DISCOVER.

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COURSES, LECTURES
AND CULTURE AT THE
PRESIDENTS’ COLLEGE

SPRING 2017

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD
PRESIDENTS’ COLLEGE
D I R E C T O R ’ S  M E S S A G E

IT HAS BEEN A GOOD AUTUMN FOR THE PRESIDENTS’ COLLEGE. Enrollment numbers are excellent. Topics are rich and varied. And, as Director, I hear, almost daily, words of praise and enthusiasm for our talented instructors.

I want to take just a paragraph to say that my own Anne Tyler class this fall was a high point in my now forty years of teaching. The participants in that course demonstrated thorough preparation, literary sophistication, quickness of intellect, and civility in disagreement. I said to a friend at one point that getting them to consider a complex question was like feeding hungry koi. Toss an idea out, then stand back and watch! What a privilege.

And now on to spring!

As you will see, the range of subjects in the courses and lectures covered in our spring 2017 Catalog is breathtaking: Jews of the Caribbean, The Russian Revolution, Eugene O’Neill, the planet Mars, Connecticut in the America West, Mozart Operas and Concerti, Cities in Film, Hamilton the musical, the American diet, sex, and violence, Italian poetry, The escape tunnel in Vilnius, The Hill-Stead house, ancient Nubia, Goya and Picasso, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder through music and poetry, the second half of the 16th Century in England, Jane Austen’s Emma, Art fakes and forgeries, choreographing the book of Ecclesiastes, Connecticut in the Space Age, chaos and complexity in the visual arts, painting music, invasive species, Hartford’s American School for the Deaf, sharks, opera treats bohemia, the underground railroad, and—I’ll count to three—hypnosis!

Some of the most legendary of our veteran teachers in the Presidents’ College are at the podium once again: Michael Schiano, Michael Walsh, Frank Rizzo, Richard Freund, Colleen Darnell, Humphrey Tonkin, Douglas Hyland, Michael Lankester, and Willie Waters.

Our partnerships with other cultural organizations has yielded a crop of new faces as well, and delightful suprises are in store: Joe Discher and Sasha Bratt from Playhouse on Park, three Connecticut historians, Dave Corrigan, Allison Speicher, and Leah Glazer (by way of Connecticut Explored magazine), Melanie Bourbeau from Hill-Stead Museum, Psychiatrist Jason DeViva, poet Nan Meneely, filmmaker Karyl Evans, and composer Sarah Meneely-Kyder (all collaborating on an oratorio with the Hartford and Middletown Chorales), and Ed Peltier, Brad Mosely, and Jeff Bravin with the American School for the Deaf.

We do not dedicate dollars to advertising at the Presidents’ College, which is one reason our costs remain low, relative to continuing education programs that I read about around the nation. Please remember, as you leave one of our stimulating sessions, to resolve to convey the quality of our programs to a friend. Word of mouth is the secret to our continuing growth.

And finally, please plan to attend our spring semester kickoff on Thursday, January 12, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, in the 1877 Club, and meet some of the instructors who will inspire us as winter 2017 turns to spring.

— Joe Voelker
Register for spring courses and lectures online at:

www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege

as of January 3, 2017

Please join us for our

Presidents’ College
Spring Kickoff Reception

Thursday, January 12, 2017
4:30 — 6:00 pm

Meet our professors,
hear about upcoming courses,
bring your friends!

Wine • Cheese • Hors d’oeuvres

University of Hartford 1877 Club
(next to Mortensen Library • No registration required)
EUGENE O’NEILL: THE MAN AND HIS WORK WITH PLAYHOUSE ON PARK

JOE DISCHER AND SASHA BRATT

Eugene O’Neill: From the page to the stage. An inside look at the director’s process for the current production of *A Moon for the Misbegotten* at Playhouse on the Park. A director’s look at the text, themes, casting, design and staging of the play from start to finish.

This is a three-session course based on the life and work of American playwright, Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Eugene O’Neill. The first session will be lead by *Moon for the Misbegotten* Director Joe Discher and will focus on staging an O’Neill play and the process of starting with a script and bringing the text to life onstage. Playhouse on Park Literary Manager Sasha Brätt will lead the second session, and delve into the life of Eugene O’Neill, including his largest accomplishments and major works. The final session will include a live performance of the Eugene O’Neill play *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, following which there will be a question & answer session with the cast of the performance.

**Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017; 10:00 am – 11:30 am; Location: KF Room**
**Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017; 10:00 am – 11:30 am; Location KF Room**
**Wednesday, Mar. 1, 2017; 7:30 – 10:00 pm; Location: Playhouse on Park**

Cost: $110; Fellows $100

**JOSEPH DISCHER** has been directing, casting and producing Shakespeare and classical productions for over twenty years. He is an associate artist at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and also functioned as casting director. The New York Times has called Mr. Discher’s productions “devastatingly effective,” “enchanting,” “beautiful,” “sensitively directed,” “staged with spirit and intelligence,” and “joyously funny.”

**SASHA BRATT** is a freelance stage director who currently serves as the Literary Manager for Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, CT. He is a theater educator with over a decade of experience, recently having taught at Trinity College and is the current theatre arts teacher at Hall High School. Sasha’s directorial expertise is in new play development, Shakespeare, and everything in between.

REGISTER FOR ALL COURSES/LECTURES ONLINE AT:
www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege
MARS, “THE RED PLANET”

JAMES MCDONALD

The planet Mars has always held a special place in our imaginations. Different in color and notable for its retrograde motion, it is also the planet that seems most like Earth in terms of geology and appearance. This course will include a retrospective of Mars in popular culture, from before Lowell’s assertion of the existence of canals through Disney’s recent resurrection of John Carter and the movie The Martian. We will also discuss our current understanding of Mars based on recent missions and evaluate the plans by both public and private organizations to send people to Mars within the next twenty years.

