

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

PRESIDENTS' COLLEGE

FALL 2022 COURSES AND LECTURES

<i>Course/Lecture</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>
ARTS		
Leonardo da Vinci	Zee Onuf	Mon., Sept. 19, Wed. Sept. 28, Mon. Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Contemporary Japanese Women Street Photographers	Carrie Cushman	Tues., Oct. 4, 1:30–3 p.m.
Agatha Christie: The Woman Who Disappeared... and Forever Changed Detective Fiction	Pamela Bedore Dianne Harrison Melia Bensussen	Tues., Oct 18, 10:30–12 p.m.; Sun. Oct. 23, 1 p.m. discussion, 2 p.m. production of <i>The Mousetrap</i> at The Hartford Stage
Silent Films & Music: Chaplin, Keaton, Lloyd	Patrick Miller	Mon., Nov. 7, 14, 28: 3–4:30 p.m.
CURRENT EVENTS		
Supreme Court Round-Up	Jilda Aliotta	Mon., Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24: 4:30–6 p.m.
Hot Topics in the Biden Era	Warren Goldstein	Mon., Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5: 2–3:30 p.m.
ECONOMICS		
Everyone's Talking About Supply Chains	Jane Horvath	Wed., Sept. 21, 12:45–2 p.m.
The Economy: Has CT Turned a Corner?	Dan Haar	Tues., Dec. 6, 4–5:30 p.m.
HISTORY		
The Jews of the Forest: A Story of Holocaust Resistance and Survival	Rebecca Frankel/ Amy Weiss	Thurs., Sept. 29, 4–5:30 p.m. (author talk) Tues., Nov. 1: 2–3:30 p.m. (book discussion)
Finding Zora Neale Hurston: Then&Now	Lucy Anne Hurston	Wed., Oct. 12, 19: 10:30–12 p.m.
LITERATURE AND WRITING		
The National Book Award Book Club	Michele Troy	Tues., Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 15: 2–3:30 p.m.
The Silent Book Club a.k.a. The Introvert's Happy Hour	Michele Troy	Friday, Sept. 23, 6–8 p.m.
Flash Fiction	Amity Gaige	Thurs., Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 1–2:30 p.m.
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING		
Biomes Bonanza: The Planet's Ecosystems	Stephan Bullard	Tues., Sept. 6: 4–5:30 p.m.
The Earth in Flames/Forest Fires	Laura Pence	Fri., Sept. 16: 2–3:30 p.m.
Engineers Without Borders: How to Get Water to Those Who Need It Most?	David Pines	Fri. Oct. 21: 2–3:30 p.m.
How Epidemics Have Shaped Our World	Mike Magee	Wed., Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16: 1:30–3 p.m.
More Than Big Storms: Hurricanes in New England	Alexa Tsanova	Fri., Nov. 18: 2–3:30 p.m.
SPORTS		
The Hartford Whalers	Jeff Jacobs	Tues., Nov. 1, 4–5:30 p.m.
The World Series with Walt	Walt Harrison	Wed., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. pre-game; 8 p.m. game

To register: hartford.edu/presidentscollege

Biomes Bonanza: A Virtual Tour of the Planet's Ecosystems

STEPHAN BULLARD

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 4–5:30 p.m., Duncaster

\$20

The natural world is extraordinarily diverse. Wherever you go you find distinct collections of plants and animals. Although every place seems unique, environments can be categorized into specialized groupings called biomes (a.k.a. ecosystems) based upon the climatic conditions that form them. Take a trip around the world with Stephan Bullard and learn about the world's ecosystems. Virtually tour the temperate deciduous forest, temperate grassland, rainforest, desert, savanna, tundra, taiga, and chaparral and find out what separates one biome from the others. Learn more about the biology of the places you've visited and the places you'd like to visit!

