

## ***The Lewis School of Princeton Enthusiastically Welcomes Harvard University Professor John R. Stilgoe***

Princeton, NJ—The Lewis School of Princeton enthusiastically welcomed Harvard University Professor John R. Stilgoe to its campus on Friday, November 18, 2005. The Lewis School students enjoyed a unique educational opportunity as the visiting scholar, Professor John R. Stilgoe, presented an unusual workshop entitled, “Outside Lies Magic.” Following a community lecture sponsored by CommonGround on November 17 at The Lawrenceville Preparatory School, Stilgoe engaged Lewis students by communicating his fascinating philosophies about discovering history and inspiration in ordinary places.

Stilgoe, Harvard landscape and architectural historian, encourages all of us to look at our environment with different eyes and uncover the history and meaning of things around us, whether it be a fire hydrant, a lamppost or a manhole. Stilgoe, author of *Outside Lies Magic: Regaining History and Awareness in Everyday Places*, says, “As we go about our hurried super organized lives, we treat our everyday environment with indifference—hardly noticing anything around us, their purpose or history. Our eyes lose the ability to really see. Unlike our forefathers, we do not stop, look and observe our surroundings, and we fail to question and investigate the purpose and meaning of the things around us. We go about the world blindly and without much thought to anything in our environment. All we have to do is stop, look and explore.”

The professor initially presented an overview of his philosophies and tenants to Lewis students before taking them on a walking tour up and down the streets of Princeton, pulling stories right from underneath their noses as they walked past everyday artifacts. Stilgoe’s goal is to improve and enrich our students’ quality of life, by teaching them firsthand how to observe and discover the hidden stories around them.



