Tuesdays at Duncaster

Timothy Black
Maria Esposito Frank
Walter Harrison

Join us for our new partnership with Duncaster

Dates: October 26, November 30, December 14
Location: Duncaster Retirement Community, Bloomfield
See page 8 for details
REGISTRATIONS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER ARE EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG. That seems to be the message all round. One course — mine, on Shakespeare’s Sonnets — is already over, and three (Chaucer with Virginia Hale, Moby-Dick with Bryan Sinche, and the US Supreme Court with Jilda Aliotta) started this past week. On Sunday, October 3, comes Willie Anthony Waters’ day-long session on Puccini (hurry, hurry!) and on Tuesday, October 5, Malcolm Morrison and I begin our course on Coram Boy.

But the big event was Showcase on September 19: eighteen lectures and panel discussions by upwards of forty speakers and presenters, for an audience considerably in excess of one hundred. We are still sorting the registrations and cannot give a precise number yet. Among the particular highlights were an ambitious and star-studded debate on the future of the symphony orchestra, a couple of fascinating sessions on aspects of Nazi Germany, and a laughter-filled presentation on the music of Beethoven. There were lunchtime foreign language sessions, and the day ended with a reception hosted by President Harrison.

We mention elsewhere one important development at this year’s Showcase: the signing of an agreement between Duncaster and the University. Not only are we expanding our base — thanks to the cooperation of many people, particularly our volunteers — but we are also expanding our outreach with agreements with the Farmington Public Library and SummerWood. In connection with this outreach, we have just begun our first video-streamed course, available to residents of Duncaster and McLean. At this stage, the course is experimental, so I am teaching it myself. The subject is Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra, and the four sessions of the course will include visitors from the Hartford Stage production. Participants at remote sites will be able to ask questions and post comments by e-mail. If the course is a success, more will follow.

HUMPHREY TONKIN

BECOME A FELLOW OF THE PRESIDENT’S COLLEGE

Discounts on courses and other programs; free parking privileges on campus; complete access to the University Libraries, including borrowing privileges!

If you were a Fellow last year, now is the time to renew!
Fridays, Oct. 15, Nov. 5, Dec. 10
Fridays at the Mortensen: Old-time recordings, Hartt Symphony, Conserving Furniture

Local old-time sound buff Bob Allison will be our guest for the October 15 Fridays at the Mortensen. He will talk about early phonographs and will bring with him a cylinder phonograph and an early disk phonograph. Bob is Product Review Test Engineer at the American Radio Relay League and was formerly with WVIT-NBCCT (Channel 30) as engineer and studio supervisor. His hobbies include amateur radio, antique phonographs, and enjoying his 1931 Model-A.

Join us at 5:45 pm at the Mortensen Library on the University of Hartford campus for a glass of wine, a light supper, and the talk. Celebrate the end of summer and a new season with the President’s College!

The November 5 Fridays at the Mortensen will consist of dinner, a brief talk, and an evening at Millard Auditorium to hear the Hartt Symphony Orchestra perform Sibelius’s Finlandia, Richard Strauss’s Ein Heldenleben, and the world premiere of Hartt professor David Macbride’s Piano Concerto, with soloist Erberk Eryilmaz.

On Friday, December 10, we will be joined by Nicholas Kotula, furniture conservator, of Bloomfield. Here’s what the Hartford Courant had to say about him in a recent article: “He’s an exacting kind of fellow, but you can also joke around with Kotula. Whatever you do, though, don’t call him a furniture repairman or even a restorer; he is a furniture conservator and one of the few, if not the only one in the state, who depend solely on methods used by museums. His secret-formula shellac mixtures come from the casings of beetles shipped to him in 50-pound burlap bags from Calcutta, and he often applies more than 1,000 extremely thin coats of the stuff before he’s done. His natural resin varnish does not come from the hardware store; it comes from a 150-year-old formula, and he won’t even say where he gets the ingredients…. He has drawers full of carefully preserved inlaid wood strips, and he has plenty of clients who entrust him with 200- and 300-year-old family heirlooms.”

Fridays at the Mortensen, October 15, November 5, December 10. Each session $40 (Fellows $30), including dinner. All three sessions $90 (Fellows $70).