STEPHAN BULLARD, Professor of Biology, specializes in invasive marine species and benthic organisms (sea squirts). His research has taken him to Panama, where he has examined how the Canal facilitates the movement of invasive sea squirts between ocean basins. He is also deeply interested in disasters and disaster management and studies disease outbreaks. He is currently following up his recent book, *A Day-by-Day Chronicle of the 2013-2016 Ebola Outbreak*, with a similar book about the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The National Book Award Book Club

MICHELE K. TROY

Tuesdays, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 15, 2–3:30 p.m., KF Room

\$60

"My dear, I am worried about you. It seems to me... that you are in a muddle," said, quite famously, one of E.M. Forster's most endearing characters. "[A]ll of my teaching... has come down to this: beware of muddle." This statement is the politest way to think about the current (to me, infuriating!) state of American politics and culture. I'm worried about the muddle and looking for a way through. In short, I'm curious to see what American authors are saying, to wit: Dear Intrepid Readers, let us try our hand this time around with the National Book Awards. Session I, a book from the long list: *Intimacies: A Novel*, by Katie Kitamura; Session II, from the short list: Anthony Doerr's *Cloud Cuckoo-Land*; Session III, the winner: Jason Mott with *Hell of a Book*. The best stuff on the table is always what you bring. I look forward to hearing your thoughts: the true literary feast.

MICHELE K. TROY, Professor of English at Hillyer College, where she has taught since 2001, is also Presidents' College Director. Her book, *Strange Bird: The Albatross Press and the Third Reich*, appeared with Yale University Press in 2017, and the German translation was published in Spring 2022. In 2019, she received a Fulbright to Germany to pursue two further projects which explore Anglo-American books abroad: an in-depth look at the German book trade under the American Occupation, 1945-1949, with the University of Mainz; and research into

Seven Seas Books, which produced English-language paperbacks out of East Berlin in the 1950s and 1960s.

Presidents' College Fall Kick-Off

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 4:30–6 p.m.

Joseloff Art Gallery in the Harry Jack Gray Center

Free

The Fall Kick-Off is almost here! Reconnect with friends and favorite Presidents' College instructors, this time at the Joseloff Gallery on campus. Here's to wine & cheese, the faculty art show, and the music of *Entwined*! Hear from the instructors teaching our Fall 2022 courses and introduce someone you know to this stimulating community. It's all free for the taking, but please reserve a seat.

The Earth in Flames: Forest Fires and Climate Change

LAURA PENCE

Friday, Sept. 16, 2–3:30 p.m., The McAuley

\$20

August used to see the peak of wildfire season in the western U.S., but climate change ensures that we will have ongoing big fires in mid-September. Why so many fires? Why now? Well, it's complicated. We begin by looking at regional differences in American forests: tree composition, ownership, and management. Then we explore other surprising factors in the increased size and number of forest fires, including the hot-button issue of how a warming climate exacerbates an already delicate situation.

LAURA PENCE is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Hartford with expertise in environmental chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and chemical education. Dr. Pence spent 2012-13 as an American Chemical Society (ACS)/American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Congressional Science Policy Fellow in the office of Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), where her policy portfolio featured natural resources, energy, and environmental issues, with emphasis on water and forestry. She served on the ACS Board of Directors from 2017-2019, and continues to be an acknowledged expert on the nexus of science and public policy for that organization. An outstanding educator, Pence won the University of Hartford's Roy E. Larsen award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006 and has twice ranked among the top 25 professors nationally on RateMyProfessor.com. She was also named a National Institutes of Health Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2011 for her programming and leadership on environmental and sustainability issues.

Exploring Leonardo da Vinci

ALEXANDRA (ZEE) ONUF

Monday, Sept. 19, Wednesday, Sept. 26, Monday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., KF Room

Please note: We have shifted Session Two to W 9/28 to allow registrants to celebrate Rosh Hashanah on M 9/26 without missing a session.

\$60

This three-lecture course will reconsider some of the most fascinating questions in Leonardo studies today. We will study some of Leonardo's most extraordinary and ground-breaking paintings, including the unfinished *Adoration of the Magi*, the disastrous experimental fresco of the *Last Supper*, and the many versions of the *Mona Lisa* (have you seen the one in the Prado Museum in Madrid?). Leonardo was the "Renaissance Man" *par excellence*, so we will also explore the intersections he forged between science and art in his many observations of nature, experiments, and "paper inventions," including his prescient designs for flying machines, siege walls, and armored tanks. Finally, we tackle the problems posed by this great master's legacy, especially in today's art market where questions of attribution and value loom larger than ever after the sale of the so-called *Salvator Mundi* in 2017 and its subsequent mysterious disappearance.

