys), at the National Theatre, and the sensational adaptation of Michael Morpurgo’s book War Horse.

I met recently with Jilda Aliotta, political scientist, about possibly organizing a trip to Prague, combining an exploration of history with a series of lectures and discussions with leading local experts on human rights. The program might take place in July 2010 or January 2011. I’d love to hear from people who might be interested in participating.

HUMPHREY TONKIN
Fridays at the Mortensen, Oct. 16

It’s one thing to wring our hands about the war in Afghanistan; it’s quite another to get out there and do something about it. That’s exactly what our October 16 guest, Saleh Keshawarz, civil and environmental engineering professor here at the University, has been doing. At Herat University he has set about reforming the civil engineering program, once taught mostly by professors with bachelors degrees, but now led by a group of engineers with brand-new masters degrees from the University of Hartford (the first group graduated in May). Civil engineering is the second most popular major at Herat, and the program includes growing numbers of women. Dr. Keshawarz will tell us about his program and its challenges and share with us his prognosis for his native country.

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: 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 three for $95 (Fellows $85).

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...
**FAQ**

What do I do if the University closes? Closings are announced on WTC - 1080 AM/96.5 FM, WRCH - 100.5 FM, and WWUH - 91.3 FM. Local television stations use automated systems with limited choices for colleges and universities. Currently, Channel 3 (WFSB) is the only area station that airs specific opening and closing times. So please follow up on any announcements that you see on Channels 8 (WTNH) or 30 (WVIT) by checking the University’s Web site (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.

**Programs Continued**

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 Shalott 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.)

**Willie Anthony Waters to offer “The Operas of Giuseppe Verdi” as a full-day program on Sunday, February 7**

Postponed because of Maestro Waters’ conducting commitments, this 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.

**Sunday, Feb 7. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.** Including lunch. Cost $80 (Fellows $60)
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)**

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 excusing 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)**
Some Spring Highlights

It’s too early yet to announce our spring program, but here are a few dates that you might like to keep in mind.

Patrick McCaughey’s course “Romantic Visions — Romantic Realities,” on the art of Goya, Friedrich, Turner, Constable, and Delacroix, will begin on Friday, February 12 and run for five weeks. Registration will open on November 1.

February 16 is the date for the next Mortensen Library Symposium. Entitled “Facing Hard Times: The Thirties in America,” the Symposium will also be sponsored by the President’s College and the journal Connecticut Explored, formerly the Hog River Journal, whose Spring issue will feature this topic. Keynote speaker will be Peter Conn, of the University of Pennsylvania, author of The American 1930s: A Literary History (Cambridge University Press, 2009). 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Details to follow.

Women’s Health will be the subject of a breakfast and morning program on Friday, March 5, sponsored by the President’s College, the Women’s Education and Leadership Fund, Hartford Hospital, and the Hartford College for Women alumnae. Save the date!

Willie Anthony Waters will offer an all-day seminar on the operas of Verdi on February 7. See elsewhere in this issue for details. Registration is already open.

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

Sign up as a Fellow of the President’s College for 2009-2010! Benefits include lower registration fees for courses, free parking on campus, access to the Sports Center, and borrowing privileges at the library. Your registration also demonstrates your support for the College and its future – and helps give us the capital we need to bring you our many outstanding programs. The cost is $100 for the academic year 2009-2010.

Elsewhere in the University

Hartt Announces a Block Party.
Saturday, October 10, from 1:00 to 5:30 pm, the University’s, Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center will be open to friends and neighbors for a Block Party. Come and enjoy drumming, dance, jazz, storytelling, theater improvisation, refreshments and more, indoors and outdoors. Artists Collective members and an array of other exciting local artists will perform and offer workshops for all ages. All events free. Location: corner of Albany Avenue and Westbourne Parkway. Information: 860-768-2462.

Daytrip to the Clark Museum. Join alumna and art historian Dorothy Bosch as she leads a visit to the collection of the
Other News:

(Continued from page 5)

about the President’s College, offer suggestions or comment on programs – or generally raise ideas. Thanks to the ingenuity and diligence of the Mortensen Library’s Barbara Des- sureau we have found a way. Go to http://uhpresidentscollege.blogspot.com/, where you’ll find the President’s College blog that Barbara has created. It has categories, followers and a marker for comments. Feel free to join (or follow) the discussion. Feel free also to use the blog to make contact with other President’s College folks. For example, it happens not infrequently that people are looking for others to form a party to go to Shakespeare & Co. in Lenox, or to Tanglewood. We often don’t have the time or the horsepower to arrange such special trips, but we encourage you to use the blog to ask around.

Civil Liberties in the 21st Century is this year’s topic for the University’s new Community Conversations Colloquium. Upcoming lectures: Joyce Lee Malcolm, professor of legal history at George Mason University School of Law (“Is There a Right to Self-Defense?” on Wednesday, October 7, 7:30 pm, Wilde Auditorium); Michael Parenti, historian and political scientist (“Civil Liberties and Economic Democracy” on Wednesday, November 4, at 7:30 pm, Wilde Auditorium). The series is free and open to the public. For tickets call 860-768-4228.

Cardin Reading Series. The next speaker in the Cardin Reading Series, sponsored by the University’s English Department, will be novelist Paul Griffin, Wednesday, November 18, Wilde Auditorium, 12:15-1:30 pm. After graduating from Dartmouth, Griffin worked as a teacher with at-risk and learning-challenged kids in high schools and juvenile detention centers throughout New York City, where he lives. His first novel, Ten Mile River, has been called “a striking debut” by Publisher’s Weekly.

The Alumni Association is planning a visit to Australia and New Zealand, April 12-26. Call 860-768-2409 for a brochure and itinerary.

And don’t forget to watch Conversations with the President’s College on West Hartford Community TV. The program, hosted by President’s College volunteer Bob Gruskay, is broadcast three times each month and is available also on several other local community channels. Go to www.whctv.org for West Hartford dates and times.

Guest for October: Dr. Lynn Pasquerella, Provost of the University, whose course “Philosophical Problems in the Law” begins December 1.
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

- Fridays at the Mortensen (includes dinner). 3 sessions. $95 ($85 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)

- 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)

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

- Operas of Giuseppe Verdi. All-day program, with lunch. $80 ($60 Fellow)

TOTAL __

NAME:_______________________ ADDRESS:__________________________________________________________________________________
ZIP:________ TEL# (day) (____)______________ (evening) (____)______________ E-MAIL:______________________________

Fee may be paid by: (circle one) Check Visa MasterCard Discover
Credit Card# ________________________________ Exp. Date ____________
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