Sunday, October 3
The Operas of Giacomo Puccini

If Verdi can be said to represent the zenith of Italian grand opera, Puccini represents its final post-romantic glories. Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini was born in 1858, five years after the first production of Verdi’s Rigoletto, and he lived until 1924, eleven years after Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring, when Schoenberg was working on his Moses and Aaron and Gershwin’s American in Paris was about to be performed. Puccini’s best-known works include La Bohème 1896, Tosca 1900, Madame Butterfly 1904, and Turandot, on which he was working at the time of his death, and the end of traditional Italian opera as we know it. In this day-long program, Maestro Willie Anthony...
Waters will review Puccini’s principal operas and some of their greatest performances, discussing differences in vocal styles, and as always, using audio and video examples to illustrate these points.

Maestro Willie Anthony Waters is former General and Artistic Director of Connecticut Opera, and Artistic Director of Florida Grand Opera. He has guest-conducted numerous American and European opera companies and symphony orchestras, and various opera companies and orchestras in South Africa. In 2002, Maestro Waters debuted at New York City Opera and in 2008, made his debut at the Deutsche Oper, Berlin. Maestro Waters also serves as Artistic Director/Opera of the Houston Ebony Opera Guild. In 2005 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Hartford. He is currently Music Director of Prelude to Performance, a summer training program for young singers in New York sponsored by the Martina Arroyo Foundation, and an adjunct instructor in opera at the University of Connecticut. He is a regular guest panelist on the quiz of the Metropolitan Opera’s Saturday afternoon broadcasts, and is a widely sought-after lecturer and master class clinician.

Sunday, October 3. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Including lunch. $85 (Fellows $65).

Tuesdays October 5, 12, 19
Directing Coram Boy

The action of the play Coram Boy takes place in the 18th century. The benevolent Thomas Coram has recently opened a Foundling Hospital in London called the “Coram Hospital for Deserted Children”. Among its trustees is the composer George Frederick Handel. Unscrupulous men, known as “Coram men,” take advantage of the situation by promising desperate mothers to take their unwanted children to the hospital for a fee. The story follows a range of characters, focusing on two orphans: Toby, saved from an African slave ship, and Aaron, the deserted son of the heir to an estate, as their lives become closely involved with this true and tragic episode of British social history. The play, based on a children’s novel by Jamila Gavin, was a huge hit when it opened in 2005 at the National Theatre in London, but, despite receiving half a dozen Tony nominations, it did poorly in New York. Malcolm Morrison and Humphrey Tonkin believe that the fickle Broadway audience underestimated what is a superb theatrical experience. Malcolm Morrison will direct the play at the Hartt School (October 28-31). In this course, Malcolm and Humphrey will sketch in the historical background to the play, lead the participants through the preparations for the production, and introduce them to the cast, in what will be at one and the same time a study in 18th-century history, an introduction to the art of the stage director, and an opportunity to interact with a group of students training for the professional theatre. A ticket to the play will be provided without charge to all participants for the evening of their choice.

Malcolm Morrison is University Professor of Theatre, former Dean of the Hartt School of performing arts, and founder of the Theatre Program at the University. He has had a distinguished international career as a director and educator and is the author of two books, Clear Speech and Classical Acting, and editor of Voice and Speech in the Theatre. Born...
and educated in the UK, he has been dean at North Carolina School of the Arts, Director of the National Theatre Conservatory in Denver, and Head of Theatre and Dance at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Humphrey Tonkin, former President of the University of Hartford, is University Professor of the Humanities, and director of the President’s College. He teaches theatre history in the English Department in the College of Arts and Sciences and Shakespeare and his contemporaries in the Theatre Division of the Hartt School.

Tuesdays, October 5, 12, 19, 4:00-5:30. $65 (Fellows $45)

Beethoven’s Shadow

It is often said that Beethoven’s shadow was inescapable in the 19th century: later composers could try to emulate Beethoven or to forge new paths, but they could not be indifferent. When it was pointed out to Brahms that his first piano sonata sounded like one by Beethoven, he replied that any jackass could hear that. Meanwhile, Liszt, a contemporary composer most unlike Brahms, insisted that the old master had kissed him on the forehead when he played piano for him as a youth. In this course, we shall talk about Beethoven’s musical accomplishments – not all of which were in the realm of the symphony, of course, and how Beethoven influenced the next generations. We’ll do this by studying what he apparently thought was important in music (his own, or anyone else’s), and indeed we’ll discuss what we really think we know about Beethoven today, and how we came to think we know it.

Michael Schiano, associate professor of musical theory in the Hartt School, is interested in every aspect of 20th century music – from Schoenberg to pop – and in the history of music in earlier periods, particularly Beethoven. He has lectured for the President’s College on the Beatles and on Mozart.