ZEE ONUF is Associate Professor and Chair of the Art History Department in the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford, where she has taught for fifteen years. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2006 and has published widely on the history of early modern prints and landscape imagery. Her last book, *The Small Landscape Prints in Early Modern Netherlands*, was published by Routledge in 2018. She is currently co-editing a volume entitled *Violence, Trauma and Memory: Responses to War in the Late Medieval and Early Modern World* with fellow UHart faculty member, Nicholas Ealy, to be published with Lexington Books later this year.

Everyone's Talking About Supply Chains

JANE HORVATH

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 12:45–2 p.m., Shaw Center

Co-Sponsored by the van Rooy Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis

\$20

Just when we thought we could return to "normal" after two plus years of the pandemic, we are confronted with inflation and supply chain issues. Raw materials and labor are in short supply. Global bottlenecks are causing delays that not only upend our plans at the micro-level—where is that new sofa you ordered months ago?—but also seriously destabilize vast sectors of the economy. So what are supply chains? And why do they bring about such extreme consequences? Jane Horvath draws on her expertise in economic complexity to explain the logic of supply chains and to explore how and why they are affecting our lives and the American economy. She will also consider what actions the government and businesses might take to minimize the negative consequences that continue to flow from supply-change disruptions.

JANE HORVATH is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Hartford. She directs the BA in Economics in the College of Arts and Sciences and is the Founding Director of the van Rooy Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis. Dr. Horvath teaches courses in economic development, agent-based modeling, complexity economics, and social network applications.

The Silent Book Club

Friday, Sept. 23, 6–8 p.m.

Harrison Libraries

\$5 entry plus cash bar | Co-Sponsored by Alumni Engagement

Join the Presidents' College and Alumni Engagement at Harrison Libraries for *The Silent Book Club, a.k.a., The Introvert's Happy Hour*. No pressure to say something profound (or to say anything at all). Bring a favorite book. . . and perhaps a favorite friend. Thirty minutes to mingle, grab a drink, sample *hors d'oeuvres*. An hour to read quietly. And a final half-hour to chat with other lovers of the written word – unless your own book keeps you riveted. We'll "liberate" the library after hours, with its cushy seats aplenty and its beckoning shelf of New Releases. You might even spot your next dream book.

The Jews of the Forest: A Story of Holocaust Resistance and Survival

REBECCA FRANKEL

Thursday, Sept. 29, 4–5:30 p.m., Wilde Auditorium

Free | Co-Sponsored by the Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford and the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at the University of Connecticut

New York Times best-selling author and West Hartford native, Rebecca Frankel, is best known locally for recording the inspiring story of the Rabinowitz family who narrowly escaped the Nazi ghetto in their Polish town by fleeing to the forbidding Bialowieza Forest. *Into the Forest: A Holocaust Story of Survival, Triumph, and Love* was named a 2021 National Jewish Book Award finalist and one of *Smithsonian Magazine's* "Ten Best History Books of 2021." Over five years, Frankel interviewed family members—including the Rabinowitzes' eldest daughter: Ruth Lazowski of West Hartford—to understand how they made it through brutal winters, typhus, and merciless Nazi raids before liberation in 1944 by the Red Army. She also researched the story behind their story: discovering how both Jewish partisan fighters and other families like the Rabinowitzes struggled to overcome the elements of the woods. Join Frankel as she recounts this little-told forest history, and the bravery and resilience of one family in wartime and afterwards, as they sought to find their place—and new happiness—in a post-Holocaust world. The talk will be followed by book sales and book signing.

REBECCA FRANKEL is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling book *War Dogs: Tales of Canine Heroism, History, and Love*, and *Into the Forest: A Holocaust Story of Survival, Triumph, and Love*. Rebecca was executive editor of *Foreign Policy's* print magazine and managing editor

of *Moment* magazine. Her editing work has received multiple accolades including a Polk Award for coverage of the 2015 MSF Hospital bombing in Kunduz, Afghanistan. She's written for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and elsewhere, and has been a guest on Conan, PBS NewsHour, and the Diane Rehm Show, among others.

