I’M HAVING A LOT OF FUN PREPARING FOR MY COURSE ON TRANSLATIONS, WHICH STARTS ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

The big news this month is the launch of our cooperative program with the Duncaster Retirement Community, in Bloomfield. Tuesdays at Duncaster, modeled on Fridays at the Mortensen, will feature university faculty members. It’s open to non-residents of Duncaster as well. Under the new program, we can also expect to see more Duncaster residents at our other events, on the university campus. See page 2 for details of this exciting new program and its impressive list of speakers.

Remember that for the spring semester, if you are not already a Fellow, you can join for just $75!

HUMPHREY TONKIN
ANNOUNCING: TUESDAYS AT DUNCASTER

A program of dinners, lectures and discussions specially arranged for Fellows of the President’s College and for residents of Duncaster. Each session can be signed up for separately, and non-residents of Duncaster are welcome to attend. A reception and dinner will be followed by a lecture by a University of Hartford faculty member, with discussion seminar-style. Registration (including dinner and reception): $20 per session for Duncaster residents, $20 per session for Fellows, $30 per session for others.

January 19, 2010, 5:30 pm. Michael Robinson, Assistant Professor of History, Hillyer College, U. of Hartford

Henry Morton Stanley and the Lost White Tribes of Africa

Stanley and Livingstone’s meeting on Lake Tanganyika in 1871 is one of the most famous events in the history of exploration. Less known are Stanley’s other actions in Africa, particularly his discovery of a ”white” tribe on Mt. Gambaragara, the highest snow-capped peak of the Ruwenzori range. The idea of white colonies in Africa had long roots. Since the middle ages, Europeans believed that an advanced race – perhaps that led by King Solomon or the Queen of Sheba – had established outposts in the heart of Africa. Stanley’s discovery gave new life to this idea, an event that would have profound consequences for the people of Africa.

February 23, 2010, 5:30 pm. Jean McGivney-Burelle, Associate Professor of Mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences, U. of Hartford

Behind the Numbers: Investigations in Elementary Number Theory

Number theory, sometimes called “higher arithmetic,” is the branch of mathematics concerned with the properties of numbers. It is one of the oldest branches of pure mathematics. The great difficulty in proving seemingly simple results in number theory prompted Gauss to remark, “it is just this which gives the higher arithmetic that magical charm which has made it the favorite science of the greatest mathematicians.” We will explore fundamental ideas in number theory by using patterns to explore divisibility, properties of prime numbers, figurate numbers, perfect numbers, Pascal’s Triangle and more. For the mathematically inclined and the mathematically challenged alike. Bring your papers, pencils, and willingness to puzzle through problems.

March 23, 2010, 5:30 pm. Louis Manzione, Dean, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, U. of Hartford

Digital Health

The interdisciplinary initiative known as Digital Health is the monitoring, diagnosis and treatment of health conditions, both chronic and acute, through use of medical devices, remote sensing technologies, wireless sensor networks, and data mining. It enables a more thorough distributed diagnosis, and then treatment based on long term monitoring of conditions rather than discrete point of service observations and one time tests. Remote sensing of heart rhythms, degree of limping, fall detection, mobility metrics, and cerebral-vascular events, for example, are all feasible. Digital Health has been embraced by information technology and healthcare corporations as a promising growth area for equipment, services and investment. It could migrate care from expensive remedial facilities to long term wellness monitoring and management, often in the home. Dr. Manzione will describe new developments in this emerging field.

April 20, 2010, 5:30 pm. Catherine Stevenson, former Dean for International and Honors Programs, U. of Hartford

A Passage to India

May 18, 2010, 5:30 pm. Joseph Voelker, Dean of Arts & Sciences, U. of Hartford

Yeats in Love

All sessions will take place at Duncaster, 40 Loeffler Road, Bloomfield
Fridays at the Mortensen: Hongwei Jin

Stay in touch with the President’s College community, meet friends, exchange ideas, at Fridays at the Mortensen, the monthly dinners organized by the President’s College! One of the main attractions is the opportunity to meet others and to exchange ideas on the President’s College and its activities. All sessions are held at the Mortensen Library, the University’s main library, beginning with a reception at 5:45, dinner at 6:00, then a presentation by the evening’s speaker.

