

# THE NEW SCHOOL

## From the Dean



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Linda Dunne

**SINCE ITS BEGINNINGS,** The New School has been an incubator for new ideas—a place where innovation and experimentation are encouraged and nurtured. A glance through this edition of the

newsletter demonstrates that this spirit is alive and well and that our students, faculty, and alumni are as active and dynamic as ever.

During the current year, The New School can be found in countries around the globe, working to improve conditions for thousands of people. Mumbai, India; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hong Kong; South Africa; and Rwanda are just some of the places where students, alumni, and faculty are at work. Based closer to home but with a reach just as far, members of the New School community are publishing books, screening films, and broadcasting videos that affect our collective view of the world.

Here at The New School, we are developing new programs and curricula that will continue to educate our students in ways that will enable them to make unique contributions to society, here and abroad. One such program that we are very excited about is a new graduate certificate in documentary media studies that will admit its first students in fall 2006. Documentary is

## Students Return from Summer International Field Program

**LAST SUMMER,** more than 50 New School graduate students conducted research and intensive fieldwork in six countries as part of the International Affairs program's summer practicum. The International Field Program gives students the opportunity to engage in hands-on work in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and major international bodies such as the United Nations.

“Our aim is to provide students with opportunities to develop and implement innovative solutions to today's most pressing global problems, applying what they have learned in the classroom and from their prior professional experiences,” said Michael Cohen, director of the International Affairs program. “The program also provides critical support to partner organizations, many that are in need of skilled practitioners to implement and evaluate projects.”

Students have collaborated on initiatives tackling a broad range of issues including HIV/AIDS prevention, human rights, environmental sustainability, disaster relief, and local governance. Program sites in 2005 included Buenos Aires, Argentina; Douala, Cameroon; Mumbai, India;

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## MFA Program Hosts 56th Annual National Book Award Finalist Readings

ON THE EVE of the annual National Book Awards ceremony, the New School Writing Program and the National Book Foundation hosted a reading in Tishman Auditorium with the 2005 finalists—some of America’s preeminent authors as well as emerging writers nominated for the first time. Readers included John Ashbery, Frank Bidart, Jeanne Birdsall, E.L. Doctorow, Mary Gaitskill, and William T. Vollmann.

“As a part of our literary mission, the Writing Program presents some 40 to 50 readings each semester in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and writing for children. But this is the fall program that inspires the grandest anticipation,” said Robert Polito, director of the Writing Program, to open the evening. “The sounds of someone choosing the words he or she lives by is vital to what we will be hearing tonight,” he added invoking the words of the poet James Merrill.

Since their founding in 1950, the National Book Awards have become the nation’s preeminent literary prizes. The awards serve to enhance public recognition of the work of American authors and increase the popularity of reading. Since 1999, The New School has hosted the finalist readings. The event is an opportunity for students and the public to hear authors read from their work, arguably some of the most exciting and talked-about books of the last year.

“When applicants ask about the graduate program, I usually ask them to think about two aspects. The first is our faculty, who are among the finest and most varied group of faculty writers in the country. The second is our reading series,” said Mr. Polito in an interview earlier this year with *The Brooklyn Rail*. “The readings allow us to bring many more voices into the program ... [making us a] community resource for writers and readers across the city.”

A webcast of the National Book Award Finalist Readings is available at [www.online.newschool.edu](http://www.online.newschool.edu).



Courtesy: National Book Foundation

William Vollmann, recipient of 2005 award for Fiction, reading.



International Affairs student Kathryn Miele in India.

### International Field Program continued from page 1

Johannesburg, South Africa; Geneva, Switzerland; and Hong Kong.

“My coursework during the academic year focused on urban issues. The International Field Program allowed me to experience firsthand what I read about and discussed in my classes,” Amelia Stodghill said of her project in Mumbai, which coincided with the monsoon rains that devastated parts of the city during the summer. “Being in Mumbai during the flooding was like jumping into the pages of a case study. I saw how widespread the effects of the crisis were, as well as the response—not only by the government, but also by the people of the city.”

The International Field Program has also helped participating students establish networks that last well beyond the eight weeks of the fieldwork.

“I met two of the people who interviewed me for my current job at the U.N. during the field program,” said Travis Adkins, reflecting on his experience in Kenya last year and his work with the Civil Society Organizations division of the U.N. Development Program. “At the time, I was working with GROOTS Kenya, a network of grassroots organizations that provides technical assistance and support to local communities addressing HIV/AIDS and reproductive health issues. My current colleagues were part of a U.N. delegation visiting the program.”

The International Affairs program is preparing for the 2006 summer practicum, which will include sites in the Dominican Republic, Senegal, and Colombia.

### International Affairs Receives Important Grants

The International Affairs program has been awarded notable grants during the last year. A grant from the Institute for Cultural Enterprise will fund the development of a program to support cultural enterprises in five cities around the world. Other grants included support from the Ford Foundation to conduct a conference on Ethics and Debt and funding from UNICEF to hold a conference in April 2005 on “The Impact of Globalization on Children.” These projects build on the program’s established reputation for cutting-edge research and debate.

