

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

PRESIDENTS' COLLEGE

SPRING 2024 COURSES AND LECTURES

<i>Course/Lecture</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>
ARTS		
Monday Afternoon at the Movies: Film and Dream	Michael Walsh	Mon., Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 3–4:30 p.m.
Sherlock Holmes, “The Woman,” & Detective Fiction (lectures only/ lectures + performance)	Pamela Bedore	Fri., Feb. 2, 9, 12:30–2 p.m. lectures; Sun., Feb. 4, 2 p.m. performance of <i>Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – 2B</i> , Playhouse on Park
Between the Notes: The Making of a Musician (lecture only/ lecture + performance)	Laura Metcalf Steve Metcalf	Tues., Feb. 6, 4–5:30 p.m. lecture; Sun., Feb. 11, 3 p.m. HSO performance of husband-wife, guitar-cello duo, <i>Boyd Meets Girl</i>
Can We Save CT (and Regional) Theater?	Frank Rizzo	Tues., Feb. 20, 27, 12:30–2 p.m.
Give Me Your Hand: A Celtic Musical Celebration	Dee Hansen Erik Hansen Neal Humphreys	Tues., March 5, 3:30–5 p.m. OR Thurs., March 21, 2–3:30 p.m.
Photography in the World: A History	Rashmi Viswanathan	Thurs., Mar. 7, 21, 28, 2–3:30 p.m.
The Guitar: The 15th Century to Led Zeppelin	Christopher Ladd	Mon., Apr. 15, 29, May 6, 2:30–4 p.m.
PRESIDENTS' COLLEGE CONVERSATIONS <i>Free for Presidents' College Fellows, Fee for Non-Fellows*</i>		
Neurodivergent in a Neurotypical World: A Diagnosis, a Label, a Stigma?	Sujata Pisharoty- Norman	Tues., Mar. 5, noon–1:15 p.m.
Navigating Discussions Across Political and Religious Divides	Elizabeth Vozzola Joel Lohr	Thurs., Apr. 11, noon–1:15 p.m.

**We encourage everyone to consider becoming a Fellow. Donate \$100 and you'll attend our Conversations series (4 per year) at no charge, plus receive library privileges and parking on campus in any non-reserved space all year long.*

To register, visit: www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege

<i>Course/Lecture</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>
HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS		
The Ambassador Who Tried to Prevent the Attack on Pearl Harbor	Steve Kemper	Tues., Jan. 16, 3:30–5 p.m.
Trials That Shaped America: Japanese Internment in World War Two (Korematsu v. USA)	David Goldenberg	Tues., Jan. 23, 2–3:30 p.m. OR Tues., May 7, 3:30–5 p.m.
War and Peace in Northern Ireland: The Persistence of Partition	Daniel Williamson	Wed., Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 10:30–12 p.m.
“You Can’t Say That”: Political Speech, Defamation, & Academic Expression in a Post-Truth Age	Chris Doyle	Wed., Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 13, 5:30–7 p.m.
The Fight for Free Agency: How Curt Flood Revolutionized the Major Leagues	Walter Harrison David Goldenberg	Wed., Feb. 21 and 28, 12:30–2 p.m.
Polls and Prosecutions: Pressing Q’s and A’s	Jilda Aliotta	Tues., Apr. 30, 5:30–7 p.m.
LITERATURE AND CULTURE		
The Silent Book Club: Real Art Ways Playhouse on Park	Michele Troy	Fri., Mar. 1, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Thurs., Apr. 18, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
The Evolution of American Jewish Literature	Amy Weiss	Wed., Mar. 6, 20, 27, 12:30–2 p.m.
Shakespeare in Focus: The Major Tragedies	Humphrey Tonkin	Wed., April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2–3:30 p.m.
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & MATH		
A.I. Meets Infrastructure: Bridges for the Future	Clara Fang	Tues., Jan. 30, 12:30–2 p.m.
The Beauty of Fractal Geometry (No Math Expertise Required!)	Peggy Beauregard	Thurs., Feb. 15, 2–3:30 p.m.
What’s Your Type?: An Overdue Ode to Hartford’s Underwoods and Royals	Richard Voigt	Fri., Mar. 22, 2–3:30 p.m.
Welcome to the Pyrocene: Forest Fires and the Future	Laura Pence	Tues., Apr. 2, 3:30–5 p.m.
Denizens of the Deep. . . And Shallow: Harbingers of Climate Change	Laura Enzor	Thurs., Apr. 25, 2–3:30 p.m.
A.I. Meets Medicine: A New Frontier	Mike Magee	Fri., May 17, 2–3:30 p.m.

To register, visit: www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege

Spring 2024 Course Descriptions

Presidents' College Lifelong Learning

The Ambassador Who Tried to Prevent the Attack on Pearl Harbor

STEVE KEMPER

Tuesday, January 16, 3:30–5 p.m.

Duncaster

\$20

In 1931 the Japanese army occupied Manchuria, and soon after, Japanese naval officers assassinated the Manchurian Prime Minister. Conspiracies flourished and anti-West propaganda campaigns swept Japan. Into this maelstrom stepped Joseph C. Grew, considered one of America's most experienced and talented diplomats. For the next ten years, until the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Ambassador Grew warned American leaders about the risks posed by Japan's raging nationalism and militarism, simultaneously-trying to stabilize Tokyo's increasingly erratic and volatile foreign policy. Why didn't the US government heed him? In this case of one man against the odds, the cascading, unchecked events marking Grew's tenure proved pivotal for Japan and the world.

STEVE KEMPER, a freelance journalist, has authored four books and many articles for national magazines. His most recent book is *Our Man in Tokyo: an American Ambassador and the Countdown to Pearl Harbor* (Mariner, 2022), a behind-the-scenes account of the personalities and contending forces in Tokyo during the volatile decade preceding World War II. For this book, Steve Kemper recently received the Dillon Award from the American Academy of Diplomacy for 2023's best book of the year on American diplomacy. He lives in West Hartford.

