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Dahr Jamail Lecture

Schonberger Memorial Lecture Committee

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

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: <i>Schonberger Peace + Justice Memorial Lecture Committee</i>	
II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: <i>Virginia Nees-Hadden</i>	
b. Title: <i>Director, Center for Teaching Excellence</i>	
c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): <i>207 Crossland Virginia. Nees @ umt. maine. edu 581-3477</i>	
III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s): <i>"The Invasion and Occupation of Iraq: Exposing the Lies and Reporting the True story Behind the Iraq War." A lecture by Dahr Jamail. Sept. 28, 2006.</i>	
Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with <u>detailed, itemized budget</u> . Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.	
IV. a. Total funding required for program:	\$ <i>3207</i>
b. Amount committed by applicant organization:	\$ <i>1867</i>
c. Amount committed by <i>History + Women's Studies Depts.</i>	\$ <i>140</i>
d. Amount requested from other funding sources	\$ <i>—</i>
e. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:	\$ <i>1200</i>
Signature of responsible organization officer/date: <i>Virginia Nees-Hadden</i>	<i>3-30-2006</i>
SIGNATURE	DATE

\$800

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

PROPOSAL

March 30, 2006

To: Cultural Affairs Committee
c/o Heidi Carlow
200 Alumni Hall

From: Virginia Nees-Hatlen for the Schonberger Memorial Lecture Committee
Center for Teaching Excellence
207 Crossland Hall x13477

About: **Distinguished Lecturer Funding** for September 28, 2006, Schonberger Peace and Justice Memorial Lecture by Dahr Jamail on "The Invasion and Occupation of Iraq: Exposing the Lies and Reporting the True Story Behind the Iraq War"

Request

The Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture Committee is asking Cultural Affairs/DLS to share costs for the forthcoming lecture by Dahr Jamail, "The Invasion and Occupation of Iraq: Exposing the Lies and Reporting the True Story Behind the Iraq War." The lecture, to be given at 7:30 pm on Thursday September 28, in 100 DPC, is free and open to the public, which in past years has been a substantial part of the audience for the annual event. We are anticipating total costs of \$3207. We are requesting \$1200 from the Distinguished Lecture Series to cover Dahr Jamail's honorarium. The Howard B. Schonberger Peace and Justice Memorial Gift Fund is contributing \$1867. The UM History Department is paying \$65 for a mailing to past donors about the lecture, and the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program is contributing \$75 in-kind on publicity flyers, for a total of \$2007 in matching funding.

Background

The Howard B. Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture is partially funded by a University of Maine gift account in the Development Office. Donors to the Schonberger gift fund include the late Professor Schonberger's friends, colleagues, and family, as well as local community peace activists. The annual lecture series is charged to honor Professor Schonberger's service as an historian of 20th century American diplomatic history and as an activist in local and national struggles for peace and justice around the world. A committee composed of five UM faculty members and a community member active in peace organizations plans the lectures. All of the speakers have been national figures distinguished in academic or public scholarship as well as active in communities working for peace and social justice.

Twelve previous lectures have been well attended by the university community and by members of the greater Bangor/midcoast community, especially those who are engaged in continuing peace and justice work. The Bangor Peace and Justice Center and

Peace through Inter-American Community Action (PICA), for example, are two groups in which Professor Schonberger played a major role; they are also sources for the lecture's audience. Last year, the lecture was given by Winona LaDuke. Her title was "Recovering the Sacred: The Power of Naming and Claiming." The audience in 100 DP Corbett was approximately 300, including many residents and students from the Penobscot community on Indian Island. A group of Penobscot Elementary School girls gave a memorable musical welcome as part of the evening's event. Two years ago, the lecture was given by Phyllis Bennis. Her title was "Challenging Empire: Iraq, the UN, and the 'Second Super-Power'." The audience in the Minsky Hall was approximately 175 people. Three years ago the lecture was given by Rabbi Michael Lerner. His title was "Social Transformation and Psycho-Spiritual Healing: Strategies for Peace and Justice in the Era of George Bush and Ariel Sharon." The audience was approximately 250 people.

Program

As is clear from the titles of recent lectures in the paragraph above, many past Schonberger lectures have focused on global political topics, including feminist theory, the fate of indigenous peoples, and the interconnections between the U.S. and the rest of the world. The committee has always tried to provide rich perspectives on current issues and events that affect the U.S. or over which the U.S. has considerable influence, including perspectives of academic researchers, journalists, scholar-activists, and knowledgeable leaders from communities struggling for peace and justice here and around the world. Professor Schonberger's work in international affairs and U.S. diplomatic and military affairs is thus a thread we return to again and again.

In that tradition, the speaker this year will confront the U.S. war in Iraq, its realities on the ground for the Iraqi people and U.S. soldiers, and the failure of the U.S. media to accurately report on these realities. As an independent journalist and an Iraqi-American, Dahr Jamail's perspective is especially valuable. His talk will be based on his reporting in Iraq, and will incorporate news about whatever is happening there during the coming summer and early fall.

