

## Annual Report 2004-2005

### I. INTRODUCTION

The 2004-05 academic year was a time of rapid and exciting growth for the John B. Hurford '60 Humanities Center. Through its various nascent initiatives designed to enhance intellectual and cultural life at the college, the Center's influence on the academic program has been felt since 2000. But with our recent move in January 2005 to dedicated offices and meeting rooms in Stokes Hall, the Center has arrived in a physical sense, and is poised to foster challenging exchange among faculty and students here on campus, as well as encounters with diverse communities of innovators, artists, writers and thinkers beyond the confines of Haverford.

Thanks to the determined leadership of Professor of English Kim Benston in recent years, the Hurford Humanities Center started the year armed with a conceptual framework of related initiatives. Over the summer of 2004, Kim oversaw work for an initial web site describing the Center and its various programs, with the aim of bringing them to the attention of interested students and faculty here on campus and to the greater community. The site, launched in early fall, reflects our programs and policies as they have developed over this first operational year: [www.haverford.edu/hhc](http://www.haverford.edu/hhc).

Richard Freedman, Professor of Music, began a three-year term as Director over the summer and by late October, Emily Cronin had joined the staff as the Humanities Center Program Coordinator. The 2004-05 Center Steering Committee contributed guidance, good advice, and expertise, and gave generously of their time this year. The members of the Committee included: Israel Burshatin (Spanish); Laura McGrane (English) [Semester II]; Paul Jefferson (History) [Semester I]; Kenneth Koltun-Fromm (Religion); Maud B. McInerney (English); David Sedley (French); and John F. Mosteller (Institutional Advancement). Continued faculty involvement in an advisory role is, we feel, the best way for faculty to understand the potential this newest Center at Haverford has to benefit humanistic scholarship and the arts. Additional staff support was provided by work-study students, David Alff '05 and Robyn Schelenz '07, along with part time book keeping and secretarial support.

Reinforcing the energy and scope of the Center's program are Haverford's two Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellows. Established at Haverford by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 1998, the Mellon Fellows Program has been incorporated as part of the Hurford Humanities Center's ongoing program. Housed with the Center, the Mellon Fellows Program offers a unique way to bring recent humanities Ph.D's to campus—to work with faculty (in their first year, the Faculty Humanities Seminar), with students (with two courses each year), and with the wider community (in a public symposium mounted during each Fellow's second year). Haverford is one of a small number of liberal arts institutions to host the Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellows Program. The College has leveraged these two-year appointments to make effective use of these posts to benefit the academic program in the humanities while allowing significant time and resources for their own research. This year's "graduating" Fellow for 2003-05, Yiman Wang, organized her symposium during the spring (for more on that event, see below). Our "new" Fellow for 2004-06, Marianne Tettlebaum, came to us from Cornell University, bringing her knowledge of Mozart, Kant, and music aesthetics, as well as her understanding of the culture of eighteenth-century Vienna, North German Pietism and the work of Johann Gottfried Herder and Johann Friedrich Reichardt, and the aesthetics and philosophy of Theodor Adorno to the 2004-05 seminar.

This year we also mounted an international search for a new Fellow to join the coming year's Faculty Humanities Seminar, and are pleased to welcome Jill Stauffer as the 2005-07 Mellon Fellow, who will join the Philosophy Department. Jill's research and teaching interests include modern political and legal theory, ethics, continental philosophy, liberalism and rights, theories of justice, international human rights law and social contract theory. Her work will greatly enhance the Faculty Humanities Seminar, "Representations of Violence and Terrorism," and the curricula of the Philosophy Department and the Peace & Conflict Studies Program.

In conclusion, the Hurford Humanities Center is above all concerned with change. It will serve as a nexus for new connections and explorations, typically of a sort not possible within traditional boundaries of departmental or disciplinary divisions. It is (and will be) by design a work in progress, with initiatives aimed to meet the changing interests of faculty and students. This report contains a narrative review of our most recent projects. The narrative is organized under four broad (and overlapping) headings—SCHOLARSHIP; TEACHING; ARTS; and PUBLIC FORUMS. In distinctive ways, these projects are designed to promote a deeper relationship between classic humanistic study and contemporary intellectual, artistic, and ethical currents in the wider public world.