Monday Afternoon at the Movies: Film and Dream

MICHAEL WALSH

Mondays, January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 3–4:30 p.m.

Hillyer Hall 303 (Film Projection Room)

\$80

To watch. . .perhaps to dream. Do all films immerse us in a dream world? Do films embody dreams and, if so, whose? Directors, actors, and viewers all collude in creating the dreamy movie-watching experience. We'll first take up the dream theories of Freud and Jung, before dissecting the science of studying sleep. Finally, we'll weigh and measure debates on the evolutionary purpose of dreams. Our chosen films include films as dreams, films that can be interpreted as dreams, and films about people talking about their dreams. Michael Walsh's film dream exploration may even infiltrate your own REM time.

Akira Kurosawa's *Dreams* (Akira Kurosawa, US/Japan, 1990). Kurosawa had always wanted to make a film of his own dreams, but had to wait until near the end of his life. A dream anthology follows a protagonist from childhood in a traditional Japan to old age in a modern society. Dreams of climbing mountains, of Japan's defeat in World War Two, of the paintings of Van Gogh, of nuclear meltdowns, and of peaceful villages.

Open Your Eyes (Alejandro Amenabar, Spain, 1997). Melodrama crosses paths with science fiction. Dreams both virtual and lucid are supplied by a cryonics company to a rich and spoiled young man who seduces his best friend's girlfriend (Penelope Cruz) and is then disfigured by his own partner.

Mulholland Drive (David Lynch, US, 2001). Shades of *Sunset Boulevard* stalk Lynch's surreal magnum opus, whose complex plot involves a Canadian ingenue, an amnesiac movie star, an inept hitman, a mysterious cowboy, a film director terrorized by mobsters, and a blue key. Superb performance-within-a-performance by Naomi Watts.

Eyes Wide Shut (Stanley Kubrick, US, 1999). A society doctor, shaken by his wife's infidelity dream, goes on a night-long adventure in the nightclubs and costume shops of Greenwich Village and the mansions of Long Island. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman moved to London for a full year to shoot with the notoriously perfectionist Kubrick.

MICHAEL WALSH has chaired Cinema Departments at Binghamton and University of Hartford, where he co-founded the Cinema major and has taught film studies for 25 years. He has published widely on film, literature, and theory. His recent articles are about the French New Wave director Chris Marker and the issue of adult/adolescent sexuality in Nabokov's *Lolita* and Marguerite Duras' *The Lover*. His book *Durational Cinema: A Short History of Long Films* came out last year with Palgrave Macmillan.

Trials That Shaped America: Japanese Internment in World War Two (Korematsu v. U.S.A.)

DAVID H. GOLDENBERG

Tuesday, January 23, 2–3:30 p.m.

McLean

\$20

We call it a "Day That Will Live In Infamy" — December 7th, 1941. Only a day earlier, the United States had done its best to remain supportive of the Allies but stay out of the conflict. Suddenly, the nation was cast into the middle of World War II. American citizens of German, Italian and Japanese descent were subject to suspicion of collaboration with the enemy. Yet none were treated as harshly as Japanese Americans, forced to leave their homes and to live out the war crowded into internment camps. The Supreme Court case of *Korematsu v United States* examines the nation's response in 1941. We will look at the history of Japanese-American relations, the forced internment and the court cases that led to the Supreme Court decision. We will also answer the question – “What ever happened to Korematsu?” – because the end of the story is as important as the beginning.

DAVID H. GOLDENBERG served as Dean of Hillyer College at the University of Hartford from 2001–2022, and currently teaches as a professor of business within the College. A Dean, Chief Academic Officer, and Chancellor of universities across the United States over the past 40 years, he began his career as head of the Office of Student Affairs for the State of New York, handling student legal rights education and cases on behalf of the Commissioner of Education. Dr. Goldenberg has authored articles and books on education law and will have a book coming out in 2024 based on a class he co-teaches entitled *Trials That Shaped America*.

War and Peace in Northern Ireland: The Persistence of Partition in Ireland

DANIEL C. WILLIAMSON

Wednesdays, January 24, 31, February 7, 10:30–12 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$60

In 1921 the United Kingdom split Ireland in two. The south gained independence; six northern counties remained a UK province. A century later that division is still politically contentious, religiously fraught. What, if anything, was resolved? We'll study the partition's roots some 400 years ago, the partition itself, and the destructive, deadly Troubles (1969-96), when the Irish Republican Army sought to reunite North and South. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement laid out a path to a fragile peace, but has its significance waned, post-Brexit? When Northern Ireland and Britain left the EU, but the Republic to the south remained a stalwart member, the Emerald Isle's political ground shifted yet again.

DANIEL C. WILLIAMSON is a Professor of History at Hillyer College at the University of Hartford. His publications include *Separate Agendas: Churchill, Eisenhower, and Anglo-American Relations, 1953-55* (Lexington Books, 2006) and *Anglo-Irish Relations in the Early Troubles, 1969-1972* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017). He is currently working on a study of the international diplomacy related to the republican hunger strikes in Northern Ireland in 1980 and 1981.

"You Can't Say That":

Political Speech, Defamation & Academic Expression in a Post-Truth Age

CHRIS DOYLE

Wednesdays, January 24, February 21, March 13, 5:30–7 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$60

What are we "allowed" to say, and who or what governs what's allowed? Divisive speech and expression, rants and misinformation boil around us. Eruptions are now business as usual. How do extreme political speech, libel, slander, and vociferous academic expression differ from one

another? We'll first discuss controversial political speech; 2020 Presidential-election misinformation; and, more generally, post-9/11 conspiracy theories. How did once-extreme statements and stances flow into the mainstream? Libel and defamation, (e.g., Dominion Voting vs Fox News; Sandy Hook families' vs Alex Jones/Infowars; Georgia poll workers vs Rudy Giuliani, and Jean Carroll vs Donald Trump) fill the second session. Finally, we treat speech and expression in academic settings: the art historian fired for showing a Medieval depiction of the Prophet Mohammed; the trigger warnings controversy; and a high-school teacher sanctioned for teaching Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me* to Advanced Placement students. These three categories – politics, defamation, and academic expression – are fixed, but the news cycle may upend these examples in our best-laid plans.