Supreme Court Round-Up: 2021-2022

JILDA ALIOTTA

Mondays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24: 4:30–6 p.m., KF Room

\$80

With an historic confirmation, a shocking leak to the press, and the reversal of a decades'-old precedent on reproductive rights, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2021-22 Term is indeed one for the record books. What does the Court's turn to the right after the 2020 death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg presage? What does the future hold for the Court as an institution and for the U.S. Constitution?

Session 1: An overview of U.S. Supreme Court's 2021–22 Term

Session 2: Significant Developments & Decisions of the 2021–22 Term—Part 1

Session 3: Significant Developments & Decisions of the 2021–22 Term—Part 2

Session 4: Looking Ahead to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022-23 Term

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. She teaches classes in law, American politics, and women in politics.

Behind the Camera: Japanese Women Photographers Take to the Streets

CARRIE CUSHMAN

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1:30–3 p.m., Duncaster

Please note: Duncaster is hosting its monthly lecture earlier in the day than usual to allow registrants to arrive home before sunset on Yom Kippur.

\$20

Reduced to ashes during World War II, only to be rebuilt at a remarkably rapid pace during the economic boom of the 1950s and 1960s, the city has been a recurring motif for Japanese artists attuned to contemporary social issues. Photographers, in particular, have taken to the streets to document protest, memorialize the war, and capture evidence of globalization in the urban fabric. Undoubtedly one of the most prolific genres of photography in Japan, street photography has also been practiced primarily by men—or so the story is told. Join Dr. Carrie Cushman for a look at recent interventions made by women in the world of Japanese street photography. The lecture will include a look at the groundbreaking career of Komatsu Hiroko, whose work will be on view at the Hartford Art School's Joseloff Gallery in the fall of 2022.

CARRIE CUSHMAN is the Edith Dale Monson Gallery Director and Curator at the Hartford Art School. She holds a Ph.D. in Art History from Columbia University and is a specialist in postwar and contemporary photography. Prior to joining the University of Hartford, Carrie worked as a curator at the Davis Museum at Wellesley College. Her recent publications include *Komatsu Hiroko: Creative Destruction* (2022) and *Going Viral: Photography, Performance, and the Everyday* (2020). She is also the co-creator of the educational website, Behind the Camera: Gender, Power, and Politics in the History of Japanese Photography.

Finding Zora Neale Hurston: Then and Now

LUCY ANNE HURSTON

Wednesdays, Oct 12, 19, 10:30–12 p.m., KF Room

\$40

Ground-breaking 20th century author Zora Neale Hurston is best known for her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, an American classic read in high schools, colleges and book clubs across the country. But there are many other “Zora”s to find. After studying under anthropologist Franz Boas at Columbia, Hurston gathered folktales in the American South, researched voodoo rituals in Jamaica and Haiti, and recorded the testimony of the last survivor of the last slave ship. She also tackled the knotty race, class and gender issues of her day head-on in countless magazine articles. We invite you to meet [this](#) “Zora” – ethnographer and social commentator – with Lucy Anne Hurston, her niece, as your guide. A sociologist herself, Lucy Anne Hurston has found that her own research adventures are deeply connected to questions her aunt raised decades ago. As such, she is ideally positioned to spark discussion about a selection of Zora Neale Hurston’s nonfiction writings and to consider with us how and why her aunt’s writings continue to speak to our own fraught cultural and political moment.

LUCY ANNE HURSTON, the niece of major 20th-century writer Zora Neale Hurston and retired Professor of Sociology, is an acclaimed sociologist, biographer, and ethnographer. She has spent her life as an educator and compiled a detailed knowledge of her aunt’s life and work with a historian’s observant eye. As the owner of Hurston Research LLC for over 22 years, Lucy has played a critical role in exploring and disseminating Hurston knowledge from her own research. She also continues to act as a voice for social change and equity in her volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and Connecticut Foodshare, and as an advocate for literacy through events such as The Big Read sponsored by the NEA.