# New Documentary Studies Certificate Program to Launch in Fall 2006

**FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES** have been a fixture at the university since 1926, when The New School offered the first film course taught in any U.S. institution of higher learning. Since then, the university has offered a curriculum rich in film history, theory, criticism, and production.

The Media Studies program is building on this legacy to launch a graduate-level certificate in Documentary Media Studies. The first class of 20 students will be admitted for the 2006-07 academic year. Students in the one-year, full-time program will complete coursework in documentary film history, theory, and video production. The program will culminate in students producing, directing, and editing their own 30-minute documentary video project.

“The documentary studies program brings into sharp focus our considerable strengths in documentary film studies and production within the incomparable media laboratory of New York City,” said Carol Wilder, chair of the Department of Media Studies and Film. “This is an exciting moment we will all remember.”

New York City is arguably the world’s documentary capital. As a result, experiences in the classroom and in the field will be enhanced by opportunities for students to engage in conversation with working documentary filmmakers through a DocTalks speaker series. The Media Studies Program has a track record of drawing notable filmmakers and media artists into the university’s orbit, and recent visitors have included D.A. Pennebaker, Chris Hegedus, John Waters, and Laurie Anderson.

As one of the few graduate-level programs focused on this genre, the Certificate in Documentary Media Studies has generated a great deal of excitement within the university community and among practitioners in the field.

“New strategies for personal storytelling. New ways of understanding social responsibility and the power of your own point of view. New approaches to teaching documentary. That’s why they call it The New School” said Alan Berliner, a New School faculty member and award-winning filmmaker and media artist.

For more information about the graduate certificate in Documentary Media Studies, please visit [www.mediastudies.newschool.edu/doc](http://www.mediastudies.newschool.edu/doc).



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perhaps the signature art form of our times. On the one hand, it is a powerful tool for social advocacy and engaged citizenship; on the other, it is a genre that can be used to misrepresent and even distort our perception of what is real. In the tradition of The New School, this innovative program integrates documentary history, theory, and criticism with documentary craft, training students to research, produce, and distribute in both traditional and experimental documentary forms. Students will emerge with the technical and artistic skills needed to make documentaries and the critical and theoretical knowledge to make them intelligently and responsibly.

Other exciting new programs are in the early stages of development; many are being planned in collaboration with other divisions of The New School. Even as the university changes and grows, its founding division promises to remain a place where innovation and experimentation thrive.

With best regards,

Linda Dunne  
Dean

# George C. Biddle Joins the Board of Governors



Matthew Cavanaugh, courtesy IRC

George C. Biddle

AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING of the New School for General Studies Board of Governors, George C. Biddle became the newest member of the school's volunteer community. Mr. Biddle is a senior vice president of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a leading humanitarian organization providing relief, protection, rehabilitation, resettlement services, and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by violent conflict and oppression. He works closely with the IRC's president in managing all aspects of the agency's operations, which spans programs in 25 countries and 22 cities across the United States.

Prior to working at the IRC, Mr. Biddle served as vice president at the International Crisis Group, as well as president and founder of the Washington-based Institute for Central American Studies, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting post-Cold War Central America in its transition from violent conflict to peace and democracy. He serves on the board of several organizations dedicated to strengthening the capacity of the international relations community, including the Coalition for International Justice and the Virtue Foundation. Mr. Biddle received his AB cum laude in government from Harvard University and an MA with distinction in American foreign policy and international economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

The New School is delighted to welcome George Biddle to the New School for General Studies Board of Governors. His expertise and counsel will help advance the university's growing leadership on global issues as embodied by initiatives such as the International Affairs graduate program and the India China Institute.

## THE NEW SCHOOL FOR GENERAL STUDIES BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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## NEW APPOINTMENTS

The New School for General Studies is pleased to announce the following faculty appointments from the past year.

**JAHO KANG** was named assistant professor of Media Studies and Sociology with a joint appointment at The New School for Social Research. He received his PhD from Stanford University. Before coming to The New School, he was an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Frankfurt. His research and teaching interests include social theory of the media and mass culture and critical theory of art and technology. Professor Kang recently completed the manuscript of a book titled *Media Critique: Walter Benjamin and the Spectacle of Modernity*.



**JÜRGEN FREIHERR VON MAHS** is a new core faculty member in the Bachelor's Program. He received his PhD in sociology and social policy from the University of Southampton (UK). Before coming to The New School, Professor

von Mahs taught at Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He is helping implement the Bachelor's Program Urban Studies Initiative funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



**VYJAYANTHI RAO** was named a core faculty member in the International Affairs program with a joint appointment as assistant professor of Anthropology at The New School for Social Research. She was previously research director

of the Center for Cities and Globalization and a postdoctoral associate of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies. Professor Rao earned her BA at Brandeis University in 1989 and received her PhD in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Chicago in 2002. She is working as co-principal investigator with New School Provost Arjun Appadurai on a three-year Ford Foundation grant project on Cities, Citizenship, and Globalization: An Experiment in Global Capacity Building.