CHRIS DOYLE teaches at Miss Porter's School. He holds a doctorate in history and has published scholarship on slavery, politics, race, and on the teaching of history. His teaching has been featured in stories in the *New York Times* and National Public Radio.

A.I. Meets Infrastructure: Bridges for the Future

CLARA FANG

Tuesday, January 30, 12:30–2 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$20

In a manner of speaking, researcher Clara Fang can predict the future; and anyone who drives over one of the 4,353 bridges in our fair state has reason to be grateful to her for her abilities in this regard. There's no magic involved, but instead a clever use of artificial intelligence. Fang has set the capacities of A.I. loose on the millions of data points in the Department of Transportation's inspection data over the last 30 years to determine which bridges most urgently need repair. DOT spokesperson Josh Morgan has called her A.I. project "a game changer" for the way Connecticut assesses its bridges. Hear Fang talk first-hand about her research: everything from the genesis of her project, to its positive outcomes, to (ahem!) possible roadblocks she has encountered in this fascinating application of A.I. within the realm of civil engineering.

CLARA FANG is the Department Chair and a Professor of Civil, Environmental, and Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture at the University of Hartford. Dr. Fang teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in civil engineering, actively promoting student research, and focuses her own research on highway design, traffic simulation modeling, and computational intelligence application in transportation and infrastructure. Serving as Principal Investigator or Co-principal Investigator in more than twenty projects, and securing funding with the likes of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT), she utilizes A.I. to predict future bridge conditions and study the environmental impacts at roundabouts in Connecticut. Dr. Fang is also a distinguished member of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

Sherlock Holmes, “*The Woman*,” and Detective Fiction

PAMELA BEDORE

Lectures: Friday, February 2 and 9, 12:30–2 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

Performance with Talk Back: Sunday, February 4, 2 p.m.

Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Road, West Hartford

Lectures Only: \$40

Lectures + Performance: \$80

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s “A Scandal in Bohemia” (1891) opens with the wonderful line: “To Sherlock Holmes she is always *the woman*.” Irene Adler is *the woman* who intrigues, entices, and ultimately bests Sherlock Holmes. As such, she appears in many adaptations of Holmes stories—sometimes as a femme fatale, sometimes as Sherlock’s lover (and even the mother of his child!), and sometimes as another detective. In our first session, we’ll discuss the mysterious Irene Adler; how representative is she of women in Sherlock Holmes stories and adaptations, and in detective fiction as a whole? In our second session, gather to debate Kate Hamill’s feminist take on the Sherlock tradition: her play, *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson—Apt 2B*. What do you make of her re-interpretation of the legendary Sherlock Holmes and John Watson – a sleuthing duo so beloved that they have been the subject of countless TV and film adaptations and fan fictions? How does Hamill rewrite detective fiction conventions? How does her play enter into conversations about gender roles and the construction of gender more broadly?

PAMELA BEDORE is associate professor of English at the University of Connecticut, where she teaches courses on detective fiction, science fiction, gender theory, and American Literature. She is also the book review editor of *Clues: A Journal of Detection* and author of *Dime Novels and the Roots of Detective Fiction* and *Great Works of Utopian and Dystopian Literature*. Her new book, *Canadian Crime Fiction*, comes out in February 2024. Her *Great Course*, “Great Utopian and Dystopian Works of Literature,” is available on audible or at your public library.

Between the Notes: The Making of a Musician

LAURA METCALF and STEVE METCALF

Lecture: Tuesday, February 6, 4–5:30 p.m., Wilde Auditorium/Harry Jack Gray Center

***Boyd Meets Girl* Performance: Sunday, February 11, 3 p.m., Belding Theater/HSO**

Lecture only: \$30*

Lecture + performance: \$60

Behind the glamor and applause, the life of a classical musician is a mix of unpredictable hours, daily practice, and constant pressure to be at the top of one’s game in a relentlessly competitive field. In this special Presidents’ College presentation, cellist and concert producer Laura Metcalf, who was born and grew up in West Hartford, talks about her musical development and her demanding, sometimes surprising, professional life. Her father, Steve Metcalf, leads the onstage interview. Well known as the longtime music critic for the *Hartford Courant* and commentator on WNPR (and former director of the Presidents’ College), Steve draws on his own deep knowledge of music for this lively discussion of the music

profession – its challenges and rewards. Join in this rewarding experience, in which the father/daughter duo will also spice up their presentation with a few short musical selections. Then attend Laura’s performance at the Hartford Symphony Orchestra with *Boyd Meets Girl*, her duo with her husband, classical guitarist Rupert Boyd. In this rare performance, they premiere a double concerto written especially for them by the internationally celebrated Brazilian-American composer Clarice Assad.

