



J. FRED REYNOLDS, PH.D., DEAN
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS
NAC 5/225 212-650-8095
138TH STREET AND CONVENT AVE
NEW YORK, NY 10031
freynolds@ccny.cuny.edu

June 2007

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 2006-2007.

As you know, the Rifkind Center was established at CCNY in 1986 through a 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 2006-07, by special gifts from the Eccola Foundation, Louise Thomas, John A. Crain, and David Davison.

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; the Poetry Outreach Festival each spring; the three award-winning CCNY literary journals *Fictions*, *Promethean*, and *Global City Review*; the CUNY Jazz Festival; and *CitiVisions*, the annual festival showcasing the work of students in the College's film program.

In academic year 2006-2007 we continued an especially successful project that began when I became director of the Center, our “Masterpieces of Cinema” series, in which several films are shown each semester to our undergraduate population unfamiliar with particular bodies of influential work. This year’s series presented the work of director Ang Lee in the fall and of director Billy Wilder in the spring. The films (DVDs) were then donated to the CCNY library to enhance its collection.

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.

In January of 2007, the Center was evaluated by an external humanities-centers expert contracted by the College to visit us over several days prior to writing a comprehensive report (attached). Such “external evaluations” are required every few years by CUNY, and rarely are the reports so glowing.

On April 26, 2007, CCNY celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Rifkind Center at a reception hosted by President Gregory Williams and Provost Zeev Dagan that simultaneously honored the College’s most outstanding faculty members.

And in late May, thanks to another special gift from Louise Thomas, the Center for the second time in two years took eight outstanding graduate students from CCNY’s award-winning MFA program in creative writing to Archer City, Texas, home of Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winning writer Larry McMurtry, for a writing workshop and retreat.

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 2006-2007. These flyers were designed, produced, and distributed by Rifkind program assistant, Mr. Brandon Judell, a Lecturer in the English, Honors, Theatre, and Jewish Studies programs at CCNY who coordinates the calendar, schedules the approved activities, and maintains “The Rifkind Room” (North Academic Center 6/316), where most of our events,

screenings, and receptions-after are held. (That room, by the way, was painted and equipped with new DVD-projection equipment in 2006-07.)

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.*

Sincerely,

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