## II. SCHOLARSHIP: For Faculty and Students

### Academic Year Programs:

#### The Faculty Seminar

The Faculty Seminar continues to be a distinguishing feature of the Humanities Center's program and a source of faculty renewal, refreshment, and innovation. When we asked past seminar participants if and how their experience has had echoes in their teaching and/or work, we received the following observations:

*"I am now teaching a 200-level course which directly examines the intellectual and religious thought of W.E.B. Dubois and James Baldwin. The faculty seminar was pivotal in providing a broader intellectual context for thinkers like James Baldwin. It also provided me with an opportunity to engage thinkers like Baldwin in a highly sophisticated and inter-disciplinary intellectual context with my colleagues."*

*"...the privilege of these seminar experiences has vitalized my view of cross-disciplinary exchange as a mode of serious inquiry while enormously enriching my experience of Haverford as an intellectual community: sharing intense, lively, sustained study with about 25 brilliant colleagues, drawn from every Humanities department and many Social Science disciplines, has deepened my awareness of the College's extraordinary assemblage of scholar-teachers and strengthened my bond to the College's encompassing educational mission."*

*"My participation...has been seminal in my new work on material religious practices and new courses I am teaching in the religion department. Before taking the seminar on 'Culture, Value, Cultural Value'..., I had focused my research on philosophical conceptions of religious identity. But after ... I began to reflect upon the ways in which Jewish thinkers understand the material world, and how things of that world inform Jewish identity. I have become increasingly excited by this new direction in my project - a direct outgrowth from the faculty seminar."*

*"Wordsworth--whose work might easily be said to be a 'technology of memory'--, Proust, Woolf, even Joyce, can be read through the lens of memory, as 'memory texts' ...these are central to my teaching and not a year goes by without my having taught several of these, I return again and again to the precepts of the seminar. Moreover, post-9/11, our seminar gained an additional life: at several points we've discussed in class the effort to memorialize, to commemorate, and the tensions and difficulties that inhere in that act."*

*"I designed a course which was intended to make me focus on the same issues in the classroom as I would be working through in the seminar."*

*"...as with the best seminars I took as a graduate student, I came away... confident that I understood and was thoroughly up to date with ... compelling areas of contemporary thought and scholarship."*

The 2004-05 Seminar: "Music-Text-Performance," led by Israel Burshatin (Spanish) & Ulrich Schönherr (German), examined the varieties of forms, issues, and problems that emerge when music is the site of humanistic inquiry. The thematic scope of the

investigations ranged from mythological, philosophical, theological, and semiotic questions, through issues of gender, race, and politics, to theories of media, performance, and psychoanalytical implications of the acoustic/auditory sphere. An important focus was the double-character of music—both transgressive and divine—as seen in the philosophical and theological debate over the relationship between words and music. We listened to music by composers such as Monteverdi, Gluck, Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, Weill, and others, pitting those artworks against an ambitious range of literary (Ovid, Hoffmann, Kafka, Mann) and philosophical/ theoretical (Rousseau, Adorno, Nietzsche) texts. Faculty participants were Steve Finley (English), Richard Freedman (Music), Shizhe Huang (Chinese & Linguistics), Paul Jefferson (History), Raji Mohan (English), Kathleen Wright (Philosophy), and Haverford's 2004-06 Mellow Post-Doctoral Fellow, Marianne Tettlebaum (Comparative Literature & Music). Selected participant comments about the value of this seminar include the following:

*"... I was especially grateful for this range of readings ... these themes relate closely to a current project of mine on melancholy, listening, medicine, and music in the Renaissance. I have been struggling to understand the various threads in my sources as they relate to sound, embodiment, and the relation of sound, soul, and body. Now I seem to have new tools and perspectives to aid my work on autonomous forms."*