*Registrants for the “lecture only” option will receive a discount code should they wish to purchase tickets on their own for *Boyd Meets Girl* performances on Friday, February 9, or Saturday, February 10, 8 p.m., instead of attending the Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

LAURA METCALF, renowned as a solo and chamber musician, has been acclaimed for her “brilliant” playing (*Gramophone Magazine*) and described as “a cellist whose passion for music is as evident as her artistry and talent” (*I care if you listen*). She has performed worldwide, including in South Africa, Nepal, Argentina, Qatar, Mongolia, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Kazakhstan, and Australia. Laura’s debut solo album on the Grammy-winning label Sono Luminus reached #7 on the Billboard Charts, and was called “a way forward for classical music” by *AllMusic*. Drawn to projects that expand the definition of classical chamber music, Laura has collaborated with numerous groups, including: string quintet Sybarite5 (2008-2011), the first ever such quartet to win the Concert Artists Guild competition; the Orpheus Chamber orchestra; and the four-time Grammy-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird. She is also the founding cellist of The Overlook, a string quartet seeking to build a more representative classical tradition, which was featured by Lincoln Center, Mass MoCA and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and in which she collaborated with luminaries clarinetist Anthony McGill, Sir Bryn Terfel, and guitarist Nels Cline of Wilco. She has further appeared onstage with Adele, John Legend, Cher, Luis Miguel, Shawn Mendes and Nas. *Boyd Meets Girl*, her duo with her husband, classical guitarist Rupert Boyd, tours worldwide, including appearances at Caramoor, Festival Napa Valley, the Morgan Library, Moab Music Festival, and Newport Classical. Their second album, *Songs of Love and Despair*, reached #3 on the Billboard Charts. Laura lives in New York City with her husband and young son Milo.

STEVE METCALF is an administrator, critic, journalist, arts consultant and composer. For more than 20 years, beginning in 1982, he was the staff music critic of *The Hartford Courant*, during which time via *The Los Angeles Times/Washington Post* wire service, his feature stories, profiles, and reviews appeared regularly in more than 500 newspapers worldwide, earning a string of awards and prizes. He has also served as musical director at several regional theaters, as classical music advisor to the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, and as artistic advisor to the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. His connections to The Hartt School, where he did his undergraduate and graduate work, run deep and wide. Over the years, he not only held the roles of Assistant Dean and Director of Instrumental Studies, but was also honored as Alumnus of the year in 1989 and elected in 2004 to the Board of Trustees. The Richard P. Garmany Chamber Music Series, which he founded and still curates, continues to bring distinguished musicians to the Hartt Stage. Need we mention that we are proud of his affiliation with the Presidents’ College?

The Beauty of Fractal Geometry (No Math Expertise Required!)

PEGGY MITCHELL BEAUREGARD

Thursday, February 15, 2–3:30 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$20

Even if math was your most hated (or feared) subject, your grown-up self will be able to “get” the beauty of fractal geometry. It’s about patterns, ones that repeat infinitely, the smallest part of the whole being structured like the whole itself. Fractal geometry is a tool to describe how shapes in art, science, and nature intersect. It reveals how modern math permeates our world, hiding in plain sight. But the stunning beauty of fractal images can distract from their practical applications: dealing with complex coastlines, the structure of lightning, and the circulatory system’s intricacies. Join seasoned math professor Peggy Beauregard to explore fractals in art and architecture, modern engineering and medicine. *She promises you need no math prerequisite. Zero.* But she also promises you’ll emerge with a glorious new lens through which to view the world.

PEGGY MITCHELL BEAUREGARD (BFA, Printmaking, Hartford Art School, MS Applied Mathematics, Rutgers U) is an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Hartford. She has taught courses in mathematics for elementary teachers, math for non-stem and arts students (discrete topics, finance), precalculus and calculus. She created and teaches the interdisciplinary course "Symmetry and Harmony: Mathematics in Art and Music," which includes applications of fractals, tessellations, Fibonacci numbers and the Golden Ratio. Before teaching at the university level, Peggy taught art and math in inner city and suburban schools. She speaks regularly at national conferences, mostly to teachers and loves combining art and math to teach creative lessons that reach the diverse community of students in her classrooms.

Curt Flood’s Challenge to Baseball’s Reserve Clause

WALTER HARRISON and DAVID GOLDENBERG

Wednesdays, February 21 and 28, 12:30–2 p.m.

The Greenberg Center/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$40

Pro athletes today demand – and often get – the salaries and contracts they want. They bring enormous value to corporate brands, even to governments, and they know it. Social media fuels their fame and the 24/7 news cycle headlines their negotiations. But these athletes couldn’t always write their own tickets. Until a few decades ago the so-called “Reserve Clause” locked players up with one team; only the team’s management could unlink the chain. Join President Emeritus, baseball historian, (and diehard Pirates fan) Walter Harrison, and Dean Emeritus (and diehard Giants fan) David Goldenberg. They’ll give the play-by-play on the Reserve Clause history, and how a Black St. Louis Cardinals All-Star, Curt Flood, challenged the *status quo*. Flood had marched for Civil Rights with Jackie Robinson and the NAACP in Mississippi. When the Cardinals later announced Flood’s trade, he balked, saying “a well-paid

slave is nonetheless a slave.” His fight to break the Reserve Clause bondage and forge an athlete’s right to Free Agency, reached the U.S. Supreme court. *Curt Flood v. Bowie Kuhn* (1972) revolutionized baseball’s Major Leagues, forever altering the owner-player relationship.

WALTER HARRISON is President Emeritus of the University of Hartford. He served as president from 1998 until 2017, a period of growth, vitality, and transformation of the University. As the longest-serving president in the University’s history, he oversaw a dramatic improvement in the University’s financial stability, a near tripling of the University’s endowment, and a transformation and re-design of the University’s campus, constructing or renovating 17 different University buildings during his tenure. Most importantly, he oversaw a significant growth in the undergraduate and graduate student population, new professional programs in architecture and the health sciences, and a noticeable improvement in the rigor and quality of the University’s academic offerings. The University’s libraries are now named for him, to recognize his devotion to the life of the mind.

DAVID H. GOLDENBERG has served as Professor and Dean of Hillyer College at the University of Hartford since 2001. A Dean, Chief Academic Officer, and Chancellor of universities across the United States over the past 40 years, he began his career as head of the Office of Student Affairs for the State of New York, handling student legal rights education and cases on behalf of the Commissioner of Education. Dr. Goldenberg has authored articles and books on education law and will have a book coming out in 2024 based on a class he co-teaches entitled *Trials That Shaped America*.

Can We Save Connecticut (and Regional) Theater?

