

11-27-2006

# War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning

Honors College

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**CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES**  
**GRANT APPLICATION**

PROVIDE 12 (TWELVE) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.  
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: <i>University of Maine Honors College</i>
II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: <i>Charlie Slavin</i> b. Title: <i>Dean, Honors College</i> c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): <i>Thomson Honors Center, Colvin Hall; 1-3262 slavin@honors.umaine.edu</i>
III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):  Program title: <i>War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning</i> (2007 Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lecture) Speaker: <i>Chris Hedges</i> Scheduled date: <i>Tuesday, April 3, 2007</i>  <i>Please see attached letter for a summary of the event.</i>
IV. Budget Proposal Form must be attached.
<b>Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of reports for any previous grant awards, including final budget and attendance figures.</b>
Signature of responsible organization officer/date:   SIGNATURE DATE

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE  
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
200 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS

# Class of 1934 Cultural Affairs Fund Budget Proposal Form

Applicant/Organization: Honors College  
 Responsible Officer: Charlie Slavin, Dean  
 Event Title: John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics  
 Event Date: April 3, 2007

Total Program Budget: \$10,701.03

Amount Committed by Applicant Organization: \* based on Rezendes Fund availability (see attached letter)

Total Amount Requested from Other Funding Sources: \$6,301.03

Please List Sources & Amounts below:

<u>Rezendes Ethics Fund/Honors College</u>	<u>\$5,701.03</u>
<u>Department of Communication &amp; Journalism</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
<u>Peace Studies Program</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>

Amount Requested from CA/DLS Committee: \$4,000.00\*

Revenues, if any, expected (fees, ticket sales): \$0.00

**Budget Breakdown for CA/DLS Request:**

Honoraria/Services (explain below) \$4,000.00

The honoraria cost for Chris Hedges is \$8000.00 as determined by Keppler Associates, Inc. (See attached budget sheet and contract for complete itemized explanation.)

Travel \$0.00

Lodging/Meals \$0.00

Advertising \$0.00

Printing \$0.00

Supplies and Materials \$0.00

Other (must specify below) \$0.00

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Request: \$4,000.00\*

\*These amounts should be identical and should not exceed 50% of the total program/event budget. Please note that CA/DLS funds may not be used for receptions and do not normally fund UM employee wages. If an award is granted based on this proposal, reimbursement of expenses will not exceed the total CA/DLS request and will be limited to the types of expenditures outlined above.

OK

21 November 2006

Dear Members of the Cultural Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the Honors College, please accept this letter and attached application materials as my request for financial support from the Class of 1934 Cultural Affairs Fund for the 2007 *John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lecture*, an annual distinguished lecture sponsored by the Honors College and the Rezendes Ethics Fund.

The Honors College requests a total of \$4,000.00, which is less than fifty percent of the total budget for this year's lecture. We are currently seeking other sources of financial support; as in past year's, we have secured support from the Rezendes Ethics Fund to assist with costs, which we hope to supplement with support from the Cultural Affairs Committee. A brief description of the history of this fund and the lecture series follows.

#### **A Brief History of the John M. Rezendes Ethics Initiative**

The John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund was established in 2000 by the donor in honor of his father and in recognition of his father's strong ethical values and beliefs. The purpose of the Rezendes Ethics Fund is to provide opportunities to the entire student body for the learning and teaching of ethical values. An additional purpose is to provide students in all academic disciplines with a fundamental understanding of accepted ethical practices (as opposed to theories) within their academic disciplines and to assist students by providing them with a solid understanding of how to make ethical choices in their lives and careers.

The Rezendes Ethics Fund supports two closely related initiatives. The first is the annual *John M. Rezendes Ethics Essay Competition*, administered each spring semester by the Honors College, who appoints a faculty committee to determine guidelines, as well as select the award recipients. The competition is open to all University of Maine undergraduate students. The winning essay, written on any ethical issue related to the theme of "ethics in the public domain," is awarded \$2,500; two other prizes of \$250.00 each are also awarded.

The second initiative, which is the initiative for which we are requesting assistance from the Cultural Affairs Committee, involves the *John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics*. Each year, the scholar is selected by students and members of the Honors College staff and asked to conduct seminars with University of Maine students (not limited to Honors students) and present a public lecture to which the entire student body and the public at large is invited.

The funds available in the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund are earmarked to cover the \$3,000.00 in prizes for the awardees of the *John M. Rezendes Ethics Essay Competition* as well as other expenses incurred by the *Competition*. Any remaining funds are available for the promotion and support of the *Visiting Scholar* initiative. This year, we do not anticipate that there will be more than \$7,000.00 available for the *Visiting Scholar* initiative once *Competition* expenses have been assessed.