Fridays, Feb. 10, 17, 24; 10:30 – 12:00 pm
Location: KF Room: Cost: $80; Fellows $60

JAMES MCDONALD, associate professor in the Department of Physics and associate dean of finance for the College of Arts and Sciences, is an accelerator physicist with experience in low-energy measurements in astrophysics. He holds a PhD from the University of Connecticut and an undergraduate degree from Clarkson University. As an educator, he specializes in teaching introductory science using illustrations from other subjects, like art or science fiction to convey concepts. In recent years he has taught introductory astronomy and the AUC course, Science in Art with the Hartford Art School’s Jeremiah Patterson.

CONNECTICANS IN THE AMERICAN WEST

DAVE CORRIGAN, ALLISON SPEICHER, LEAH GLASER

February 14: The Untold Story of Connecticut and the Mexican Front.

In March 1916, Mexican Revolutionary Francisco “Pancho” Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico. By June, 2,500 Connecticut National Guardsmen were stationed in Nogales, Arizona, joining nearly 150,000 National Guard troops to secure the border with Mexico. Less than a year later, the Connecticut troops were in France as the U.S. entered World War I. Soldiers’ diaries and photographs chronicle their time in the West, a story that few Connecticutans know.

DAVE CORRIGAN is curator, Museum of Connecticut History.

February 21: Teaching on the Frontier

Catharine Beecher, sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe, transformed the teaching vocation in part through her efforts to send Connecticut-trained female
teachers west to frontier schools. What the teachers encountered when they arrived varied from great enthusiasm and well-established schools to total indifference and ramshackle one-room schoolhouses. Through letters written home, Speicher tells the story of these educational pioneers.


February 28: Mining for Silver in the Arizona Territory

In 1857 – 1858, Samuel Colt invested $10,000 in cash and $10,000 worth of firearms in the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company. Colt left an indelible stamp on Arizona—a place he never visited. Glaser’s talk will be based on her and Nicholas Thomas’s essay in the Journal of Arizona History (Spring 2015).

LEAH GLASER is associate professor of history and public history at Central Connecticut State University.

Tuesdays, Feb. 14, 21, 28; 3:30 – 5 pm
Location: KF Room: Cost: $80; Fellows $70

CINEMATIC CITIES

MICHAEL WALSH

For the first time in human history, more than half the population of the world is urbanized. Cinema began in the big cities of the developed world, and films that actively thematize the city have been important ever since. This course will survey short films and selected sequences, studying cities in film from the silent era to the present. Amsterdam as seen by Joris Ivens, Berlin as seen by Walter Ruttman, Los Angeles as seen by Roman Polanski, and New York as seen by Woody Allen.

Mondays, Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13; 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Location: KF Room: Cost: $80; Fellows $60

MICHAEL WALSH was born in London, was educated at Sussex and Buffalo, and has chaired cinema departments at Binghamton and Hartford, where he has taught film for many years. His recent articles are on sound in experimental film and video (in the Oxford Handbook of New Audiovisual Aesthetics), and on 1960s’ durational films (in Slow Cinema, Edinburgh University Press).
WHY HAMILTON IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MUSICAL OF THIS GENERATION

FRANK RIZZO

What’s all the fuss over Hamilton, which is being hailed as a landmark musical? We take an in-depth examination of the musical, looking at its place in Broadway history and the development of the American musical and explore why this show, which won 11 Tony awards this past spring, is a game-changer on so many levels. We’ll look at the Wesleyan-educated creative team (star, composer and librettist Lin-Manual Miranda and director Thomas Kail), their influences (Stephen Sondheim plays a big part) and how their first collaboration in the Tony Award-winning In the Heights set the groundwork for Hamilton. We also look at how historic subjects have been adapted successfully (and not) into musicals — and why Miranda’s work “based on Ron Chernow’s Hamilton biography” is a masterpiece of adaptation.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, Thursday, Mar. 2, Tuesday, Mar. 7; 12:00 – 1:30 pm
Location KF Room: Cost: $90, Fellows $70

FRANK RIZZO is a writer/critic for Variety and contributes to The New York Times, American Theatre magazine, Theatre Development Fund’s Stages website, the Tribune newspapers (Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun), the Connecticut Hearst papers (Greenwich Times, Stamford Advocate, Connecticut Post, Danbury Times), Fox/CT, among other media outlets. For 34 years he was staff arts writer and theater critic for The Hartford Courant. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a BA in journalism and was a Shubert Fellow in playwriting in graduate school.

HOT SPOTS AND BURNING ISSUES

CHRIS DOYLE

Our first session will deal with the ethics of eating. The American diet raises questions of health, animal rights, the environment, energy consumption, and economic inequality. Excerpping books ranging from Michael Pollan’s The Omnivore’s Dilemma to Michael Moss’s Salt, Sugar, Fat, we will tackle the morality and sustainability of how we eat.

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The Second session is on the history and future of suburbia. Literature, film, TV, sociology, and history have described suburbia alternately as idyllic, a radical experiment in middle-class democracy, and “the worst misallocation of resources in human history” (according to James Howard Kunstler). We’ll explore a range of artistic and literary responses to suburbia and work toward our own conclusions.

The Third session will explore gender and sexuality. Perhaps never before have we been so polarized on the subject of sex. Celebrity coming outs, the rise of transgender, and growing concerns about sexual exploitation are juxtaposed culturally against political and religious demands for a return to “tradition.” Sex trafficking and pornography are multi-billion dollar industries raising serious concerns about exploitation and misogyny. We’ll draw on a range of literature and journalism in studying this subject.

The fourth session focuses on fundamentalism and violence. We tend to equate violent religious fundamentalism with Al Qaeda and ISIS, but contemporary fundamentalism ranges across the religious landscape—including the Bodu Bala Sena sect in Sri Lanka, Hindu extremism in India, and extreme Christianity. We’ll examine links between modern religion and violence in this session.