Hot Topics in the Biden Era

WARREN GOLDSTEIN

Mondays, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5: 2–3:30 p.m., KF Room

\$60

In case you thought we emerged from the woods on January 20, 2021, Presidents' College newly-retired Professor Warren Goldstein will challenge that assumption in his favorite "hot topics" course—with a bit of an assist from Vladimir Putin, the US midterm elections, our multifront cultural civil wars, and Rep. Madison Cawthorn. He will key his topics to participant interest, polling registrants beforehand to address YOUR interests, significant political news, and his enduring interests: voting rights, racial justice, and democratic politics. Goldstein will also suggest readings to inform our debate and keep things lively.

WARREN GOLDSTEIN (Ph.D., Yale) is a prize-winning historian, essayist, and commentator. Former Chair of the history department at the University of Hartford and the University's Harry Jack Gray/NEH Distinguished Teaching Humanist, he is author or coauthor of six books for scholarly and general audiences. His essays on history, higher education, race, religion, politics, crime, and sports have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Boston Globe*, *Newsday*, *Miami Herald*, *The Nation*, *Christian Century*, *Commonweal*, *Tikkun*, the *Yale Alumni Magazine*, and *The Huffington Post*. The 2006 recipient of the James E and Frances W. Bent Award for Scholarly Creativity, Goldstein has also received major fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Louisville Institute, as well as Cardin and Vincent Coffin grants at the University of Hartford.

Agatha Christie: The Woman Who Disappeared...and Forever Changed Detective Fiction
PAMELA BEDORE with special guest DIANNE HARRISON

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 10:30–12 p.m., KF Room

MELIA BENSUSSEN

Sunday, Oct. 23: 1–1:30 p.m. discussion: 2 p.m. show with Q&A following, Hartford Stage
\$50 (includes ticket to The Hartford Stage production of *The Mousetrap*)

Agatha Christie's novels are outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. So why do we know so little about her? Perhaps, because Christie kept her motives well veiled. On December 3, 1926, she disappeared. Police, volunteers, and even a medium engaged by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, mounted an intensive search. Christie reappeared several days later, allegedly with severe memory loss. Yet her disappearance has never been—and presumably never will be—explained. Was it foul play? a publicity stunt? A warning to her husband in their divorce proceedings? A result of her depression? Christie brought her own complexity to her fiction, raising compelling questions that have set the tone for the detective genre ever since: how do we know what we know? What is the meaning of disruptions to social order? What is the relationship between fact and fiction? Get a glimpse into the life of The Grande Dame of Mystery Fiction, and into why detective fiction remains the most popular genre well into our century. Bring your ideas to Session I with Pamela Bedore and Dianne Harrison; and hold onto your seats in Session II, with The Hartford Stage's production of *The Mousetrap* (bonus feature: pre- and post-performance-discussion with Melia Bensussen).

PAMELA BEDORE is Associate Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, where she teaches courses on detective fiction, science fiction, utopia & dystopia, and gender theory. Author of *Dime Novels and the Roots of Detective Fiction* and of *Great Works of Utopian and Dystopian Literature*, Bedore is currently working on a book on Canadian Crime Fiction. She is also the book review editor of *Clues: A Journal of Detection*.

DIANNE HARRISON is a scholar of Victorian literature and mysteries in fiction and film. After earning her B.A. and M.A. in English at the University of Michigan and completing Ph.D. course work and exams at the University of California, Davis, she accepted a position at Iowa State University that launched her career teaching writing and literature at the high school and college levels. During the nineteen years her husband, Walt, served as president of the University of Hartford, Dianne offered courses in British literature or mystery fiction for the Prosser Library in Bloomfield, the Town and Country Club in Hartford, and The Presidents' College. When not contemplating how Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers paved the way for the likes of Sue Grafton, Stephen King, Sara Paretsky, Michael Palmer, and Stieg Larsson, Dianne is also trying her very best—so far without success, despite answering 80% of the puzzles—to be chosen to appear on NPR's Sunday puzzle segment with Will Shortz. Dianne lives with her husband, Walt, in West Hartford and in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