Wednesdays, October 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 4:30-6:00. $90 (Fellows $65)

From Frozen North to Sweltering South: The Exploration Business in the 19th Century

Whether it was looking for lost white tribes in Africa or searching for the Northwest Passage, Europeans and North Americans were constantly expanding the boundaries of their way of life through the expansionist nineteenth century. Their modes of exploration and their accounts of their journeys are not only interesting in themselves but also offer insight into the values of their age and the modes of social and economic interaction adopted to represent these values.

Michael Robinson is associate professor of history at Hillyer College, University of Hartford. He is the author of The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006), which won the 2008 Book Award for the History of Science in America. Robinson has been invited to give lectures about his work to the American Museum of
Natural History, The Explorers Club, and the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, among others. He serves as the advisory editor to the history of science journal Isis and writes a blog about the history of science and exploration called Time To Eat the Dogs (http://timetoeatthedogs.com/), which was nominated for a 2008 Weblog Award.

Tuesdays, November 9, 16, 23. 4:30-6:00. $65 (Fellows $45)

Kathleen McGrory on Irish Detective Novels

Is it true that genre novels (mystery, romance and science fiction) are, by their very nature, always inferior to “literary novels”? Decide for yourself after reading some gems of the Irish mystery genre that combine “a good read” with intimate glimpses of Irish history, literature and human life. Our focus will be on four writers, but others will join them in discussion:

John Banville (pen name, Benjamin Black), Wexford-born, Dublin resident-novelist, winner of the prestigious Man Booker Prize in 2005. His crime novel, The Book of Evidence, was shortlisted for the Man Booker in 1989. Our look at his Quirke Series (posted on Barnes & Noble website) will include his 2010 Elegy for April;

Peter Berresford Ellis (pen name, Peter Tremayne), son of an Irish-born writer for the Cork Examiner and a Breton mother, is a Celtic scholar internationally honored for his history of the Cornish language. He is better known in the US for his series of detective novels set in 7th century Ireland. His Sister Fidelma, a Catholic-but-not-Roman nun/Breton lawyer/detective, the feisty but compassionate feminist heroine of Hemlock at Vespers and The Council of the Cursed, is often compared by American readers to Ellis Peters’ medieval monk/detective, Brother Cadfael;

Mark McGarrity (pen name, Bartholomew Gill), author of a series of novels starring Dublin Garda detective Peter McGarr, combines academic satire with serious literary topics and Dublin settings in Death of a Joyce Scholar and Death in Dublin;

Tana French, representing the younger generation of Irish writers in the genre, raises central questions about human identity in Irish settings, in The Likeness, In the Woods and Faithful Place.

Discussions will include a look at the Irish backgrounds for each of the novels: Celtic historical background and 20th and 21st century Irish history, society and cultural changes. Readers are invited to argue for
their own Irish favorites in three class discussions.

**Kathleen McGrory** is a specialist in the literature of the Middle Ages and in Irish literature. A former President of Hartford College for Women, she served as executive director of the Society for Values in Higher Education (Washington, DC) and as chair of the Department of Rhetoric, Language and Culture, at the University of Hartford. She now lives in Massachusetts and continues to teach on a part-time basis at Eastern Connecticut State University. She is well known to the President’s College crowd for her intellect, her humor, and her splendid teaching talent.

**Kathleen McGrory on Irish Detective Novels, Mondays, November 22, November 29, December 6. 4:30-6:00. $65 (Fellows $45).**

**Wednesday, October 27**

**We Were Europeans: A Personal History of a Turbulent Century**

The Greenberg Center and the President’s College join forces on Wednesday, October 27, for a very special lunch, when Werner Loval, author of the new book, *We Were Europeans: A Personal History of a Turbulent Century,* visits the University.

Werner Loval, born Werner Löbl in the picturesque Bavarian city of Bamberg, fled Nazi Germany at age 13 on the “Kindertransport,” together with his older sister, Erika. After several years in England, the two teenagers made the long journey to Ecuador to be reunited with their parents, who made a harrowing, last-minute escape across Siberia and the Pacific Ocean to find refuge in South America. After living in Ecuador and New York City, Loval moved to the young nation of Israel in the early 1950s. He served as an Israeli diplomat in Latin America, and upon his return to Israel, he began a long career as a real estate pioneer in his new homeland. Loval initiated the development of Jerusalem’s Nayot neighborhood, a housing development for American and Canadian immigrants, and he established the Anglo-Saxon Real Estate Agency, which now has 65 branches around the country. A founding member of the Har-El Reform Congregation in Jerusalem, Loval also played a major role in the birth of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. Loval and his wife of 54 years, Pamela, have four children and 12 grandchildren, for whom he wrote *We Were Europeans.*

Join Mr. Loval to learn more about his remarkable life and his new memoir, on October 27, for lunch at the University’s 1877 Club, in the Gray Conference Center. 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Price, including lunch, $20 (Fellows and non-Fellows).