Wednesdays, Feb. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 26, May 10; 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Location KF Room: Cost: $90; Fellows and World Affairs Council members $55

CHRIS DOYLE directs Global Studies at Watkinson School. He holds a doctorate in history and has taught extensively at the high school and college levels. His writings about history, education, and contemporary adolescence have appeared in The Los Angeles Times, Journal of Southern History, Education Week, Hartford Courant, and elsewhere. An award-winning teacher, Chris’ classroom work has been showcased in a story in The New York Times. He has also been a guest panelist on NPR-syndicated radio shows devoted to history and teaching.

FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS BUILD A COUNTRY HOUSE – HILL-STEAD MUSEUM AND ITS ORIGINS

MELANIE BOURBEAU

Hill-Stead Museum and its collection of French Impressionist paintings is, perhaps, familiar to many of us, but this three-part course will delve into the story in a deeper way than the typical guided tour at the historic house. In
part one, learn about Alfred Atmore Pope’s business career as a Midwestern industrialist and his budding interest in collecting, years before he and his wife moved to their “retirement” estate in the heart of Farmington. In part two, learn about Theodate Pope’s life and architectural career. Excerpts from diaries and letters will make her come alive. The course will conclude with part three, Hill-Stead’s collection and French Impressionism. We’ll examine the paintings on view in the museum, other works Alfred Pope purchased that are “gone but not forgotten” and works by other artists that will place Hill-Stead’s collection in context.

**Wednesdays, Mar. 8, 15, 22; 10:00 – 11:30 am**
**Location: KF Room; Cost: $80; Fellows $70**

**MELANIE ANDERSON BOURBEAU** is Curator and Director of Interpretation and Programs at Hill-Stead Museum. She received her MA in American Studies (with a concentration in Museum Studies) from Trinity College, and has worked at numerous museums in greater Hartford including The Mark Twain House and Museum, The Noah Webster House and the Austin House, a house museum operated by the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.

**ANCIENT NUBIA: LAND OF GOLD**

**COLEEN MANESSA DARNELL**

The great civilization of ancient Egypt was not alone in the Nile Valley — to the south lay a rival kingdom, Nubia. This course explores the interconnected histories of Egypt and Nubia, from the origins of civilization in the Nile Valley in the fourth and fifth millennia BCE, to Egyptian imperial expansion around 2000 BCE and the construction of a large series of fortifications, to the rise of an independent Nubian kingdom around 1700 BCE. Egyptian colonial domination of Nubia and the extraction of its natural resources — predominately gold — alternates throughout the millennia with the dominance of Nubian political power in the south. Egyptian-Nubian history culminates with the Twenty-Fifth, Kushite Dynasty that ruled a unified Egypt and Nubia in the middle of the first millennium BCE. The course will cover larger political and military trends, as well as the lives of individual Nubians, whose experiences cast a more personal light on historical processes.

**Fridays, Mar. 10, 17, 24; 1:30 – 3:00 pm**
**Location: KF Room; Cost: $85; Fellows $75**

**COLEEN MANASSA DARNELL** is a visiting professor in the Department of Art History at the Hartford Art School. An associate professor of Egyptology at
Yale University, she is an award-winning author and a frequent contributor to the History Channel and National Geographic Channel. Recent books include the catalog to the critically acclaimed exhibition at the Yale Peabody Museum – Echoes of Egypt: Conjuring the Land of the Pharaohs, and, newly released with Oxford University Press, Imagining the Past: Historical Fiction in Ancient Egypt.

GOYA AND PICASSO: ARTISTIC REVOLUTIONARIES
DAVID SIMON

Both Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (1746-1828) and Pablo Ruiz y Picasso (1881-1973) share certain biographical particulars that might be considered accidents of history in that both were born and trained in Spain and both died, virtually in exile, in France. In fact, each of their paths from Spain to France can be seen as a reaction to the social and political events of Spain during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Both artists were renowned as painters and also as printmakers and both used their notable talents to comment on political events of their times, developing new artistic techniques to do so. Indeed, both Goya and Picasso established profound revolutionary agendas for their work.

Tuesdays, Mar. 14, 21, 28, Apr. 4; 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Location: KF Room: Cost: $85; Fellows $75

DAVID L. SIMON was, until his recent retirement, Ellerton M. Jette professor of art at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. With degrees from Boston University and the University of London, he is a specialist on Spanish art of the Middle Ages. He has published widely on Romanesque art and architecture, and on the history of art in general, and is joint author of Janson’s History of Art.

TRANSFORMING THE SILENCE: AN EXPLORATION OF WAR’S TRAUMA THROUGH POETRY AND MUSIC
DR. JASON DEVIVA, NAN MENEELY, KARYL EVANS, SARAH MENEELY-KYDER

On May 4th, 2017, The Hartford Chorale and the Greater Middletown Chorale, accompanied by The Hartford Symphony Orchestra, will present Letter From Italy, 1944 at the Bushnell Theater.

This new American oratorio explores PTSD and the effects of war’s trauma on a soldier and his family. Two sisters, composer Sarah Meneely-Kyder and poet Nancy Fitz-Hugh Meneely, have based this dramatic and moving work for chorus, soloists and orchestra on their father’s experiences as a U.S.
Army 10th Mountain Division surgeon in World War II. During his return to civilian life, the young physician and his family coped with a dissolving family structure in the eighteen years before he ultimately committed suicide.

Class I: Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Karyl Evans presents her sensitive and insightful documentary “Letter from Italy, 1944 – A New American Oratorio” that resulted in her 7th Emmy as “Outstanding Director” in 2016.” Narrated by Meryl Streep, this film documents the artistic creation of the GMChorale-commissioned oratorio and explores the historical context from which it emerged. The film includes archival 10th Mountain Division footage, interviews with the many collaborating artists, and reactions from the public, including veterans, their families, and community leaders.

