FALL 2016

WEDNESDAYS
September 28 • October 5, 19, 26 • November 2, 9

FRIDAYS
September 30 • October 7, 21, 28 • November 4, 11

Classes will not be held October 12 or 14.
Who Are Collegium’s Members?

Two or three times each year we travel weekly — some solo, others in couples or with friends — to Westchester Community College. Over a period of four to six weeks, we share the experience aptly called “COLLEGIUM for Lifelong Learning.” Who are we? Listen as our members tell us:

“We come in all sizes and shapes. We range in age from the greatest generation to baby boomers.” Most of us have retired from the challenges of careers in large and small businesses, schools and universities, medicine, law and other professions. Regardless of our backgrounds, we share a common characteristic: intellectual curiosity. The need to learn remains intense. “I wanted to continue learning as long as I was able,” one member recalls. A nagging fear lurked in the backs of many of our minds, a fear that we would sorely miss “the stimulation of a full-time collaborative, working life.” But the answer lay within reach: “Collegium beckoned as a place to keep my mind alive and growing.”

Some of us joined Collegium at its inception in 2003. Most heard from friends who had already joined and returned with tales of “knowledgeable, passionate teachers with impressive presentation skills.” For others, the quest began with the inevitable Google search and ended with “a bright yellow flier in my mailbox. The rest is history.”

Why do our members stay and even recruit others? “Reading is great in itself, but Collegium offers topics that I probably would never pursue on my own,” Another member says, “When I walk out of ancient history, I feel as if my brain has been stretched. When I walk out of modern poetry, I feel as if my soul has been enriched.” We stay for one another, “for the camaraderie, and most importantly, the acknowledgement of having been seen and heard by our peers.” Sometimes our roles even change: a member becomes a course leader or a course leader becomes a member. One member summed it up simply, “Within the walls of Collegium I have found friendship, information, understanding, beauty, kindness, generosity and a spirit that keeps the magic of living alive.” These are the voices of Collegium.

The Evolution of the Russian Nation, Part I
Leader: Richard Rose, PhD, Collegium board member and retired professor

The colorful history of Russia and the Soviet Union encompasses a fascinating series of people and revolutionary events, a vivid tapestry of power and territory. We may be familiar with pieces of that story, and surely have lived with the Soviet Union through war, the Cold War and current events. To give us a more detailed picture, this first course traces early Russian history from the 800s to 1682, concentrating on the amazing geographic phenomenon that is Russia. Highlights include the rise of Kiev, followed by the Mongolian invasion and the development of the Muscovite state. Our journey concludes with Ivan the Terrible and the early Romanov rulers. No history would be complete without a consideration of the economic, social and cultural institutions that were so much a part of those early centuries.

Wild Sex
Leader: Iris Cook, PhD, Collegium board member, WCC professor and Biology Department chair, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor

Sexual encounters take place in all animal species, not just the human kind. In this class, we will consider how various animals participate and behave in natural breeding, birthing and rearing of their offspring. We’ll look at some of their most interesting mating methods and reproductive anatomies and see how they woo prospective partners and express distinctive sexual behavior. Since we are all part of an extraordinary universe, understanding how sex occurs in the wild should be interesting, fascinating and sometimes downright hilarious. Come join us as we learn, relax and always have fun!
A la Carte

Leaders: Jerry Leitzes, Collegium member, retired retail owner, and Don Levin, Collegium member, retired principal — public relations agency

This popular potpourri of appealing, relevant topics and expert speakers needs no introduction. Rick Leibert, leader of several Collegium classes, will discuss the history of women in sports, the impact of their presence and obstacles to their acceptance. Jerry Nappi, the senior manager of Communications for Entergy, will address issues concerning Indian Point Energy Center. Jonathan Victor, MD, professor of Neurology and Neuroscience, Weill Cornell Medical College, will guide us through the science of cognition and the brain, sharing the insights achieved and advances expected in technology and medicine. Dr. Andrea Boyar, director of Dietetics, Foods, and Nutrition at Lehman College, will explain the latest developments in the world of nutrition. Wonder what it would be like to experience daily life inside China? Brian Kenny, who lived in China for a decade, will describe life in a nation in the throes of unprecedented change. Deborah Dickson, three-time Academy Award nominee, will relate her experiences producing and directing documentary films, including The Education of Gore Vidal.

