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## RIFKIND CENTER REPORT 2005-06

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 2005-2006.

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 2005-06, by special gifts from the Eccola Foundation, Louise Thomas, Moshe Samber, and Bill Eckstein.

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.

Several Rifkind Center activities recur each year. Annual projects and activities which the Center sponsors or co-sponsors include 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 33<sup>rd</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 2005-2006 we continued two especially successful projects from the prior year which, as funding permits, we plan to make annual, as well:

1. Our cinematic masterpieces series. Along with a Remembering the Holocaust Film Festival, a Documentary Film Mini-Festival, and several miscellaneous screenings, we continued our 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 Pedro Almodovar in the fall semester and Federico Fellini in the spring semester. The films (DVDs) were then donated to the CCNY library to enhance its collection.
2. Our writers-in-conversation series. Several writers each semester spoke in informal settings not only to the public but also to students. Speakers included Sam Hamill, Edith Mirante, Rachel Kahan, Paul Krugman, John Tocco, Suzanne Weyn, Elizabeth Alexander, Elain Equi, Kenneth Goldsmith, Mariln Hacker, Wayne Koestenbaum, Jerome Sala, Debora Spar, Lyn Hejinian, Stewart Lewis, and Christopher Durang.

In early September 2005 the Center, the Film Program, and the Political Science Department were honored to host 1972 presidential candidate George McGovern in conjunction with the release of "One Bright Shining Moment," Stephen Vittoria's award-winning documentary film about the former Senator.

In February and March 2006 the Center, IRADAC, and CCNY's Cohen Library co-sponsored a series of lectures and discussions associated with "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation," a nationally touring exhibition funded by the Huntington Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Throughout the year the Center sponsored a series of Junior Faculty Development Workshops designed to support and encourage the early work of CCNY's many new, young, untenured faculty across the disciplines.

Workshop topics included writing successful grants, placing scholarly journal articles, and negotiating successful book contracts.

And in late May, thanks to a special gift from Louise Thomas, the Center took eight graduate students from its award-winning MFA program in creative writing to Archer City, Texas, home of Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winning writer Larry McMurtry, for a weeklong workshop.

What follow, rich in their variety and straightforward in their simplicity, are copies of the actual flyers posted around the campus throughout the past academic year to announce and promote the many Rifkind Center events of 2005-2006. These flyers were designed, produced, and distributed by Rifkind program assistant, Mr. Brandon Judell, a part-time faculty member in the English, Honors College, Theatre, and Jewish Studies programs at the CCNY 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 this past year and that you will continue to support our work. Know that we spend your money wisely and never take your support for granted. Let me know what you think of the fall/spring "Rifkind Center Notes" I inaugurated this past year to remind people of all we are doing, with your help.

Sincerely,

Fred Reynolds, Dean of the Division of Humanities and The Arts  
and Director of the Simon H. Rifkind Center