FRANK RIZZO

Tuesdays, February 20 and 27, 12:30–2 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$40

Connecticut’s own Frank Rizzo, theater critic for *Variety*, has seen regional theater lose its star billing during his 40+ years covering it. In this two-session course, he’ll look back and then ahead, chairing a lively, informed, interactive discussion on what he sees as a crisis in Connecticut and nationally. He’ll speak about the beginnings of our state’s regional theater; its grand era and legacy; its current financial woes; and the future of our Tony Award-winning stages. Theater lovers, take your own reserved seat for this Frank Rizzo-Presidents’ College production.

FRANK RIZZO is an arts writer who has covered Connecticut, Broadway and the national arts scene for more than 40 years. For 33 years he was the arts/theater writer for *The Hartford Courant*. He is currently theater critic for *Variety*, where he has covered Broadway and out-of town musicals and plays for 20 years. He also writes for *The New York Times*, *American Theatre*, *Connecticut Magazine*, *Encore*, *Voice*, *Seasons*, *Hartford Business Journal* on the business of the arts, among others. His website is ShowRiz.com or you can find him at ShowRiz@Twitter.

The Silent Book Club a.k.a. The Introvert's Happy Hour (Extroverts Welcome, Too!)

Friday, March 1, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Real Art Ways: 56 Arbor Street, Hartford

\$10

Good news, book lovers! The Presidents' College and Alumni Engagement are bringing you the Silent Book Club at a cool gathering spot and art space: Real Art Ways in Hartford. Bring a favorite book... and a favorite friend. Thirty minutes to mingle. An hour to read quietly, maybe near a work of art that pleases you? And a final half-hour to chat with other lovers of the written word – or explore the galleries or duck into a late evening film at RAW's cinema. Co-sponsored by Real Art Ways and the River Bend Bookshop. Beverages and popcorn for purchase at the concession stand. Admission includes a \$5 River Bend Bookshop gift card, plus snacks to keep your brain happy.

P.S. Our next Silent Book Club? Pencil it in! Thursday, April 18, 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Playhouse on Park in West Hartford.

Neurodivergent in a Neurotypical World: A Diagnosis, a Label, a Stigma?

SUJATA PISHAROTY-NORMAN

Tuesday, March 5, 12–1:15 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

Free for Fellows; \$20 for non-Fellows

What does Neurodivergent mean? And, for that matter, what is Neurotypical? As these non-medical terms appear more frequently, many of us would welcome some clarity in navigating unfamiliar waters. How are neurodiverse brains wired differently from more typical ones? Does science know the causes? Which behaviors signal that an individual may be neurodiverse? Should the neurotypical accommodate the divergent behavior or instead model societal norms? Are neurodivergent individuals “on the spectrum?” So many questions! This 75-minute PC Conversations session homes in on the 15% - 20% of us who are neurodivergent. The seminar-like surroundings will foster collegial conversation and your questions.

SUJATA PISHAROTY-NORMAN (B.A. Zoology/Education, M.A. Anthropology, M.A., Ph.D., E.D.S. in special education) is an assistant professor of Education (ENHP). She is a committed special education teacher, with an extensive teaching career at public schools from Albertville, AL to Dubai to New Zealand to Ontario. At the University of Hartford, she brings her experience teaching special education at elementary and middle schools and post-secondary settings to her students. She is passionate about neurological study, and mind and body intervention. Dr. Norman's Ph.D. dissertation focused on alternate behavioral interventions for individuals with emotional and behavioral disorders in mindfulness and yoga with a basis in neuroscience. When she is not teaching, she dabbles in music, art, writing, traveling and cooking.

Give Me Your Hand: A Celtic Musical Celebration

DEE HANSEN, ERIC HANSEN, NEAL HUMPHREYS

Tuesday, March 5, 3:30–5 p.m.

Duncaster

\$20

For centuries music played a central role in the cultures of Ireland and Scotland. And for centuries there were attempts to eradicate their music and instruments. Our program will highlight delightful selections from the Edward Bunting Collections, first published in 1796. Bunting traveled throughout Ireland to capture in written form traditional Irish music before it was forever lost. *Entwined* will perform and describe the joyous, wistful, and rollicking music of the Celtic nations from Bunting and other historic sources, adapted to our instruments: Celtic harp, lutes, historic guitars, mandolin, Baroque flutes, and Viola da Gamba.

DEE HANSEN is Professor Emerita of Music Education, author of the book *100 Years of Hartt: A Centennial Celebration* (2020) and primary author of *The Music and Literacy Connection* (2004, 2014 2nded.). Dee is a nationally active clinician, author, and arts consultant who publishes and specializes in curriculum and assessment development, music and literacy connections, and practical applications of learning theory. Dr. Hansen holds a master's degree in music history and Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education degree.

ERIC HANSEN retired in 2019 from the Connecticut State Library as Electronic Resources Coordinator. He holds a master's degree in music history and completed post graduate work in musicology at the University of Chicago with the late Howard Mayer Brown. He performed as a professional bassist and lutenist in concerts and on recordings with nationally known musicians including Mannheim Steamroller. Over the years Eric played the lute on two gold albums and two multi-platinum albums.

NEAL HUMPHREYS is an Administrator and Graduate Advisor for The Hartt School. Neal graduated from The Hartt School with his bachelor's and master's degrees in Cello Performance with an emphasis in chamber music. His vast ensemble experience includes work with composers Tan Dun and Frank Ticheli, a tour of mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

The Evolution of American Jewish Literature

AMY WEISS

Wednesdays, March 6, 20, 27, 12:30–2 p.m.