*"I found our 'prejudices,' i.e., the different assumptions that informed the way each of us approached the topic... almost as interesting as our substantive contributions... There is an obvious sense in which each of us is prejudiced by the discipline we have been trained in. The prejudices that I found interesting, however, had to do with something other than our divisional or disciplinary allegiances. Sometimes these 'prejudices' could be attributed to our experience with different national languages and literary traditions (German, English, Spanish, and American), to our exposure to and interest in different historical periods (medieval, 19<sup>th</sup> century and Romanticism, 20<sup>th</sup> century and Postmodernism), to our different nationalities of origin (German, Indian, Chinese), to our different ethnicities and genders, and to our different relation to religious belief. In any case, these kinds of 'prejudices' work to enable us to understand each other when we think about the same topic differently rather than obstruct this kind of understanding."*

*"Our multi-layered approaches in which musicological, sociological, historical, performative, gender-theoretical, philosophical, political, and racial aspects were discussed have become for me an exemplary model for future theoretical engagements with this rich and diverse genre. I also benefited very much from our discussion on music and language as distinct sign systems."*

*"Perhaps the most valuable aspect of this seminar for me was that through exposure to so much and so many types of writing on music (as well as to the comments of other participants on these types of writing), I have come to see music and writing as counterparts of one another—not opposed but co-dependent."*

The 2005-06 Faculty Seminar, "Representations of Political Violence and Terrorism," will be led by Raji Mohan (English) and will explore the genealogy and configuration of contemporary articulations of terrorism and militancy. Joining her in this exploration will be Koffi Anyinefa (French), Cristina Beltrán (Political Science), Kim Benston (English), Roberto Castillo-Sandoval (Spanish), Kaye Edwards (Director of the Center for Peace &

Global Citizenship), Zolani Ngwane (Anthropology), and Jill Stauffer (Philosophy) Haverford's 2005-07 Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow.

### Student Seminars

Last fall, the Center launched its first series of Student Seminars, a program developed to widen the space of serious exchange among students, on terms defined by students themselves. The Steering Committee, under the leadership of Assistant Professor of English Laura McGrane, deemed three proposals worthy of support:

- “What are Poets and Polynomials For?” led by Dave Alff '05 (English) and Dave Henry '05 (Mathematics), with participants, David Burkhardt '07 (Physics), Hilary Franklin '05 (English), Jessica McDonald '06 (English/Biology), Su-Lyn Poon '05 (Anthropology), Robyn Schelenz '07 (Sociology), and Brian Walker '05 (Mathematics); Faculty Advisor, Josh Sabloff (Mathematics).
- “The Bizarre and the Grotesque in Literature, Art, and Film: Honest Looks at a Mad World,” led by Lewis Bauer '06 (English), with participants, Brooks Ambrose '06 (Sociology), Liz Caris '06 (Psychology), Emma Chubb '06 (History of Art/French Studies), Greg Greenberg '05 (Anthropology), Michael Kassler-Taub '06 (Philosophy), and James Weissinger '06 (English); Faculty Advisor, Debora Sherman (English).
- “Topography of the Family: On Ideology, Science, Religion, and the Politics of Conjugal, Filial and Gendered Life,” led by Beah Burger '06 (Anthropology) and Ross Lerner '06 (English/Comparative Literature), with participants, Benjamin Cooper '05 (Religion), Marguerite Grady '05 (Political Science), Sarah Lorr '05 (History); Brooke Phan '06 (Anthropology), Craig Tutterow '07 (Sociology), and Brendan Wattenberg '06 (English); Faculty Advisor, Stephen Finley (English).

