

2000-2001 Warren Center Programs

Fellows Program

2000/2001 Warren Center Program, "Rediscovering the New World: Exploring Lines of Contact among the Americas and Within the United States"

Those participating included Anne Demo (communication studies and theater), Edward Fischer (anthropology), Marshall Eakin (history), Earl Fitz (co-director, Spanish & Portuguese), Cathy Jade (co-director, Spanish & Portuguese), Jane Landers (history), and William Luis (co-director, Spanish & Portuguese).

Williams S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow: Deborah Cohn (Hispanic Studies, McGill University).

Guest Speakers: **Stephanie Merrim** (Hispanic studies and comparative literature, Brown University) "Wonder and the Wounds of Southern Histories"; **Judith Cofer** (English, University of Georgia) **Keith Botsford** (journalism, Boston University), **William Styron** (award-winning novelist and writer), and Martin Espada.

Special Events

Harry C. Howard, Jr. Lecture 2000

Arnold Rampersad (Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities, Stanford University) gave a talk entitled, "Biography and African American Lives." During a lunch seminar, Professor Rampersad met with African-American Studies faculty to discuss his new work, a biography of Ralph Ellison, and also recorded a radio interview with **Lucius Outlaw** (philosophy/African-American studies), for WRVU.

Steve McGuire (art and art history, storyteller, University of Iowa) "Adding Something Known to Something Seen: Storytelling and Sculpture."

Nelida Piñon, Brazilian writer and the first woman to head the Brazilian Academy of Letters, gave a talk entitled, "The Narrative Memory of Woman." The lecture was sponsored by a number of departments in the College of Arts & Science in conjunction with the Fellows Program.

Religion and Public Life: Is America God's Country?

The Warren Center, in conjunction with the Vanderbilt Divinity School, the Vanderbilt Law School, and the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, hosted a major national symposium on this topic. A panel discussion geared to the general public was held Friday, April 6, 2001 at the First Amendment Center. Panelists included: **Jean Bethke Elshstain**, Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics, University of Chicago Divinity School; **Marci Hamilton**, Thomas H. Lee Chair in Public Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University; **Gustav Neibuhr**, Religion Editor for the *New York Times*; and **Randall Balmer**, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of American Religion, Columbia University. Also scheduled was **Albert Raboteau**, Professor of

Religion, Princeton University, but illness prevented his participation. Vanderbilt University Professor **Lucius T. Outlaw, Jr.** spoke in his place. On Saturday, April 7, the Warren Center hosted the more academic portion of this program with invited faculty members and graduate students. The Saturday symposium was entitled "Religious Principles and Democratic Culture."

The Robert Penn Warren Lecture on Southern Letters

The Center co-sponsored with the Tennessee Humanities Council the third annual Robert Penn Warren Lecture on Southern Letters given on April 19, 2001. The speaker was writer **William Styron**.

Symposium 2000, Jose Ramos-Horta

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mr. Ramos-Horta was invited to Vanderbilt as part of Symposium 2000, co-sponsored by the College of Arts & Science. His talk was entitled "Peacemaking: The Power of Non-Violence." He was honored by Chancellor E. Gordon Gee at a reception afterwards in the Eskind Medical Library. The Humanities Center hosted a breakfast the morning following the lecture with Mr. Ramos-Horta and students from the College Scholars Program. An essay written by **Brent Savoie** about the students' meeting with Mr. Ramos-Horta was published in *Letters*.

We the People

The Warren Center hosted a one week summer seminar in July 2001 for school teachers in Tennessee in connection with the "We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution," program. Established by an act of Congress in 1985 and supported by the Department of Education, this program is administered by the Center for Civic Education in Los Angeles, California.

The following Vanderbilt University faculty members led seminar sessions for the program: **James Blumstein** (law school); **William James Booth** (political science); **Lisa Bressman** (law school); **John Goldberg** (law school); **Samuel McSeveney** (history).

Participants: **Mary Catherine Bradshaw** (Hillsboro High School, Nashville, co-director); **R. B. Quinn** (journalism, MTSU, co-director); **Janis Kyser** ("We the People" state coordinator); **Paula C. Barnes** (Hutchinson High School, Memphis); **Jim Bills** (Hillsboro High School, Nashville); **Daphne Greene** (Mountain City Middle School, Mountain City); **Rosemary Hood** (Brentwood Middle School, Brentwood); **Russell Mang** (Kenwood High School, Clarksville); **Nancy Schwartz** (Martin Luther King High School, Nashville); **Peter Gunn** (Massachusetts, mentor teacher); **Stan Harris** (Indiana, mentor teacher); **Darnell Tabron** (North Carolina, mentor teacher).

Warren Center Seminars

Early Modern Studies

This seminar provided opportunities for discussion of research in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and/or eighteenth century. The seminar met regularly throughout the year.

Faculty Luncheon Group

Faculty members from throughout the university community give presentations to the luncheon group regarding their research interests.

Guest Speakers: **Lucius Outlaw** (philosophy, African American studies), **Kathryn Schwarz** (English), **Mark Justad** (Associate Dean of divinity school, Cal Turner Program).

Feminist Dialogues

Guest Speakers: **Diane Sasson** (women's studies program), **Melanie Lowe**, (Blair school), **Cynthia Ganote** (sociology), **Bonnie Miller-McLemore** (divinity school), and **Laura Patterson** (English).

Gender and Sexuality

This group focused on questions of gender and sexuality taking up such issues as representations of sexual and gendered identity, essentialist/constructivist debates, modes of eroticism, and the nature of social and sexual conventions across a range of disciplines, historical periods, and theoretical methodologies.

Genetics and Mental Health

This was an interdisciplinary seminar that me to discuss scientific advancements in genetic research and the corresponding social issues.

Guest speaker: **Robert Plomin** (Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London, England).

Graduate Student Seminar

An interdisciplinary seminar for graduate students, topics included: "Cultural Artifacts," "Theatrical Texts and Spaces," and "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Film."

Guest Speakers: **Emily Brault** (graduate department of religion) **Karissa McCoy** (English), and **Carrie Lee** (sociology)

Social Construction of the Body

This was a monthly faculty-graduate student seminar on the social construction of the body.

Guest Speakers: **Katie Crawford** (history) and **Tom McGinn** (classics), **Sandra Harrell** (campus violence grant), **Allison Pingree** (Center for Teaching), and **Sima Samar** (Shuhada Organization in Quetta, Pakistan) speaking on "Health Needs of Refugee Women."

Other Projects

National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Event

On March 27th, Mona Frederick met in Washington, DC with members of the Tennessee congressional delegation and their respective staffs as part of an advocacy event organized by the National Humanities Alliance to convey the importance of research and other

projects supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. She met with **Sen. Bill Frist**, **Rep. Bob Clement** and members of their staffs, as well as staff members in the offices of **Rep. Bart Gordon** and **Sen. Fred Thompson**. Following this lobbying effort, a member of Rep. Clement's office visited campus and the Warren Center hosted a luncheon for her to meet members of faculty who have recently won NEH awards.

Regional Humanities Center

The Warren Center hosted planning meetings for the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture and Tulane University's proposed Regional Humanities Center. Both institutions had been awarded NEH planning grants to prepare proposals for designation as the Deep South regional humanities center. The two Nashville meetings brought together educators, librarians, and other representatives from arts and humanities organizations from around the state.