Hamlet

Leader: Jerry Tanklow, Collegium member, retired English chair at an academic high school, poetry teacher

Coleridge, Goethe, Freud and others (including the course leader) have called Hamlet the greatest play written in the English language. The tragedy contains both romantic and erotic love, murder, conspiracy, wisdom, suspense, family drama and a tragically flawed protagonist who creates identity and invokes empathy. As the most widely performed of the Bard’s plays, Hamlet has been presented in almost every language in which plays are produced and in seventy-one films. Join us to read and discuss the five acts and the three unities of drama: time, place and action. Our course will conclude with a viewing of the film version starring Kenneth Branagh, Julie Christie and Kate Winslet. The recommended text is Hamlet by William Shakespeare, The New Folger Shakespeare Library Series (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2003).

Judging the Judges: Judicial Ethics and Discipline — What Are the Limits?

Leader: Gerald Stern, JD, noted judicial ethicist, attorney and former law professor

This class has its roots in the winter 2014 session and will continue to debunk the assumptions we hold about the judicial system. As U.S. citizens, we think of the court system (federal, state and local) and the judges on the bench as the guardians of our constitutional rights. We assume that judges are trained in the law, are ethical in interpreting it, without regard for their own feelings or beliefs, and are above legal corruption. Beginning with the state court system, we’ll look at how judges are elected or appointed and what legal training they are required to have. Who evaluates their decisions and how are judges disciplined for behavior, partisanship, or rulings that actually violate constitutional and statutory law? We will look at the Supreme Court and examine the debate about interpreting the Constitution as a living document or an inflexible set of rules written by our country’s founders.

The State of the Art of...

Leader: Arthur Goldstein, Collegium board member and investment advisor

Once again a highly diverse group of experts will entertain and enlighten us about timely topics. Join State Senator George Latimer, a member of the Education, Consumer Protection and Environmental Conservation Committees, in a lively discussion of New York State politics. Explore the challenging world of podcasting, one of the newest forms of internet media. Listen as professionals in creating performing arts centers guide us through these multi-use performance spaces that enrich our cultural lives. If environmental concerns pique your interest, participate in our conversation on ecological stewardship at our state parks. Then tap into your civic side with a presentation by the Southern Poverty Law Center on Teaching Tolerance, its magazine and award-winning, anti-bias educational program. End the course with immediately useful information on financial planning, past, present and future.
The Early Life and Works of Igor Stravinsky

Leader: David Kemler, retired computer software executive, trained pianist with an avid interest in Stravinsky, member of a choral group performing with the Philadelphia Orchestra

Firebird, Petrushka and The Rite of Spring are among the best-known compositions by Igor Stravinsky, showcasing his distinctive style and identity. His work, based on Russian folklore, is characterized by rhythms and harmonies that are often intellectual and spare. A citizen of Russia, France and the U.S. during his career, his approach to composition was affected by location, people and world events. Who was this spirited and gifted composer? What influenced his development and his relationships to ballet, other arts and artists? To find out, we will listen to and discuss Stravinsky’s early music and gain an appreciation of his Russian and early neoclassical periods.


Madness, Malfeasance and Mayhem

Leaders: Selena Barron, Collegium member, retired manager — Westchester County Department of Social Services, and Tony Barron, JD, Collegium member, attorney, professor at NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies

Yearning for a “safe place” to speak out on current issues that matter to you? Intimidated by the fear of voicing your opinion in public — and then failing to defend it convincingly? This course is for you! Each week the class engages in spirited discussions of hot-button topics in a comfortable, congenial forum. The encouragement, support and stimulating dialogue among peers help forge stronger speaking skills, greater confidence — and the intense satisfaction of having participated while expanding your experience. Subjects are chosen from topics currently in the news. They may include, among others: government malfeasance, national security, the presidential campaign, foreign affairs and economic policies.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Before and After 9/11

Leader: Jim Burnett, JD, LL.M., retired FBI special agent and college professor

Terrorism. This word barely brushed our lexicon until fifteen years ago, yet today it creeps deeper into our lives, leaving death, hatred and despair in its wake. Why has the world taken a sharp turn into this destructive behavior? This course will explore terrorism, beginning with a history of the phenomenon and the terms defining it. We’ll look at the goals of terrorists and their tactics as well as the factors that caused it to escalate today. What is religious terrorism, and what is the face of terrorism in America? We’ll conclude with a discussion of ways in which governments and people can deal with this complex part of contemporary life. Members are encouraged to obtain the text What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat by Louise Richardson (Random House, 2006).

