Dear Student of High Achievement,

I would like to tell you about a special opportunity available to you through the Humanities Center at the University of Hartford.

The Humanities Center is accepting applications for Student Fellows for next year’s honors seminar. Students with a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the 2017-2018 academic year are eligible to participate in the Humanities Center as Student Fellows.

As a Fellow, you attend a year-long honors seminar on the yearly theme. Richard Freund, Professor of History and Judaic Studies, will lead the Humanities Center Seminar for this next year. He has selected the theme of “The Secular and the Spiritual” for the seminar. In this seminar you will get to know some of the brightest and most articulate students at the University of Hartford. You will also attend lectures by both university faculty who are doing research on this theme and visiting speakers. Here is a description of the seminar:

This year-long seminar on “The Secular and the Spiritual” will explore the disconnect that has developed over recent years regarding the embrace of secularism as a value system and the continued identification with deeply-held spiritual ideas. Through an analysis of these seemingly opposed ideas, students in this seminar will study how secularism developed and how spirituality can be examined through the lens of the different disciplines of the university. The fall semester, which focuses on the “secular” aspect of the seminar, will explore the works of those individuals (such as Galileo, Freud, Darwin, Curie, Einstein, Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Daniel Dennet) who have defined the world and our values through the lens of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment, ultimately leading to a secular formation of the world through values and ideas that do not require the language and formulations of denominational religions. The spring semester, focusing on the “spiritual” aspect of the seminar, will introduce students to a variety of non-denominational spiritual activities, ideas and lecturers. Possible events will include concerts, lecturers, films, exhibitions and even study abroad opportunities (during spring break) that will bring students in contact with spiritual places, people and events from Machu Picchu, Mexico, Stonehenge, Morocco, Israel and Lithuania.

Students who are selected for this seminar are awarded a fellowship and will receive a stipend of $500 and take the seminar for a total of six credits, three in the fall term and three in the spring term.* The courses are listed as HON 389 in the fall 2017 schedule and HON 390 in the spring 2018 schedule. The class meets both semesters on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-10:00 pm, and student fellows must take both semesters.

You may also receive credit toward your major or minor with the permission of your department and college. The chair of your department can contact Richard Freund with any questions.
To apply, send an email by Friday, April 14, to Richard Freund (freund@hartford.edu) and to me (Nicholas Ealy, Humanities Center Interim Director at ealy@hartford.edu) that includes the following information:

- a brief explanation of why you want to participate in the Seminar (1 page)
- your major and minor (if you have one)
- your grade point average
- your local AND home phone number and mailing address
- your e-mail address
- your student ID number (not your social security number)

You will be notified of acceptance by Friday, April 28, with instructions for registration. Do not attempt to register for HON 389 (Fall ‘17) until you have been notified of your acceptance. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact me at ealy@hartford.edu. In the meantime, I recommend you register for four classes for fall 2017, as this would be a fifth class for you.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Ealy
Associate Professor of English and Modern Languages
Interim Director, Humanities Center

* Students who already receive a full tuition discount are not eligible for the stipend.