

## Comments on our Trans-Divisional Programming

Today we commemorate that one hundred years ago William James raised serious questions about war and society. He reasoned that the antidote to warring as a cultural way of life was an equally strong conviction and plan that aimed the societal truth of discipline and passion dedicated to the common good rather than to the eradication or submission of an enemy. Only skillful persuasion, he reasoned, can instill this "civic passion" as a possible "moral equivalent of war."

Cinema has replaced Bible stories as a primary way to examine moral lessons that transmit such societal values.. This year ***The Hurt Locker*** won the Best Picture Academy Award and the first Best Director Award for a female director (Kathryn Bigelow) by examining the psychology of the warrior, the impact of trauma on civilians in the combat zone and on family life of returning soldiers, and the challenges confronted by psychologists in public service searching for effective interventions. The film explores the destructiveness of war, begging James' quest for possible alternatives to the painful dilemmas war. Do we have the strength and means for establishing a peace-culture that can replace our warring one, a civic one that, like the war-ethic, embodies the passion, the conviction, the tools, and the discipline of dedicated members? We award the film "The Hurt Locker" a 2010 Trans-Divisional Special Media Award as a tribute to its presentation of war, 100 years after James' address of war and the requirement that we find a remedy to its horrors.

At our reception on Thursday evening, August 12, 2010, we will honor the film, and meet together for good conversation to consider next steps in converting our culture toward a more responsible, passionate peace-centered one of civic passion and moral responsibility. At our symposium on Friday morning, we will consider how the language of films examines peace and warfare to instruct us in the psychology of human nature, exploring the ethics of Truth and the meaning of virtue in Western culture fighting a conflict in a Middle Eastern culture.