**SANJAY RUPARELIA** holds a joint appointment as a member of the core faculty in the Bachelor's Program and an assistant professor of Political Science at The New School for Social Research. He received his BA from McGill University and MPhil from Cambridge University, where he is a doctoral candidate. He was previously assistant director of the Southern Asia Institute and a lecturer at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

## OTHER FACULTY NEWS

**STEPHEN COLLIER**, core faculty member in the International Affairs program, has received two grants in support of a project on the Global Biopolitics of Security. Over the next two years, the grants—from the National Science Foundation and the Defense Sciences Office—will support research and writing centered at The New School and at Berkeley's Laboratory for the Anthropology of the Contemporary.

**JULIA FOULKES**, core faculty member in the Bachelor's Program, has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at Potsdam University near Berlin during the 2005–06 academic year. Julia will work on her project on the intertwining of the arts and urbanization in the post-World War II era and conduct research on the opera houses of East and West Berlin during the Cold War. Before heading to Germany, Julia spent three months as a summer "Scholar-in-Residence" at the Rockefeller Archive Center. Her summer project included work on archival material relating to the development of Lincoln Center in the 1950s and 1960s.

**TERRI GORDON**, core faculty member in the Bachelor's Program, has joined the advisory board of the newly created Foucault Society and is co-organizing The Body: Ethos and Ethics, a three-day international conference on the human body and gender to be held at The New School in fall 2006.

**ASHOK GURUNG**, core faculty member in the International Affairs program, has been named program director of the university's India China Institute (ICI). As program director of ICI, Ashok will design and organize an annual summer institute, oversee publications, develop collaborative events in China and India, and identify scholars, cultural practitioners, and business leaders to serve as ICI advisors and participants.

**ANNIE HOWELL**, assistant chair of the Department of Media Studies and Film, has been selected as a 2005 Fellow at the Nantucket Screenwriters Colony, and her documentary *Grace and the New Rules* will air on the Independent Film Channel in 2006.

**NOAH ISENBERG**, chair of the Department of Humanities, had a cover story in the summer 2005 issue of *Bookforum*. The article was entitled "Dresden Mon Amour: Realism or Revisionism? Germans Revisit the War." The article is currently available on line at [www.bookforum.com/isenberg.html](http://www.bookforum.com/isenberg.html).

**DAVID LEHMAN**, poetry coordinator in the Writing Program, published *When a Woman Loves a Man* (Scribner), a new collection of poems that capture the romance, irony, and pathos of love.

**BILL LICHTENSTEIN**, a faculty member in the Media Studies Program, was named a 2005 Guggenheim Fellow for his forthcoming documentary film *Juveniles in Crisis*; the work is scheduled to air on PBS in 2007.

**VLAD NIKOLIC**, a core faculty member in the Bachelor's Program and Media Studies Program, recently screened his film, *Love*, at the Venice, Oldenburg, and Flanders Film Festivals. The film was screened earlier this year at the Tribeca Film Festival, and Vlad was featured in the September 2005 *American Cinematographer*.

**FRANCINE PROSE**, faculty member in the Writing Program, chronicles the life of Italian baroque painter Caravaggio in her latest work, *Caravaggio: Painter of Miracles* (Eminent Lives). Earlier this year she published the novel *A Changed Man* (HarperCollins).

**LARS WALDORF**, a visiting core faculty member in the Bachelor's Program, received a grant from the United States Institute of Peace to write a book on community justice in post-genocide Rwanda.

**GINA LURIA WALKER**, chair of the Department of Social Sciences, has a chapter on Mary Hays in *Women, Gender and Enlightenment*, edited by Barbara Taylor and Sarah Knott (Palgrave Macmillan). Gina is also the editor of *The Idea of Being Free: A Mary Hays Reader* (Broadview Press) and *Mary Hays: The Growth of a Woman's Mind* (Ashgate), an intellectual history forthcoming in 2006.

**CAROL WILDER**, associate dean and Media Studies chair, was featured at the First International Dog Film Festival in November. Her film, *Puttin' on the Dog*, told the story of an orphan pug who found fame living at New York's National Arts Club.

# Students Inducted into National Honor Society

THE NEW SCHOOL HAS ESTABLISHED a chapter of the honor society Alpha Sigma Lambda, a national organization founded to recognize adult students' academic achievements and to encourage the recruitment and retention of non-traditional students. Last spring, in a ceremony held on campus, 21 students from the Bachelor's Program were inducted into the honor society.

Students in the Bachelor's Program make extraordinary efforts to balance their responsibilities in the classroom with the demands of their personal and professional lives. Their work, combined with the university's pioneering legacy in adult learning, inspired Celesti Colds Fechter, assistant dean for academic affairs, to found the Theta Nu Sigma chapter at The New School. The inductees, selected from the top 10 percent of non-traditional undergraduate students, had maintained a minimum grade point average of 3.7. Inductees are eligible for scholarship opportunities through the Alpha Sigma Lambda Education Foundation.

