West Hartford is an extraordinary community, rich in history, full of interesting vestiges of the past. Tracey Wilson’s course on the history of West Hartford, beginning on Thursday, May 6, will also be an introduction to the history of Connecticut towns in general. It’s the last full course of our academic year, and so the last opportunity for Fellows to take full advantage of their membership in the President’s College and for others to sample one of our courses. This time, the course will take place not on the University of Hartford campus but at the Noah Webster House in West Hartford, the repository of a wide range of artifacts illustrating the history of the community. Also featured will be a bus tour to some of the sites that Tracey will be talking about.

We also have something of a Joe Voelker Fest coming up. Joe, whose Ulysses Book Club last year won the undying admiration of the James Joyce fans in our midst, will turn his attention this time to the poet William Butler Yeats, in two sessions, one in the Fridays at the Mortensen series and the other in Tuesdays at Duncaster. Come to one or both: Joe tells me that the two lectures will stand on their own, but obviously one will illuminate the other.

Community Day this year was a bit of a disappointment because of the wet weather. But our reading of Tom Sawyer went off without a hitch. Many thanks to all who participated — and here’s hoping for better weather in 2011.

April is the time when we start building the fall program in earnest. It’s still too early to give you all the details, but I can tell you that Willie Anthony Waters will once again lead a day-long session on opera, this time on the operas of Puccini. We will also welcome Virginia Hale, medievalist and Chaucer scholar, and we plan to offer a course on aspects of the eighteenth century (probably with a rather more gripping title...) in preparation for what promises to be a spectacular production of Coram Boy by Malcolm Morrison at the end of October. More on this and other programs shortly.

And don’t forget that Malcolm and I are planning a theatre trip to London in November. If you haven’t done so already, let us know if you are interested!

HUMPHREY TONKIN
Special Announcement

Save the date!

Sunday, September 19, 2010

is the date of this year’s

University of Hartford Showcase

A day-long program of lectures and discussions with some of the finest teachers in the University (and the President’s College) on a wide range of topics in literature, the arts, technology, music, education, business, and more.

Enjoy an intellectual feast — and sample some of the courses that the President’s College will be offering during the academic year.

Details in our June newsletter!
“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. While West Hartford has its unique features, it is also representative of the development of communities in Connecticut.

The course will be based at the Noah Webster House in West Hartford, which houses a rich collection of artifacts from various periods of West Hartford history.

Tracey Wilson teaches history at Conard High School in West Hartford and has also taught at Trinity College and St. Joseph College. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Trinity College and a PhD from Brown University. Her publications include studies of women workers at Colt’s and Travelers, and of the Connecticut woman’s suffrage movement, and frequent columns in local newspapers. In addition to her role as Town Historian of West Hartford, she serves as an advisor to the Noah Webster House.

Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 4:00-6:00 pm $70 (Fellows $50)
FAQ

What do I do if the University closes?

Closings are announced on WTIC - 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.

Fridays at the Mortensen: Programs for May and June

The Young W. B. Yeats

On Friday, May 7. Joseph Voelker, Dean of Arts and Sciences, will discuss the young W. B. Yeats — one of two talks on different periods of Yeats's life that he will be offering for the President's College in May (see p.5, Tuesdays at Duncaster, May 18, for the other).

Joseph Voelker received his AB Degree in 1969 from Franklin and Marshall College. After earning his PhD from Yale University, he taught English at his alma mater for the next 24 years. He became Associate Dean at F&M in 1998, and came to the University of Hartford in 2003 as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2007-08 he served as Interim Provost. He has taught seminars, presented at conferences, and published on the work of James Joyce in a number of scholarly periodicals, including The Journal of Modern Literature and The James Joyce Quarterly.

Caught in Traffic

The Challenges and Conundrums of a Traffic Engineer

On Friday, June 4, we will be joined by engineer Clara Fang, who specializes in the problems of traffic engineering — something that we don't often think about but that lies behind every daily journey that we make by car.

Clara Fang, assistant professor of civil, environmental and biomedical engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture, has an impressive portfolio. She completed her undergraduate work in southern China; earned master's degrees in Hong Kong and British Columbia; and received her Ph.D. in engineering from Pennsylvania State University.

Fang is a leading expert in the rapidly-developing field of intelligent transportation systems. “Although it doesn’t seem like it when you’re sitting in a traffic jam, there’s a clear logic to the way traffic flows,” Fang says.