### **A Brief History of the John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Series**

The first *Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lecture* was held in the spring 2003 semester, during the Honors College's inauguration year. For each spring since then, the Honors College has selected, invited, and coordinated visits of scholars who have addressed ethical issues of national importance. The past lectures are as follows:

- 2003:** Sut Jhally (Professor of Communication, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Founder and Executive Director of The Media Education Foundation):  
*Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land: News Bias in the Israeli/Palestinian Crisis*
- 2004:** Lijun Yuan (Professor of Philosophy, Texas State University - San Marcos):  
*The Ethics of Care and Social Policies: A Dialogue on Gender Across China and the U.S.*
- 2005:** Eric Meslin (Director of the Indiana University Center for Bioethics, Professor of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine, and Professor of Philosophy, Indiana University School of Liberal Arts):  
*Lessons from Dolly, Stem Cells and Biobanking*
- 2006:** Lily Yeh (Professor of Art and Art History at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia and Co-founder and emeritus Executive Director of The Village of Arts and Humanities):  
*Beauty, Ethics, and Community Building*

Thus far, each of the *Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lectures* has been well attended by students, faculty, and other members of the University of Maine community.

### **About Chris Hedges: The 2007 Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics**

For the 2006-07 year, the Honors College has selected Chris Hedges as the *John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics*. Hedges, a former war correspondent of the *New York Times*, is the author of *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*, which was nominated by a University of Maine faculty member (Professor Burton Hatlen, English) and subsequently selected by a class of Honors students as the Class of 2010 Honors Read text. The students selected the text for the Honors Read distinction based on several criteria they developed including relevance to the Honors College curriculum and ability to engage students and faculty in thought-provoking conversations..

However, when the decision was made to invite Chris Hedges as the 2007 *Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics*, the needs of the Honors College community were only a small part of the motivation. We believe that the political, moral, and ethical issues addressed by *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* are relevant not only to the Honors curriculum, not even only to the University of Maine community, but also to national (and global) audiences in a post-9/11 culture. Hedges argues that war provides many people (including himself) with a seemingly noble purpose for living. By contrasting this widespread belief with his personal experiences with modern warfare in Latin America, the Middle East, and the Balkans, Hedges attempts to destroy the myth of war as a life-fulfilling practice, while (perhaps surprisingly) never actually advocating for the complete cessation of war.

Such highly charged issues must be raised, particularly during a time when war and political struggle are fixtures in the media. Because of this, the Honors College believes that Chris Hedges will elicit responses—both positive and negative—from a wide public audience. We have already

seen his ideas hotly debated in our first-year Honors courses, and we expect nothing less from a more varied public audience.

### **Why Support the Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics?**

The most basic reason the Honors College continues to coordinate and sponsor the *Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lecture* is, of course, to honor the initiatives of the Fund's donors. Regardless of this worthy obligation, however, there are plenty of reasons why the Honors College believes the initiative is of substantial value to the University of Maine community.

#### *1. Expanding horizons*

A University is a place to expand horizons and challenge beliefs. The *Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics* initiative is precisely the kind of program to assist in the civic education of the UMaine community. Since 2003, the Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lecture Series provides the opportunity for students to speak face-to-face with prominent leaders and scholars on ethical issues in disciplines from science to art to politics. This multidisciplinary approach to ethics not only attracts audiences of different academic interests, it provides individual members of the University of Maine community with opportunities to hear speakers whose views may differ from their own individual thoughts on ethical issues, and to think critically about those differing views.

#### *2. Reaching broader audiences*

Although the initiatives supported by the Rezendes Ethics Fund are coordinated by the Honors College, they are University-wide in their scope. Scholars are chosen based on nominations solicited from the entire University of Maine community. Once Scholars are chosen, the Honors College makes a concerted effort to promote the event to the public and to arrange discussions with students in appropriate departments. The Honors College coordinates the design, printing, and distribution of attractive black-and-white posters, which have become trademarks of the annual event. Promotional efforts are reflected during the lecture event, where the audience is composed of undergraduate students, graduate students, University faculty, University staff members, and community members of the Orono/Old Town area. The Honors College is thrilled to provide a forum in which such a diverse audience can interact.

### **Why Support the Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics *This Year*?**

#### *1. High-profile speaker*

The Honors College is thrilled to be able to sponsor such a high-profile *Visiting Scholar* this year, who will likely draw the attention of many on campus and in the surrounding community. However, as can be expected, high-profile speakers come at a price. The honorarium for Chris Hedges—who was gracious enough to reduce his usual fee *and* agree to fund his own airfare expenses in order to make it possible for us to host him on our campus—is \$8,000.00. While the cost is below what is normally expected for national-profile speakers, it is greater than for past Rezendes Visiting Scholars in Ethics. Regardless, we sincerely hope that, with support, we can provide this exciting opportunity for the University of Maine community.