"The pride on the faces of our students left a deep impression," said Colds Fechter, reflecting on the induction ceremony. "They and their families were positively basking in the glow of an evening devoted to the public recognition of their academic achievement. Our Bachelor's Program has many students who manage to be high achievers while simultaneously juggling the demands of partners, children, elderly parents, and full-time careers."



Alpha Sigma Lambda  
National Honors Society

Please join The New School in congratulating the inaugural inductees:

Adi Beinhert  
Kenneth L. Cox  
Alvan William Foote III  
Janet Goldberg  
Matthew A. Gurwitz  
Amy Elizabeth Henderson  
Melissa L. Homann  
David M. Honigsberg  
Scott Bryant Hornsby  
Deborah Adrienne Langenfeld  
Susan McGuirk  
Wal Moraes  
Shannon E. Nacey  
Dylan Page  
Jessica Erin Palmer  
L. Lise Ramos  
John H. Riordan  
Mindy Rosengarten  
Joseph D. Snow  
Julie Taylor  
Kathleen Widdoes

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Sean Wilsey, BA, Class of 1995



©2005

Sean Wilsey

**SEAN WILSEY, EDITOR-AT-LARGE** at *McSweeney's* literary journal, recently celebrated the release of his memoir, *Oh The Glory of It All* (Penguin Press). *Kirkus Reviews* hailed the book as “a monumental piece of work,” and the *New York Times* wrote, “Wilsey rises to the challenge with agility and grace. His narrative voice reflects a vivid mix of brio, self-awareness and sophistication.” We caught up with Mr. Wilsey at a café in the East Village for a conversation about his work—from his beginnings as a writing student at the school to his later training at *The New Yorker* and his most current projects.

**Q: What do you remember about your experiences at The New School?**

Good teachers, particularly Bob Dunne, [who] had an amazing creative writing class. He was really cool about meeting people before class. He always said, “I’m going to be in the cafeteria for an hour before class if anyone wants to come by.” So, the people who really wanted to write would always show up early and hang out with Bob. He ... didn’t really need to teach, but he liked being the teacher incarnate. I also appreciated that everyone had another job. Where else do you get that? It made what they had to say, as working writers and editors, much more useful. I ended up getting a job at *The New Yorker* thanks to Bob, who recommended me to somebody who still runs the messenger room.

**Q: How did you make the transition from messenger to editorial assistant?**

*The New Yorker* is really good about that. The messenger department sent you on errands, gave you money to deliver Norman Mailer a manuscript and, if there was somebody missing, you would fill in. Sometimes you’d be sitting at Tina Brown’s secretary’s desk. After I had been a messenger for a few months, there was an opening to work for [art director] Françoise Mouly. They asked me if I wanted to be her assistant and I was reluctant, because I wanted to write and do something on the editorial side. But it seemed like a good opportunity, and she was amazing. I worked with her for two years and then I moved into the fiction department, where I learned a lot about editing. I worked at *The New Yorker* for five years.

**Q: Did you always want to pursue a career in writing?**

I always had an inclination toward writing. My mother was a writer. The biggest challenge facing anybody who wants to write is just figuring out how to get into the business of writing, because it’s daunting and really tiring. You can’t get any better as a writer unless you write a lot. Fiction is especially difficult in that way, because you’re generating it all out of your head. When you’re young, you don’t necessarily have very much experience. I tried to write a novel for years, and I ended up writing this absurdly elaborate, experimental novel that had its moments, but really didn’t have a strong narrative. In order to have that narrative drive, you’ve got to have a lot of experience to know where you’re going. The New School was really helpful in terms of writing a book, craft-wise. I remember a class with Robert Polito where we read *A Hell of a Woman*, which is L.A. noir, really gritty. Genre writing is really interesting to be exposed to and I don’t know if you get that anywhere else. You realize that literary writing can be genre writing, and you can play around with it.

**Q: It has been suggested that nonfiction is the signature genre of our era. How would you comment on this development and your decision to publish a memoir?**

When I read magazines, I really love reported essays that have a first-person voice. The kind of writer that I would like to be is a nonfiction reporter who incorporates a first-person point of view directly into the work. Every writer is his/her character in anything that they’re writing. It’s just—not that it’s dishonest, but it’s sort of dishonest to pretend it’s an impartial voice. People end up writing memoirs because they just have to, they have no choice. I had this huge complicated background that I knew I had to process through the act of writing a memoir. So, why do people want to read them? I did a reading with Jeanette Walls, whose memoir *The Glass Castle* is about extreme poverty, and a lot of my book is about extreme wealth. It was interesting to get us together. There were a lot of moments in her book where I was like, “My parents would’ve never done that, like they would’ve drawn the line there!” There is a sort of a pleasure in being able to take a look at your life as compared to actual lives, in seeing how it might mean something in your life. And if it’s well written, there’s just that literary side of reading something that’s carefully crafted.

