Everything is popping at once. July is the month when we announce our September Showcase. We have an outstanding array of speakers for what will be our third annual Showcase on September 19—a day-long series of intellectually challenging events ending with a reception hosted by President Walter Harrison. Programs range from literature to science, from technology to music, from demography to art. Read all about it in this edition of the President’s College newsletter and do plan on being there. You will find kindred spirits in the crowd and plenty to think about in the presentations. It’s a do-not-miss event.

We are also opening registration for the fall semester. In addition to Showcase, September’s offerings include a discussion group on Shakespeare’s sonnets (an experimental program that I will be hosting), the first session of a course on Geoffrey Chaucer, the opening of a three-session course on the US Supreme Court, and the first session of the semester-long Moby-Dick Book Club, taught by English professor and Melville expert Bryan Sinche. Following in October will be courses on Puccini, theatre, and Beethoven. As usual, we will be doing monthly dinners and lectures in our Fridays at the Mortensen series and our Tuesdays at Duncaster series.

To enjoy discounts, parking, and the other amenities that come with membership in the President’s College, and also just to support our work, use the registration form with this newsletter to sign up as a Fellow.

The summer months are taken up with preparing the program for spring 2011 (more on this later) — and planning for our new space in the Mortensen Library. You’ll hear more about this very soon.

Also announced in this newsletter is the London theatre trip that Malcolm Morrison and I are planning for November 12-19. We are limiting the group to sixteen people, as we did last year. Last time, the trip was fully booked by mid-August, so please don’t delay in expressing your interest.

We’re excited about the academic year ahead. Join the President’s College for an exciting intellectual journey!

HUMPHREY TONKIN
Special Announcement

London Theatre 2010

Join Malcolm Morrison and Humphrey Tonkin in London November 12-19!

Following their highly successful theatre trip last November, Malcolm Morrison and Humphrey Tonkin will once again be taking a President's College group to London. The visit will begin in London on the evening of Friday, November 12, and will end on the morning of the following Friday, November 19. Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements.

Accommodation will be at the comfortable and well-appointed Strand Palace Hotel, a stone’s throw from London’s theatre district (Drury Lane is just across the street and Covent Garden a couple of blocks away), and convenient for all of the delights of London’s West End. The Strand Palace has two levels of accommodations and is notable for having numbers of single rooms at moderate prices. We have been able to secure a group of club rooms (the superior accommodation level), several of them singles, and can accordingly propose a far lower single supplement than is customary for trips of this kind.

We expect to arrange at least four theatre visits (details to be announced closer to the date), talks by London experts on theatre, back-stage visits, historic walks around London’s theatre district, four dinners, four lunches, and other pleasures of the heart, head, and stomach. And we will have immediate access to three Brits (Malcolm and Humphrey, and our on-the-spot organizer Richard Mangan) with a wealth of knowledge about London, about theatre, and about British history and society – and with entrées to things the rest of us don’t normally see.

Total cost at present rates of exchange will be $2980 per person, double occupancy (single supplement $350), for Fellows of the President’s College (you must be a Fellow to participate). Price includes accommodation, full breakfast, all taxes, entrance fees, theatre tickets, and most meals. A deposit of $500 per person is required to reserve a space (fully refundable up to September 1 if your plans change), with full payment necessary six weeks before the program begins. We expect to limit participation to sixteen people on a first-come-first-served basis.
Announcing…

SHOWCASE 2010

September 19, 2010

A day-long program of lectures and discussions on a range of topics presented by the University’s leading professors and visiting speakers. The day will begin at 9:30 with three diverse sessions. A further block of three sessions will follow at 10:30, and a third at 11:30. Pick and choose among the amazing array of offerings.

A box lunch will be provided at 12:30. If you want to brush up your foreign language, you can join one of our foreign language conversation groups, or just hang out with other Showcase participants and professors.

Sessions resume at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30. The day ends with an informal reception hosted by University President Walter Harrison at 4:30.

Showcase venue will be in the comfortable lecture halls and adjoining classrooms in the University’s Dana Hall.

Special rates for Fellows of the President’s College and for couples (see below).

The following sessions are listed in no particular order. Hours will be announced a few days in advance.

“From Every Shire’s End” – Riding to Canterbury with Geoffrey Chaucer. In his 14th century masterpiece, Geoffrey Chaucer introduces the full range of his contemporaries, exalted and lowly, and examines a range of human issues: fashion, getting and spending, eating and drinking, loving and hating. He demonstrates how little human nature has changed in over six hundred years. Emeritus professor and Chaucer expert Virginia Hale explains.

Umpire or Player? The Emerging Roberts Court In his confirmation hearings Chief Justice John Roberts compared the task of appellate judges to that of umpires at baseball games – calling balls and strikes. In the five years since his confirmation, Roberts has begun to place his stamp on the Court and its decisions. Politics and government professor Jilda Aliotta asks the question: Is he an umpire or a player?

Puccini and Friends: Italian Opera After Verdi. Maestro Willie Anthony Waters looks at the operas of Puccini, discussing his compositional style and the development of his characters, and then at the "Verismo" period that began in 1890 with Mascagni’s Cavalleria rusticana, and continued in 1892 with Leoncavallo’s Pagliacci. How do those operas, as well as those by Puccini’s friends Giordano, Cilea, Ponchielli, Montemezzi etc., fit into the Italian style already firmly established by Giuseppe Verdi?

Schoenberg & The Blue Rider. In January 1911, when the Russian-born painter Wassily Kandinsky heard Schoenberg’s music for the
first time, he set to work on a painting inspired by the event. At the end of that year, together with Franz Marc, he put together the first of the two Blue Rider exhibitions in Munich. The public, who knew Schoenberg solely as a composer, were amazed to find his paintings represented in both exhibitions. Noted musician and orchestra conductor Michael Lankester examines the parallel and frequently interwoven development of painting and music towards abstraction in the years immediately preceding World War I.

**New Advances in Biology.** Biology professors in Hillyer College Dennis Wasko and Stephan Bullard take us on a journey through their recent research – to look at the movement and feeding patterns of dangerous puff adders in West Africa, and, closer to home, the harmful marine animal called the sea squirt, which infests the sides of docks and boats right here in Long Island Sound, impairing maneuverability and speed, and smothering mussels, oysters, and scallops in their native habitat.

**An Introduction to Acoustics at the University of Hartford.** Robert Celmer, Michelle Vigean. What does an undergraduate engineer specializing in the field need to know about acoustics? What is acoustics anyway? Professors Robert Celmer and Michelle Vigean answer the question. **Session sponsored by the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA).**

**Making It Up As You Go Along: A Reading.** The creative writing program at the University is in the hands of several distinguished authors, among them T. Stores (who also chairs the English Department) and the award-winning poet Ben Grossberg. In this session these authors will read from their work and discuss the art of teaching creative writing as part of a liberal arts degree. **Session sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences.**

**Why Art Matters.** Hartford Art School dean, painter Power Boothe, inquires into how art is valued – as a commodity, as a point of argument, as entertainment – but the arts matter because they ask questions about life and meaning that ground the other value systems we rely on. The artist brings culture back to life. **Session sponsored by the Hartford Art School.**

**The Future of the Symphony Orchestra.** Dean of the Hartt School Aaron Flagg, Hartford Symphony Orchestra director Edward Cumming, Chicago College of the Arts Dean Henry Fogel, San Diego Youth Symphony President Dalouge Smith, and Hartt Director of Instrumental Studies Steve Metcalf discuss the problems and prospects facing American symphony orchestras and the music they play, and the likely expectations of their audiences in the future. **Session sponsored by the Hartt School.**

**What’s a British publisher doing in a place like this?: The Albatross Press and the Third Reich.** Associate Professor of English Michele Troy examines the fortunes of the English-language publisher Albatross Press under the Third Reich, drawing on her research in German archives and elsewhere into this anomalous enterprise in Germany and German-occupied France. **Session sponsored by Hillyer College.**

**Prosthetics and Orthotics: An Emerging Field.** The University of Hartford has launched the first master’s program in New England in prosthetics and orthotics, one of eight programs in the country. Faculty members Catherine Certo, Kevin Ball, and Matthew Parente tell us why the field is important and why it will offer fascinating challenges in the years ahead. **Session sponsored by the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP).**
**Healing the Pain that Conflict Creates: The Philosophy of Restorative Justice.**
Management professor Deborah Kidder explores conflict in the workplace (“Some estimate that supervisors spend up to fifty percent of their time dealing with conflict and its fallout”). She discusses the concept of Restorative Justice, a philosophy on how to approach conflict that is being adopted around the world in judicial systems as well as in the workplace. **Session sponsored by the Barney School.**

**Slaves, Savages, and Citizens: Sailors in Antebellum American literature.** Some 19th-century writers praise the sailor as a national representative whose derring-do and manly effort sustained and protected the young United States; others deride him as a lower-class laborer whose peripatetic lifestyle and infamous habits make him unfit for life among the citizens of the nation from which he sailed. English professor Bryan Sinche explores these views and explains how they might enlighten the reader of Melville’s great novel of the sea, *Moby-Dick.*

**Beethoven’s Decisions: How Beethoven Changed the Course of Western Music.**
Beethoven inherited a rich musical tradition from Mozart and Haydn. Michael Schiano, Associate Professor of Music Theory at the Hartt School, asks the question: What did he decide to keep, and what did he decide to change? Some of his decisions led to far-reaching results.

**The Demographics of Aging.** The Hartford area has an unusually high older and well-educated population, creating a need for particular kinds of services, providing an important audience for educational and arts-related activities, and creating an unusual political dynamic at the local level. West Hartford Town Manager (and economist) Ron Van Winkle, member of the Connecticut Commission on Aging Carolyn Thornberry, and retirement community CEO Michael O’Brien assess some of the issues involved.

**Toward Sustainable Development.** Finding ways of improving the quality of life while conserving resources is a problem that we all face, but none more than the less developed countries. Engineering professor David Pines discusses his work in India on creating clean water supplies, and art professor Natacha Poggio explains how she and her students use art to educate and inform local populations. They will be joined by a representative of American Friends of Kenya, which is developing local libraries in that country, in part with the assistance of the University’s Mortensen Library. **Session sponsored by the University of Hartford International Center.**

**Zion in the Aftermath: Jewish DPs and Zionism after the Holocaust.** Judaic studies professor and historian Avi Patt’s recent book deals with Jewish youth and Zionism in the aftermath of the Holocaust. This lecture seeks to answer the question: What is the relationship between the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel? Through a focus on the often under-examined and under-appreciated role of Holocaust survivors and their plight after the war, Patt examines the role of Jewish Displaced Persons in the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

**Humphrey Tonkin and Friends.** President’s College director Humphrey Tonkin, president emeritus of the University, will introduce some of the people who will make the University of Hartford a particularly interesting place to be in the year ahead. The identity of his guests will be announced shortly before Showcase takes place.

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**University Appoints New Chief Academic Officer**

Sharon L. Vasquez, dean of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts at Wayne State University, has been appointed provost and chief academic officer of the University beginning August 15. She succeeds Lynn Pasquerella, who has been appointed President of Mount Holyoke College. Sharon Vasquez has had an outstanding career as an artist, educator, and academic leader. After studying dance at Butler University, she pursued a successful professional career as a dancer, moving to the University of Texas at Austin in 1984 to become director of dance in the theatre and dance department. In 2000 she moved to the State University of New York at Brockport, where she served as dean and pro-
FALL PROGRAM 2010

Shakespeare’s Greatest Hits: A Discussion Group on Shakespeare’s Sonnets

The publication of Shakespeare’s Sonnets in a mysterious little volume in 1609 began a love affair with these poems that has lasted for four hundred years. Why have the Sonnets worked their way into the collective consciousness? Why, and how, do they speak to us today? In this discussion group we will select a very limited number of sonnets for close examination and collective debate. The cost of the course will include a copy of the Sonnets.