MELIA BENSUSSEN is the Artistic Director of Hartford Stage. Former Chair of the Performing Arts Department at Emerson College in Boston, she has directed productions at the Huntington Theater, Merrimack Repertory, Sleeping Weazel and Actors Shakespeare Project. She has also directed at Baltimore Centerstage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, the New York Shakespeare Festival, MCC, Primary Stages, the Long Wharf, ATL, People's Light, San Jose Rep, among others. Raised in Mexico City, Melia is fluent in Spanish and has translated and adapted a variety of works, including the Langston Hughes translation of Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, published by TCG. A winner of an OBIE award, she is the Chair of the Arts Advisory Board for the Princess Grace Foundation. She has been a member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers since 1990 and currently serves as the Secretary for the Executive Board.

Engineers Without Borders: How to Get Water to Those Who Need It Most?

DAVID PINES

Friday, Oct. 21, 2–3:30 p.m., The McAuley

\$20

The United Nations estimates that one in four people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water. *The New York Times* has framed water access as a charged political issue likely to provoke tension between the “haves” and the “have-nots” as the climate changes. In an inspired teaching moment a decade ago, University of Hartford engineering professor David Pines sought to alleviate this problem on a community scale: he involved the Engineers Without Borders Student Chapter at the College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture (CETA) in designing and constructing a solar-powered water system at a girls' elementary school in Haryana, India. This seed project spiraled into others, leading to a decade-long expansion to

neighboring villages and schools. Despite their successes, Pines remains acutely aware of many factors that still endanger long-term water access: developments that cause declining groundwater levels, climate change, local governmental priorities. Join Pines, who has worked in multiple Indian communities, to learn about technical, social and cultural barriers that obstruct clean water efforts. You'll also hear about possible future solutions.

DAVID PINES is a professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental Engineering at UHart's College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture. His interest in sustainability ranges from working with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering on energy and environmental issues critical to the State of Connecticut to teaching a study-abroad course comparing US and German efforts to promote conservation and renewable energy. He has also led international projects to assist developing communities in India and Kenya.

How Epidemics Have Shaped Our World

MIKE MAGEE

Wednesdays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 1:30–3 p.m., KF Room

\$80

Infectious diseases are more than an esoteric discipline for specialists. They have been critical determinants in human history, triggering societal transformation and swaying the course of economic systems, revolutions and global trans-migrations. Join "Dr. Mike" to understand how scientists' germ-fighting methods have evolved. The scientific pendulum swings predictably toward more – then less – control. During the Industrial Revolution, the establishment sought to eliminate germs, claiming "cleanliness is next to godliness." Post World War II, scientists dared to hope they could permanently defeat enemy microbes and disease, but HIV/AIDS challenged their hubris. Now scientists acknowledge that, at best, we can stay only one step ahead of rapidly-evolving microbes, given mass travel, global warming, and persistent warfare. What peril or promise does today's controversial "gain-of-function" viral research hold to keep further epidemics at bay?

Session I: Germs, Conquest and Warfare

Session II: Germ Theory, the Industrial Revolution and the Sanitary Movement

Session III: Scientific Hubris: Closing the Book on Infectious Diseases

Session IV: Outwitting Microbes: Risk/Benefit of "Gain-of-Function" Research

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 at the University of Hartford, 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*.

Writing Flash Fiction

AMITY GAIGE

Thursdays, Oct 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, 1–2:30 p.m., KF Room

\$75 (limited to 15)

Want to try your hand at creative writing without the pressure of producing numerous pages? Come explore the short-*short* story genre in three sessions with Guggenheim-winning author and down-to-earth writing teacher, Amity Gaige. At fewer than 1,000 words, “flash fiction” contains elements of its longer sibling, the short story – plot, characters, setting – but distills those to something more poetic and suggestive. An added benefit of this unique genre is that flash fiction is wonderfully shareable. We’ll try fun in-class exercises, then write our own short-shorts between sessions. (You’ll need access to a copier or printer to distribute your work.) Never read “flash-fiction”? No problem. We’ll start by defining the genre and reading examples. Come with a spirit of experimentation!