2. *Highly relevant issues*

The *Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics* is not a new initiative; it began in 2000. However, it would be difficult to deny that each year brings a new opportunity to discuss and consider issues of immediate relevance. This year is no different. Chris Hedges will likely raise many issues that are constantly being discussed in the classroom, in the news media, and in our everyday lives. The impact of international conflict is always a force to be reckoned with, but with the controversy over U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq and the mixed opinions about how warfare should play a role in international affairs and politics, such ideas are more relevant than ever. These issues are, particularly relevant to University of Maine students, who as with their peers across the country are in the process of developing a civic awareness and an understanding of a global community. Thus, while the *Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics* is by now an established annual event, it is by no means business as usual in terms of its offerings.

**John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lecture Series  
2007 Budget**

Enclosed with this letter is the budget sheet and speaker contract for the 2007 Rezendes lecture. Although most of the listed expenses are not included in our request, as we are requesting funds solely for the purpose of paying 50% of the visiting scholar's honorarium, the listed items are intended to demonstrate the total of our working budget for the entirety of the event. Please note that we are requesting a total of \$4,000.00, which is not only less than half of the event's entire budget, but also less than half of the portion of the budget which would be considered eligible for Cultural Affairs Committee support (i.e., no social event expenses incidental to the event).

On behalf of the Honors College and the Rezendes Ethics initiatives, I sincerely hope that you will consider our request a unique opportunity for the enjoyment and development of the University of Maine community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Charlie Slavin  
Dean, Honors College

Enclosures: 2

**Class of 1934 Cultural Affairs Fund  
Recipient Report & Event Summary**

Event Title: *The 2007 John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics*

Event Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Officer: Charlie Slavin, Dean

May 14, 2007

Dear Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee:

Thank you for your support for the 2007 John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics, which was coordinated by the staff of the University of Maine Honors College and co-sponsored by the John M. Rezendes Ethics Initiative Fund at the University of Maine Foundation. This year's event was a tremendous success, and we hope that we will be able to work with your support for similar initiatives in the future. Below is our final report on the event, and enclosed are copies of the invitation, program, and flyer, which were distributed to publicize the lecture. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charlie Slavin  
Dean of the Honors College

**Event Summary:**

Chris Hedges was the 2007 John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics and author of the 2006-2007 Honors College Read, *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*. Hedges visited campus on Tuesday, April 3, 2007. Hedges began his visit by joining a class of first-year Honors students to answer their questions about his book. Later that afternoon, Hedges gave a public talk in room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building. His lecture included his arguments about American attitudes and portrayals of war, as well as anecdotes from his experiences as a war correspondent. The lecture was extremely well attended—between 400 and 500—with undergraduate Honors students composing the majority of the crowd. Hedges stayed after the lecture to sign books and to answer individual questions from attendees.

**Event Budget Summary:**

Item	Cost	Funding Source
Invitations	\$265.88	Rezendes Ethics Initiative
Poster design	\$80.00	Rezendes Ethics Initiative
Poster framing	\$138.98	Honors College
Room usage	\$0.00	N/A
Speaker honorarium	\$8,000.00	50% Cultural Affairs Fund 50% Rezendes Ethics Initiative
Speaker Lodging	\$120.00	Rezendes Ethics Initiative



THE 2007 JOHN M. REZENDES VISITING SCHOLAR IN ETHICS  
CHRIS HEDGES, AUTHOR OF THE 2006 – 2007 HONORS READ

# WAR IS A FORCE THAT GIVES US MEANING



Antonio del Pollaiuolo, Battle of the Nudes, 1475 (Detail)

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Reception: 4:00 – 4:30 PM  
Atrium of the Donald P. Corbett Building

Talk: 4:30 – 5:30  
Donald P. Corbett Building  
Room 100  
University of Maine

Chris Hedges is the author of *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*  
and a former war correspondent for the *New York Times*.

A book signing will follow the lecture until 6:00 in the atrium of the DPC Building

*The John M. Rezendes Ethics Lecture was established to critically engage students, faculty members, and the surrounding community with ethical issues of national importance. This event is sponsored in part by the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund.*

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The University of Maine is a member of the University of Maine System.



The  
**Honors**  
*College*  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

THE HONORS COLLEGE IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO THE EVENTS OF  
THE 2007 JOHN M. REZENDES ETHICS INITIATIVE

THE 2007 JOHN M. REZENDES ETHICS LECTURE  
GIVEN BY CHRIS HEDGES  
AUTHOR OF  
*WAR IS A FORCE THAT GIVES US MEANING*  
TUESDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2007  
DONALD P. CORBETT BUSINESS BUILDING, ROOM 100  
RECEPTION 4:00PM  
LECTURE 4:30PM  
BOOK SIGNING 5:30PM

AND

THE JOHN M. REZENDES ETHICS ESSAY AWARDS CEREMONY  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2007  
4:00PM - 6:00PM  
(CEREMONY AT 4:30PM)  
LEADERSHIP HALL  
BUCHANAN ALUMNI HOUSE  
160 COLLEGE AVENUE  
ORONO, MAINE

RSVP TO 207.581.3263



*A Member of the University of Maine System*