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## RIFKIND CENTER REPORT 2004-05

Thank you so very much for your support of The Simon H. Rifkind Center for the Humanities and the Arts at The City College of New York. I am pleased to present the Rifkind Center's **Annual Report** for academic year 2004-2005.

As you know, the Rifkind Center was established at CCNY in 1986 through a generous gift from the Winston Foundation "in recognition of a revered son of City College, class of 1922, a man of wit, learning, and humane wisdom, and dedication to the perpetual renewal of the life of the mind." The original gift was matched with Institutional Advancement Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The annual proceeds of the endowment have for many years been supplemented by generous annual contributions from the Winston Foundation and, in 2004-05, by a special \$10,000 grant from the Eccola Foundation, as well.

The Simon H. Rifkind Center serves as the curricular enrichment vehicle for the Division of Humanities and the Arts at City College. We maximize the impact of funds available by, in most cases, cost-sharing and co-sponsoring. Each year we consider written proposals and then organize an extensive calendar of special events, lectures, and colloquia to support and encourage intellectual and creative vitality on the campus. (You will no doubt notice that an especially strong group of special lectures and colloquia in 2004-05 were co-sponsored with the Department of Foreign Languages.)

Several Rifkind Center activities recur each year. Annual projects and activities which the Center sponsors or co-sponsors include "Rifkind" and "Eisner" research-support awards for faculty; teacher-training workshops in August and January for new graduate-assistant instructors; the Langston Hughes Festival each fall (now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year); the Poetry Outreach Festival each spring for NYC schoolchildren in grades K-12 (also now celebrating 30-plus years); the three award-winning CCNY literary journals *Fictions*,

*Promethean*, and *Global City Review*; the CUNY Jazz Festival; and *CitiVisions*, the annual film festival showcasing the work of students in the College's film program.

In academic year 2004-2005 we developed three especially successful new projects which, as funding permits, we hope to make annual, as well:

1. A cinematic masterpieces series. Along with a German Film Festival, a "Mini" Jewish Film Festival, and several miscellaneous screenings individual instructors requested, we inaugurated a masterpieces-of-cinema series in which several films were shown each semester to our undergraduate population unfamiliar with particular bodies of influential work. This year's series presented the work of Francois Truffaut. At series end, the films (DVDs) were donated to the CCNY library to enhance its collection.
2. A literary conversations series. Several writers each semester spoke in informal settings not only to the public but also to students in our award-winning program in creative writing. (Speakers have so far included Oscar Hijuelos, Walter Mosley, Tony Kushner, Edmund White, and Joyce Carol Oates.)
3. A graduate student awards program. Four \$500 awards were given each term to financially struggling graduate students who had demonstrated special achievement in their teaching, writing, and coursework. These small awards made a big difference.

What follow are a chronological listing of Rifkind Center events and activities for academic year 2004-2005 and, then, as appendices detailing those events, copies of the actual flyers posted around the campus to announce and promote the events. These flyers were designed, produced, and distributed by our Rifkind program assistant, Mr. Brandon Judell, a part-time faculty member in both English and Jewish Studies programs at the College who coordinates the calendar, schedules the approved activities, and maintains "The Rifkind Room" (North Academic Center 6/316), where many of our events and receptions-after are held.

I do so hope that you will be pleased with what we did last year and that you will continue to support our work. For academic year 2005-06 Brandon is

already planning a novel-into-film series and, in collaboration with the CCNY Office of Development, the Roth Literary Trust, and others, I am already working on a February 2006 centenary event celebrating the life and work of writer (and CCNY alumnus) Henry Roth.

Do know that we spend your money wisely and never take your support for granted.

Sincerely,

Fred Reynolds, Dean of the Division (as of July 1, 2005) and  
Director of the Simon H. Rifkind Center

## **2004-2005 SUMMARY**

### **2004-05 Fellowships, Stipends, Scholarships, and Awards**

Rifkind Faculty Fellowship: Clifford Rosenberg, Assistant Professor of History, in support of the final manuscript preparation for his book on immigration and citizenship in interwar Paris.

