FALL 2015
CLASS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS
October 7, 14, 21, 28 • November 4, 11

FRIDAYS
October 9, 16, 23, 30 • November 6, 13
**COLLEGIUM.** This name and its logo have graced the brochures, letterheads and envelopes that have come into our homes and our lives since 2004. Yet how often do we stop to think about the name of this organization and the symbol that accompanies it? What do they mean? Why were they chosen?

The word “collegium” has many meanings. One resource defines it as “a group of officials with equal rank and power.” Another, more obscure, definition refers to it as “an advisory or administrative board in Russia.” Perhaps the most appropriate definition describes a collegium as “a group whose members pursue shared goals while working within a framework of mutual trust and respect.” This is the soul of Collegium.

In 2003, a plan took shape. Spearheaded by Edith Landau Litt, a small group of visionaries designed a new educational opportunity for older, intellectually curious community members. Despite some original skepticism, a hundred interested people braved a torrential rainstorm to attend an open house introducing such a program. The planning group grew and, supported by Westchester Community College’s leaders and the Westchester Community College Foundation, brought a long-discussed vision into existence: an organization with the goal of reaching out to seniors through a program combining serious study with convivial social exchange. The image chosen to be its symbol aptly recalls the silhouette of the Greek Parthenon, the quintessential home of intellectual and social exchange. The program was formally named COLLEGIUM for Lifelong Learning.

Collegium immediately filled a need in the senior community, and the success continues. The first session had 10 classes and drew 71 participants. Eleven years later, the semester offers 20 classes to 225 members over two days. Led by the all-volunteer Collegium Board in partnership with the College, and graciously housed in the Knollwood Center on the Westchester Community College campus, the vision flourishes, enriching the lives of so many people. Each semester brings a wide selection of courses.

(Continued on page 13)
discuss Washington. Is the federal government too large? Is our nation at a political crossroads? Have we lost our bearings? Last, Dr. Hanan Rotem, an American citizen who was born and raised in Israel but resides here, will relate what it’s like to “live” both sides of American-Israeli issues, conflicts and changes.

**Madness, Malfeasance and Mayhem**

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

Unlock that pent-up need to voice your opinion and be taken seriously! Expressing your thoughts on controversial issues with confidence and cohesion can be a challenge. This class will help you speak confidently and constructively on the issues of the day, be they the growing gap between rich and poor, confronting terrorism, a dysfunctional Congress or recent Supreme Court decisions. Experience the satisfaction that comes with sharpening your skills in weighing all sides of an argument and presenting your position in a cogent and concise way, all in a congenial forum. Topics and readings are assigned in class.

**Histories of Herodotus: Books 1–4**

**Leader:** Stephen Sherman, retired banker, self-taught student of ancient Greek

The writing of narrative history has its roots in the works of Herodotus, the classical Greek-era writer-geographer. Herodotus was said to be dedicated to preventing the loss of all evidence of human events due to the passing of time. He travelled throughout the islands of the Greek archipelago and beyond, recording oral histories, personal observations and accounts of significant events, ultimately producing the first books of the literary genre now known as history. Written about 450 - 420 BC, his Histories trace the war between the ancient Greek states and the Persians, including the tale of King Croesus of Lydia. While the first four books include a wealth of myth and fable, they constitute the beginnings of Western historiography. The course will use the text *The Landmark Herodotus* by Robert Strassler (Anchor Books, 2009). We will also refer to the original Greek text in our discussions of the Greek language, translation and English etymology.

**Coffee, Cookies and Conversation**

10:40 am – 11:00 am

**The State of the Art of...**

**Leaders:** Arthur Goldstein, Collegium board member and investment advisor, and Harry Phillips III, Collegium advisory board member, regent emeritus of the University of the State of New York and former chairman of the WCC Board of Trustees

This course is a perennial favorite among the Collegium family. Each session is devoted to a single topic and includes an informative presentation as well as questions and answers. Course leaders recruit experts on topics of great interest and relevance to our contemporary world. Presenters bring us up to date on what are often complex ideas, and help us reduce them to manageable, often usable, information. With national elections looming, we will discuss foreign policy as well as politics on the local level. Our science interests will be tweaked with a discussion on artificial intelligence (AI) as well as the technology and potential of drones. Sports enthusiasts will delight in the session on ABC’s Wide World of Sports. Given the fluidity of world economies, all will want to hear the latest perspectives on finance. Bring your knowledge and questions to these can’t-miss, illuminating conversations.

