A veteran National Public Radio (NPR) correspondent and a visionary art foundation director were on campus this fall as Rogow Distinguished Visiting Lecturers.

Michael Govan, president and director of the Dia Art Foundation, spoke on Oct. 18 in Lincoln Theater and received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts.

Govan led the planning and development of Dia:Beacon Riggio Galleries, a museum for Dia’s renowned but rarely seen permanent collection of contemporary art comprising works from the 1960s to the present. The museum opened in May 2003 in a 300,000-square-foot former industrial building in Beacon, N.Y., on the banks of the Hudson River. The museum’s expansive galleries are designed for display of the works in Dia’s collections, many of which, because of their character or scale, could not be easily accommodated in more conventional settings. Included are works by Andy Warhol, Richard Serra, On Kawara, Walter De Maria, and Dan Flavin.

NPR correspondent Anne Garrels, the second Rogow Lecturer in the fall series, spoke to a sold-out crowd in Millard Auditorium on Nov. 7. Garrels earned recognition in 2003 by being one of 16 U.S. journalists to remain in Baghdad during the initial invasion of Iraq. She is the author of Naked in Baghdad: The Iraq War as Seen by NPR’s Correspondent Anne Garrels.

Garrels kept the audience at Millard riveted with her descriptions of life in Iraq, the hopes and fears of Iraqi citizens, and her perspectives on the war.

NPR correspondent Anne Garrels (left) and Dia Art Foundation Director Michael Govan drew enthusiastic audiences to this year’s Rogow Distinguished Visiting Lecturers program.

Rogow Program Brings Luminaries in Journalism and the Arts to Campus
The University of Hartford is unveiling a new visual identity system that unites the institution’s often disparate signatures and logos to present a consistent and strong visual image.

“The University of Hartford is a forward-looking institution that is also proud of its heritage as a private university with a public purpose,” said President Walter Harrison. “Now, it has a graphic identity that is in sync with its personality in a dynamic and comprehensive way.”

A team of people representing key stakeholders across the university participated in the process. The West Hartford design firm of WondriskaRusso, headed by Dennis Russo ’76 (HAS), spearheaded the development of the new identity system.

“We recognized that a vibrant visual identity and a more consistent use of graphic elements would help raise awareness and recognition of the university among key internal and external audiences,” said Senior Communication Director Marcy Cain, who was asked by President Harrison to lead the project.

The changes are considered evolutionary, not revolutionary. Two key elements were retained: the seal and the color red. The original seal, created in 1957 by then Hartford Art School Dean Alan Tompkins, was simplified to enhance legibility and reproduction clarity. The typographic treatment sets the university’s name in capital letters in Adobe Jenson, a classic typeface.

The University of Hartford logo is the primary design element of an identity system that includes the entire university community, rather than one with separate and competing identities for its colleges, schools, and departments.

“The new system recognizes the strengths of our ‘brand-name’ schools and colleges, and it does so in a way that enhances, rather than confuses, the university’s overall image and reputation,” said Harrison. “This is good for all of us.”
The Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies launched a yearlong celebration of its 20th anniversary on Oct. 30 and 31, 2005, with two panel discussions on the importance of Jewish studies in a college curriculum.

Humphrey Tonkin, president emeritus and university professor of the humanities, and Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, former president of the University of Hartford and current president of The George Washington University, joined President Walter Harrison to explore the question, “What Place Does Jewish Studies Have at the University?”

In the second discussion, a panel of leaders in the field of Jewish studies tackled the topic, “The Significance of Jewish Studies on the College Campus.” Moderator for this panel was Jonathan Rosenbaum, former director of the Greenberg Center and current president of Gratz College.

Richard Freund, director of the Greenberg Center since 1999, believes the center’s program continues to be one of the finest in the country because of its vision. “In 20 years the vision of the Greenberg Center has not changed,” he notes. “It remains focused on students and faculty as well as on the Greater Hartford community, both Jewish and non-Jewish.”

Arnold C. Greenberg, who provided the major endowment that founded the center, says it embodies his concept of a “strong community program so people in the Greater Hartford community could come onto campus and attend programs free of charge,” and a program that would permit students “to examine the influence of Jewish history, culture, and tradition on Western civilization.”

