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Summer 2004

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1. HRI FALL 2004 FUNDING COMPETITION (31 August deadline)

There will be a competition in Fall 2004 for the following HRI award programs:

- Student Travel Awards to Assist Participation at Scholarly Conferences (for travel during calendar 2004).
- Assistance Awards for Visiting Speakers
- Travel Awards for Board Members
- Subvention Awards for Book Publication

The deadline for applications to all these programs is **31 August 2004**. Please consult the HRI website ("Award Programs/Forms") for the relevant criteria.

Applications to this competition for HRI Visiting Research Fellowships are also welcomed. Please consult the HRI website ("Visiting Research Fellowships") for the relevant criteria.

2. HRI 2004 POWELL LECTURE: Nelofer Pazira

The HRI is pleased to announce that the 2004 Barbara Powell Visiting Lecturer will be **Nelofer Pazira**, award-winning journalist and star of the acclaimed film *Kandahar* (2001), based on her own real-life experiences. Ms. Pazira's Powell Lecture, on the subject of women in Afghanistan, will be free to all attendees and will take place at 7:30 pm on 14 September 2004 in the Education Auditorium. Please watch this space and the HRI website for further details, or contact the HRI (address below).

3. HRI INTENSIVE WORKSHOP: EVALUATING RESEARCH PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMANITIES: Preliminary Call for Participants

In late Fall 2004 the HRI plans to hold an intensive workshop/mini-conference on the topic, "How should we best evaluate research performance in the humanities?" This event will of interest to those who undertake research (or scholarship) on humanities subjects and those who have reviewed the performance of humanities researchers.

Questions to be considered may include:

- Is it possible to quantify humanities research in a meaningful way, e.g., by numbers of publications, presentations, and performances? by the amount of grant money obtained by the researcher? by the citation of work by peers? or by some other, more complex formula? Or, if humanities scholarship is not quantifiable, how might performance objectively be evaluated?
- Is it possible or necessary to rank the multitudinous ways that humanities research is undertaken and disseminated: single, co- and multiple authorships and editorships; translations, transcriptions, and adaptations; participation in conferences as organizer, session chair, panelist, paper presenter, plenary or keynote speaker; internal or external examinations of Masters or Doctoral theses; interviews with local, provincial, national,

and international media; appointments to editorial boards and elections to boards of scholarly organizations...to name but a few?

- Should creative work be viewed as equivalent to more traditional forms of humanities scholarship, and if so according to what formulae?
- Is on-line publication equivalent to paper publication?
- Is success in obtaining grants to support one's research evidence of good scholarship in the humanities, or merely a prelude to scholarly activity?
- What constitutes meritorious research in the humanities? Is having a book published by a major international university press self-evidently more meritorious than having one published by a local small press? Is A's award-winning avant-garde short film more meritorious than B's well-attended and lucrative exhibition of prairie landscapes? Is good interdisciplinary work always more meritorious than good work that stays within traditional boundaries?

The Workshop will consist of a series of short individual presentations and longer panel discussions. Registration will be free of charge and open to all members of the university and its community. If you would like to participate or require further details, please contact HRI Director Nicholas Ruddick (address below).

4. NEW PUBLICATION: *Writing Addiction*, eds. Béla Szabados and Ken Probert

"Could...potentially addictive substances stimulate the artistic imagination? What is the relationship between the desire for intoxication or euphoria and the compulsions of addiction? Is there a sense in which writing provides similar highs and compulsions? Are writing and substance addiction similar transgressive behaviours? Could it be that both writing and addiction are ways of losing control, or perhaps of losing controls?" To try to answer these provocative questions, **Béla Szabados** (Philosophy and Classics) and **Ken Probert** (English) have edited and introduced an anthology entitled *Writing Addiction*. The contributors include **Aritha van Herk**, **Dave Margoshes**, **Steven Ross Smith**, **Jeanette Lynes**, **Trudy Govier**, **Kristjana Gunnars**, **Crispin Sartwell**, **Alan Bewell**, **Anthony Cunningham**, **Ellen Lansky**, **Andrew Stubbs**, **Cindy MacKenzie**, and **Alison Lee Strayer**, with an Envoi by **Charles Baudelaire**. All but two of the essays are original to this volume.

Full publication details are as follows: Béla Szabados and Kenneth G. Probert, eds. *Writing Addiction: Towards a Poetics of Desire and Its*

Others. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 2004. 168 pp. ISBN# 0-88977-176-6. \$24.95 paper.

5. THE JEFFERSON LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES: Helen Vendler

The Jefferson Lecture was established in 1972 as the highest honour the US federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual and public achievement in the humanities. On 6 May 2004, **Helen Vendler**, A. Kingsley Porter University Professor at Harvard University and one of the most distinguished experts on twentieth-century poetry, delivered the 33rd Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities in Washington, DC. The text of Vendler's lecture, "The Ocean, the Bird, and the Scholar," on the creative arts as the proper and necessary object of study for the humanities, can be found at <http://www.neh.gov/whoware/vendler/lecture.html>

6. HRI CONTACT INFORMATION

The HRI Newsletter appears approximately once a month from September to April, and more occasionally during the rest of the year. Recent issues are archived on the HRI website.

The Newsletter reaches more than 500 addresses in the University of Regina and its surrounding community. Please forward a copy to friends and colleagues with an interest in the humanities.

For further details about upcoming HRI events, to subscribe (free of charge) or unsubscribe to this newsletter by e-mail, or to submit material to future newsletters, please contact:

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