**Q: What is your advice to emerging writers?**

The best advice for emerging writers is read as much as you possibly can. Revise your work rigorously. I put my work through double-digit drafts. Always. Never get too devoted to something you’ve written and think that it can’t be changed or improved. You have to get yourself out there too, as much as possible. When you’re starting out, you’re like, “I’d like to get it out there. How do you do that?” You have to realize that you have to keep moving ahead on projects. You can’t keep working on a single thing forever. If you’re in class, just keep workshopping. Send your stuff out. I remember sending a piece to the *New York Times* travel section while I was still at The New School. I got a call from the *Times* six months later. I thought it was for a subscription. They were calling to turn it down, but they were actually calling. They’d kind of liked it. And that kind of thing is immensely encouraging. Magazines will do that for you. It’s a real danger to decide not to share your work or to wait until it’s perfect. Just send it out. Tons of places out there would like to publish your writing.

# Spring Panels Challenge Political Status Quo

## Distinguished Panel to Explore Growing Economic Divide

This January 31 at 7:00 p.m., **Laura Flanders**, Air America radio host and author of *The W Effect*, will moderate a public program titled Inequality Matters: The Growing Economic Divide in America and its Poisonous Consequences. Confirmed participants include **Paul Krugman**, *New York Times* columnist and Princeton economist; **Meizhu Lui** of United for a Fair Economy; and DEMOS senior fellow **James Lardner**. The program will take place in Tishman Auditorium (66 West 12th Street). It is co-sponsored by the Rose and Erwin Wolfson Center for National Affairs, the New Press, and DEMOS.

## Walter Mosley and Harry Belafonte Together in Conversation with *The Nation*

On February 17 at 7:00 p.m., The New School will welcome award-winning novelist **Walter Mosley** and legendary singer and humanitarian **Harry Belafonte** for the next event of the Conversations with *The Nation* series. This exchange is expected to focus on the ongoing struggle against injustice and racism in the United States and the challenges posed by globalization to the fight against poverty, especially in Africa. The New School is pleased to note that Mr. Belafonte studied here in Erwin Piscator's famed Dramatic Workshop in the 1940s. The program will take place in Tishman Auditorium (66 West 12th Street). It is co-sponsored by The New School for General Studies and the Nation Institute as part of a regular series that features authors, activists, and others associated with *The Nation*.

## Prominent Dissenting Scholars to Discuss the Politics of Resistance

On March 16 at 6:00 p.m., the Wolfson Center for National Affairs at The New School will present several leading American scholars and social critics in a panel discussion about strategies for changing U.S. foreign and domestic policies that they agree are destructive. Participating: New School alumnus and Professor of Sociology at CUNY **Stanley Aronowitz**, author of *How Class Works*; former New School professor **Stephen Bronner**, author of *Blood in the Sand*; **Frances Fox Piven**, author of *The War at Home*; and Professor of Religion at Princeton, theologian **Cornel West**, author of *Democracy Matters*. The program will take place in Tishman Auditorium (66 West 12th Street).



©Vincent Laforet

Walter Mosley

**KALISHA BUCKHANON, MFA '03**, has written a book entitled *Upstate*, which chronicles the lives and love story of two teenagers through a series of letters that span a decade. Published by St. Martin's Press, the book was described by New School faculty member and writer Sapphire as "wild and beautiful. ...The story is told using the epistolary form with brilliant skill not seen since *The Color Purple*."

**DIANA DENNER, BA '93**, published a short story, "Five-n-Dime Christmas," in the February 2005 edition of *Plum Biscuit*, a webzine of The New York Writers' Coalition.

**VERONICA O'CONNOR, MA '03, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**, has accepted a position as a communications specialist at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC. The mission of IFPRI is to identify and analyze sustainable policies for meeting the food needs of the developing world. Veronica also published an article on U.S. food safety and labeling regulations in the *American Enterprise* online magazine.

**SIMONE DUARTE, MS '04, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**, had her documentary film, *En Route to Baghdad*, broadcast nationally on PBS' *Independent Lens* in October. The documentary traces the career of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the former U.N. high commissioner for human rights whose death in a 2003 Baghdad bombing attack became a tragic metaphor for the effort to bring stability to Iraq.

**JENNIFER ELLIOTT**, a graduate student in the Media Studies Program, was one of 16 women awarded a scholarship by New York Women in Communications (NYWICI) at its 35th annual Matrix Awards. The ceremony recognizes achievement in the fields of advertising, arts and entertainment, print and online media, and public relations. When not in the classroom, Jennifer is director of digital branding at FutureBrand (the branding division of McCann Erickson) in New York.

**JANET FLORA, MFA '98**, was a featured contributor in *Make-Up Artist Magazine*, combining her 20-year career as a freelance make-up artist and her nearly ten-year writing career. Janet's work has also appeared in *Health Magazine*, *The New Orleans Review*, *NDQ*, and other literary journals.

**SCOTT GARTH**, a graduate student in the International Affairs program, was awarded a Fulbright grant and was one of two students in North America accepted into the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization. The program is an intensive one-year academic program that focuses on the links between human rights, democracy, peace, and development and leads to the conferral of the European Master's in Human Rights and Democratization (EMA).