Our first speaker of the semester, on Friday, January 22, will be Hongwei Jin, on higher education in China and America. She is associate professor in the School of Foreign Studies at Shandong University of Finance, and has spent the past semester at the University of Hartford, along with her son (who is enrolled at the University’s Magnet School). She will talk about her experiences and about the similarities and differences between her country and ours.

Future guests:
- Friday, February 12. Jeanne Bonaca on writing and translating.
- Friday, March 12. Wendell Wallach on ethical issues raised by new technologies.
- Friday, April 9. Malcolm and Johanna Morrison on the life of the actor and teacher in Britain and America.
- Friday, May 7. Joseph Voelker, literary scholar and dean of Arts and Sciences.
- Friday, June 4. Clara Fang on the problems of traffic engineering.

Attendance at each session will be $40 (incl. dinner) or $30 for Fellows. Fellows wishing to attend all six spring sessions may do so for a single payment of $125.

Da Vinci Codes and Lost Symbols: The World of Dan Brown, Novelist

A critical look at Dan Brown’s five novels, Digital Fortress (1998), Angels and Demons (2000), Deception Point (2001), The Da Vinci Code (2003) and The Lost Symbol (2009). Those who enjoy mysteries, and who don’t mind the willing suspension of disbelief they require, will enjoy Dan Brown, who is today the most successful, living proponent of short-chapter, page-turner, novelistic-mystery writing. Encyclopedic knowledge of trivial things is somehow woven throughout each novel, often with the same plot and characters placed in different settings, but always with an original twist. With the aid of film-clips from movies and documentary films explaining, praising or damning Brown’s fiction, this course will provide a forum for reading and discussing, chronologically, his five novels to see what is really the nature of Dan Brown’s fictional world.

Kathleen McGrory has an MA from Notre Dame and PhD from Columbia 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. She has taught at the University of Hartford and now teaches two courses in Rhetoric/Argument at ECSU. She is completing a book on the Holy Grail.

Wednesdays, January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24. 4:30-6:00 pm. $90 (Fellows $65)

Translations

In connection with a Hartt School performance of Brian Friel’s play Translations, about the relationship between language and community in colonial Ireland, Humphrey Tonkin will examine some of the issues raised by the play – particularly the question of “ownership” of a language, the benefits and limitations of linguistic diversity, and the nature of translation itself. What does it mean to “translate” a text into another language? What are the implications of suppressing or maintaining local languages? What is lost when a language dies? Two sessions of the course will precede the production; participants will then see the play itself, and two further sessions will take place after the production is over.

Humphrey Tonkin, President of the University from 1989 to 1998, is University Professor of the Humanities and directs the President’s College. Educated at Cambridge and Harvard, he has been Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University and is a specialist in Elizabethan literature and in sociolinguistics and language policy. He has translated two of Shakespeare’s plays into Esperanto and published numerous other books, articles and translations in or on the language. He edits the journal Language Problems and Language Planning and the series Studies in World Language Problems. A volume edited with Maria Esposito Frank, The Translator as Mediator of Cultures, will appear in 2010.

Thursdays, February 4, 11. 7:00-8:30 pm. February 25 (performance at 7:30 pm). March 4, 11. 7:00-8:30 pm. $90 (Fellows $65)

Giuseppe Verdi and Italian Opera

This day-long 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 Verdi 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.

Space is limited: enroll early!

Willie Anthony Waters, General and Artistic Director of Connecticut Opera from 1999 to 2009, has been a guest conductor for numerous opera companies in the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, and South Africa. He has conducted a wide range of Italian, French, German and American operatic works, among them Porgy and Bess in South Africa and Germany, and the major works of Donizetti, Verdi and Puccini. His orchestral engagements include performances with the Florida Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Hartford Symphony, Bavarian Symphony and others.
Other Events:

Come to the University’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance on Monday, January 18, 2009 at Lincoln Theatre from 11:00 a.m. to noon to share the dream and reflect on the significance of the holiday. Information: 860-768-4220.

