

1989-1990 Warren Center Programs

Fellows Programs

1989/1990 Fellows Program "The Return of Rhetoric"

Participants were Jay Clayton (English), Jean Bethke Elshtain (political science), William Engel (English), James Epstein (history), F. W. Galan (comparative literature), David Greenhaw (Divinity School), Kassian Kovalcheck (communication studies), Jean Porter (Divinity School), William Race (classics), and Susan Wiltshire (classics).

Guest Speakers: **Peggy Steinfels**, (Editor, *Commonweal*); **William Sullivan** (philosophy, LaSalle College); **Dominick LaCapra** (history, Cornell University); and **Stephen G. Nichols** (Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins University).

1988/1989 Fellows Program "Disciplines and the Canon" Members of the 1988/1989 Fellows Program organized a conference with the following guest speakers: **Tzvetan Todorov** (Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris); **Michael Shapiro** (political science, University of Hawaii); **Nancy Armstrong** (Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Comparative Literature, English, Modern Culture & Media, Brown University); **Rodolphe Gasché** (comparative literature, SUNY-Buffalo); **James Der Derian** (political science, University of Massachusetts/Amherst); **George Marcus** (anthropology, Rice University); **Paul Hernadi** (English, University of California at Santa Barbara); **Elizabeth Fox-Genovese** (Eleanore Raoul Professor of the Humanities, Emory University).

Special Events

Law, Literature, and Social Change

This conference brought together leading theorists from law and the humanities to debate the role that the interpretation of texts plays in shaping society. Conference papers were published in the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, Vol. 43, No. 6, Nov. 1990.

Guest Speakers: **G. Edward White** (John B. Minor Professor of Law and Professor of History, University of Virginia); **Martha Minow** (Harvard Law School); **Michael Ryan** (English, Northeastern University); **Cornel West** (Department of Religion and Director of Afro-American Studies, Princeton University).

NEH: Feminist Classics in American Culture

This was an NEH Summer institute for high school teachers, directed by Elisabeth Perry (history).

Humanities in America

Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, **Lynne Cheney**, presented her report entitled "Humanities in America" to an audience of approximately 150. Panelists Jean Bethke Elshtain (political science), Paul H. Freedman (history) and William Race (classics) responded to Mrs. Cheney's remarks. She also gave a talk to regional museum directors at Tennessee State Museum.

Warren Center Seminars

American Studies

This was a bi-monthly forum for Vanderbilt faculty for better understanding their colleagues' work in the area of American Studies.

Art and Politics

This luncheon seminar discussion was on the interplay of art and politics.

Guest Speakers: **Tom Schulman**, Academy-award winning screenwriter (“Dead Poet's Society”), and **Sam Pickering** (English, University of Connecticut, Storrs) were in attendance.

Chaos and Causality

The seminar met four times with over 50 people in attendance at each meeting and resulted in a half-hour radio program for "Soundings" produced by the National Humanities Center. The broadcast was heard on over 250 public radio stations around the country.

Guest Speaker: **Martin Meisel** (English, Columbia University).

Early Modern Studies

"Theoretical Problems in Biography" was the topic.

Guest Speaker: **Richard Marius** (English, Harvard University).

Foucault Reading Group

Ten faculty members and two graduate students met three times to read and discuss Foucault.

Satire

Six faculty members met for four weeks for an interdisciplinary exploration of satire.

Southern History and Literature

Eleven faculty from four departments participated in the seminar.

Guest Speaker: **C. Van Woodward** (Yale University).

Translation

This was a year long seminar on translation and translation theories.

Truth and Metaphor

The seminar met twice on the topic of truth and metaphor.

Witch Hunts

This seminar met three times for an interdisciplinary exploration of witch hunts, 1450-1700.