Five Wonders of the Russian World

Leader: Eugenia K. Amditis, PhD in Slavic languages and literatures, teacher of Russian folklore, WCC adjunct professor of English

Five artifacts represent the essence of identity for Russians across cultural and political boundaries. These “wonders of the Russian world” provide focal points relating Russia’s past to her future by capturing key concepts in Russian culture. They are accessible and powerful examples of Russians’ worldview. Join us as we examine: 1) the Russian folktale “Ivan Tsarevich, the Firebird and the Grey Wolf”; 2) Andrei Rublev’s The Trinity icon; 3) the Moscow Kremlin complex; 4) Falconet’s The Bronze Horseman statue of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg; and 5) Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture. Through these artifacts we glimpse Russians’ understanding of spirituality, space, time, beauty, art, power and authority, history and myth, as well as Russia’s relationship to the West. A rich selection of multimedia material will enhance our study.

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Lunch: Bring your own or order a box lunch in advance.
“The Play’s the Thing…”
Leader: Martin M. Mintz, PhD, Collegium member, clinical psychologist and actor in Westchester community theater

Have you ever tapped into your inner thespian self? Have you read aloud a scene from a play to experience how an actor creates a character in real time? In this course you will have the opportunity to participate in “scene studies” from such plays as Lovers and Other Strangers, A Hatful of Rain, Antigone, A View from the Bridge and I Never Sang for My Father. Using Contemporary Scenes for Student Actors by Michael Schulman and Eva Mekler (Penguin Books, 1980), the class will select scenes and partners and enjoy multiple readings of the same scene. There will be ample time for discussion and feedback as we learn how to identify the scenes’ tension points, objectives and social/psychological dimensions of character development.

Financial Literacy, Part II: Profiles of Pioneers
Leader: Robert S. Salomon, Jr., retired general partner — Salomon Bros., former chief investment officer — U.S. Trust Co., financial columnist and mutual fund director

This class is an expansion of the spring 2016 Financial Literacy course, which is not a prerequisite. We will review financial basics, applying the information to profiles of individuals and companies that have had a profound impact on the financial world. We'll hear about Jack Bogle, who founded Vanguard on the belief that the shareholder comes first, not the profits of the mutual fund management company. Next, we'll unfold the story of how Arnold Bernhard contradicted the popular EMH (efficient market hypothesis) with his highly regarded Value Line Service. Then we will discuss how Larry Fink built BlackRock, the largest asset management firm in the world, in just 25 years. Finally we'll get acquainted with Warren Buffett and enjoy the story of how he saved Salomon Brothers.

Genocides of the Twentieth Century
Leader: Rick Leibert, retired businessman and professor of marketing, Holocaust educator

What makes humans inflict horrific cruelty upon one another? We are familiar with the Holocaust, the first world-altering event to be labeled “genocide." Yet the twentieth century is replete with instances of man’s inhumanity to man. In an effort to try to understand this concept of total elimination, we will examine events beginning, in 1904, with the Kaiser's genocide of indigenous peoples in Southwest Africa. Next we'll discuss the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of its Armenian minority in 1915. Why did the Khmer Rouge starve 25 percent of Cambodia’s population in 1975? Bosnian Serb nationalists began ethnic cleansing in 1992 and, in 1994, the world watched as the Hutus' “Final Solution” was unleashed on the Tutsis in Rwanda. What were the causes and scars left by these crimes against humanity?

Halsey and the Battle of Leyte Gulf
Leader: David Oestreich, Collegium board chair, avocational military historian and former naval officer

The Battle of Leyte Gulf is considered by some to have been the largest naval battle of World War II, and by others, the largest naval battle in history. It’s a masterful war story involving 100,000 men and 300 ships fighting in 200,000 square miles of the Pacific between October 23–26, 1944. The Allied naval forces included the Third Fleet, commanded by the popular but flawed Admiral William Halsey, and the Seventh Fleet. Serious mistakes and misunderstandings were made, resulting in a significant loss of life, yet great courage was shown in one of the most famous destroyer actions in World War II. The events of Leyte Gulf ultimately led to the defeat of the Imperial Japanese Navy.
Irish Drama, Part II
Leader: Elizabeth Gaffney, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English at WCC, Abeles Co-chair in Global Literature, poet

What makes characters and settings particularly Irish? What accounts for a play’s universal appeal? We will continue our exploration of Irish drama by reading four modern, internationally successful plays. We’ll begin with *Playboy of the Western World* by John Millington Synge, which caused riots when performed in Dublin in 1907. Then we’ll read *The Field* by John B. Keane, a dark vision of one man holding onto his land. Next will be Brian Friel’s *Dancing at Lughnasa*. We’ll finish with Conor McPherson’s *The Weir*, which sold out in New York last summer. We will again use *Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*, John P. Harrington, editor (Norton, 1991). Please obtain *The Field* by John B. Keane (Mercier Press, 1991) and *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel (Dramatists Play Service, Inc., Acting Edition, 1998). All are available reasonably on the Internet.