**Becoming the United Kingdom, Part IV: The Struggle to Remain a World Power**

**Leader:** Richard Rose, PhD, Collegium board member and retired professor

What can a Queen do in a constitutional monarchy? Plenty! In this fourth part of our overview of the history of England, we will explore the lengthy reign and dramatically changing times of the present Queen Elizabeth, including her own substantial impact. Our focus will fall primarily on her prime ministers — mainly Harold Wilson, reputedly the Queen’s favorite; “Iron Lady” Margaret Thatcher, often referred to as her “opponent;” Tony Blair; and David Cameron. In examining the issues they grappled with and the decisions they made, we will track England’s decline through political, economic and social change. Class members
will take on roles as Labour or Conservative party members and try their hand at dealing with controversial issues of that time. Given that the era is our own, we should have plenty to say.

**How the Other Half Lives: Poverty and Development in a Global Context**

*Leader: Farhad Ameen, PhD in economics, WCC professor and a specialist in economic development*

More than forty percent of the world’s seven billion people live in extreme poverty, on incomes of $2 a day or less. Poverty is manifested in many dimensions: low income, lack of health care and education, inadequate housing, oppressive family/gender dynamics and low social status. It leads to other significant deprivations, including the loss of security and the denial of human rights and childhood freedoms. Understanding extreme poverty is no simple task; the class will consider actual case studies and draw on the research of economists and other social scientists to examine the debates in human and economic development. Together, we will seek a deeper understanding of the causes of persistent extreme poverty in developing countries and look at possible pathways out of the "poverty trap" that threatens our planet. We will use the text *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty* by Abhijit V. Banerjee & Esther Duflo (Public Affairs, 2012), available on the web at a reduced price.

**Gustav Klimt and His Circle: Vienna at the Turn of the Century**

*Leader: Natalie Schifano, EdD, Collegium member, adjunct assistant professor of art education and artist*

This course will cover the social, economic and political environment in Austria at the turn of the 20th century, a period that fostered brilliant achievements in art, architecture, graphic design and music. It will introduce the Austrian Secession, the influential artistic movement led by the symbolist painter Gustav Klimt. Other noted artists such as Egon Schiele and Oscar Kokoschka, as well as the architect and designer Josef Hoffmann, will be studied. A session devoted to the music of the great composers Arnold Schoenberg and Gustav Mahler will round out our study of this significant period in Vienna’s cultural history.

**Gilbert and Sullivan: Victorian Satire and Musical Parody**

*Leader: Michael Malina, retired attorney and lifelong Gilbert and Sullivan aficionado*

William S. Gilbert and Arthur S. Sullivan are among the music world’s most celebrated librettist-composer duos. Together the prolific pair produced fourteen comic operas during the last quarter of the 19th century. Their work, highly topical when written, has nevertheless endured for more than a century after their deaths due to their music’s inherent beauty and style. Equally important, the operas are filled with humor as well as poignant insight into the human condition. Using a combination of lectures and recorded music, we will examine their most popular works through the lens of social commentary and musical parody. To facilitate the discussion, participants should obtain a copy of the complete works of Gilbert and Sullivan. A free online version is available at www.gutenberg.org. Another option is *The Savoy Operas: The Complete Gilbert and Sullivan*, available in a Penguin Classics paperback. Any version of the librettos is acceptable.

**Pagans, Jews and Christians in the Roman World, Part III: Origins of Christianity and the Quest for the Historical Jesus**

*Leader: Lawrence Kirschner, Collegium member, public policy and finance professional, former history teacher with a passion for classical civilizations and comparative religion*

Although this course continues the themes presented in previous semesters, new students are welcome. Starting with an overview of the Greco-Roman world in the first millennium, we will focus on everyday life in Judea and Galilee during the lifetime of Jesus of Nazareth. Next we will analyze how Christians, Jews and Romans regarded one another. At a time of social, economic and political upheaval, talk of the coming of a redeeming messiah created a volatile environment in which Christianity and various Jewish sects, notably the Essenes, emerged. The apocalyptic visions in the Book of Daniel and the Book of
Revelation will support our discussion. Through an analysis of the Gospels, we will compare the crisis in the Jesus movement following his death with the crisis in Judaism after the destruction of the Temple by the Romans. We will assess the role of Paul of Tarsus as the "midwife" of Christianity's transformation from a small Jewish sect to a predominantly gentile religion. Readings will be assigned from the New Testament and the Tanach/Old Testament.

Borders, Borderlands and Human Geography
Leader: Tim Alexander, geographer, marine scientist and specialist in satellite telecommunications and imaging for NOAA, NASA and commercial GIS applications

This course is an overview of the intriguing history and evolution of geographic borders and border making. Many borders reveal themselves through physical geography: rivers, mountains and seas. Others appear as obvious artifacts of man: fences, fortifications, Hadrian's Wall. Some reflect sharp demographic differences, such as the Mexico-Guatemala border. Most borders today are constructs of surveys and mapping, the consequences of discovery, conquest, treaty and other means to claim sovereignty, ownership and separation. Using visuals from space and earth, including the History Channel video How the States Got Their Shapes, the class will examine borders ranging from quirky border oddities to politically and religiously charged border conflicts. We will also discuss the concepts of homeland and environmental security in the context of the global economy and the borderless information revolution.