During his visit, Mr. Jamail will be participating in additional programs on campus that relate to his reporting on Iraq, including the Marxist-Socialist Lunch, so we have tentatively planned a three night stay beginning Wednesday night, with return flight on Saturday to take advantage of lower airfares.

Speaker

Dahr Jamail's independent journalism has been published in a range of traditional and on-line media, covering a spectrum of mainline and progressive newspapers and magazines. An Iraqi-American whose home is in Anchorage, Alaska, he has spent more than eight months in Iraq and the Middle-East since 2003, covering the war and subsequent events during the American occupation as an independent and defiantly "un-embedded" journalist. He is a special correspondent for Pacifica Radio, reports for "Democracy Now," and worked for the BBC as a stringer. He writes for *Islam On Line*, Inter Press Service, and *Asia Times*. He has been published in print in *The Ester Republic*, and on-line in the *Sunday Herald*, *Common Dreams*, *The Nation*, and *The New*

Standard News. His blog and dispatches from Iraq are widely read, and he has been translated into all major European and Asian languages, as well as Turkish and Arabic.

Dahr Jamail has been particularly diligent at covering issues that affect civilian life in Iraq, such as water service and health care, as well as the performance and ethics of U.S. contractors, military prisons and torture, military operations to hunt for “insurgents,” and press coverage of events in Iraq and policy statements in Washington relating to Iraq.

We feel very lucky to have secured a commitment from Mr. Jamail. He has been a campus and public lecturer in high demand, since he is a source of so much essential information on Iraq and the war that does not appear in the mainstream media. He has testified at hearings throughout the world, and he has given lectures throughout the United States, including a well-received lecture at Bowdoin College last November to a packed auditorium.

His topic is sure to generate considerable interest on and off campus. The talk is sure to draw International Affairs majors and students members of the Maine Peace Action Committee, as well as students in History, Political Science, and Communication and Journalism. Members of the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine and many concerned citizens from central and mid-coast Maine have shown a persistent interest in getting accurate news from and about Iraq and in understanding the long-term effects of America’s involvement. Therefore, we expect a high turnout from both the University and the surrounding communities.

Budget

The History Department solicits contributions to a gift account for the Schonberger lecture annually when it announces the lecture, and the fund has grown over the years, although the capital has recently been growing more slowly as a number of donors have died or retired. As his generation reaches retirement age, fewer of our speakers now actually knew Howard Schonberger, so we aren’t seeing speakers donate their honoraria to the fund, as did sometimes happen in the early years. This, too, has slowed the fund’s growth. The Cultural Affairs Committee has provided partial support for previous lectures (e.g. \$2013 in 2005; \$1000 in 2004; \$2000 in 2003) and enabled us to keep ahead of inflation. We hope they will continue until the fund is able to generate income that should fully cover our more expensive and distant speakers in the future.

The Schonberger Memorial Lecture Fund (SMLF), administered by the UM Development Office through the UM History Department, will be able to underwrite this year \$1867 of the total costs for Mr. Jamail’s lecture, budgeted at \$ 3207 (an estimate pending final costs for transportation). This figure includes \$1200 for an honorarium, estimated travel, meals, publicity, recording of the Schonberger lecture and perhaps a Marxist-Socialist lecture, and a reception (we understand that the last cannot be paid by the DLS fund).

Smaller amounts will be contributed by two campus units. \$65 for publicity for the lecture mailed to past donors will be contributed by the UM History Department

(HTY); and the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program (WIC/WS) is contributing flyers worth \$75.

We are asking CA/DLS to contribute \$1200 toward Dahr Jamail's honorarium. The Schonberger Memorial Lecture Fund will pay all travel, lodging, and program expenses. Mr. Jamail may come to Orono on a tour that includes other venues. Depending on these arrangements, travel costs might be halved. Even in that case, DLS/CA would still be paying less than half of the total costs for the lecture.

	Costs	Contributions
Honorarium	1200	
Lodging	300 <i>est.</i> 3 <i>nights</i>	300 SMLF
Transportation <i>Roundtrip air from Anchorage with 21 day advance booking as of 3-28 is \$676. Hewins believes this will go higher because of fuel costs. The price has been as high as \$900.</i>	800 <i>est.</i>	800 SMLF
Meals (3 days)	117 <i>per diem</i>	117 SMLF
Publicity		
Printing posters	225	225 SMLF
Flyers	75	75 WIC/WS
Mailing to past donors	65	65 HTY
Sound System	35	35 SMLF
Videotaping Two lectures	250	250 SMLF
Reception	175	175 SMLF

Total Costs	\$ 3207	Contributions	\$ 2007
Total Contributions	\$ 2007	SMLF	\$ 1867
		History Dept.	65
		WIC/WS	75
Total Requested of CA/DLS	\$ 1200		