10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  Coffee, Cookies and Conversation

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  Decision 2016: The Final Path from Campaign to Voting Booth
Leader: Elaine Weiss, PhD in history, tolerance facilitator, history teacher and curriculum developer

The 2016 presidential primary, campaign and pre-election events have been like no other. The personalities, speeches, debates, media coverage, polls and events in the weeks leading up to November 8th cry out for discussion and analysis to fit into our schema of politics in America. As we prepare to contemplate and ultimately confront the 2016 election results, we ask ourselves: What direction will our country ultimately take? What kind of leadership do we want? What kind do we really need? How will this election affect domestic and international policy? This is your chance to participate in real-time discussions as we follow events week by week. *Decision 2016* will provide historical perspective and evaluate how changes in our society, ranging from social issues to technology, have impacted this election cycle.

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Lunch: Bring your own or order a box lunch in advance.

Beethoven: Beloved Immortal, Part II
Leaders: Paul Yeon Lee, PhD in classical music composition and ethnomusicology; composer-in-residence, Korean Symphony Orchestra; and Ed Pressman, Collegium board member, WCC adjunct instructor in American history and political science, lifelong student of music

This class will continue to delight in the drama and mystery of Beethoven, the man and his transformational music. There is no need to have taken Part I to understand why Beethoven’s revolutionary compositions are still beloved after two centuries, having forever changed the musical footprint. We will listen to and analyze movements and complete works from such masterpieces as Symphony No. 6 ("the Pastoral"); Piano Concerto No. 4; the Choral Fantasy; Piano Sonata No. 23 ("Appassionata"); Piano Trio No. 5 ("Ghost Trio"); Bagatelle No. 25 in A Minor ("Fur Elise"); String Quartet No. 11 ("Serioso"); and other works composed during his middle period (sometimes called his “heroic” period) beginning in 1803.

Family Relationships in Hebrew Scripture: Biblical Narrative and Rabbinic Commentary
Leader: Michael Malina, LL.B., retired attorney, author of a commentary on the Book of Genesis

The Hebrew Bible contains laws, poetry, prophecy and most of all a long story about the relationship between God and the people Israel. At its core is a series of narratives concerning family groups. Commencing with the Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel family, the anthology that is the Hebrew Bible presents the reader with the families of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and David (to name the most significant ones) and describes their relationships, warts and all. We will discuss the issues confronted by these families as they emerge in the course of our examination of the Biblical text and the Rabbinic commentaries. How do they bear on twenty-first century attitudes? Are the lessons meaningful for today’s readers? Students should bring a bible (any translation will suffice) to class.
The Ancient World Ends, the Middle Ages Begin
Leader: Robert Hajdu, PhD in history, retired attorney and author
Most of us know the generation into which we were born, but can we name the historical era in which we are living? Even today’s historians cannot agree on when, how or why Antiquity ended and the Middle Ages began. This course will first consider the concept of the birth and death of historical eras. Then we’ll examine specific events during the fourth-to-seventh centuries: the political and socio-economic causes of the decline and fall of Rome, followed by the establishment of barbarian kingdoms in the West. We’ll move on to the survival of classical culture and the Byzantine Empire. The development of early Christianity will come next, including the many heresies roiling the faith and the Church. Our study will conclude with the emergence of medieval life and the rise and early conquests of Islam.

Love and Pain and the Whole Damn Thing: The Exasperating Art of Poetry
Leader: Joseph Sgammato, WCC adjunct professor of English and Film
Poetry should be a part of every educated person’s life, but often its maddening obscurity places it beyond a tolerable reach. Reading poetry is akin to archeology; we must dig to uncover hidden treasures. Poetry’s treasures are elusive truths about the art of human survival. Through close readings of texts by T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Sylvia Plath, Elizabeth Bishop, Seamus Heaney and others, this course aims to provide the proper tools needed for digging into poetry on one’s own, without depending on professional commentary. Our goal will be to arrive at an intuitive understanding of poet Archibald MacLeish’s famous paradox: “A poem should not mean / But be.” All texts will be provided.