The Path of the Short Story
Leader: Greta Cohan, Collegium member, WCC professor emerita of English and former Carol S. Russell Chair for English

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard tells us, "When you write, you lay out a line of words. The line of words is a miner's pick, a woodcarver's gouge, a surgeon's probe. You wield it and it digs a path you follow. Soon you find yourself deep in new territory. Is it a dead end or have you located the real subject?"

The reader follows the author’s path for the reason the author was compelled to fashion it: to discover the payload. This could be some eternal truth about ourselves or another, an emotional catharsis, the key to an enigma, the first step to a conversion, or simply a bonus bringing joy or enrichment to one’s life. By reading a selection of short stories by notable writers, the class will examine the authors' tools — language, setting, characterization, tone — and the degree to which the "path to the payoff" was achieved. Members are expected to obtain the anthology American Short Story Masterpieces, Raymond Carver and Tom Jenks, editors (Dell, Bantam Doubleday, 1987). Inexpensive editions are available on the Internet and elsewhere.

FRIDAYS
October 9, 23, 30 • November 6, 13

All classes will be held in the Knollwood Center unless otherwise noted.

The Music of Chopin: Nocturnes and Mazurkas
Leader: Paul Yeon Lee, PhD in classical music composition and ethnomusicology, educator, composer and recipient of many international honors and awards

The 19th century Polish composer Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) is celebrated as "the poet of the piano." His music, composed almost exclusively for piano, was loved and respected by his peers and remains highly popular today. When Chopin traveled, he always carried his intimate nocturnes (night music) and mazurkas (Polish dance music) with him. Continuing our examination of Chopin's musical genius and his life, we will learn why these works were very dear to him. We will explore their musical structures and the bel canto and rubato forms. The class will also hear and compare recordings of legendary pianists who were, and are, expert interpreters of Chopin's music.

World War II and Modern Civilization
Leader: Elaine Weiss, PhD, educator, tolerance facilitator, history teacher and curriculum developer

This course will explore the causes, events and results of the Second World War. We will begin in the 1930s with the road to war, study the scope and significance of the conflict, and analyze the far-ranging impact of the peace settlements. The transition from global domination
by the colonial powers to global domination by the superpowers is among the major themes we’ll consider. We will also examine technological advances that have their roots in World War II and have since changed our lives. Moral issues raised by the scale of the conflict — the rape of Nanking, the Korean comfort women, the Holocaust, the internment of Japanese Americans, the use of the atom bomb, among others — will be discussed as well in the context of war.

Financial Literacy
Leader: Robert Salomon, retired general partner — Salomon Bros., former columnist for ten years with Forbes Magazine and mutual fund director, Merrill Lynch and BlackRock

Are you among the many who struggle to understand the language of the financial world? You may know a bull from a bear, but can you identify the dogs, sheep and pigs? Goldilocks and the BRICs? This course will raise your familiarity quotient with topics as broad as the economy and banking and as specific as retirement plans and financial statements. We will also unravel the mysteries of mutual funds, hedge funds, commodities and derivatives. Real-life stories and case studies will complement these subjects, making them both interesting and more relevant to our own financial lives. Ultimately, you’ll have the opportunity to apply your new-found grasp of financial jargon by reading and using the financial tables in the C Section of The Wall Street Journal.

10:40 am – 11:00 am
Coffee, Cookies and Conversation

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Gettysburg: The Film, Myth and Reality
Leaders: David Oestreich, Collegium board chairman, avocational military historian and former naval officer, and Ed Pressman, Collegium board member, adjunct WCC instructor, and seminar leader in American history, political science and music

The battle that took place during the Civil War on three days in July, 1863, was arguably the most significant ever fought on American soil. Fifty-one thousand American casualties occurred at Gettysburg, more than in any other battle in our history. The 1993 film Gettysburg, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara, stars Michael Sheen, Jeff Daniels, Sam Elliott and Tom Berenger. The film consists of countless vignettes depicting the military strategy and the personal conflicts integral to this legendary battle. The National Park Service permitted filming on the actual battlefields, and thousands of civil war re-enactors volunteered to recreate the massive battle scenes. Each week the class will view a segment of the film and discuss the military strategy, political context and personalities of key characters. Gettysburg will be reviewed as both a work of art and a credible portrayal of history.