AMITY GAIGE is the author of four novels: *O My Darling*, *The Folded World*, *Schroder* and *Sea Wife*. She is the winner of a Fulbright Fellowship, and fellowships at the MacDowell and Yaddo colonies and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for Fiction in 2016. Her previous novel *Schroder* has been translated into eighteen languages and was shortlisted for The Folio Prize in the UK in 2014 and for *L’Express* Reader’s Prize in France. *Schroder* was named one of Best Books of 2013 by *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Huffington Post*, *Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Kirkus*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Publisher’s Weekly*, among many others. The longtime Visiting Writer at Amherst College, she now teaches creative writing at Yale. Her short stories, essays, and book reviews have appeared in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Die Welt*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *The Yale Review*, *Slate.com*, *One Story*, *Ploughshares*, and elsewhere. She has appeared at numerous conferences, festivals, and on radio shows such as NPR. She currently lives with her family in West Hartford, Connecticut. She had to learn to sail in order to write *Sea Wife*. She learned that she is not a gifted sailor, so she will stick to writing about it.

Book Discussion: *Into the Forest: A Holocaust Story of Survival, Triumph, and Love*

AMY WEISS, with a special Zoom appearance by REBECCA FRANKEL

Tues., Nov. 1, 2–3:30 p.m., Greenberg Center

\$20

"A gripping narrative that reads like a page-turning thriller novel," says NPR of journalist Rebecca Frankel’s book *Into the Forest*. Read this riveting account of one family’s escape from a small Polish town and their survival for two years under life-threatening conditions in the Bialowieza Forest. Then join Amy Weiss, Director of the Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford, to examine central themes of this World War II story and to discuss

your reactions, including why this story still inspires us. Rebecca Frankel will offer her own thoughts via Zoom in a special Q & A.

AMY WEISS holds the Maurice Greenberg Chair of Judaic Studies and is an assistant professor of Judaic Studies and History at the University of Hartford. Her research and publications focus on the intersection of American religious history, Israeli culture, and interfaith relations. Her current book project focuses on the evolving relationships American Jews have forged with liberal and evangelical Protestants in the late twentieth century. She also writes about depictions of Jews in contemporary Christmas movies. Most recently, her articles have appeared in *American Jewish History*, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, and *Israel Studies*.

A Whale of a Tale: The Drama and Impact of the Hartford Whalers

JEFF JACOBS

Tues., Nov. 1, 4–5:30 p.m., Duncaster

\$20

Even if you're not an ice hockey fan, the Hartford Whalers may still hold sway over you. The team came to Hartford from Boston in 1974 and made it into the NHL in 1979. For years the home team gave Hartford something to cheer about, and Hartford did, through good times and bad, in sickness and in health. But in 1997, the curtain fell: the Whalers decamped for North Carolina. Jeff Jacobs, award-winning sports columnist, covered the Whalers from 1984 to 1995, including the team's most successful NHL season in 1985-86. He has the inside scoop on the team's drama and dynamics. He'll also talk about the team's impact on the capital region and the effect of its departure.

JEFF JACOBS, sports columnist for Hearst Connecticut Media, has been named Connecticut sports writer of the year 10 times. He covered the Hartford Whalers for 11 seasons at *The Hartford Courant* before being named the general sports columnist in 1995 and served in that capacity until 2018, when he joined Hearst Connecticut. Jacobs has been honored four times nationwide by the Associated Press Sports Editors as a Top Ten columnist. He and his wife Liz have two children: Katerina, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who works with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Liam, who recently graduated from Lasell University in Newton, Mass., where he played basketball.

The World Series with Walt

WALTER HARRISON

Wednesday, Nov. 2, Pre-Game: 7 p.m.; Play Ball: 8 p.m.