The Student Seminars exceeded expectations both in the amount of student interest and in the quality of the inquiry and experience. All the students mentioned above are the Center's first class of **Hurford Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellows**. Some of their comments include the following:

*“I appreciate ... that we were able to avoid incessant, very partisan story v. mathematical model battles, and instead were debating statements such as ‘Archimedes will be remembered when Aeschylus is forgotten, because languages die and mathematical ideas do not.’ ”*

*“...oftentimes, we'd realize that we were all saying the same thing, just in the different terminologies of our varied disciplines; thus, Art History, Sociology, Anthropology, English, and Psychology all intersected throughout our conversations.”*

*“It is dear to have eight students ... come together – without any promise of credit; without the authority of professorial guidance; without the ‘vindication’ of evaluation – to meditate on such vital and important, if broad and endlessly varied,*

*issues as the family and marriage...to come into fellowship with my peers, however evanescently, in order to take up a problem we all thought worth serious consideration in addition and next to our course work, motivated sincerely by the desire to understand."*

For fall 2005, the Hurford Humanities Center's Student Seminar will be "I Love My Culture, But Where is My Feminism?: Women of Color Responses to the Second Wave," led by Allison Jones '07 (Sociology Major/Education Minor) and Deepa Vasudevan '07 (English Major/Anthropology Minor). Faculty Advisor, Raji Mohan (English). The Seminar will explore the rise of identity politics focusing on the contributions of women of color. Joining Allison and Deepa in this exploration will be Derek Etnesoehn '06 (English; Minor: German), Steve Hagenbuch '07 (History; Minor: Spanish), Laura Kasakoff '06 (Mathematics/Computer Science), Marien Levy '08 (possible Major: Political Science), Katie Schnur '07 (English/Feminist & Gender Studies), and Katrina Schwartz '08 (possible Majors: Anthropology or English).

### **Reading Groups**

The Center sponsors small groups of faculty or students who study texts of mutual interest. **Current Group:** *Finnegan's Wake*, faculty and students, led by Emeritus Professor of French Marcel Gutwirth. **Group Approved for 2005-06:** Literary House, students who have opted for on-campus housing together because of their interest in literature. Faculty advisor: Kim Benston (English).

### **Working Groups**

The Center provides funding for groups focusing on a common research interest. Groups are supervised by a Haverford faculty member and ideally involve at least four others. **Current Groups:** *American Studies*, led by Gustavus Stadler (English) in 2004-05 and Tina Zwarg (English) for 2005-06, and *Asian Studies*, Paul Smith (History).

### **Research Stipends**

To foster vigorous and independent humanistic scholarship by Haverford students, the Humanities Center supports research stipends for travel to professional conferences and meetings, cultural events, libraries, collections, or museums to support a research or creative project. Three grants were awarded in 2004-05 to:

- Dave Alff '05 to attend the MLA Conference in Philadelphia;
- Sarah Lowry '05 to study Brazilian dance in, in Brazil, preparation for writing her senior thesis, "Bringing Spirituality into Modern Performance Dance: An Examination of The Silvestre Technique as a Space for Global Syncretism";
- Elana Resnick '05 to present her senior Anthropology thesis at the Annual English Literature and Humanities Conference at Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus (although invited and approved, the conference conflicted with Haverford graduation – she did not go).

## **Summer Programs:**

### **Summer Humanities Residency 2005 in Ascona, Switzerland**

Thanks to a new partnership between the Humanities Center and the Cross Cultural Centre Ascona in Switzerland, two faculty members and two rising seniors enjoyed a 10-week international experience for summer 2005 – a unique opportunity to pursue research, writing, or other creative outlets in a quiet location that offers beautiful natural surroundings and easy access to major European cities. The Cross Cultural Centre Ascona is a private philanthropic organization with a prominent Haverford connection. This summer was the second year Haverford was awarded these residencies, but it was the Humanities Center's first in administering the program. The Ascona Scholars were:

- **Hee Sook Kim, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts**, to collect domestically grown wild plants from the mountains and forests for research and use in her print-making. She will use the materials to produce 60-70 prints on panel, paper, and canvas;
- **Angela McCole '06** to write children's fiction - a collection of short stories about the triumphs and turmoil endured by adolescent middle schoolers;
- **Stephanie Rudolph '06** to work on creative writing projects and, as an aspiring environmental attorney, to find the inspiration in the Swiss landscape to write innovative social commentary;
- **Gustavus Stadler, Associate Professor of English**, to edit a book-length manuscript about the nature of American genius and to construct the foundation of another book that will examine the cultural legacy of anti-slavery politics in North America from Emancipation to the present.