Class II: Poet Nancy Fitz-Hugh Meneely will read a selection of her poems created in response to inheriting the letters her father wrote home to her mother during World War II. Ms. Meneely’s extraordinary poems, written from multiple points of view, explore and stand as testimony to her father’s harrowing war experiences as well as their effects on several generations of his family. These poems form the basis for her sister’s large-scale musical composition, Letter from Italy, 1944. The reading will be accompanied by photographic projections. The composer, Sarah Meneely-Kyder, will join her sister after the reading, to speak and take questions from the audience. Members of the audience who are veterans will receive a copy of Ms Meneely’s book that bears the same title as the oratorio and is published by Antrim Press.

Class III: Dr. Jason DeViva, staff psychologist in the PTSD/anxiety disorders treatment program at the West Haven Veterans Affairs Medical Center, will present an overview of historical and contemporary understandings of posttraumatic stress disorder. He will explore the history of our understanding of how wars affect those who fight them, starting with Virgil and Homer and proceeding to our current conceptualization of posttraumatic stress disorder. Theories about the factors that maintain posttraumatic stress will be explored, followed by a discussion of current treatment options, including trauma-focused treatments and expressive art therapy.

Thursdays, Mar. 23, 30, Apr. 6; 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Location: KF Room: Cost: $80, Fellows $65

NAN MENEELEY holds a BA from Smith College, an MAT in English from Yale and an MEd from UMass/Amherst. She has published poetry, book reviews and articles in a variety of literary publications and newspapers. Her book, Letter from Italy, 1944, was published by Antrim House and placed in the
2016 Eric Hoffer Book Awards. It was noted by the Hartford Courant as one of thirteen important books published by Connecticut Writers in 2013. It provides the libretto for the oratorio composed by her sister, premiered by The Greater Middletown Chorale. On May 4, 2017, the GM Chorale and the Hartford Chorale will collaboratively produce and perform this unique oratorio at the Bushnell.

KARYL EVANS is a six-time Emmy Award-winning director/producer/editor/writer of documentary films. In 2016 she won the National Academy of Television Arts and Science’s Best Director Emmy Award for her work on “Letter from Italy, 1944”: A New American Oratorio, narrated by Meryl Streep. She has produced many films about the history of Connecticut over the past 30 years including “The New Haven Green: Heart of a City, narrated by Paul Giamatti. She is a Fellow at Yale University.

SARAH MENEELY-KYDER is a graduate of Goucher College, BA, Peabody Conservatory of Music, MM, Yale University School of Music, MMA. For 22 years, prior to her retirement in 2013, she was a member of the music faculty at Wesleyan University, where she taught composition, piano, and chamber music and performed actively. Following her retirement, Meneely-Kyder has focused her attention on larger vocal and choral works in the fields of opera and oratorio, like Letter from Italy, 1944. Distinguished soloists, choral organizations, and opera companies throughout New England are commissioning and performing her works. Meneely-Kyder has made two recordings for CD on the North/South Recordings label. The second, Millennium Overture, was nominated for a Grammy in 2003. In 2007, the chamber ensemble, VOCE, recorded her third CD, A Garland of Hymns and Carols.

THE EMERGENCE OF ENGLAND II: POLITICS, RELIGION AND THE ARTS 1550-1600

HUMPHREY TONKIN

The sixteenth century in England was characterized by, among other phenomena, continuing religious controversy and rapid urbanization. While the religious controversy concerned doctrine, it was primarily a manifestation of the monarchy’s efforts to centralize power and exercise control in an economy that required unprecedented exchange of information and far greater movement of capital. Competition among factions and competition between nation states became ever sharper. England shifted from a largely oral culture to a largely literate culture. The English language stabilized, the universities and the professions expanded, and a newly literate population sustained such major writers as Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser, and William Shakespeare. When James VI of Scotland became James I of England,
succeeding Elizabeth in 1603, the thrones of England and Scotland came together, though religious tensions, intertwined with political tensions, that had torn England apart in much of the sixteenth century emerged anew in the seventeenth, leading to civil war and a new era of limited monarchy.

“The Emergence of England II, 1550-1600” will continue this story by examining the upheavals of the reigns of Edward VI and Mary Tudor, and the uneasy but enduring Elizabethan settlement that followed in 1558. The newly wealthy invested in grand and ostentatious country houses, the better to declare their importance. Poets both praised the Queen and advocated for their political positions. Dramatists, exploiting the opportunity provided by a populous London, wrote plays that amused, entertained, and edified the public, indulging their nostalgia and providing them with a sense of history. And, through it all, the traditionalists kept writing poetry, telling stories, and composing music that looked backwards to the middle ages as much as they looked forward to a new England. This was a time for the unscrupulous and the gallant, the cruel and the compassionate, the insular and the cosmopolitan. Out of it came a new England in the British Isles, and a New England beyond the seas.

Mondays, Mar. 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24; 4-4:30 pm.
Location: Wilde Auditorium: Cost: $95; Fellows $75

HUMPHREY TONKIN’S second book on Spenser, The Faerie Queene, was reissued two years ago. He has recently retired as University Professor of Humanities and as director of the Presidents’ College, which he was instrumental in founding when he was president of the University of Hartford in the 1990s and for which he has led numbers of trips to England over the years.

THE FIRST PSYCHOLOGICAL NOVEL: JANE AUSTEN’S EMMA

CATHERINE STEVENSON

Published 200 years ago, Emma continues to delight readers with its intimate portrait of a mind at work. In this case, the mind is that of the “handsome, clever, rich” Emma Woodhouse and the “work” is the persistent misinterpretation of the data of the senses in the service of Emma’s
imagination. With exquisite control of narrative structure, Jane Austen fashions sparkling comedy out of the heroine’s misunderstanding of reality. In three sessions we will explore the origins of this comic masterpiece and its place in the Austen canon. We will also look closely at the complex and groundbreaking narrative structure of the novel, its pervasive irony and the hidden “novel-within-a-novel” that provides a “surprise twist” near its conclusion. If time permits we will also dip into scenes from the wonderful film/video versions of the novel and some contemporary re-telling of Austen’s story.