**Tuesdays at Duncaster Lectures Slated for October, November, December**

A highlight of our Showcase on September 19 was the signing by University President Walter Harrison and Duncaster CEO Michael O’Brien of an agreement of cooperation between the two institutions. Under the terms of the agreement the President’s College will intensify its programming at Duncaster and more Duncaster residents will come to the campus for President’s College activities and for performing arts events. The President’s College and the
Duncaster Retirement Community have joined forces for Tuesdays at Duncaster once again this fall, with four distinguished speakers in the monthly dinner and lecture series.

Our October speaker, on Tuesday, **October 26**, will be **Timothy Black**, associate professor of sociology at the University, whose recent book, *When a Heart Turns Rock Solid* (Pantheon, 2009), was published to great critical acclaim. The book “examines how jobs, schools, the streets, and prisons have shaped the lives and choices of a generation of Puerto Rican youth at the turn of the twenty-first century.” Tim follows the fortunes, over an eighteen-year period, of three brothers – Fausto, Julio, and Sammy – from Springfield, MA. This astoundingly long, and carefully documented study, during which Tim spent time not just with the brothers but with their extended family and friends, has yielded an exceptionally sensitive and powerful book that will hold you spellbound. Meet the author and discover more! For this talk, we will return to our regular time (5:30pm wine and cheese reception, 6:00pm dinner, followed by talk).

On Tuesday, **November 30**, we will hear from **Maria Esposito Frank**, associate professor of Italian studies, and chair of the Foreign Languages Department. She recently conducted, to rave reviews, the Dante Book Club, a program of the President’s College, and she has taught for us several times in the past. Her particular area of expertise is the literature of the Italian Renaissance, and she recently co-edited a book, *The Translator as Mediator of Cultures* (Benjamins, 2010). We will announce her topic soon.

On Tuesday, **December 14**, will be the date of the December talk – by **Walter Harrison**, president of the University of Hartford for the past eleven years, a distinguished educator with a particular passion for baseball. His interest in athletics has taken him to the upper reaches of the NCAA, the National Collegiate Athletics Association, where he is known for his advocacy of academic standards and a balanced approach to scholarship and athletics. He has yet to announce the subject of his talk, but he says that he is thinking about a topic involving American baseball in a time of instant replay – along with American ideas of fair play.

Registration for each of the sessions in the Tuesdays at Duncaster series (including dinner and reception): $25 per session for Duncaster residents, $35 per session for others. All sessions will take place at Duncaster, 40 Loeffler Road, Bloomfield. Non-residents are welcome.

(Continued from page 7)

6 and running until October 17. The play is directed by Hartt School professor Robert Davis and features performances by Theatre Division Director Alan Rust and several Hartt theatre students.

**Upcoming Hartt events** include *Children of Eden*, directed by Ralph Perkins, at the Kent McCray Theatre (October 7-10), An Evening with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (Millard Auditorium, October 14), and the Senior Dance Concert (Roberts Theatre, October 29 and 30).
Registration Form and RSVP

Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ President's College Fellow, 2010-2011 (parking on campus, library privileges, discounts on courses, information about events). $100

☐ Operas of Puccini. Willie Anthony Waters. $85 ($65 Fellow) (incl. lunch)

☐ Coram Boy. Malcolm Morrison & Humphrey Tonkin. $65 ($45 Fellow)

☐ Beethoven's Shadow. Michael Schiano. $90 ($65 Fellow)

☐ From Frozen North to Sweltering South. Michael Robinson. $65 ($45 Fellow)

☐ Irish Detective Novels. Kathleen McGrory. $65 ($45 Fellow)

☐ We Were Europeans. Werner Loval. $20 (incl. lunch)

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen (three sessions). $90 ($70 Fellow)

☐ Old-time Sound. Oct. 15. Bob Allison. $40 ($30 Fellow)

☐ Hartt Symphony Orchestra. Nov. 5. $40 ($30 Fellow)

☐ Furniture Conservation. Nicholas Kotula. Dec. 10. $40 ($30 Fellow)

(See next page for Tuesdays at Duncaster)

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Registration Form and RSVP

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Tuesdays at Duncaster

☐ Timothy Black.  Oct. 26.  $35 ($25 Duncaster Resident)  
☐ Maria Esposito Frank.  Nov. 30.  $35 ($25 Duncaster Resident)  

Total Side B:  

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