**BENJAMIN GODSILL**, a graduate student in the Media Studies Program, was named a Helena Rubenstein Fellow in Curatorial Studies at the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program. Out of an estimated 400 applicants each year, four students are chosen for the program, which provides fellows with the opportunity to work with visiting faculty and the Whitney's curators and program staff to put together an exhibition at the museum.

**TONYA HEGAMIN, MFA '04**, has written a children's book entitled *Most Loved in All the World*, about mothers and daughters in slavery. The book is scheduled to be published by Houghton Mifflin in 2006.

**AMANDA LIEBMAN, BA '05**, and **WILLIAM ROVER, BA '05**, were married earlier this fall in a ceremony in North Truro, Mass. Amanda is a music and media consultant at East Pleasant Pictures, a New York film production company. William designs computer software and manages content for the technology firm i609 Interactive.

**MICHELLE LINDER**, a student in the International Affairs Program, has received a Fulbright grant to support her study of the media in Ukraine. When Michelle returns to the United States in May 2006, she will begin work with USAID in Washington as an international development intern, training as a program officer in the Foreign Service.

**MELINDA (MINDY) J. MCADAMS, MA '93, MEDIA STUDIES**, recently published a book entitled *Flash Journalism: How to Create Multimedia News Packages* (Focal Press). Mindy holds the Knight Chair in Journalism at the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida.

**ELKA NIKOLOVA, MA '01, MEDIA STUDIES**, and **DAWN JORDAN, MA '99, MEDIA STUDIES**, are collaborating on a documentary entitled *Binka: To Tell a Story About Silence*. The film, which Elka is writing, producing, and directing, is about Binka Zhelyazkova, a pioneer in Bulgarian film whose directorial career spanned 40 years. Dawn serves as an associate producer on the project. For more information, go to [www.binkadoc.com/](http://www.binkadoc.com/).

**CHRISTOPHER PASTORE, MFA '03**, has written a book entitled *Temple to the Wind*, about naval architect Nathanael Herreshoff and the largest America's Cup racer ever built, *Reliance*. Christopher has contributed articles on sailing and related topics to *Boat International*, *Newport Life*, *Real Simple*, and *Sailing World*, where he worked as an associate editor.

**RUDEE ROTH, BA '00**, recently joined MTG Management Consultants, LLC., a national independent management consulting firm, as a social services specialist in the firm's human services practice. Rudee's initial work will focus on Medicaid fraud reduction in the state of Texas.

**JENNIFER RUMBACH**, a student in the International Affairs program, has been awarded a 2005–06 Fulbright grant to pursue research in Ghana, West Africa. Jennifer's proposal, "Refugee Flows and Civil Security in an Emerging African Democracy," includes study of strategic government-NGO partnerships and the structure of refugee organizations. Upon her return from Ghana, Jennifer, who is currently executive director of *Parallax: the Journal of Ethics and Globalization*, plans to complete her master's degree and then a PhD focusing on security and international conflict.

**ELIDA SCHOGT, MA '98, MEDIA STUDIES**, had two short documentary works, *The Walnut Tree* and *Zyklon Portrait*, aired on PBS' Emmy Award-winning program *Independent Lens* in May in conjunction with Holocaust Remembrance Day. Elida's films offer a personal and unique perspective on the Holocaust and have been featured and honored at numerous festivals, including a Special Mention at the 2000 International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam.

**ERICA SILBERMAN**, a student in the Bachelor's Program, was featured on NPR's *Studio 360* with Kurt Andersen, which airs on WNYC radio. Erica is a writer for Atrainplays, an innovative theater project that brings together actors and playwrights to create and perform plays—all within 24 hours.

**STAY CONNECTED!** Submit your updated contact information, add yourself to our email list to stay informed of alumni events and benefits, and/or tell us what you've been up to so we can include you in the alumni notes section of our next newsletter. Contact us at [alumni@newschool.edu](mailto:alumni@newschool.edu) or call 212.229.5662 x3557.

## News from the Office of Alumni Relations

Alumni email service is now available! Visit [www.newschool.edu/alumni](http://www.newschool.edu/alumni) for information on obtaining your free account.

## Support The New School

Gifts to The New School for General Studies Annual Fund provide critical unrestricted support necessary to help the school realize the best of its ambitions—advancing its core programs and seeding new initiatives. In the last year, these gifts made possible student scholarships and faculty support, as well as helping the school meet ongoing operating needs including physical plant.

If you would like to make a gift to The New School for General Studies Annual Fund or would like to learn more about opportunities to support and advance the university's mission, please contact Francisco J. Tezén, director of development, at 212.229.5615.

### ANNUAL FUND MAJOR DONORS

*The New School for General Studies would like to recognize the following donors, who made gifts of \$1,000 or more during the 2005 fiscal year.*

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## A Message from the President of the University



Bob Kerrey

### Dear Alumni and Friends

I AM PLEASED TO SHARE some exciting news with you. Last summer, New School University changed its name to The New School.