Greenberg Center/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$60

When we speak of a Jewish literary tradition in the U.S., what do we mean, exactly? Which authors created this tradition? And how did later authors, from Philip Roth to Nicole Krauss, riff off of or break from that tradition? What makes an author a Jewish author or a book a Jewish book, anyway? Amy Weiss tackles these and other questions as she helps you examine trends

in American Jewish literature across the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries. Join her for a course that is equal parts literary history and book club discussion, with no one session quite the same. She'll open with a lecture on the making of an American Jewish literary tradition. She'll then get you reading and debating a few short articles that highlight shifts in American Jewish literature over time. The final session will be devoted to your reactions to the novel written by this year's winner (as yet unannounced) of the Edward Lewis Wallant Award, one of the most prestigious literary awards for American Jewish fiction. As a highlight, course participants will have the opportunity to meet the winning author at the awards ceremony at the University of Hartford.

AMY WEISS is an Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies and History at the University of Hartford, where she also holds the Maurice Greenberg Chair for Judaic Studies. When she's not writing a book about American Jews, evangelicals, and Israel, she's busy reading about and teaching courses on American Jewish literature. Weiss received a 2023–2024 Greenberg Junior Faculty Research Grant to conduct research for her forthcoming book and has recently published articles in *American Jewish History*, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, and *Israel Studies*.

Rashmi Viswanathan

Photography in the World: A History

Thursdays, March 7, 21, 28, 2–3:30 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$60

Photography is both an artistic practice and a way of seeing the world; the image before us not only captures a particular reality but also conditions how we understand it. This course teaches you the history of photography through a set of lecture-discussions that will get you thinking critically about the ways that photography makes and shapes the world in which we live. We will explore early photography: the talbotype and daguerreotype; the milieu in which they were invented in around 1840; and how these inventions took on new cultural import when they were transplanted, via the rapid colonial expansion of the mid-nineteenth-century, from Western Europe to settlements across the globe. We will consider Modernist photography and the birth of radical new forms of expression particular to the camera in the early twentieth-century. Reflective of monumental historical shifts, including the Great War and the dissolution of colonization, Modernist expressions mapped a new world of technology, speed, and urban life. Concluding with photography which documents the major political conflicts of our own politically troubled moment, this course will help you understand the multiple histories of the photograph around the globe: as historical document, souvenir, and work of art.

RASHMI VISWANATHAN is assistant professor of modern and contemporary art history at the University of Hartford. She writes on colonial-era art and its historiographies, and more recent art in and related to the contemporary. She is also a postdoctoral fellow with the Smithsonian Institution, a Senior Fellow with the American Institute of Indian Studies, and a Visiting Senior fellow with the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Portrait Gallery.

Give Me Your Hand: A Celtic Musical Celebration

DEE HANSEN, ERIC HANSEN, NEAL HUMPHREYS

Thursday, March 21, 2–3:30 p.m.

McLean

\$20

For centuries music played a central role in the cultures of Ireland and Scotland. And for centuries there were attempts to eradicate their music and instruments. Our program will highlight delightful selections from the Edward Bunting Collections, first published in 1796. Bunting traveled throughout Ireland to capture in written form traditional Irish music before it was forever lost. *Entwined* will perform and describe the joyous, wistful, and rollicking music of the Celtic nations from Bunting and other historic sources, adapted to our instruments: Celtic harp, lutes, historic guitars, mandolin, Baroque flutes, and Viola da Gamba.

DEE HANSEN is Professor Emerita of Music Education, author of the book *100 Years of Hartt: A Centennial Celebration* (2020) and primary author of *The Music and Literacy Connection* (2004, 2014 2nded.). Dee is a nationally active clinician, author, and arts consultant who publishes and specializes in curriculum and assessment development, music and literacy connections, and practical applications of learning theory. Dr. Hansen holds a master's degree in music history and Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education degree.

ERIC HANSEN retired in 2019 from the Connecticut State Library as Electronic Resources Coordinator. He holds a master's degree in music history and completed post graduate work in musicology at the University of Chicago with the late Howard Mayer Brown. He performed as a professional bassist and lutenist in concerts and on recordings with nationally known musicians including Mannheim Steamroller. Over the years Eric played the lute on two gold albums and two multi-platinum albums.

NEAL HUMPHREYS is an Administrator and Graduate Advisor for The Hartt School. Neal graduated from The Hartt School with his bachelor's and master's degrees in Cello Performance with an emphasis in chamber music. His vast ensemble experience includes work with composers Tan Dun and Frank Ticheli, a tour of mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

What is Your Type? An Overdue Ode to Hartford's Underwoods and Royals

RICHARD VOIGT

Friday, March 22, 2–3:30 p.m.

McAuley

\$20

Time was, Hartford boasted a proud moniker: **Typewriter Capital of the World**. These ingenious 19th -century inventions forever changed written communication and, in so doing,

the business of business. Complicated mechanical marvels that opened employment doors for women, they rattled the economic and social *status quo*. As Underwood and Royal prospered, so, too, did Hartford. Join expert explainer Richard Voight for fascinating local history and admirable engineering expertise. If you spent 8th period typing class practicing QWERTY *ad nauseum* or fumbling with carbon paper, come and learn about the author of your frustration. (And speaking of authors. . . Ian Fleming himself used a Royal.)

RICHARD VOIGHT is a graduate of Wesleyan University and the Law School of the University of Virginia (“Mr. Jefferson’s University”). He served in the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., before entering private law practice in Connecticut where he became a partner in the firm of McCarter & English, LLC. He also serves as a para-judicial officer for the U.S. District Court for Connecticut, and has been recognized for his work, including in *Best Lawyers in America*. He frequently lectures on American history.

Welcome to the Pyrocene: Forest Fires and the Future

LAURA PENCE

Tuesday, April 2, 3:30–5 p.m.

Duncaster

\$20

Laura Pence wants to update you on what she taught you about forest fires last year. June 2023 drove the dangers of such fires closer to home, as the smoke from Canadian forest fires saturated our area, bringing unhealthy and hazardous air quality to New England and the Mid Atlantic. These events make clear that we are living in the Pyrocene, an era in which fires are no longer seasonal and increasingly occur in areas that have historically enjoyed abundant rain. Get a better understanding of the natural fire regime and its causes and effects. How has human activity amplified the frequency, intensity, and scope of wildfires? And what are the health and environmental effects of recent and historic fires on us, in turn?