“We can simulate traffic flows in great detail on a computer, evaluate alternatives, and use advanced technology – like intelligent road signs and vehicle guidance systems – to relieve congestion and make traveling safer.”

Fang is currently working with the United States Department of Transportation and the National Research Council to improve transportation systems across the country. Fang gets her students involved in projects on the state and local level. “The students have won praise for their work from community leaders and professional engineers and they feel great about being able to make a difference in the world,” Fang says.

Fridays at the Mortensen. Friday, May 7, and Friday, June 4, 5:45 –8:30 pm. Each session $40 (Fellows $30), including dinner.
Our May guest on “Conversations with the President’s College,” the West Hartford Community TV program hosted by Bob Gruskay, will be Clara Fang, whose insights into the problems of traffic engineering make fascinating listening. She will be the speaker at our June 4 dinner in the Fridays at the Mortensen series. Visit www.whctv.org for West Hartford TV schedules. The interview will also be broadcast on community television in Simsbury and Windsor.

Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar at Hartt. The Hartt School’s Theatre Division presents The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, Thursday, May 6, Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 9, at 2 p.m. Perform-

(Continued on page 6)

Tuesdays at Duncaster:
W. B. Yeats

*Tuesdays at Duncaster* is a program of dinners, lectures and discussions specially arranged at Duncaster for residents and for Fellows of the President’s College. Each session can be signed up for separately, and non-residents of Duncaster are encouraged to attend. A reception and dinner will be followed by a lecture by a University of Hartford faculty member, with discussion seminar-style.

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

Yeats in Love

Dean Voelker writes: “Throughout much of his life, Maude Gonne was for the Anglo-Irish poet William Butler Yeats his unobtainable beloved and his muse. Yeats meditated upon her extraordinary beauty and her revolutionary embrace of violence against the British authorities. From his suffering of unrequited love came some of the finest poetic accounts of amatory bitterness in the English language. We will trace briefly the historic circumstances behind these poems, and read them closely to tease out their passion and complexity.”

Registration for Tuesdays at Duncaster (including dinner and reception): $20 per session for Duncaster residents, $20 per session for Fellows, $30 per session for others. All sessions will take place at Duncaster, 40 Loeffler Road, Bloomfield.

MAKE A DATE WITH

CELEBRATE!

WEST HARTFORD

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

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

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

June 12 & 13, 2010

ONCE AGAIN THE PRESIDENT’S COLLEGE WILL BE REPRESENTED. SIGN UP NOW TO HELP RUN OUR BOOTH. CALL 860-768-4269.
June 8 Bus Trip to Boston’s Museum of Fine Art & Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

The University of Hartford Emeriti Association invites you to visit two world-renowned art museums in Boston in early June. This all-day trip will be by bus, on Tuesday, June 8, leaving from the University of Hartford campus at 8:00 am, and returning around 6:30 pm.

A tour of some of the Museum of Fine Art (MFA) galleries will be given to us by Professor Dorothy Bosch Keller, Hartford Art School alumna and Professor of Fine and Performing Arts at St. Joseph College. We’ll dine at the MFA, and then our bus will take us on the 2-minute trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (ISGM) nearby.

At the MFA we’ll be able to see a special exhibition: The Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC, in addition to the permanent (and spectacular) collections. You can learn more about the MFA at http://www.mfa.org/

Dining choices at the MFA include:

- BRAVO - Entrees are $23 - $35, reservations 617-369-3474 (please make your own reservation before June 8).
- THE GALLERIA - Entrees are $14 - $18, reservations are not accepted.
- COURTYARD CAFE - Entrees are $6 - $9. Outdoor seating is available, weather permitting.

An Emeriti Association web page about this trip can be seen at http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/emeritus/mfatrip.html

Register soon – we expect that this trip will sell out quickly, and our air-conditioned bus holds only 34. The trip cost, including bus, museum admission (but not lunch), is $60 per person. Send a check, payable to “U of H Emeriti Association” (please include name(s), address(es), phone number(s) and e-mail(s) of those registering) to:

Emeriti Assoc., c/o Wally Banzhaf, CETA UT 207, University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT 06117

Jennifer Rizzotti, head coach of the University of Hartford women’s basketball team, has been selected to deliver the keynote address at the University’s 53rd annual Commencement on Sunday, May 16. An estimated crowd of 10,000, including approximately 1,300 graduates, will attend the ceremony, which will begin at 10 a.m. on the lawn in front of Gengras Student Union.
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). $75 for spring semester  

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

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

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

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

Questions? 860.768.4269 or pcollege@hartford.edu.

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