Tuesdays, Mar. 28, Apr. 4, 11; 10:30 – 12:00 pm
Location: KF Room; Cost: $80; Fellows $70

CATHERINE STEVENSON, former academic dean for International and Honors Programs at the University, is the author of Victorian Women Travel Writers in Africa (1982) and many scholarly articles on English literature, theater, and women’s studies. In her 30 years at the University of Hartford, she served as a department chair, associate dean, assistant provost and dean of the faculty, and the Harry Jack Gray Distinguished Teaching Humanist. She received the University of Hartford’s Outstanding Teachers Award and the Trachtenberg Award for Service to the University.

FAKES AND FORGERIES: AMAZING BUT TRUE ADVENTURES OF AN ART MUSEUM DIRECTOR

DOUGLAS HYLAND

Over a 35 year period I have encountered many extraordinary situations involving the authentication of major masterpieces by Sir Anthony van Dyck, Antoine Watteau, John Singleton Copley, Winslow Homer, Thomas Hart Benton and Frank Benson, among many others. Each set of circumstances involves a web of intrigue and mystery. Beyond European and American paintings, there is no end to the forgeries offered for sale to museums and collectors of Asian and African Art, as well. The art market, which is the least regulated major industry in our nation, is rife with fraud and the growing number of fakes is astonishing. I have benefitted from the assistance and expertise of many eminent friends and colleagues, both art historians and professional conservators from around the world, and I will recount in detail the personal adventures I have very much enjoyed as an Art Museum director since 1982.
PRESIDENTS’ COLLEGE SPRING COURSES 2017

Wednesdays, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 12; 10:30 – 12:00 pm
Location: KF Room: Cost: $90; Fellows $70

DOUGLAS HYLAND was for 16 years director of the New Britain Museum of American Art. Previously, he served as director of the San Antonio Museum of Art and the Birmingham Museum of Art. He has a PhD in art history from the University of Delaware. He has organized numerous exhibitions and written articles and catalogs on a wide variety of European and American subjects.

“TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON” THROUGH THEME AND VARIATION IN MUSIC AND DANCE

NINA WATT AND KATHRYN SWANSON

The course will be a discussion of the musical and movement ‘themes and variations’ in a 1956 double Juilliard commission that resulted in José Limón’s renowned choreography, There Is a Time, danced to Norman Dello Joio’s Pulitzer Prize winning score, Meditations on Ecclesiastes. The costuming, which we will show close-up to the students, was designed by Pauline Lawrence Limón and was also conceived as a kind of ‘theme and variation’. Discussion: Issues that arise in re-staging classic works that have several versions and many interpretations.

Friday, Mar. 31; 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Tuesday, Apr. 4; 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Thursday, Apr. 6; 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Location: KF Room: Cost: $80; Fellows $70

NINA WATT was a principle dancer with the Limón Dance Company from 1972-2002, serving as Artistic Associate from 1992-2006. Acclaimed as a ‘dancer of star magnitude,’ and a ‘perfect Limón dancer,’ she received a 2002 New York Dance and Performance Award for Sustained Achievement. She continues to teach and stage Limón’s repertory worldwide, teaches a yearly summer intensive in Italy, and is Associate Professor in The Hartt School Dance Division, University of Hartford.

KATHRYN SWANSON-ELLIS, DMA, is an active Hartford composer who has contributed works to several of the region’s new music festivals. Kathryn began working in the Hollywood music industry as a music copyist, arranger, technical assistant, and orchestrator on several cable released movies. Since moving to Hartford, she has collaborated with a number of local artists in theater and dance, composing music for A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and for several collaborations with Full Force Dance Theatre, among others. She
created The River, a collaborative, multimedia, and interdisciplinary work commissioned by the Windsor Arts Counsel, and arranged/composed for a new Hartt Dance Division production of José Limón’s Psalm. Kathryn teaches Kodaly at the Hartt School and Electronic Music at Eastern Connecticut State University.

CHAOS AND COMPLEXITY IN THE VISUAL ARTS
POWER BOOTHE

If we regard art, not as a mind-independent object, but as an integral part of an experiential process, it seems we can more easily understand the importance of the irrational in art. The view of the ideal in art as an independent harmonious object parallels Newtonian science, which defined a deterministic world operating in a symmetrical state of perfect equilibrium. Here the irrational was dismissed as simply evidence of our lack of knowledge. The dream of the work-as-perfect, despite our not having the ability to see it, has been around since recorded time. However, the science of complexity that emerged in the second half of the twentieth Century took a different tack. Chaos was not banished and the irrational and chance were embraced as an important aspect of the universe. Complexity theory seems to shed new light, not only on the nature of evolution, patterns of growth, and determinism; it provides new insights on the creative process. And, it gives us a new lens through which to view the work of many artists that we thought we knew. Using the lens of complexity theory the course will explore the artwork of a range of visual artists, including Leonardo, Bosch, Velasquez, Blake, Turner, Goya, Pollock, Twombly, Rauschenberg, Tuttle, Hesse, and Puryear; artists who have imagined chaos, embraced chance, and revealed a dynamic view of the world that is open-ended and not determined.

Fridays, Apr. 14, 21, 28; 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Location: KF Room; Cost: $80; Fellows $60

POWER BOOTHE is professor of painting on the Hartford Art School faculty. As an artist he has had over twenty one-person exhibitions and his work is in many public collections, including the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum. In Connecticut his work is in the collections of the Wadsworth Atheneum, the New Britain Museum, and the Florence Griswold Museum. Over his career he has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for Painting, a National Endowment Individual Artist’s Fellowship, and a Pollock/Krasner Fellowship. The Fred Giampietro Gallery, New Haven, CT, represents his work exclusively.
PAINTING MUSIC

MICHAEL LANGESTER

In this series of five lectures, Michael Lankester explores the integral relationship between painting and music through the works of five artists who bridge the gap between the 19th and 20th Centuries — Max Klinger, Gustav Klimt, Oscar Kokoschka, Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee.