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!

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 (Continued on page 6)

Programs Continued

Radio Orchestra, Essen Philharmonic (Germany), Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Brucknerhaus Orchester (Linz, Austria) and Indianapolis Symphony. He is a regular guest on Metropolitan Opera Quiz during the renowned Metropolitan Opera live broadcasts. Sunday, Feb 7. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Including lunch. $80 (Fellows $60)

The Dante Book Club

Glory of the Italian Middle Ages, brilliant poet of faith and politics, Dante Alighieri defined through his Divine Comedy the very course of Italian literature and language. This great work, divided into the Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso, traces the poet’s journey, accompanied in part by his poetic ancestor Virgil, through an examination of human shortcomings that mirrors his own time, to the very edge of the divine, where time itself comes to an end in perfect stillness. On this occasion, the participants in the semester-long Dante Book Club will engage in a reading of the Inferno under the guidance of their own Virgil, Dante scholar Maria Frank, whose knowledge of the Italian tradition of commentary on Dante will help bring to life the stories that the poet and his characters tell. No knowledge of Italian necessary.

Maria Esposito Frank chairs the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. Educated at the University L’Orientale of Naples, Moscow State University, and Harvard University (Ph.D.), she has taught at Boston College and the University of California at Los Angeles. She specializes in late medieval and Renaissance Italy. Her publications include a book on Renaissance humanism (1999), and articles on Dante, Leon Battisti Alberti, Machiavelli, 15th-century demonology, and Marsilio Ficino. She has also published critical essays on various modern and contemporary poets.

Mondays, February 8, March 1, March 22, April 5, 19, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. $60 (Fellows $40)

Romantic Visions, Romantic Realities

Patrick McCaughey, former director of the Wadsworth Atheneum and of the Yale Center for British Art, will explore how Romanticism came to painting in Spain, Britain, Germany, and France by looking at the work of five major artists – Goya, Turner, Constable, Friedrich, and Delacroix. The Romantics believed that daily, lived experience and the encounter with the world were the sources and seed bed of art. The cult of nature and the rise to prominence of landscape painting were the hallmark of Romanticism, but at the same time Romantic artists and writers gave a new precedence to the imagination and inner life: art should be the product of “the true voice of feeling.” This central tension within Romanticism, the pull of the external world and the claims of the inner life, generated its vitality. Space is limited: enroll early!

Patrick McCaughey, art historian and critic, was raised in Australia and studied there and in the US. After several years as director of
the National Gallery of Victoria and enfant terrible of the Australian art scene, he became successively director of the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford and director of the Yale Center of British Art in New Haven. He now lives and writes in New Haven. His numerous books include a memoir, The Bright Shapes and the True Names (2003). 

Fridays, February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12. 4:00-5:30 pm. $160 (Fellows $110)

Solving the Mozart Mystery

As Americans once again gather in "Tea Parties" to protest what they see as the excesses of their government, it seems a fitting moment to ponder the hold that the American Revolution continues to have on the American political imagination. This course will examine the initial stirring of the Revolution in New England through a discussion of David Hackett Fischer's Paul Revere's Ride. Fischer's book offers a wonderful narrative of the events surrounding the battles of Lexington and Concord, and probes the nature of war as a cultural event. Together we will contemplate the conflict that plunged New England into political turmoil and open warfare, the consequences of political violence on families and communities, and the place of these events within present day libertarian politics.

Robert Churchill teaches history in the University of Hartford’s Hillyer College, specializing in the American Revolution, early national political culture, and American political violence. He has taught at Princeton University and holds a PhD from Rutgers and bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Brown. He is the author of To Shake Their Guns in the Tyrant’s Face: Libertarian Political Violence and the Origins of the Militia Movement (U. of Michigan Press, 2009) and of several scholarly articles on aspects of American history and political violence. He is currently developing several courses in global history, including an interdisciplinary course titled “Atlantic Journeys.”