The decision to change the university's name is the fitting conclusion to a two-year, comprehensive study that many of you participated in, called Project Mirror. One thing we learned from the study is that most of the world knows us as The New School. We also confirmed that the world knows that we are a university, so we do not need to keep the word "university" in our name. Most important, we found that The New School is the name that best captures who we are. It invokes our heritage and reinforces our reputation for innovation.

Our eight schools are keeping the signature elements of their names, but they are being linked more visibly to The New School. The new graphic logo aims to capture the vibrant and kinetic energy that distinguishes The New School as a whole. We hope you'll agree that the design ties the schools into the larger university, as well as celebrates them individually. Each school is distinctive. Each is also stronger for its connection with the larger university.

The New School was founded on strong convictions. We began as a place that would embrace debate, safeguard intellectual and artistic freedom, and reinvent what it means to be a university. We remain true to our origin. This vibrant community is dedicated to rigorous academic inquiry, creative expression, and active citizenship. Our shared goal is to educate people who expect to make a difference in the world.

The changes to the university's name and the names of the schools will help us communicate more effectively with external audiences. We will continue to embrace the strengths of each school, and at the same time, we will project a more integrated image of this extraordinary university—The New School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Kerrey". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Bob Kerrey  
President

# Spring 2006 Public Programs

For details of listed events, visit the website,  
[www.newschool.edu/publicprograms](http://www.newschool.edu/publicprograms).

January 23, 6:30 p.m.

Additional dates to be announced.

**ARTFORUM ROUNDTABLE: CURATING THE WHITNEY BIENNIAL**

January 24, 6:00 p.m.

**WHEN ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY MEET**

January 25, 6:00 p.m.

**WHEN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WAS WHITE**

January 25, 7:00 p.m.

**THE STORY PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY**

January 26, 6:30 p.m.

**UNFORGIVING ART? UNFORGIVABLE NATION?**

January 29, 2:00 p.m.

**SCHNEIDER CONCERTS AT THE NEW SCHOOL: CUARTETO CASALS**

January 30, 6:30 p.m.

**FICTION FORUM: MEG WOLITZER**

January 31, 7:00 p.m.

**INEQUALITY MATTERS: THE GROWING ECONOMIC DIVIDE IN AMERICA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

February 1, 6:00 p.m.

**OVERHAULING SEX EDUCATION: THE NEW CURRICULUM FOR NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS**

February 2, 5:30 p.m.

**WPI FORUM: WHY TURKEY AND WHY NOW?**

February 2, 7:00 p.m.

**THE PUBLIC TALKS ROUNDTABLE: WRITERS AND THE PUBLIC THEATER**

February 3, 5:30 p.m.

**RE-VISIONING INDIA AND CHINA: AUTHORS AND ARTISTS**

February 6, 6:30 p.m.

**JOYCE CAROL OATES**

February 7, 6:30 p.m.

**FORUM ON WRITING FOR CHILDREN: SARAH WEEKS**

February 8, 6:30 p.m.

**POETRY FORUM: PAUL AUSTER**

February 9, 6:00 p.m.

**WPI FORUM: AFTER THE BUSH ERA, RE-FINDING OUR WAY ON FOREIGN POLICY**

February 11, 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

**3RD ANNUAL NYC GRASSROOTS MEDIA CONFERENCE**

February 11, 2:00 p.m.

**POST-CONFESSIONAL POETRY**

February 13, 6:30 p.m.

**DIRECTOR'S FORUM: ROBERT BOYERS**

February 13, 6:30 p.m.

**CULTURAL GENOCIDE AND HEGEMONY**

February 14, 6:30 p.m.

**NONFICTION FORUM: KATE BRAVERMAN**

February 15, 7:00 p.m.

**APERTURE FOUNDATION PRESENTS PHOTOGRAPHY IN CONTEXT: WHAT MAKES AN IMAGE ICONIC?**

February 17, 1:00 p.m.

**FRIDAYS@1: HOW TO "SEE" A PAINTING, A LESSON IN CONSCIOUSNESS**

February 17, 7:00 p.m.

**CONVERSATIONS WITH THE NATION: AN EVENING WITH WALTER MOSLEY AND HARRY BELAFONTE**

February 19, 2:00 p.m.

**SCHNEIDER CONCERTS AT THE NEW SCHOOL: ROTHKO STRING QUARTET**

February 21, 6:30 p.m.

**FORUM ON WRITING FOR CHILDREN: GAIL CARSON LEVINE**

February 22, 6:30 p.m.

**POETRY FORUM: STEFANIE BROWN**

February 23, 6:00 p.m.

**WPI FORUM: OLD EUROPE VS. NEW EUROPE**

February 23, 7:30 p.m.

**ASIAN-AMERICAN POETS**

February 24, 7:00 p.m.

**THE NEW SCHOOL SPRING FILM SHOW**

February 27, 6:00 p.m.

**THE SOCIAL AND THE REAL: POLITICAL ART OF THE 1930S IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

February 28, 6:30 p.m.

**THE CHANGING LIGHT AT SANDOVER: READING**

February 28, 7:00 p.m.