1. **Klinger** – *Brahmsphantasie* and *The Song of Destiny*
   
   *Beethoven and the 1902 Vienna Secessionist Exhibition*

2. **Klimt** – *The Beethoven Frieze*
   
   *Mahler and The Woman in Gold*

3. **Kokoshka** – Gustave Mahler and Alma Mahler
   
   *Bride of the Wind*

4. **Kandinsky** – *Sounds in color and color in sounds*
   
   *Schoenberg and The Blue Rider*

5. **Klee** – *In the Style of Bach*
   
   *Polyphony*

**Mondays, Apr. 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15; 10:00 – 11:30 am**

**Location: Wilde Auditorium**

Cost: $100; Fellows $85

MICHAEL LANKESTER has been guest conductor with orchestras in Britain and North America, including the Pittsburgh, Toronto, City of Birmingham, and London Symphonies, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic, and was for 15 years music director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. 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.

AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF

**ED PELTIER, BRAD MOSLEY, JEFF BRAVIN**

**Session I — April 27, 2017; 4:00 – 5:30 pm**

We will visit and examine a collaborative exhibit of archives from the American School for the Deaf (ASD) and Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) displays. This six-month exhibit entitled, “Language, Culture, Communities: 200 Years of Impact by the American School for the Deaf” will...
include speakers and a display of ASD’s artifacts and CHS resources from the early years of ASD, including its founding.

Location: Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT

Session II — May 4, 2017; 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Course Content: The Early Years, 1816-1917: Brad Mosley, Coordinator of ASD’s Archives, will discuss the genesis of ASD’s founding by Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell in collaboration with Thomas H. Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc. We will look at the roles of the Enlightenment, Civil War, the founding of other Schools for the Deaf, and the 1880 Conference of Milan.

Location: KF Room

Session III — May 11, 2017; 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Mr. Jeff Bravin, ASD Executive Director, and several other Deaf leaders will explain the role of Deaf Culture and American Sign Language in the Deaf Community as well as the education of the Deaf. Content will also include the role of Gallaudet University, clubs and associations of the Deaf, media and technology.

Location: KF Room

Session IV — May 18, 2017; 4:00 – 5:30 pm

We will take a tour of ASD’s school and the ASD Cogswell Heritage House (archives), followed by a reception.

Location: American School for the Deaf, 139 N. Main St., West Hartford, CT

Thursdays, Apr. 27, May 4, 11, 18; 4:00 – 5:30 pm
(Note different locations for each session), Cost: $85; Fellows $75

JEFFREY S. BRAVIN, MS, has been employed at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT since 2002. He is currently the Executive Director responsible for oversight of the school. He reports directly to the Board of Directors with responsibility for carrying out the vision, mission and goals of ASD. Prior to assuming this role, Mr. Bravin served as the Assistant Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer of the school. He also currently serves on the Advisory Board for the State of Connecticut, Department of Rehabilitation

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EDWARD PELTIER is a graduate of the University of Hartford, class of 1968, where he majored in Business Administration. He also holds a Masters degree in deaf education from McDaniel College in Westminster, Md. He has spent his entire career in deaf education, and served as Executive Director of the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford from 2007 until 2014.

BRAD MOSLEY, BS, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas in 1976, MA, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C; taught at the Golden Triangle Deaf Co-operative Program, including sign language classes for three years and at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT for 35 years. He is the ASD Coordinator for the archives. Currently, Brad works with the Connecticut Historical Society on its bicentennial exhibit to showcase ASD as the oldest school for the deaf in America.

SCENES FROM BOHEMIAN LIFE

MAESTRO WILLIE WATERS

This course will consist of an in-depth examination of Puccini’s most popular opera, La Bohème, by Maestro Willie Anthony Waters. Using audio and video examples, Maestro Waters will explore aspects of the original novel by Henri Murger, in addition to the libretto and music of this immortal masterpiece.

Saturday, May 6; 10:00 -1:00 pm
Location: KF Room, Cost $60; Fellows $50

WILLIE ANTHONY WATERS holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Hartford, 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 opera companies and orchestras in South Africa. In 2002, he debuted at New York City Opera, and in 2008 at the Deutsche Opera, Berlin. Maestro Waters also serves as artistic director/opera of the Houston Ebony Opera Guild. 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 a member of the faculty at Binghamton University (State University of New York). He is a regular guest panelist on the Metropolitan Opera Quiz and is a widely sought-after lecturer and master class clinician.
TOURING THE NATION: TOURISM AND THE PROMOTION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

MICHAEL CLANCY

How do we know about nations? How do we know what “Belgium” or “South Africa” (or for that matter “America”) stands for? Increasingly part of the answer comes through tourism and the presentation of national tourism sites. Sometimes such sites are official while in other cases they emerge more organically. This talk will examine tourism as an important contemporary source of national identity formation for both domestic and foreign consumption.

MICHAEL CLANCY, professor and chair of Politics and Government, coordinates the steering committee for the International Studies program. He teaches international politics, including U.S. foreign policy, the politics of war, international political economy, the Iraq war, and international organization and law. His research focuses on the political economy of tourism and the politics of Global Commodity Chains (GCCs). He is author of two books on tourism and development in Mexico and Ireland.

Thursday, Jan. 19th; 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: KF Room, no charge

MOZART'S SEDUCTIONS

MICHAEL SCHIANO

Mozart is perhaps best known for his operas and concerti, and it has often been remarked how both genres are “dramatic” in nature. In the case of operas, that’s rather obvious. But in the case of concerti, one might imagine the soloist somehow confronting the orchestra, in the manner that David confronted Goliath.

Mozart spent his entire musical life reinventing these genres, sometimes with the two even sharing space on his work desk. In what ways does his music show the deep down similarities between them? There are a number of parallels, but the most telling can be found by looking closely at his operatic duets, where the aim is seduction.