LAURA PENCE (B.S. Lebanon Valley College, Ph.D. Michigan State University, Postdoctoral NIH Fellow at MIT) is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Hartford with expertise in environmental chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and chemical education. For her work on environmental and sustainability issues, Pence was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2011 and spent 2012-2013 as a Congressional Science Policy Fellow in the office of Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), where she especially focused on energy, water and forestry. She also holds a joint appointment as a Research Scientist in the National Security Directorate of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Twice ranked among the top 25 professors nationally on RateMyProfessor.com in both 2014 and 2017, Pence won the University of Hartford’s Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006 and the Oscar and Shoshona Trachtenberg Award for outstanding service in 2023.

Shakespeare in Focus: The Major Tragedies

HUMPHREY TONKIN

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2–3:30 p.m.

KF Room/Harrison Libraries/Harry Jack Gray Center

\$80

Shakespeare penned nearly fifty plays, but four major tragedies dominate: *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear*. We might agree that *Hamlet* is about youth and *King Lear* about age; that *Othello* is about the deceptions of sight and *Macbeth* about the deceptions of imagination. Yet closer reading reveals that those themes criss-cross all four—and much of his other work, too. So. . . making sense of these four greats requires making sense of the Bard’s entire *oeuvre*. A foolhardy goal for four brief sessions? President Emeritus and Shakespeare scholar Humphrey Tonkin says we must start somewhere, so why not with this magnificent quartet? Let Shakespeare’s depth, accomplishment and sheer richness stun us anew.

HUMPHREY TONKIN was president of the University of Hartford during the decade of the 1990s and was instrumental in the founding of the Presidents’ College. For almost twenty years earlier in his career, he was Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. He has written books and articles on Elizabethan literature, linguistics, and translation. Recent publications include an edited volume on *Language and Sustainability* (2023), an edition of the poems of Clarence Bicknell (2023), and a translation of Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus* into Esperanto (2023).

Presidents’ College Conversations:

Navigating Discussions Across Political and Religious Divides

JOEL LOHR and ELIZABETH VOZZOLA

Thursday, April 11, 12–1:15 p.m.

Greenberg Center/Harry Jack Gray Center

Free for Fellows; \$20 for non-Fellows

These days loving your neighbors – or even talking with them – feels increasingly difficult. Can we find ways to see ourselves in the “other”? Joel Lohr and Elizabeth Vozzola pull, respectively, upon their backgrounds in interreligious relations and moral psychology to grapple with ways we might navigate discussions across the steep political and religious divides in our country and the world.

JOEL LOHR is the President of Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, a leading graduate school of religion. Also serving as Professor of Bible and Interreligious Dialogue, Lohr is an award-winning author, scholar of religion, and passionate leader in interreligious relations and higher education. His teaching and research focus on the Bible, specifically the Torah (or “Pentateuch”), as well as Jewish-Christian relations and dialogue. He has published numerous articles and eleven books. His most recent book is co-authored with Steve Brallier and Lynn Beck, titled *Mitka’s Secret: A True Story of Child Slavery and Surviving the Holocaust*.

ELIZABETH VOZZOLA is a Professor Emerita of Psychology and the former Honors Program director at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT. Her publications include studies of moral reasoning about affirmative action, children’s moral understanding of the Harry Potter series, emerging adults’ moral perceptions of the Twilight saga, and the long-term influence of a just community high school. She is the author of *Moral Development: Theory and Applications* (2014, 2021). A mother of two grown sons and grandmother to terrific (but much too far away) grandchildren, she lives in West Hartford, Connecticut with her husband, Civil War and Reconstruction historian Paul A. Cimbala, and two political cats, Eleanor and Franklin.

The Silent Book Club a.k.a. The Introvert’s Happy Hour (Extroverts Welcome, Too!)

Thursday, April 18, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Playhouse on Park: 244 Park Road, West Hartford

\$10

Book lovers, all! The Presidents’ College and Alumni Engagement are bringing back the Silent Book Club at Playhouse on Park, an intimate theater space in West Hartford. Bring a favorite book... and a favorite friend. Thirty minutes to mingle over wine and cheese. An hour to read quietly in a comfy theater seat. And a final half-hour to chat with other lovers of the written word – unless your own book keeps you riveted. Co-sponsored by Playhouse on Park and the River Bend Bookshop). Admission includes complimentary wine and cheese and a \$5 Riverbend Bookshop gift card.

Denizens of the Deep. . .and the Shallow

LAURA ENZOR

Thursday, April 25, 2–3:30 p.m.

McLean in Simsbury

\$20

Antarctica's Southern Ocean, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound: four different bodies of water supporting widely divergent marine life. Other than salt water, what do they have in common? The effects of human-driven climate change. Biologist Laura Enzor's career is all about taking the measure of those effects and projecting the bioenergetic future. She can mimic climate change conditions in her lab, and her research on fish, corals, and oysters shows ecosystems in and out of balance, as well as the downstream impacts of human activity upstream. Can the humble oyster convey crucial warnings about the future? Join Laura Enzor for this fascinating marine study.

LAURA ENZOR is an assistant professor in the Department of Biology. She joined the University of Hartford in 2019 after earning her PhD from the University of South Carolina – for which she researched at McMurdo Station in Antarctica – and working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. At UHart, she works with her research students to

explore questions in the field of ecological physiology: how an organism uses its physiology to adapt to its environment and what form these adaptations might take. She is the course coordinator for BIO122: Introductory Biology I, and also teaches in the Human Anatomy and Physiology program.

The Guitar: from the 15th Century to Led Zeppelin

CHRISTOPHER LADD

Mon., Apr. 15, 29, May 6, 2:30–4 p.m.