Wednesdays, March 10, 24, 31, 4:30-6:00 p.m. $60 (Fellows $40)

Minutemen: Myths and Realities

Our January guest on “Conversations with the President’s College,” the West Hartford Community TV program hosted by Bob Gruskay, will be Patrick McCaughey, whose course on the Romantic painters Goya, Turner, Constable, Friedrich, and Delacroix begins on Friday, February 12. (see details on this and the previous page). Visit www.whctv.org for schedules.

Michael Schiano is Associate Professor of Music Theory at the Hartt School. He received his PhD from Brandeis University with a dissertation on Arnold Schoenberg’s Grundgestalt., and his master’s degree from King’s College London with a thesis on Webern’s Das Augenlicht. He began as a physics major at The Cooper Union, moving to Princeton for an AB degree in music. His bachelor’s thesis on "Why I Like The Beatles"
resulted in considerable outside interest. His academic interests include Mozart, Schoenberg, the Beatles, music analysis, American music, popular music, and computer applications in music theory and analysis. An accordionist and a pianist, he has performed with the Hartford Symphony and other orchestras in Connecticut. He is also a member of the Long-Island-based Beatles Magical Orchestra. At Hartt, he regularly teaches classes in theory, analysis, counterpoint, and music history.

Thursdays, March 25, April 1, 8, 4:30-6:00 pm. $60 (Fellows $40)

Alternative Energy Sources, Thermodynamics and Power

Energy policy is driven by science, technology, and political choices. What can we do to reduce fossil fuel use through alternative power plant schemes? How can we get the science right and how can we balance costs and benefits? We will try to answer these questions by using Connecticut energy policy as an example. Connecticut electric rates are driven by wholesale market factors, fuel costs, and the DPUC. We will examine the past and present types of fuel used for power generation, and address the ability of various renewable energy sources to provide significant impact in Connecticut’s electric supply mix. Among the topics to be discussed will be power plant types (combined cycle, simple cycle), fuels (coal, natural gas, nuclear) and all types of renewable energy (biofuels, solar and wind).

Tom Filburn, director of the Connecticut NASA Space Grant Consortium at the University of Hartford, obtained a BSc and MS in Mechanical Engineering and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Connecticut. He has worked for Northeast Utilities, United Nuclear Corporation and United Technologies (UTC). He has received practical experience in both nuclear and liquid metal combustion power systems, and his last assignment before joining the University was with the Space, Land and Sea group at Hamilton Sundstrand (UTC division), where he performed research on regenerative life support technologies for NASA. His research interests lie in the area of energy, sustainable design, greenhouse gas control and environmental design. He has published in Industrial and Engineering Chemical Research and the Fuels Journal of the American Chemical Society and holds six US patents for chemicals and methods to condition enclosed habitats.

Wednesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 5:30-7:00 p.m. $60 (Fellows $40)

The English Musical Tradition

From the flowering of keyboard music in Elizabethan England, the development of the Elizabethan air in the work of Tallis, and the emergence of a distinctive English choral tradition at the hands of Purcell, through the establishment of the oratorio and the anthem in the 18th and 19th century – the distinctive English musical tradition leads to the symphonic music of Edward Elgar, the musical nostalgia associated with the incorporation of folksong by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst, the vocal compositions and operas of
Benjamin Britten, and on to such contemporary composers as Tavener and Ades. This course will identify the common threads that link English music over the ages and seek to situate the English musical tradition in a European and global context.

Michael Lankester, who served for fifteen years as 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, including the Pittsburgh, Toronto, City of Birmingham, and London Symphonies, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic. As Music Director of the National Theatre (UK), he worked with such distinguished directors as Jonathan Miller and Franco Zeffirelli. He collaborated extensively with Laurence Olivier, working with him on several television productions. He served as conductor for the inaugural production of Tom Stoppard’s play Every Good Boy Deserves Favour (with music by André Previn) at London’s Mermaid Theatre. 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 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. $120 (Fellows $90)