Officially opened in 1985, the Greenberg Center, part of the university’s College of Arts and Sciences, offers degrees in three majors: Judaic studies, pre-cantorial studies, and a dual major in elementary education and Judaic studies. Students in pre-cantorial studies, the only program of its kind in the country, study music and voice at the university’s premier Hartt School.

Students can also study in Israel and take part in archaeological excavations at Bethsaida, where the center has its own lab and field school.

The center’s most recent enterprise, in keeping with its vision of leadership, is the George J. Sherman and Lottie K. Sherman Museum of Jewish Civilization, housed on campus in the Harry Jack Gray Center. Thousands of visitors, including many local schoolchildren, have enjoyed its hands-on exhibitions since its opening.

In his remarks at the opening event, President Harrison said, “The Greenberg Center will continue to be a centerpiece of the University’s intellectual life.”

John Carson ’65 is the new vice president for university relations, overseeing all of the university’s government relations, communications, and community relations efforts.

“I look forward to working with John and with all of our talented staff in university relations in ensuring that our reputation for excellence continues to expand locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally,” said President Walter Harrison in making the announcement to the University community.

Carson had been senior advisor for corporate and community relations since 1998 and served as acting vice president for finance and administration for a year prior to that. He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Hartford and received his master’s degree in economics from the University of Massachusetts.

He has 38 years of high-level visibility and responsibility in economic analysis, economic development, banking, and higher education, including posts as Connecticut economic development commissioner from 1981 to 1988, and as president of the Connecticut Policy and Economic Council from 1991 to 1996.
Embrace Differences, Risk Failure, Learn Compassion
DREW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT URGES GRADUATES TO DEFEND LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

In his address at the university’s fall Commencement ceremony, Robert Weisbuch discussed his fear that a college education is becoming more and more about preparing for tomorrow’s career and less about becoming a thinking person in society. Weisbuch, president of Drew University since July 2005 and former head of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, urged the graduates to see the value of the arts and sciences education they had received and to fight for it “as you would for your deepest political conviction, for in truth that is what it should be.”

Approximately 148 graduates received their degrees on Dec. 4 in Lincoln Theater as family and friends watched and applauded. Weisbuch received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters as part of the ceremony. Saying there was “no other institution in the United States from which he would rather receive an honorary degree,” he praised the university for its interaction with the community, calling its efforts “a great testament to the way a university and a city can combine for the public good.” Bobbi McNeil ’94, regent and past president of the Alumni Association, presented Weisbuch with the honorary degree after describing him as a national leader and passionate advocate for the liberal arts and sciences.

This strong advocacy animated Weisbuch’s address to the students. Speaking to their heads, bodies, and hearts, he said his comments were “about thinking and acting, and then the spirit in which you do both.” To the head, Weisbach advised a mind open to every idea and point of view. To the body, he urged action, saying that without it, “the brain and its thought are inert.” To the heart, or spirit, Weisbach recommended compassion. “The fact that all of us will fail miserably at some point, will suffer what will seem at the moment an irreparable disappointment, requires the heart’s home virtue … compassion.”

University to Host 2006 National College Bowl Championship

In anticipation of the 2006 National College Bowl Championship, known as “The Varsity Sport of the Mind,” nine campus teams competed in a tournament on November 4 to begin choosing the university’s team. The University of Hartford will host the national academic quiz tournament from April 21 to 23, 2006.

The first-place team in the campus competition was Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, followed by Sigma Nu fraternity and Phi Mu sorority. The winning Alpha Sigma Phi team was headed by its captain and last year’s Hartford College Bowl team member, Jim Capinera ’06, who said, “I’m very excited about the campus tournament this year, especially after playing on the Hartford team last season. College Bowl is a different kind of competition, with questions on just about everything, and it’s fun to play.” Other members of the winning team were Rudis Carrasco ’08, David Coviello ’06, Anthony Millard ’06, and Jeff Romano ’07. Winners received $125 each.

The university team will compete in the regional College Bowl tournament, to be held Feb. 24-26, 2006, at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The top 16 regional teams in the country will come to Hartford to compete in the national tournament in April.

The campus tournament was sponsored by the Kampus Activities Team (KAT), Follett College Stores, the Office of Residential Life, and the Office of Greek Life.