

University of Delaware  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

## Distinguished Scholars Series

Public Lecture

**‘Where do we go from here?  
Fantasy and virtual reality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century’**

by

**Susan J. Napier**

Susan Napier is Professor of Japanese at Tufts University. A vibrant speaker and internationally renowned scholar, Dr. Napier has published widely on Japanese literature and popular culture. Her work includes the books *Anime from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle: Experiencing Japanese Animation* (2001, updated in 2005), *The Fantastic in Modern Japanese Literature: The Subversion of Modernity* (1996), and *Escape from the Wasteland: Romanticism and Realism in the Fiction of Mishima Yukio and Oe Kenzaburo* (1991). Her latest book is *From Impressionism to Anime: Japan as Fantasy and Fan Cult in the Mind of the West* (2007).

In her presentation, Professor Napier will reference both Japanese cultural products and Western works to examine what contemporary fantasy represents in graphic novels, films, video games, and fan activities. Is fantasy simply an escape from an overly technological world? Or does it critique, subvert, or compensate for our complex contemporary reality?

**Friday, April 17, 2009**

**4:00 p.m.**

**103 Gore Hall**

(Reception to follow lecture: President's Room, Blue & Gold Club)

This is the forty-sixth public lecture in the Distinguished Scholars Series sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures.