Humphrey Tonkin, master of ceremonies, presents

**DOWNTON ABBEY REVISITED**

A four-session course illuminating the events surrounding the TV series

**Monday April 30 – Thursday, May 10, 10:30am -12:00 noon**

Monday, April 30. **Angus Trumble on Edwardian Opulence**
Thursday, May 3. **Edward Gutierrez on Britain at War**
Monday, May 7. **Poetry and prose of the Great War** read by students in the Actor Training Program of The Hartt School
Thursday, May 10. **Robert McLaughlin on Social Change 1910-1930**

Angus Trumble is Senior Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Yale Center for British Art; Edward Gutierrez and Robert McLaughlin are faculty members at the University of Hartford.

See page 7 for details
We have a couple of additional interesting lectures coming up: Michael Crosbie will give the Fellows Lecture on March 9 on his new book on contemporary New York architects, and David Pines, an engineer who puts his professional expertise to work to better the lives of villagers in India and Kenya, will talk about sustainability in his Duncaster lecture on March 13. For my part, I’m particularly looking forward to the Downton Abbey course announced in this newsletter. Our team of lecturers for the course is truly outstanding, and we can expect to come away from the course with a much better sense of what lies behind the Downton Abbey action.

One Presidents’ College program that never seems to get attention in the newsletter, but ought to, is “Conversations with the Presidents’ College” aired every month on West Hartford Community Television (Channel Five) and hosted by the indefatigable Bob Gruskay. Recently WHCTV has redesigned its website, so that you can watch the latest program at any time. Just google WHCTV and go to Video on Demand. There you will find no less than 32 programs (three years of material). Chris Martens was our guest in February and Michele Troy in January. Earlier guests include: Dennis Wasko (March), Kathleen McGrory (May), Randi Ashton-Pritting and Nancy Mather (June), Eugene Gaddis (October), Amanda Walling (November) and Timothy Reagan (December). Thank you, Bob Gruskay, volunteer extraordinaire!

While we’re on the subject of things to do with your computer, take a look at the Presidents’ College website at www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege, where Barbara Dessureau has created a small miracle. The site gives up-to-date details on all our courses, downloadable flyers, suggestions for reading, biographies of instructors, a photo gallery, and a host of other useful information. Check it out!

You will have noticed that we regularly include in the left-hand column of the newsletter information about goings-on at the University and around town. Recently, as a result of a conversation with the World Affairs Council, we have agreed to include notices of the Council’s program, in return for their doing the same for us. We’re always happy to consider such reciprocal arrangements with other organizations. If you read the journal Connecticut Explored (which, by the way, I highly recommend), you will find us regularly featured as a sponsoring organization.

Just recently we received information on this spring’s Humanities Center Lecture Series, whose theme is “Creativity.” Lectures take place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Tuesdays. Upcoming lectures include Jim Shepard on Creativity and the Short Story (March 6, Wilde Auditorium), The Gregory Brothers on Creativity in New Technologies (March 13, Wilde), The Guerilla Girls on Gender in Creativity/Creative Activism (March 27, Auerbach Auditorium), Adam Goodworth on Creativity and Scientific Innovation (April 3, Mali 2), Natacha Poggio on Design Thinking: Creativity for the 21st Century (April 10, Mali 2), and Marcia Moen on Creativity and Philosophy (April 24, Mali 2). All lectures are free and open to the public. The series has been put together by Theresa Stores. For more information call 860-768-4315.

Finally, you should know that our numbers continue to rise. The latest news is that we have topped the magic number of 200 Fellows, up from a little over 160 last academic year.

Humphrey Tonkin
FELLOWS LECTURE
Friday, March 9, 4:30pm

Michael Crosbie

New York Dozen: 12 Young Architects of Gotham

Young architects in New York are finding new ways to practice, experimenting with cutting-edge materials, and expressing changing values in their work. Michael Crosbie’s new book profiles the work of twelve firms making a name in the city that never sleeps — the latest of a new generation of practitioners that are being challenged by a new economy. He will introduce the book and tell us what some of the most creative young architects in New York are doing.

Michael J. Crosbie, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Architecture, is the author of more than twenty books on architecture, including five books for children. He has made significant contributions in the fields of architectural journalism, research, teaching, and practice, and has served as an editor at Architecture: The AIA Journal and Progressive Architecture. Since 2001 he has been editor-in-chief of Faith & Form, a quarterly journal on interfaith religious art and architecture. He has practiced with Centerbrook Architects and Steven Winter Associates, and is a registered architect in the State of Connecticut. He received his PhD from Catholic University.

Thursday, March 29
Meet Hertford College Lecturer, Oliver Noble Wood

Every year the University hosts a lecture by a member of the Oxford University faculty attached to Hertford College, Oxford. This year’s lecturer will be Oliver Noble Wood, who will talk on still-life painting in the Spanish Golden Age. The lecture will take place in Wilde Auditorium at 4:30 on March 29 (free tickets available at 860-768-4228). The Presidents’ College has invited Dr. Noble Wood to lunch on that day for a freewheeling discussion on the topic of his lecture. Join us at noon for what promises to be a lively occasion!

Oliver Noble Wood teaches 16th and 17th-century Spanish literature. His research interests range from the poetry of Góngora...
Upcoming Courses Spring 2012

Thursday, March 1, 8, 15
Latin: Where Did It Come From, Where Is It Going?
Timothy Reagan
This course will explore the development and nature of the Latin language, from before the age of the Empire to the present time. Beginning with an exploration of the historical evolution of Latin from its Indo-European roots, as well as its competition with the other Italic languages, we will go on to look at Latin in the late Republican and Imperial eras, when it operated in what was a highly multilingual and linguistically diverse society, and when Latin literature flourished, especially in the so-called Golden and Silver Ages. Finally, our concern will shift to Latin after the fall of the western Roman empire: we will talk about the changes in popular Latin that led to the emergence of the different Romance languages, and the use of Latin as an international language of religion, literature, and science for more than a further thousand years. Finally, we will briefly look at the role and place of Latin in the modern world, and discuss the various futures that it may face.

NOTE: If there is sufficient interest, a second course may be added in April (“Refresh Your Latin”), which will give students an opportunity to either learn the basics of Latin or to brush up on the Latin that they learned earlier in life. There will be four sessions of this course, probably April 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2:00-3:30.

Timothy Reagan is CSU Professor of Language and Education at Central Connecticut State University. He has taught in both the United States and South Africa and is well known as an expert on the situation of South African languages. Much of his scholarly work has been concerned with promoting the study of foreign languages in the United States. He is the author of more than a dozen books, and more than 125 journal articles and book chapters on a range of topics relating to educational policy, sociolinguistics, sign languages, and language policy. One of his own favorite articles is, “Paideia redux: A contemporary case for the classics.” This will be his third course for the Presidents’ College.

Thursday, March 1, 8, 15. 2:00-3:30. $60 (Fellows $40).

Thursdays, Mar. 8, 29; Apr. 12, 19
The Novels of Edith Wharton
Jane Barstow
Edith Wharton, one of the most popular and critically acclaimed writers of the early twentieth century, published over 50 books in her lifetime. This course will consider her artistic development during a twenty year period as demonstrated by four novels: House of Mirth (1905), Custom of the Country (1913), Age of Innocence (1920), and The Mother’s Recompense (1925). Of particular interest will be the evolution
of Wharton’s ideas about female sexuality and about marriage as practiced in American upper-class society.

Jane M. Barstow is Professor Emerita of English. A specialist in contemporary American literature she is the author of One Hundred Years of American Women Writing, 1848–1948. Her particular interest is American women novelists of the 19th and 20th centuries and she has published on Toni Morrison, Edith Wharton, and Margaret Atwood.

Thursdays, March 8, 29; April 12, 19. 11:00-12:30. $60 (Fellows $40).

Tuesdays, March 27; Apr. 3, 10. 4:30-6:00. $60 (Fellows $40).

The Hartt School Presents the Hartt Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 140 Farmington Ave, Hartford. Maestro Cumming conducts Also Sprach Zarathustra by Richard Strauss and Symphony No. 3, also known as the Organ Symphony, by Camille Saint-Saëns. A suggested donation of $20 will be collected at the door. Please call the University Box Office at 860.768.4228 or 800.274.8587 or visit www.hartford.edu/hartt for more information.

Art of the Arab Lands: A Day at New York’s Metropolitan Museum with alumna Dorothy Bosch Keller Join the University’s Alumni Association on a journey to the Art of Arab Lands - Turkey, Iran, and Central Asia, with alumna, and University treasure, Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63. Explore the

Presidents’ College

t: 860.768.4269   f: 860.768.4274   e: pcollege@hartford.edu   w: www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege
make a difference? April 19: Industry and Technology – What are the tradeoffs?

**Walter Woodward**, Connecticut State Historian and Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, is particularly interested in the early history of the American colonies, including such questions as witchcraft and alchemy. He is the author of *Prospero’s America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture* (2010).

**Kate Steinway**, who holds a graduate degree in art history from the University of Chicago, has been associated with the Connecticut Historical Society for the past 25 years and its director for the past five. Recently she has overseen a major refurbishment of the Society’s headquarters on Elizabeth Street in Hartford.

**Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26.  4:00-5:30.  $75 (Fellows, and CHS members, $60).**

**Wednesdays, Apr. 4, 11, 18**

**The Aesthetics of Dance**

**Stephen Pier**

In this guided demonstration, Stephen Pier and members of Hartt Dances will offer an intimate view of the creation and practice of Dance, our most human art form. The presentation will include segments of current repertoire ranging from classic master works through contemporary trends and bring audience members inside the creative process as well as the education of a dancer.

**Stephen Pier** is Director of Dance at The Hartt School. He has served on the faculty of The Juilliard School, the Alvin Ailey School, and the Martha Graham Center. His credits as a performing artist began with the Jose Limon Dance Company where the New York press hailed him as “...one of the most gifted dancers on the modern dance scene today.” He went on to become a leading soloist with the Hamburg Ballet (Germany) and the Royal Danish Ballet. As a master teacher, he has worked with companies in Europe, America and Asia. In 2008, American Ballet Theater invited him to direct the ABT/Altaria project “Voices and Visions Women Choreographers”. In 2004, Mr. Pier founded PierGroupDance to explore and collaborate with dancers and artists in various art forms. He has created over thirty works for the concert stage, opera, theater, and film. He recently completed the first in a series of dance films to the music of David Rosenmann -Taub, commissioned by the Corda Foundation, to be released in 2012.

**Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18.  3:30-5:00.  $70 (Fellows $50).**
Monday, April 30; Thursday, May 3; Monday, May 7; Thursday, May 10
Downton Abbey Revisited
Angus Trumble, Edward Gutierrez & Robert McLaughlin

The TV series Downton Abbey has taken America by storm. But what was really going on during the tumultuous years that it describes? The opulent pre-war years of the reign of Edward VII were succeeded by the disastrous carnage of the Great War – a war whose futility was only matched by the sheer courage of those who fought it and the ruined lives of those who survived. The war produced some of the greatest poetry of the century, but it also gave momentum to massive social change: Irish independence and civil war, the rise of the labor movement, the rise of the popular press – life was never the same again. Angus Trumble will explore the glamour and conspicuous consumption of the pre-war period (April 30); Edward Gutierrez will discuss the war itself (May 3); Robert McLaughlin will examine the social change accompanying it (May 10). On May 7, we will present a reading of the remarkable poetry and prose of the period. Humphrey Tonkin will provide continuity for the series.

Angus Trumble is Senior Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Yale Center for British Art, where he is currently preparing an exhibition on the Edwardians. A native of Melbourne, he was formerly Curator of European Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. He is the author of A Brief History of the Smile and, most recently, The Finger: A Handbook (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010).

Edward Gutierrez, winner of the Ramsey Award for Creative Excellence from the University of Hartford, worked in France as a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and is currently on a Guggenheim Fellowship, writing a book tentatively titled “Sherman was Right”: The Experience of AEF Soldiers in the Great War. The book studies how combat affected ordinary men and women, and the psychological changes it produced.

Robert McLaughlin’s new book Irish Canadian Conflict and the Struggle for Irish Independence 1912-1925 will be published by the University of Toronto Press this April. He teaches 20th-century history at the University of Hartford in both the College of Arts and Sciences and Hillyer College.

Apr. 30, May 3, 7, 10. 10:30-12:00. $90 (Fellows $70).
May 14, 16, 18
Verdi and Shakespeare: Macbeth, Othello, Falstaff
Willie Anthony Waters & Humphrey Tonkin

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) counted among his major accomplishments three operas on Shakespearean themes. His first encounter with Shakespeare came early in his career in the first version of Macbeth (1847; revised 1865), revealing an interest in dramatic intensity rather than vocal technique.

Late in his life, aided by the sensitive librettist Arrigo Boito, he returned to Shakespeare for his last two operas – the grandly tragic Otello (1887) and the comic Falstaff (1893), this last based on Shakespeare’s Merry Wives of Windsor and his two Henry IV plays. Particularly in Otello, Verdi and Boito reinterpret Shakespeare in terms at once operatic and nineteenth-century, thereby exemplifying Shakespeare’s extraordinary adaptability to changing times and newer media. Verdi’s dream of composing a King Lear, however, remained unfulfilled. In this course, Maestro Waters and Professor Tonkin will each present a lecture on each of the three operas, over three days, and discuss their analyses with one another and with course participants.

Willie Anthony Waters is former General and Artistic Director of Connecticut Opera, and Artistic Director of Florida Grand Opera. He has been a guest conductor for 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 he 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 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 Metropolitan Opera Quiz and is a widely sought-after lecturer and master class clinician.

Humphrey Tonkin is Professor of the Humanities and President Emeritus at the University. A scholar of 16th and 17th-century literature, including Shakespeare, he is particularly interested in the afterlife of Shakespeare – ways in which the playwright’s works have been used over the years as inspiration for the works of other authors and artists (and musicians). He teaches Shakespeare and theatre history in the Theatre Division of The Hartt School and in the English Department. He is Director of the Presidents’ College.

May 14, 16, 18. 9:30-12:00. $90 (Fellows $70).
May 21, 23, 25
A Round-up of the US Supreme Court’s 2011 Term
Jilda Aliotta

As the 2011-2012 session of the Supreme Court comes to an end, will the result be a bang or a whimper? Professor Aliotta looks at some of the major issues surfacing during the current session, both those resolved and those still awaiting resolution.

Jilda Aliotta, a popular teacher and an exacting scholar, 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.

May 21, 23, 25. 5:00-6:30. $70 (Fellows $50).

Kathleen McGrory holds a PhD from Columbia University 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. She was Dean of Arts and Sciences and Academic Vice President at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), President of Hartford College for Women shortly before its merger with the University of Hartford, National Endowment for the Humanities 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 at Georgetown. She currently teaches part-time at ECSU and is completing a book-length study of the legend of the Holy Grail.

May 30; June 1, 4, 6, 8
Song in the Works of James Joyce: Dubliners and Ulysses
Kathleen McGrory

Irish ballads, folk songs, Dublin and London music hall favorites, classical, light and grand opera, bel canto, American cowboy songs, spirituals, children’s songs, nursery rhymes, Verdi, Mozart, Thomas Moore’s melodies, Irish folk songs, hymns, Percy French, Stephen Foster, Elizabethan ballads -- all these, and more, turn up in the works of James Joyce, Irish tenor. The course will look at how Joyce uses song to enrich his stories, and make ironic, humorous commentary on the people and places of Dublin and the world in two familiar works, Dubliners and Ulysses. In effect, Joyce used music as “hypertext” well before that word became a commonplace of postmodern criticism. The course will include selections from the James Joyce Cassette series, edited by Dr. McGrory.

May 30; June 1, 4, 6, 8. 10:30-12:00. $90 (Fellows $70).
Tuesdays at Duncaster is a series of lectures by University of Hartford faculty offered at Duncaster Retirement Community, Bloomfield. Lectures are at 4:45 pm. Each lecture is followed by a reception and dinner with the speaker. The series is free to Duncaster residents who sign up as Fellows of the Presidents’ College, $20 for Duncaster residents who are not Fellows, $25 for all others (including dinner).

Upcoming Tuesdays at Duncaster

April 24. 4:45pm. Bryan Sinche
Assistant Professor of English

Bryan Sinche has written extensively on maritime literature in 19th-century America and studied the situation of mariners in the sailing ships that plied the world.

May 15. 4:45pm. Kathleen McGrory
Former President, Hartford College for Women

“What Is the Holy Grail and Where Can You Find It?” is the question Dr. McGrory will ask – following in the steps of many in the past, from Lancelot on. As a medievalist, she has studied the legend of the Grail and unearthed information about those who have pursued it – up to and including the novelist Dan Brown....
Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ I am currently a Fellow of the Presidents’ College
☐ I wish to become a Fellow of the Presidents’ College Spring 2012. $75
☐ Latin. $60 (Fellows $40)
☐ I’m interested in Prof. Reagan’s follow-up course “Refresh Your Latin” in April
☐ Novels of Edith Wharton. $60 (Fellows $40)
☐ Hertford College: Oliver Noble Wood. $20 (incl. lunch)
☐ Machiavelli. $60 (Fellows $40)
☐ Connecticut History - An American Story. $75 (Fellows, CHS members $60)
☐ I am a CHS member
☐ Aesthetics of Dance. $70 (Fellows $50)
☐ Downton Abbey. $90 (Fellows $70)
☐ Verdi and Shakespeare. $90 (Fellows $70)
☐ US Supreme Court. $70 (Fellows $50)
☐ Song in James Joyce. $90 (Fellows $70)

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Address: _______________________________________________________________________________

STREET     CITY     STATE     ZIP
Telephone:  DAYTIME: (____)_____-_________ EVENING: (____)_____-_________

To receive correspondence from course coordinators, please include your email address, if available.

E-mail: _____________________________.

Fee may be paid by: ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card# ___________________________ Security Code ________ Exp. Date__________

Signature________________________________________ Date ______________
☐ I plan to attend the following Fellows Lecture (no charge for Fellows, $20 per lecture for non-Fellows)

☐ Michael Crosbie on New York Architecture (March 9)
  □ Dinner. $20

☐ I plan to attend the following Tuesdays at Duncaster. No charge for Fellows who are Duncaster residents. For other Duncaster residents: $20 per lecture
For all non-residents of Duncaster, $25 including dinner
  □ David Pines (March 13)
  □ Bryan Sinche (April 24)
  □ Kathleen McGrory (May 15)

Total Side B