“Look After Liberty”: The History of West Hartford

In May 1711 the Connecticut General Court granted permission for the establishment of a new parish on the western edge of the village of Hartford – the first formal recognition of what was to become the Town of West Hartford. From its beginnings as an agricultural community to its status today as one of the inner ring suburbs of the City of Hartford, it has seen enormous changes and momentous events. Town historian Tracey Wilson will guide us through this rich history, drawing on the collections of the Noah Webster House and the West Hartford Historical Society, and taking us to visit some of the sites that she discusses. Learn how Hall High School and Conard High School got their names and who the Bishop of Bishop’s Corner was, examine pots made in West Hartford of West Hartford clay, and discover the “other” Thomas Jefferson, who was known as “The Handsomest Horse in the World” and ran at West Hartford’s Charter Oak racetrack. The course will be based at the Noah Webster House in West Hartford.

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 Ph.D. 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.

Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 4:00-6:00 p.m. $70 (Fellows $50)

(Continued from page 7)

The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture (Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 2006), which won the 2008 Book Award for the History of Science in America. He has lectured on his work at the American Museum of Natural History, The Explorers Club, and the Geographical Society of Philadelphia. He serves as guest curator of an exhibition of Arctic exploration at the Portland Museum of Art (Maine) and as advisory editor to the history of science journal Isis. He writes a blog about the history of science and exploration called Time To Eat the Dogs (http://timetoeattthedogs.com/), which was nominated for a 2008 Weblog Award.
Registration Form and RSVP

Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ Yes, I plan to attend the January 15 reception. (If others will accompany you, please indicate the number of additional people ______)

☐ President’s College Fellow, 2009-2010 (parking on campus, library privileges, discounts on courses, information about events). $75 for spring semester ______


☐ Translations. Humphrey Tonkin. Feb. 4, 11, 25, Mar. 4, 11. $90 ($65 Fellow) ______

☐ Giuseppe Verdi. Willie Anthony Waters. Feb. 7. $80 ($60 Fellow) ______

☐ Dante Book Club. Maria Esposito Frank. Feb. 8, Mar. 1, 22, Apr. 5, 19. $60 ($40 Fellow) ______

☐ Romantic Visions, Romantic Realities. Patrick McCaughey. Feb. 12, 19, 26, Mar. 5, 12. $160 ($110 Fellow) ______

☐ Minute Men. Robert Churchill. Mar. 10, 24, 31. $60 ($40 Fellow) ______

☐ Solving the Mozart Mystery. Michael Schiano. Mar. 25, Apr. 1, 8. $60 ($40 Fellow) ______

☐ Alternative Energy Sources. Tom Filburn. Apr. 7, 14, 21. $60 ($40 Fellow) ______

Total: ______

Total Side B (if applicable): ______

Grand Total: ______

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Registration Form and RSVP

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          $120 ($90 Fellow)  

☐ History of West Hartford.  Tracey Wilson. May 6, 13, 20, 27.  $70 ($50 Fellow)  

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen.  Hongwei Jin. Jan. 22.  $40 ($30 Fellow)  


☐ Fridays at the Mortensen.  Wendell Wallach. Mar. 12.  $40 ($30 Fellow)  

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen.  M. & J. Morrison. Apr. 9.  $40 ($30 Fellow)  

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen.  Joseph Voelker. May 7.  $40 ($30 Fellow)  

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen.  Clara Fang. June 4.  $40 ($30 Fellow)  

☐ All six Fridays at the Mortensen.  Special Fellows price.  $125 (this price for Fellows only)  

☐ Tuesdays at Duncaster.  Michael Robinson. Jan. 19.  $30 ($20 Fellow)  

☐ Tuesdays at Duncaster.  Jean McGivney-Burelle. Feb. 23.  $30 ($20 Fellow)  

☐ Tuesdays at Duncaster.  Louis Manzione. Mar. 23.  $30 ($20 Fellow)  

☐ Tuesdays at Duncaster.  Catherine Stevenson. Apr. 20.  $30 ($20 Fellow)  

☐ Tuesdays at Duncaster.  Joseph Voelker. May 18.  $30 ($20 Fellow)  

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