McLean Retirement Community, Simsbury

\$20

If you love a good baseball rivalry, this evening is for you! Pre-game, grab a beer and listen in while baseball scholar and aficionado Walt Harrison brings his vast knowledge of baseball

history to a discussion of this year's World Series contenders. He'll dish up stories of the two teams, past and present, from important moments in their histories to the current buzz around each team. A bit of history, a chance to situate the World Series in American culture, and a lot of fun. We'll finish up by watching the third game of the 2022 World Series complete with the ball park snacks we've missed out on during the pandemic.

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.

Silent Films and Music: Chaplin, Keaton, Lloyd

PATRICK MILLER

Mon., Nov. 7, 14, 28: 3–4:30 p.m., Hillyer Hall 303 (Film Studies Room)

\$60

The silent film was never silent. There was always music, even at the first screenings of European motion pictures. As American cinema developed, two primary categories emerged: comedy and drama. Three commanding comedy entertainers – Charles Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Harold Lloyd – developed distinctive personas and styles, exerting a lasting influence on world cinema. This course investigates these actors, via three late silent films that showcase their uniqueness: *The Circus* (Chaplin, 1928), *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* (Keaton, 1928), and *Speedy* (Lloyd, 1928). Patrick Miller will not only screen segments of each film in class, but also offer his own live piano accompaniment. The course also explains how American silent film music influenced the evolution of American music for the “talkies.”

PATRICK MILLER is Professor Emeritus of music theory at The Hartt School, University of Hartford. He is a music theoretician and a concert pianist, who completed his academic training at the University of Kansas (B.Mus, M.Mus) and the University of Michigan (Ph.D.) Patrick Miller taught for 40 years at Hartt, and for 35 of them he offered a campus-wide course on music in the American narrative sound film. Over the same four decades he has played his symphonic-style piano accompaniments at silent film screenings throughout New England. He has studied silent film music at the George Eastman Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Library of Congress and has accompanied the masterworks of American and international silent cinema.

More Than Just Big Storms: Hurricanes in New England

ALEXA TZANOVA

Friday, Nov. 18, 2–3:30 p.m., The McAuley

\$20

Hurricanes are more than just big storms. They devastate infrastructure, upend our lives, and influence—or should – decisions regarding land use, housing, zoning and our environment. What is the connection between hurricane intensity and frequency? Tropical Storm Isaias caused widespread CT power outages in 2020. In 2021 Tropical Storm Henri made landfall in nearby Westerly, RI. Superstorm Sandy paralyzed NYC and much of the New England coast in 2012. Are these storms outliers or the “new normal”? History provides some meteorological clues, but the Instrumental data can be incomplete or inconclusive. Seek solutions with Alexa Tzanova. We’ll learn how scientists approach hurricane history: by tracking previous hurricane destruction now etched into coastline geology. This scientific perspective yields more useful information and improved projections.

ALEXA TZANOVA is a climatologist, oceanographer, geochemist, and science teacher. She currently teaches upper school science at Kingswood Oxford in West Hartford while continuing to pursue paleoclimate research at Brown University. Dr. Tzanova holds a degree in environmental science and geology and loves teaching the public about reconstructing past climates from clues in the environment. She has taught at CCSU and given several Presidents' College climate lectures. When she is not in the classroom, you’ll find her hiking trails around Bloomfield and volunteering for the Wintonbury Land Trust.

The Connecticut Economy: Has It Turned a Corner?

DAN HAAR

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 4–5:30 p.m., Duncaster

\$20

Anyone with FOMO (fear of missing out) should fear not when contemplating economic slumps in Connecticut. For 30-plus years this state has been the first hit by recessions, and typically among the last to revive, often anemically. But now. . . do the strengthening vital signs we’ve noticed mean our sluggish state is holding its own economically—or even outpacing the nation? A snapshot of jobs, housing, income, overall activity, migration patterns, and tax revenues reveals a cautiously optimistic scenario for this post-pandemic era. Has Connecticut turned a corner? (And what does that even mean?) Or is it a cruel mirage? Join Dan Haar, longtime chronicler of business and politics, for healthy talk on the health of our state.

DAN HAAR, formerly of *The Hartford Courant*, is now Columnist and Associate Editor at Hearst Connecticut Media. From the business-and-politics desk, he has long written about the intersection of business, public policy and politics and how the issues affect the people of Connecticut.