### **Summer Humanities Internships**

The Haverford Humanities Center launched its Humanities Summer Internship Program in 2005 by offering rising Seniors apprenticeships at such Philadelphia area host institutions as arts organizations, historical or scholarly societies, publishers, and community groups or businesses with interests in humanities related activity. This unique program provides opportunities for students to consider how their interests relate to the world beyond Haverford and then to bring that experience to their final year at the College. The program supports ten weeks of full time work in the summer. The Center sought out proposals from local organizations, and selected a half-dozen exciting submissions that were designed to do important work for the hosts while at the same time providing stimulating environments for our students. Nineteen rising seniors applied for the six internships. In the fall, students and hosts will return to Haverford's campus to share their experiences. This is a new annual program for the Center and we look forward to receiving proposals from new hosts—in the Philadelphia area and beyond.

Our host organizations and Humanities Interns for Summer 2005 included:

- **Arden Theatre Co. – Meredith Foote '06**  
Working on several different projects with the Artistic, Development, Marketing, and General Management Departments thereby gaining broad experience with the inner-workings of a non-profit theatre company;
- **Johnson House Historic Site – Lewis Bauer '06**  
Johnson House, a National Historical Landmark site significant for its association with the Underground Railroad, offered training in museum collections, museum education and tours, research, cataloguing, and exhibit preparation;
- **The Library Company of Philadelphia – Emily Kline '06**  
Research and historical writing for a website of portraits on American women writers, "Picturing Women," based on a recent exhibit;
- **The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe – James Weissinger '06**  
Working with the Programming and the Marketing & Promotions Departments in preparation for this annual event that present artists who are experimenting in and creating new, cutting-edge work;
- **The Philadelphia Museum of Art – Emma Chubb '06**  
A place was held for a Haverford student for the Museum Studies Internship Program, a highly competitive and nationally recognized program designed to provide exposure to the inner workings of a major metropolitan museum that is not possible in most academic settings. Emma was placed in the European Painting Department;
- **The Philadelphia Orchestra – Sarah Hallenbeck '06**  
Working on artist history databases, artist servicing, concert production, in the Artistic Planning Department.

### **Summer Humanities Student Research Assistantships (SRAs)**

The Hurford Humanities Center's SRA Program employs students as research assistants for faculty for up to ten weeks in the summer with the Center providing a weekly stipend. Thirty-two students applied for the equivalent of four fulltime positions (35 hours per week times ten weeks) funded by the Center. The hours available and the applicant pool was used to place a total of ten students in SRA positions at Haverford. The departments/faculty and Student Research Assistants for Summer 2005 included:

- **English Department (Kim Benston) – Shamie Sahandy '05**  
Archival research for *Anthology of African-American Poetry* (Norton);

- **English Department (Steve Finley) – Lindsey Dolich '06 and Ross Lerner '06**  
Assistance with the preparation of a book manuscript for submission, *Self Topography: Studies in the Landscape of Autobiography*;
- **Faculty Seminar 2005-06 (Raji Mohan) – Isha Dalal '07**  
Preparation for next year's Faculty Seminar;
- **Humanities Center (Emily Cronin) – Robyn Schelenz '07**  
General office assistance, web design and editing, alumni profiles;
- **Library Research (Margaret Schaus) – Veronica Faust '06**  
Editorial assistance for *Women & Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia*;
- **Mellon Symposium 2006 (Marianne Tettlebaum) – Megan Gage '07**  
Preparation for next year's Mellon Symposium;
- **Religion Department (Naomi Koltun-Fromm) – Colin Yarbrough '07**  
Research assistance for a writing project including the creation and annotation of bibliographic material;
- **Religion Department (John Lardas) – Michael Kassler Taub '06**  
Assistance with visual files for book manuscript and course syllabi, researching 19<sup>th</sup> century theology, natural science, and meteorology, and modern technologies of surveillance;
- **Religion Department (Michael Sells) – Tariq Khondker '06**  
Editorial assistance on second draft of forthcoming book, *Jihad and Crusade*, and first draft of book on love poetry of the Islamic world;
- **Religion Department – Jeanne Dreskin '07**  
Assisting the Religion faculty with their projects.