Humphrey Tonkin, former President of the University of Hartford, is University Professor of the Humanities, Director of the President’s College, and a scholar of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

Tuesdays, September 7, 14, 21. 4:30-6:00.
$60 (Fellows $40)

Riding with Chaucer to Canterbury

In his 14th century masterpiece, Geoffrey Chaucer introduces the full range of his contemporaries, exalted and lowly, and demonstrates for us how little human nature has changed. Our own pilgrimage will take us through the General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales and the stories of ten pilgrims. Saddle up!

t: 860.768.4269  f: 860.768.4274  e: pcollege@hartford.edu  w: www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege
During his lifetime, Geoffrey Chaucer held several government positions which brought him in contact with the full range of social classes in 14th century England.

The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales has often been cited as an excellent picture of his contemporaries, the exalted and the lowly. In his presentation of the pilgrims and their tales, Chaucer examines a range of human issues: fashion, getting and spending, eating and drinking, loving and hating. Looking closely at the General Prologue and the tales of ten pilgrims we will see how little human nature has changed in over six hundred years.

Virginia Hale is an emeritus professor of English. She is a medievalist with a special interest in Chaucer. Dr. Hale is known to many President’s College fellows as the author of a recent biography of Beatrice Fox Auerbach.

Mondays, September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25. 2:30-4:00. $90 (Fellows $65)

The Least Dangerous Branch? A Review of the United States Supreme Court

What do recent Supreme Court decisions have to tell us about present and future directions of the Supreme Court? What are the major issues that it will face during its next session? What are the likely or possible effects of recent changes in its composition? This course, taught by a scholar of the Supreme Court and its decisions, will review the recent sessions of the court and the cases that the court will likely take up.

Course description.

Jilda Aliotta, associate professor and chair of the Department of Politics and Government, teaches classes in law, American politics, and women in politics. She has published on decision-making in the Supreme Court, women in law, and related topics. Her current research investigates the impact of women on the judiciary in the United States.

Wednesdays, September 29, October 6, 13. 5:00-6:30. $65 (Fellows $45)

The Moby-Dick Book Club

The book club will meet at intervals throughout the fall semester and will read Herman Melville’s “mighty work” together. The novel tells the story of Ishmael, the outcast, who travels to sea with his Polynesian “husband” Queequeg on board the Pequod, the doomed vessel captained by the monomaniacal Ahab. But Moby-Dick is more than the story of a tragic voyage; it is the story of a nation approaching the cataclysm of civil war, a comprehensive examination of the sperm whale and the sperm whaling industry, a probing analysis of human psychology, and a questioning of both the grounds and...
the limits of human knowledge. In its rich magnificence, *Moby-Dick* might be what Ishmael sees in the sea, that is, “the ungraspable phantom of life...the key to it all.”

Bryan Sinche is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Hartford, where he teaches American and African American literature. He has published on numerous nineteenth-century American writers and is working on a book about sailors in antebellum American literature.

**Thursday, September 30, October 14, October 28, November 11, December 9, 2:00–3:30. $60 (Fellows $40)**

**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).**

**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 U.K., 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)

BECOME A FELLOW OF THE PRESIDENT’S COLLEGE

To enjoy your association with the President’s College to the full, you should sign up as a Fellow. Fellows enjoy significant discounts on courses and other programs; they have free parking privileges on campus; they have complete access to the University Libraries, including borrowing privileges and access to data bases. Above all, your support for the President’s College assists the Libraries themselves, because any surplus generated by the College at the end of the year goes to support the Libraries, thereby helping to assure the very best services and the most extensive collections that our resources allow. Membership in the Fellows of the President’s College costs just $100 for the full academic year.

And, by the way, if you were a Fellow last year, now is the time to renew!
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

☐ Showcase 2010. $140 ($90 Fellow)

☐ Showcase 2010. Couple $190 ($140 if both are Fellows)

Name and address of second person: ____________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

☐ Showcase 2010. Friend. Fellows of the President’s College who wish to bring a friend may do so for $20. A Friend is anyone who has not been a Fellow for the past three years (since 2006-2007). Only one friend per Fellow, please. $20.

Name and address of Friend: ____________________________________________
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(See next page for course registrations and London trip)

Total: ________
Total Side B (if applicable): ________
Grand Total: ________

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
STREET ______________________________________________________________
CITY _________________________________________________________________
STATE __________ ZIP __________
Telephone: DAYTIME: (____)_______-__________ EVENING: (____)_______-__________ E-mail: ______________________________

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