Eiser Faculty Fellowship: Laura Hinton, Associate Professor of English, in support of her continued work on a book of women's intergenre writing.

Rifkind Graduate Student Awards: Gary Marshall, Ari Zeiger, Adam Goodell, and Jesse Schwartz (fall), and Christopher Rempfer, Eric Dale, Veronica Liu, and Andru Matthews (spring).

"Shakespeare Teaches" student-intern stipend: David King.

*Fiction* managing-editor stipend: Nyshie Perkinson.

Bear River Writers' Conference scholarships: Cynthia Paulino, Gilbert Elisa, and Adriane Hill.

## **2004-05 Publications**

*Fiction* magazine is a professional journal of short stories and novel-excerpts edited by CCNY Professor Mark Jay Mirsky.

*Promethean* is CCNY's student-edited, student-produced literary journal.

*Global City Review* is a pocket-sized professional publication of stories, poems, memoirs, interviews, or essays organized around a theme edited by CCNY Creative Writing Program Director Linsey Abrams. In 2005 *GCR* published a special collection of poems by Michelle Yasmine Valladares.

## **2004-05 Events and Activities**

August: teacher-training workshops for new CCNY graduate assistants

October 7: Mocking the Creator: *Frankenstein* as Modern Myth  
(co-sponsored with CCNY's Cohen Library)

October 7: Noel Valis on *Machado's Poppies*  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

October 25: Rainer Marie Kappl on Politics in Film and the Media  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

October 27: writer Edmund White  
(co-sponsored with Department of English)

November 2: Jean Franco and Carmen Boullosa on Rosario Castellanos  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

November 4: Salvadori Education Retreat for teachers  
(co-sponsored with School of Education)

November 5: Langston Hughes Festival  
(31<sup>st</sup> annual medal to John Edgar Wideman)

November 10: Carmen Boullosa on “Scheherezada y el Juez”  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

November 20: Langston Hughes Essay Contest  
(co-sponsored with Department of English)

January: teacher-training workshops for new CCNY graduate assistants.

February: dance workshops for CCNY theatre majors.

February 3: film critic David Thomson

February 3: Truffaut’s *400 Blows*

February 10: Richard Chamberlain in 1970 version of *Hamlet*

February 10: Truffaut’s *Shoot the Piano Player*

February 17: Truffaut’s *Jules and Jim*

February 24: Bettina Lerner on Politics of the Visual  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

February 24: Truffaut’s *The Bride Wore Black*

March 3: Rebecca Pawel on Resistance to Franco’s Dictatorship  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

March 4: Truffaut’s *Stolen Kisses*

March 9: Christopher Dominguez Michael on Octavio Paz  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

March 10: Truffaut’s *Wild Child*

March 10: Rafia Zahar on Black Entrepreneurs before World War I  
(co-sponsored with IRADAC and Isaacs Program)

March 21: Francine Masiello on Joyce in Latin America

(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

March 24: Truffaut's *Love on the Run*

March 31: CCNY alumni and student biennial art exhibition opens  
(multiple co-sponsors)

April 4: Laura Restrepo on "El resplendor de todos las casas"  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

April 11: journalist Ron Rosenbaum  
(co-sponsored with Department of English)

April 13: Edith Grossman on Translating Cervantes  
(co-sponsored with Department of Languages)

April 14: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill Matthews Memorial Reading  
(co-sponsored with CCNY's Cohen Library)

April 13-14: First Annual German Film Festival  
(multiple co-sponsors)

April 19: First Annual Mini Jewish Film Festival  
(co-sponsored with Jewish Studies Program)

April 21: Silent Shakespeare

April 21: writer Joyce Carol Oates  
(co-sponsored with Department of English)

May 12-13: CUNY Jazz Festival  
(co-sponsored with Department of Music)

May: *CitiVisions* Film Festival  
(co-sponsored with MFA Film Program)

June 2-6: Bear River Writers' Conference  
(partial scholarships for three students to attend)