MICHAEL SCHIANO is associate professor of music theory at The Hartt School, where he teaches courses in music analysis, 20th–21st century music history, and counterpoint. He has taught courses for the Presidents’ College on Mozart scholarship, Haydn, Beethoven’s Influence, Mozart “Young and ‘Old,”” and The Beatles.
PRESIDENTS' COLLEGE SPRING LECTURES 2017

FELLOWS LECTURES

Thursday, Feb. 16; 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: KF Room, no charge

AMERICAN MUSICALS OF THE 1950’S

TRACEY MOORE AND JOHN PIKE

American musicals of the 1950s are poised at the crossroads of several developments: The book musical form of the 1940s, the big Hollywood movie musical, and the rumblings of rock and roll that will control the 1960s. Looking at form, style, and substance, the lecture will explore how the 1950s musical represents all that came before, and all that was yet to come.

TRACEY MOORE is an associate professor at the Hartt School's Theatre Division where she teaches acting, musical theatre, and career preparation. Prior to academia, she was a professional actress and singer in New York. She appeared as Emma Goldman in the Broadway National Tour of Ragtime, as Nimue in the Richard Harris tour of Camelot, and at regional theaters across the U.S. in leading roles such as Mama Rose in Gypsy Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd, and the Earth Mother in Menopause the Musical.

JOHN PIKE, a professor at The Hartt School, teaches theatre history, text analysis, contemporary theatre and composition. Previously, as Artistic Associate for Goodspeed he contributed to 90 productions (including five Broadway transfers) and published Show Music Magazine. He has written for Playbill, Sondheim Review, Dramatists Quarterly and is author of Goodspeed Musicals at 50 and contributing author to The Book of Broadway (Voyageur Press, 2015). He has directed Smile, Das Barbecü, Working, The Spitfire Grill, Edwin Drood, Little Women, Big, and Fiddler.

Thursday, Mar. 16th; 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: KF Room, no charge

KUDZU AND PYTHONs, AND SEA SQUIRTS, OH MY!

STEPHAN BULLARD

Exotic plants and animals are invading new lands, destroying ecosystems and devastating economies. What are non-native species? Why do they pose such a danger? Can anything be done to stop them? Come learn about the exciting and frightening world of invasive species!
FELLOWS LECTURES

STEPHAN BULLARD, PhD, is a Marine Biologist and an associate professor of biology in Hillyer College. He teaches all aspects of biology, and has a particular interest in environmental studies and the science of disasters. His research concerns invasive species, particularly sea squirts, and plankton, and is currently centered on Long Island Sound. His publications include work on ascidians and bryozoans, crabs, and plankton.

Thursday, April 20th; 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: KF Room, no charge

HYPNOSIS: IS IT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS?
LEN MILLING

Until recently, hypnosis was associated with mysticism and the supernatural. This presentation explores what we know about hypnosis based upon empirical research in psychology. Dr. Len Milling of the College of Arts and Sciences Psychology Department will illustrate the components of a hypnotic procedure and examine the myths surrounding hypnosis. He will explore the major theories explaining how hypnosis works and describe the most effective clinical applications of hypnosis.

LEN MILLING, PhD, is a professor of psychology at the University of Hartford, where he has been on the faculty since 2000. He has published more than 35 peer-reviewed journal articles, many examining how hypnosis works and who responds most strongly to it. He is a Fellow of Division 30 (Psychological Hypnosis) of the American Psychological Association. He is on the editorial board of three scientific peer-reviewed hypnosis journals.

Thursday, May 18th; 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: KF Room, no charge

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http://library.hartford.edu/presidentscollege/activities/conversations/
One hundred years ago, a revolution ended the 300-year rule of the Romanov dynasty. Its causes included death and destruction suffered during World War I, which began in 1914 and for which Russia was woefully unprepared. Other causes included extreme poverty and hunger, a lack of meaningful democratic institutions, and the incompetence and unpopularity of the royal family.

Questions and controversies to be considered: Why were efforts to reform Russia before 1917 unsuccessful? What was the nature of Nicholas II’s rule and the significance of his family life? What was the role of Rasputin, a corrupt wandering holy man? How did the events from February to October lead to the Bolshevik Revolution?

KEN POPPE has many years of experience teaching history at high schools in Westport, Farmington, West Hartford and Simsbury. He traveled to the Soviet Union in the 1980s, studied the Russian language at CCSU, and spent a sabbatical year in the Russian Studies Department at Trinity College. He established Russian Studies courses, created teaching resources for high school teachers and presented at state and local conferences. He is past president of the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies.

Tuesday; Feb. 7th; 4:45 pm – 6:15 pm
Location: Duncaster Retirement Community: Cost: $15, Fellows: no charge

In 2016, the University of Hartford spearheaded an investigation of the Ponar Burial Pits outside of Vilnius, Lithuania using non-invasive geophysical equipment searching for a legendary escape tunnel dug by the Jewish inmates in 1944. The discovery was hailed worldwide and NOVA, the #1 science program in the world is making a documentary that will air on PBS in April 2017.

RICHARD FREUND, PhD is the Maurice Greenberg Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford. He is the author or co-author of nine books and has
Directed on behalf of the University of Hartford archaeological projects in Israel, including: the Cave of Letters, Qumran (site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls), Yavne, Bethsaida, Yavne, Nazareth and Har Karkom and has done projects in Spain, Rhodes, Greece, Poland, and now a series of projects in Lithuania. His work has also been a part of television documentaries made for National Geographic, NOVA, History Channel, Discovery, BBC, and CNN.

Tuesday, Mar. 7; 4:45 - 6:15 pm
Location: Duncaster Retirement Community: Cost: $15, Fellows: no charge

CONNECTICUT IN THE SPACE AGE

MICHAEL ROBINSON

When President Kennedy drafted an ambitious plan to land Americans on the moon, NASA turned to Connecticut — a center of aeronautical research and industry since the early 1900s — to develop life-support systems, space suits, propulsion systems, and parachutes for the crafts being designed to carry humans into space. Although Florida became the iconic landscape of NASA launches, Connecticut was the Space Age’s Silicon Valley, designer of some of its most sophisticated technologies. Evidence can be seen on the moon itself, in the discarded pile of life-support packs, one for each of the dozen men who visited the moon, left in the lunar dust of Tranquility Base and other sites — all made in Connecticut. And when the oxygen tanks of Apollo XIII exploded en route to the moon in 1970, it was to Windsor Locks’ Hamilton Sundstrand that frantic NASA officials turned, keeping phone lines open all night as they desperately improvised a way to save the failing craft and its three astronauts.