The Humanities Center and the Library co-hosted an orientation for the 2005 SRAs to give students an opportunity to meet their counter-parts working over the summer, hear about Library resources, and meet Library, Academic Computing, and Humanities Center staff. A session to talk about the various research projects was held at the end of July.

### III. TEACHING

#### Course Innovation, Renovation, & Enhancement

The Hurford Humanities Center offers funding to help fashion a new course or renovate an existing course in ways that augment its intellectual scope and appeal to students broadly interested in humanistic inquiry. In 2004-05, three projects were approved and work on them has begun. These include:

- Alexander Kitroeff (History), for the History Major Seminar, the identification and preliminary assessment of materials relating to immigration history held by the Historical Society of Philadelphia;
- Kenneth Koltun-Fromm (Religion), for the development of a new course, “Material Religion in America”, and;
- William Williams (Fine Arts), building a digital library of photographs from Haverford’s collection for a new course, “History of Photography”.

In addition to contributing to the annual Faculty Seminar, The Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellows augment the academic life of Haverford by offering courses that enhance or expand the curriculum. In 2004-05, our **Mellon Fellows’ Course Offerings** were: with Yiman Wang, “Cinema Nostalgia” (Fall) and “Romancing/Passing: Race, Gender and Nation in Cinema” (Spring) were both cross-listed in East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature; Marianne Tettlebaum, “Music and the ‘Origin of Language’ in the Eighteenth Century” (Fall), cross-listed in Music and Comparative Literature and “Art and Aesthetic Theory: The Model of Theodor Adorno” (Spring) cross-listed in Music, Philosophy, German, and Comparative Literature.

### IV. ARTS

#### Performances:

Given the fact that Emily Cronin did not start working as our new Program Coordinator until late October, it had not been possible to do the advance planning necessary for sponsoring a significant performance series. Nonetheless, the Humanities Center was able to sponsor two performances this past year. There were:

- ***Flying Words Project***, November 13, 7:30 p.m  
A collaborative performance using mime, body and sign language, and voice, featuring Peter Cook, a poet and storyteller who is deaf and signs, and Kenny Lerner, a professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, who is Peter Cook’s hearing voice. The performance was in conjunction with a Tri-Co conference, “Signs and Voices: Language, Arts, and Identity from Deaf to Hearing,” Faculty Sponsor: Kristin Lindgren, Visiting Lecturer in the Writing Program

- ***Four Horizons Quartet***, March 20, 4:00 p.m.  
An afternoon of chamber music featuring Olivier Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time," Ingrid Arauco's "Fantasy-Quartet," and Erwin Schulhoff's "Duo for Violin and Cello, Marshall Auditorium, performed by Charles Abramovic (piano), Allison Herz (clarinet), Karen Bentley Pollock (violin), and Michal Schmidt (cello). The program featured a pre-concert talk by Jerry Levinson, who is Professor of Music at Swarthmore College and a leading American pupil of Messiaen's, about "Quartet for the End of Time." The piece was composed during the winter of 1940-41, when the composer was a prisoner of war at Gorkitz in Poland. The work was written for performance by the composer and three fellow musician inmates and its premier took place in the camp. Faculty Sponsor: Richard Freedman, Professor of Music

### **Printmaker in Residence Series:**

The Printmaker in Residence Series was created to bring a group of accomplished printmaking artists to Haverford's campus to broaden the artistic program of the Fine Arts Department and give Haverford students and faculty opportunities to learn about the full scope of contemporary printmaking. Faculty Sponsorship was provided by Hee Sook Kim, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts. The series included the following artists:

- October 4-9, *Kelly Reemtsen*, California based print maker  
October 5, 4:30 p.m., Artist Talk, Chase Auditorium: "Lifestyle in the 50s, 60s and 70s"
- November 16-21, *Gloria Escobar*, Columbia-born print maker  
November 17, 1:30 p.m., Book Binding Demonstration, Arnecliffe Studio and at 4:30 p.m., Artist Talk, Chase Auditorium: "From the Parts to the Whole"
- February 21-26, *Jackie Battenfield*, artist, curator, arts administrator, teacher  
February 22, 4:30 p.m., Artist Talk, Sharpless Auditorium: "Day Burn," about the artist's prints and paintings, and their interactive relationships
- March 28-April 2, *Lisa Makie*, New York based printmaker and painter  
March 30, 1:15 p.m., Xerox Printmaking Demonstration, Arnecliffe Studio  
March 29, 4:30 p.m., Artist Talk, Chase Auditorium: "From Book to Installation"

### **V. PUBLIC FORUMS**

This past academic year, a variety of public forum events were sponsored by the Center. These included a film series and a range of speakers who participated in seminars, a lecture series and the Mellon Symposium.

## **Film Series:**

The Center's Film Series for 2004-2005 was designed to provide a series of provocative films selected by faculty to represent serious and important work in World Cinema. Titled *The Wild World of Cinema*, screenings took place on Thursdays at 8 p.m., Chase 105. Faculty sponsorship and coordination of the series was provided by David Sedley, Associate Professor of French. Each film was introduced by a member of the faculty:

- January 27: "Fist of Fury," introduced by Paul Smith (History)  
About the film: Directed by Wei Hoi, Hong Kong, 1972.  
A kung fu classic with revenge, mystery, melodrama, and martial arts
- February 10: "The Seedling," introduced by Rajeswari Mohan (English)  
About the film: Directed by Shyam, Benegal, India, 1973.  
A landmark film about illicit love in the caste system featuring Shabama Azmi, who "burst onto the Indian film scene with her smoldering performance"
- February 24: "Alexander Nevsky," introduced by Linda Gerstein (History)  
About the film: Directed by Sergei Eisenstein, Soviet Union, 1938.  
A masterpiece of Stalinist propaganda, with a score by Sergei Prokofiev, with battle-scene violence that has inspired generations of film artists from Laurence Olivier to Steven Spielberg
- March 24: "The Spook Who Sat by the Door," introduced by Jerry Miller (Philosophy)  
About the film: Directed by Ivan Dixon, USA, 1973.  
An explosive cult classic about a new American Revolution triggered by a "token black" CIA operative in order to establish a separatist black nation
- April 7: "Amacord," introduced by Bruce Partridge (Physics)  
About the film: Directed by Federico Fellini, Italy, 1974 A surrealist satire of the 1903s Italy of Fellini's youth. A carnival of fascist politics, mental illness, bodily function, and a diminutive nun
- April 21: "The American Astronaut," introduced by John Lardas (Religion)  
About the film: Directed by Cory McAbee, USA, 2001; A spaghetti western musical set in outer space that is considered the sequel to Fritz Lang's classic film "Metropolis"

## **2004-05 Seminar Speakers:**

Two seminar speakers sponsored by the Humanities Center made presentations as part of two of this past year's Student Seminars. These included:

November 11, 4:30 p.m.

*The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr.*, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of

Pennsylvania: “Theological Considerations of the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions,” for “Topography of the Family: On Ideology, Science, Religion, and the Politics of Conjugal, Filial and Gendered Life”

March 21, 4:30 p.m.

*John Hollander*, Sterling Professor of English (Emeritus) at Yale University, for “What are Poets and Polynomials For?”