Fuller 021/Fuller Hall/The Hartt School

\$60

The modern guitar began its life in the 15th century as a literal instrument of resistance, a rebellion of the Latin rural population of southern Spain against the urbanized Moorish colonial regime, with its philosophy, mathematics, and penchant for orderly geometric decorative ornament. Out with the lute! In with the vihuela! Acclaimed classical guitarist Christopher Ladd tracks the evolution of the guitar through 500 years, from the Renaissance and Baroque through the Classical and Romantic, on up to the modern guitar and its rabble-rousing cousin, the electric guitar. He'll both tell and show how the construction of the guitar itself has changed, and how each incarnation has opened up the capacity for new musical expression. Amp up your own musical knowledge and sink into the pleasure of hearing Christopher Ladd run his fingers across the span of guitar history, from early Spanish motifs to Bach to the Beatles to Led Zeppelin. If we're lucky, he'll break out his electric guitar as the course winds up for a favorite song or two to rock our worlds and leave us humming.

CHRISTOPHER LADD, an award-winning and internationally acclaimed classical guitarist, has taught at The Hartt School for twenty-four years and chairs the Guitar and Harp Program. His performances have been hailed "as being rendered confidently and expressively" (Fingerstyle Guitar) and as "an exercise in extremes" (Soundboard Magazine). Highly sought after as a soloist and chamber musician. Mr. Ladd has been featured at international festivals, including the 2017 Sarajevo International Guitar Festival and the 2018 Summartónar Festival in the Faroe Islands. Noteworthy performances include those at the Vijećnica in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mengi and the Kaldalon Theater at Harpa in Reykjavik, Iceland, the DiMenna Center in New York City, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Viennese Opera Ball hosted by the Austrian Embassy, the historic Byrdcliffe Theater in Woodstock, NY and for former vice-president Al Gore at his residence in Washington, D.C. Mr. Ladd is co-founder of The Pandora Duo, which features acclaimed flutist Janet Arms, and The Amaranth Duo with Icelandic violinist Asa Gudjonsdottir. As a recording artist Mr. Ladd expands the range of the classical guitar for feature films, theater, and the stage, with recordings including: Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" on the documentary *The Real Royal Trip* directed by Sangh Kim; J.S. Bach's "Prelude, Fugue and Allegro, BWV 998" in The Asylum's cult-hit "Megashark vs. Giant Octopus"; "Suspended at Aphelion" by epic metal band While Heaven Wept; and a world-premiere recording of Robert Carl's Concerto for Guitar and Chamber Orchestra entitled "The Calm Bee in the Busy Hive," released on *A Geography of Loss* from New World Records.

Polls and Prosecutions: Pressing Qs and As

JILDA ALIOTTA

Tuesday, April 30, 5:30–7 p.m.

Shaw Center/Hillyer Hall

\$20

Presidential primaries. . .are we done yet? It's now prime time to powwow: about their results and meaning; the impending conventions; and a big election. Look for political smoke & mirrors. Prosecutions and polls will grab headlines, as both the Democratic frontrunner's son and the Republican Party's presumed choice are on trial. What are polls saying, and are they credible—much less reliable? How will the trials, and verdicts already rendered, shape the November election? Jilda Aliotta, our legal eagle, will offer a bird's-eye view, then dive into the compelling details.

JILDA ALIOTTA is a popular professor in the University of Hartford's Politics, Economics, and International Studies Department, and is well known among Presidents' College participants for her thought-provoking commentaries on the U.S. Supreme Court, in what has become one of our longest-running courses. She teaches classes in law, American politics, and women in politics.

Trials That Shaped America: Japanese Internment in World War Two (Korematsu v. U.S.A.)

DAVID H. GOLDENBERG

Tuesday, May 7, 3:30–5 p.m.

Duncaster

\$20

We call it a "Day That Will Live In Infamy" — December 7th, 1941. Only a day earlier, the United States had done its best to remain supportive of the Allies but stay out of the conflict. Suddenly, the nation was cast into the middle of World War II. American citizens of German, Italian and Japanese descent were subject to suspicion of collaboration with the enemy. Yet none were treated as harshly as Japanese Americans, forced to leave their homes and to live out the war crowded into internment camps. The Supreme Court case of *Korematsu v United States* examines the nation's response in 1941. We will look at the history of Japanese-American relations, the forced internment and the court cases that led to the Supreme Court decision. We will also answer the question – “What ever happened to Korematsu?” – because the end of the story is as important as the beginning.

DAVID H. GOLDENBERG served as Dean of Hillyer College at the University of Hartford from 2001–2022, and currently teaches as a professor of business within the College. A Dean, Chief Academic Officer, and Chancellor of universities across the United States over the past 40 years, he began his career as head of the Office of Student Affairs for the State of New York, handling student legal rights education and cases on behalf of the Commissioner of Education. Dr.

Goldenberg has authored articles and books on education law and will have a book coming out in 2024 based on a class he co-teaches entitled *Trials That Shaped America*.

A.I. Meets Medicine: A New Frontier

MIKE MAGEE

Friday, May 17, 2–3:30 p.m., McAuley

\$20

In this 90-minute presentation, veteran Medical Historian, journalist and author, Mike Magee M.D., explores the promise and pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medicine. How will these new technologies impact clinical care? Will AI increase or decrease human contact and access to your doctors and nurses? Will it unleash a barrage of needed therapeutic discoveries. . . or suspect information? Join our own Authentically Intelligent Mike Magee for an engaging, informative, provocative look at 2024's hottest health topic.

MIKE MAGEE, M.D. is a medical historian and journalist, and the author of *Code Blue: "Inside the Medical Industrial Complex"* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2019). He has taught at the Presidents' College and the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine and Jefferson Medical College. He was also an Honorary Master Scholar at the N.Y.U. School of Medicine and the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus award recipient from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He lives in West Hartford, CT, and is the author of the weekly blog *Health Commentary.org*.