Tuesday, Apr. 11th; 4:45 - 6:15 pm
Location: Duncaster Retirement Community: Cost: $15, Fellows, no charge
UNDERGROUND RAILROADS AND LIVING BETWEEN WORLDS:
THE ENDURING LEGACY OF AMERICAN SLAVERY IN COLSON
WHITEHEAD AND TA-NEHISI COATES

FIONA MILLS

Both Between the World and Me, a non-fiction work by Ta-Nehisi Coates, and The Underground Railroad, a novel by Colson Whitehead, explore the history of American slavery albeit one through the lens of memoir and the other through fiction. Taking these two New York Times bestsellers as our starting point, we will explore Coates’s bleak portrait of a country that has refused to reckon with its harrowing past as seen through his lived experience as an African-American male and compare it to Whitehead’s neo slave narrative that reinterprets the experience of slave life via magical realism. Both books vividly illustrate the brutality that has been visited upon the black body and continues to this day insisting that readers not turn away from the violence against African-Americans that was codified in law for far too many years. We will also consider these texts against the backdrop of the recent resurgent interest in slavery in both literature (The Invention of Wings, The Kitchen House, and The House Girl); film (Twelve Years a Slave, Django Unchained) and television (revival of Roots) as well as situating both texts within the current Black Lives Matter movement.

FIONA MILLS, PhD is a lecturer in the humanities department at St. Anselm College and has taught at various universities including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, Keene State College and Curry College. She received her PhD in African American literature and Latino/a literature and theory from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has recently edited a collection of essays on Kathryn Stockett’s 2009 novel The Help, entitled Like One of the Family; Domestic Workers, Race and In/Visibility in The Help, and published this year by Cambridge Scholars Press.

Tuesday, May 9th; 4:45 – 6:15 pm
Location: Duncaster Retirement Community: Cost: $15, Fellows: no charge

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THE VOYAGES OF STRANGERS: THE JEWISH PRESENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN

LESLIE DESMANGLES

The Jewish religious presence in the Caribbean can be traced to the 16th century, and it tells a fascinating story of a people who have left an indelible imprint on the history of the Caribbean. The early Jewish settlers who came to the Caribbean were escaping the religious persecution of the Spanish Inquisition. Despite the hardships that they endured throughout the centuries, they managed to maintain their culture and preserve their religious traditions in the Caribbean diaspora. Their members’ religious fervor not only helped to ensure the survival of the Jewish religious traditions in the region but also to touch the lives of many Jews in several regions of the United States.

LESLIE DESMANGLES graduated from Eastern University in 1964 with a BA in music, from Palmer Seminary in Philadelphia with an MDiv in Theology, and from Temple University in 1975 with a PhD in anthropology of religion, specializing in Caribbean and African studies. He has taught at Ohio Wesleyan University from 1969-1976, at De Paul University from 1976-1978, and at Trinity since 1978.

Friday, Feb. 3rd; 2:00 pm
Location: McAuley Retirement Community: Cost: $15, Fellows: no charge

ITALIAN POETRY FOUND IN TRANSLATIONS

MARIA ESPOSITO FRANK

A presentation of some among the best Italian short poems of the twentieth century. The focus of the presentation is a comparison/contrast of different English renditions for one and the same Italian poem, in order to better evaluate and appreciate poetic aspects of the Italian original text.

MARIA ESPOSITO FRANK is professor of Italian and Renaissance Studies at the University of Hartford. Her main interests are in the field of 14th and 15th century literature and history of ideas, religion and literature, poetry (of
LOVE, SEX, AND MARRIAGE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

AMANDA WALLING

Love, sex, and marriage were as contentious in the Middle Ages as they are now, and beliefs about them were full of contradictions: from the ideals of courtly love to the realities of politically arranged marriages, and from the church's teaching that sexuality was sinful to the popular appetite for dirty jokes and explicit stories about cheating spouses. Walling will explore some of the widespread medieval attitudes towards these fundamental areas of human experience, showing how they conflicted with each other and with how people actually lived, and will explain how these contradictory ideas gave rise to some of the great art and literature of the European tradition.

AMANDA WALLING is assistant professor of English at the University of Hartford, where she teaches courses on medieval literature, mythology, drama, and the history of the English language. She received her PhD from Stanford University and has published articles on the work of Geoffrey Chaucer and other medieval authors.

Friday, Apr. 7th; 2:00 pm
Location: McAuley Retirement Community: Cost $15, Fellows: no charge

DISEASES OF SHARKS

JOANNA BORUCINSKA

Somewhat like canaries in coalmines, sharks provide critical information on the status and degradation of their environment. Dr. Borucinska's lecture on “Diseases of Sharks” will discuss diseases/injuries found in large pelagic sharks including the blue, Mako and Tresher sharks collected from sports
fishing tournaments held in New York and Massachusetts since 1998. She will center on infectious, traumatic lesions and cases of cancer and their causes. Additionally, a brief presentation of biomarkers of water quality/pollution will elaborate on human activities impacting the health of sharks and the environment.

**JOANNA BORUCINSKA** was born in Warsaw, Poland. She earned a veterinary Degree in 1983 from Warsaw Agricultural University; and a PhD in veterinary Pathology from the University of Connecticut in Storrs 1995. At the University of Hartford since 1995 in the Biology Department; full professor, studying sharks since 1990, editorial board of Journal of Fish Diseases.

**Friday, May 5th; 2:00 pm**
**Location: McAuley Retirement Community: Cost $15, Fellows: no charge**

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