### **Humanities Young Alumni Lecture Series 2004-05:**

The Humanities Center lends its support to an initiative established by College Librarian Robert Kieft that brings to campus young alums who have chosen an academic career. Based on recommendations from faculty, the series brings three or four humanities speakers to campus per year. To qualify, the alum should be in the late stage of writing their dissertation, in a postdoctoral position, or in their first three years of an academic appointment. The visit includes a lecture based on a current research project, a lunch opportunity with students from relevant departments, and a dinner with faculty. The speakers in the Series for this past year included:

- Amanda E. Wilkins '95 (Comparative Literature, Princeton), “Surviving 1918: The Ghost of War and Mrs. Dalloway,” October 27<sup>th</sup>;
- Jason Stevens '97 (English, Columbia), “The Bible and the Gun,” November 15<sup>th</sup>;
- Jeremy Wallach, '92 (Ethnomusicology, Bowling Green State), “Vampires and Mosh Pits in the Global Village: Producing an Indonesian Rock Music Video,” February 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **2005 Mellon Fellow Symposium:**

This past year’s Mellon Fellow Symposium took place on May 1<sup>st</sup> and was titled “*Romancing Passing – Race, Gender and Nation in Cinema*”. Organized by Yiman Wang (Mellon Fellow 2003-2005), the Symposium addressed the political and cultural implications of racial, gender, and border passing processes that are depicted in romantic scenarios in cinema. This program was free and open to the public. The topics covered included “Dystopia & Utopia of the Passing Body”; “Coding Hollywood Asians”; and “Guess Who's Coming to the Wedding Banquet? World Cinema and the Politics of Globalization.” A roundtable session was led by Jane Gaines, Professor of Literature and English, Duke University and involved all the guest presenters who included:

- Kent Ono, Professor of Asian American studies, Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Director of Asian American Studies at UIUC;
- Brian Taves, of the Motion Picture/Broadcasting/Recorded Sound Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.;

- Michelle Liu, Lecturer, English Department, University of Washington;
- Yomi Braester, Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Literature and Cinema Studies Program, University of Washington;
- Chris Berry, Professor of Film Studies, Goldsmiths College, University of London, and Founding Member of the Asian Cinema Studies Society.

## **VI. CONCLUSIONS—and Looking Ahead**

At the end of the academic year, Richard Freedman and Emily Cronin had the opportunity to attend The Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes – CHCI’s 2005 Annual Meeting, June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>: “Open to the Public?,” Research Institute for Culture and History at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands. Humanities Centers are a growing trend on campuses. They are being established at colleges and universities all over the country yet very few are as integrally linked to the academic program as is the Center at Haverford. Certainly none offers students as much involvement or opportunity for exciting work. We came away from the experience realizing that the Haverford Humanities Center is not only distinctive, it is also something we can all be proud of. The contacts made should provide inspiration in the months to come and we plan to organize a meeting in 2005-06 with peer Centers from small liberal arts colleges in our region (Williams, Smith, etc.) to compare programs and share resources. We anticipate a gathering in New York with such colleagues might be practical and productive.

Looking ahead, the Center will continue to expand its programs in 2005-06. Over the summer, the Center is being fitted with wall panels and gallery-style lighting in order to add exhibits of art and photography to its public offerings: we have three scheduled for next year, a photo journalism exhibit about the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960’s in February; a multi-media photographer-in-residence project in March; and a traveling exhibit, “Material Religion in America,” in April in conjunction with Kenneth Koltun-Fromm’s new course and symposium which also were funded by the Center. The Center has committed to fund the Haverford Journal, a student initiated project that annually publishes the finest research papers submitted by students as well as work from Haverford faculty and alumni. We plan to offer annual Faculty Humanities Development Grants to fund conferences or meetings that are not eligible for funding through other Haverford channels, with particular focus on developing new interests or experience outside a faculty member’s defined field of study. We also are working on building public forums, speakers and arts event, featuring prominent scholars and artists of interest to our broadening humanistic community. To help us manage and support the growing array of initiatives and presentations, the Center will be hiring a part-time administrative assistant in the fall to handle routine office work such as filing, correspondence, and bookkeeping.