A Billy Wilder Retrospective
Leader: William Costanzo, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English and Film at WCC, author of six books
A great movie makes a vital contribution to the development of the medium and has a lasting impact on viewers’ lives. It pulls us into a different world and opens our minds to meaningful experiences and new insights. Billy Wilder made over sixty such movies in his lifetime and earned seven Academy Awards. We will explore the scope and sheer brilliance of his work in this retrospective of six Wilder films. Made between 1944 and 1959, these movies represent some of the best of their genres: crime (Double Indemnity), film noir (Sunset Blvd), romance (Sabrina), mystery (Witness for the Prosecution), war (Stalag 17), and comedy (Some Like It Hot). Bring your critical eye and prepare for a wildly delicious banquet of Billy Wilder!
HOW TO REGISTER

Members who attended Collegium in fall 2015, winter 2016 or spring 2016 are encouraged to register online beginning Wednesday, August 24th at 9 a.m. It will afford you the best chance to enroll in the classes of your choice. However, don’t despair if you are not able to register for your first-choice classes. You may be surprisingly pleased (as many members have been) by a class you had not originally planned on taking.

Choose one of two ways to register online:

1. **By appointment in the Computer Lab in the Gateway Center.** The Computer Lab will be open on August 24th with staff and volunteers available to assist you in registering. The process takes about 15 minutes. Please call the Collegium Office at 914-606-6748 to schedule your appointment.

2. **On a home or library computer.** If you prefer to register yourself but experience difficulty, you can call the Collegium Office for assistance. If you are using an Apple computer, please use one of the following web browsers when registering online: Google Chrome, Internet Explorer or Firefox. If you must use Safari to register, please call the office once you reach the “payment” step in the process. In the past, many members using this web browser were not aware that their registration had not been completed.

You will need your User ID and MyWCC Password to register online. Please check to be sure you have them. If you do not have your User ID, call the office and staff will help you obtain this information. Refer to the enclosed “Guide to Enrolling in Collegium” for instructions on how to create your MyWCC password and activate your account if you have not already done so. Even veterans of online registration find it important to review these directions to refresh their memories.

If you have set up a password but cannot remember it, follow the enclosed directions and use the “Forgot My Password” link on MyWCC. If you still have difficulty, call the office. Reset your password before registration begins to avoid delays.

TRY LOGGING ON BEFORE REGISTRATION DAY so that you can resolve any User ID or MyWCC Password problems BEFORE registration begins. To log on, go to either: www.sunywcc.edu/mywcc or https://mywcc.sunywcc.edu.

In addition to your User ID and MyWCC Password, you will need course numbers as well as Wednesday or Friday membership numbers to register online. The course numbers follow each course description. The **Wednesday** membership number is 84444. The **Friday** number is 84445.

Please note that you will NOT be able to register for classes before 9:00 a.m. on August 24th.

REGISTRATION DATES

- **Members** who attended Collegium in fall 2015, winter 2016 or spring 2016 are eligible to register online starting at 9:00 a.m., **Wednesday, August 24th**. Remember to schedule an appointment beforehand if you want to register with assistance at the Computer Lab.

- **Members** who attended Collegium in fall 2015, winter 2016 or spring 2016, but do not register online, may register in person or by phone starting at 9:00 a.m., **Friday, August 26th** in the Knollwood Center.

- If you are **new to Collegium or a former member** who did not attend in fall 2015, winter 2016 or spring 2016, you can register in person or by phone starting at 9:00 a.m., **Monday, August 29th** in the Knollwood Center.

The **Collegium membership fee** for fall 2016 is $200 for each day, Wednesday or Friday, $400 for both days. There are also one-time fees per semester: an $8 FSA student service fee and a non-refundable $5 registration fee. Should you need to cancel your registration, you will receive a full refund less the $5 non-refundable registration fee if you cancel two or more business days before the start of fall Collegium.

We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover and personal checks. A letter confirming your registration and class assignments will be mailed no later than September 15th.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Members may register for both Wednesday and Friday. However, if both days are oversubscribed, you may be asked to choose a preferred day to attend and receive a full refund for the withdrawn day. Our priority is to enable all members to attend at least one day of classes at Collegium.