**GAMING: CONSOLE, ONLINE, AND HANDHELD—HOLLYWOOD KILLER OR SAVIOR?**

March 1, 6:30 p.m.

**FICTION FORUM: ADAM HASLETT**

March 1, 6:00 p.m.

**CHANGE THE WORLD, BE HOME BY 8**

March 1, 6:00 p.m.

**WOMEN AND GRASSROOTS CONSERVATISM**

Readings: March 2, 6:00 p.m.

Award Ceremony: March 3, 6:00 p.m.

**NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE ANNUAL AWARDS**

March 6, 6:30 p.m.

**FICTION FORUM: FREDERIC TUTEN AND MICHAEL DRINKARD**

March 7, 6:30 p.m.

**FORUM ON WRITING FOR CHILDREN: MARKET YOUR OWN BOOK**

March 9, 6:00 p.m.

**WPI FORUM: EXITING IRAQ—IS THERE ANY STRATEGY?**

March 9, 7:00 p.m.

**THE PUBLIC TALKS ROUNDTABLE: THE PUBLIC THEATER GOES TO WAR**

March 12, 2:00 p.m.

**SCHNEIDER CONCERTS AT THE NEW SCHOOL: JUPITER STRING QUARTET**

March 13, 6:30 p.m.

**THE SCULPTURECENTER LECTURES: SUBJECTIVE HISTORIES OF SCULPTURE WITH PAUL PFEIFFER**

March 13, 6:30 p.m.

**THE DIRECTOR'S FORUM: JOHN D'AGATA AND BEN MARCUS**

March 16, 6:00 p.m.

**WPI FORUM: WHAT'S HAPPENED TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS AROUND THE PLANET?**

March 16, 6:00 p.m.

**THE POLITICS OF RESISTANCE**

March 22, 7:00 p.m.

**APERTURE FOUNDATION PRESENTS PHOTOGRAPHY IN CONTEXT: PHOTOJOURNALISM TODAY**

March 23, 6:00 p.m.

**WPI FORUM: PRIVATIZING AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY**

March 27, 6:30 p.m.

**FICTION FORUM: SCOTT SPENCER**

March 28, 6:30 p.m.

**NONFICTION FORUM: CYNTHIA CARR**

March 28, 7:00 p.m.

**WRITERS OF THE STORM: FAKE NEWS AND PUBLIC DECENCY IN THE AGE OF TERROR**

March 29, 6:00 p.m.

**CENSORING CULTURE: CONTEMPORARY THREATS TO FREE EXPRESSION**

March 29, 6:30 p.m.

**POETRY FORUM: MARK STRAND**

March 30, 7:30 p.m.

**ACCLAIMED/EMERGING READINGS: KAY RYAN, TOMAZ SALAMUN, AND ANDREW ZEWECKI**

April 6–April 8

**JOHN ASHBERRY FESTIVAL**

April 14, 7:00 p.m.

**DOROTHY H. HIRSHON FILM FESTIVAL HONORS DIRECTOR PETER DAVIS**

April 22–April 23, 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

**STORIES FROM THE FIELD: THE SECOND ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**

Most events are free to students and New School alumni with ID. Tickets to events can be purchased by phone with a credit card at 212.229.5488 or in person at The New School Box Office, 66 West 12th Street, main floor, Mon.–Thurs. 1–8 p.m., Fri. 1–7 p.m. Inquiries can be sent to [boxoffice@newschool.edu](mailto:boxoffice@newschool.edu).

## NEWS | Fall/Winter 2005–06

Published by The New School for General Studies  
Produced by Communications and External Affairs,  
The New School

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# Linda Dunne Appointed Dean

*December 19, 2005*

## A Memorandum to the University Community

I AM DELIGHTED TO INFORM YOU of the following good news. After formal consultation with the chairs and directors of The New School for General Studies ... and with the endorsement of the chair and vice chair of the Board of Governors of The New School for General Studies, we asked for and obtained the approval of the Board of Trustees to appoint Linda Dunne as the dean of The New School for General Studies for a 3-year term (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008).

Bob Kerrey and I, as well as a remarkable range of colleagues within and beyond the school, have been greatly impressed by Ms. Dunne's collegiality and good judgment, her knowledge of and commitment to the founding school of the university, her deep scholarly and administrative experience, and her capacity to be both a consensus-builder and a risk-taker in the coming years.

Ms. Dunne has served at The New School since 1991. She directed the Bachelor of Arts program for six years, served as acting chair of the Department of Communications and the Media Studies program for two years, and has been associate dean for academic affairs for the last six years. Before she was recruited to The New School, Ms. Dunne served five years as director of development and external relations at the City University of New York's School of Law. Prior to this, she spent 11

years at Antioch University serving in a number of positions of increasing responsibility including provost, dean, dean of academic affairs, and vice president of university centers.

Dean Dunne was educated at the City University of New York (PhD, English and American Literature, 1994) and the University of California at Los Angeles (MA, 1967; BA, 1964).



Arjun Appadurai, Provost