Inhumanities of the 20th Century: Fascism and Communism in Hungary
Leader: Robert Hajdu, PhD in history, author of Hungarian Goulash: A Historical Memoir

Life in Hungary during the 20th century was dominated by two great authoritarian systems. Fascism and Communism and their sustaining ideologies were imports from abroad, but they found fertile ground and many ready recruits in the land of the Magyars. The course will examine the deep roots of these two extremist movements in the Hungarian past, including the German influence in the country, the long-standing Jewish presence and the central role of ethnic identity in Eastern European affairs. We will discuss Hungary’s participation in World War II and, after the liberation, the postwar takeover, the Communist years of 1948-1989, the revolution of 1956 and the subsequent decades of benign one-party rule. There will be no required readings, but a suggested bibliography will be provided in advance of the class.

Short Story Repeated
Leader: Greta Cohan, Collegium member, WCC professor emerita of English and former Carol S. Russett Chair for English

This course is a repeat of Gift of the Short Story from the spring semester. Writers pose questions; they do not give us the answers. In a selection of short stories by Faulkner, Kafka, E.B. White, Dorothy Parker and others, these questions will emerge through the authors’ use of plot, setting, character, metaphor, point of view and language. Our task will be to explore these elements of prose in which anything extraneous is omitted and brevity is the rule. Let us engage in discussions that invite a
glimpse of a truth, a glimmer of understanding, a moment of illumination. Members must obtain Bantam Classic’s *50 Great Short Stories*, Milton Crane, editor, and *So Long, See You Tomorrow*, a novella by William Maxwell.

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

**Lunch: Bring your own or order a box lunch in advance.**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm (or later)

**African States: A Crash Course on Nigeria**

*Leader: George Keteku, PhD in political science, WCC instructor in African studies and adjunct professor at SUNY Purchase*

Nigeria is Africa’s most populous nation. It is home to more than three hundred languages and is the continent’s leading economic power. Thus the choice of Nigeria to start what may become a future series of courses focusing on individual African states, rather than on Africa as a single entity, is a simple one. In a broader sense, Nigeria at once represents the continent’s vast potential as well as the ills that have befallen the continent in the recent past. Using a “meta-study” approach developed by social scientists, we will examine and analyze the anthropological, socioeconomic and political history of the diverse peoples occupying the territories now known as Nigeria. Handouts will be provided in class.

1:00 pm – 3:15 pm (or later)

**In the Library Media Theater**

**Reels of Laughter: Movie Comedy Around the Globe**

*Leader: William Costanzo, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English and Film at WCC, author of six books on writing and film*

A comedy film in New York, London or Paris is more than a good laugh in a local language. This course explores comedy through the lens of cinema. What do people laugh about in different parts of the world? How is their sense of humor shaped by local history and culture? To what extent is comedy in all its forms (social satire, slapstick, black humor, romantic comedy, parody) culturally specific or universal in appeal? We start with an overview of the theory and practice of cinematic comedy. Then we will screen and discuss two British comedies from different time periods, followed by two French films, and consider the changes over time in the views presented in each. We’ll explore why these films were so popular with local audiences and the degree to which they appealed beyond national borders. The class will also discuss the global perspectives shared among viewers of comedy films.
**How to Register**

Returning Collegium members who attended in spring or fall 2014 or winter or spring 2015 may register:

- **Online:** starting Tuesday, September 1, at 9:00 am (see About Online Registration below).
- **By phone:** starting Wednesday, September 9, at 9:00 am, by calling 914-606-6748 or 6793.
- **In person:** starting Wednesday, September 9, at 9:00 am, in the Knollwood Center.

All others may register by phone or in person starting Thursday, September 17, at 9:00 am.

Membership fees are $192 for the Wednesday program and $192 for the Friday program. There are also a one-time per semester $8 FSA student service fee and a one-time per semester non-refundable $5 registration fee. Should you need to withdraw 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.

The Collegium office will mail a confirmation letter with class assignments by September 25th.

**About Online Registration**

You can register online from any computer with Internet access, e.g. home, library. It’s the fastest way to lock in your requests. Please note the following:

- Online registration is available only to returning Collegium members as specified above.
- Instructions for how to register online are available at www.sunywcc.edu/collegium.
- Course numbers needed for online registration follow each course description.
- Wednesday membership number is 83119; Friday membership number is 83120.
- Computer Labs in the Gateway Building will be open for assistance with online registration on September 1 and 2. Call 914-606-6748 to schedule an appointment.

**Please Note:** Members may register for both Wednesday and Friday. However, if either day is oversubscribed, we will notify you and ask you to choose a preferred day to attend. You will be asked to withdraw registration for your second choice and will receive a refund for the withdrawn day. Our priority is to enable all members to attend at least one day of classes at Collegium.