

2002-2003 Warren Center Programs

Fellows Program

2002/2003 Fellows Program, “Gender, Sexuality, & Cultural Politics”

The 2002/03 Fellows Program, co-directed by Carolyn Dever (English) and John Sloop (communication studies), examined the theme “Gender, Sexuality, and Cultural Politics.” Participants in the program were: Brooke Ackerly (political science), Katherine Crawford (history), Lynn Enterline (English), Jose Medina (philosophy), Diane Perpich (philosophy), Kathryn Schwarz (English), and Holly Tucker (French and Italian). Chancellor Gee joined the seminar for lunchtime discussion once in the fall term and once in the spring term.

Williams S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow: Lisa Duggan (Associate Professor of American Studies and History, New York University).

Inaugural Warren Center Graduate Student Summer Fellows Program

The Warren Center hosted its first summer fellows program for graduate students. Seven students were selected to receive the \$4,500 fellowship and to participate in bi-weekly seminar meetings at the Warren Center. The inaugural program was a great success. The 2003 Warren Center graduate student fellows were: Ivan Fernandez Pelaez (Spanish and Portuguese); Elizabeth Festa (English); Aisha X. L. Francis (English); Jennifer Holt (philosophy); Karissa McCoy (English); Matt O’Mansky (anthropology) and Carrie Lee Smith (sociology).

Special Events

Commemoration of the Publication of *The Holocaust and Other Genocides*

Chancellor Gordon Gee hosted an event at his home on September 4th to honor the publication of *The Holocaust and Other Genocides: History, Representation, and Ethics*. The book, published by Vanderbilt University Press, was edited by Vanderbilt University history professor Helmut Walser Smith. The book was a result of a year-long seminar sponsored by the Warren Center and funded by the Tennessee Holocaust Commission to devise curricula for secondary schools and universities that will teach about the holocaust and promote strategies for the prevention of similar atrocities. Participants, selected in a statewide competition, included professors from five universities and eight disciplines, as well as two high school teachers recognized for their outstanding contributions to the teaching of the Holocaust. In the summer of 2000, a seminar for high school teachers was held at the Warren Center to create materials for curricula based on the work of the faculty colloquium, and in the fall of 2000 a workshop was held for 60 teachers from middle Tennessee to introduce them to the curriculum guide. The text was published in 2002 and *copies of the book were distributed, free of charge, to every high school (public and private) in the state of Tennessee.*

Norman L. and Roselea J. Goldberg Lecture Series

The Warren Center hosted interdisciplinary lunch meetings for the Department of Art and Art History lecture series. Speakers were **Timothy Barringer** (Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art, Yale University) and **Barbara Stafford** (William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago).

Harry C. Howard Jr. Lecture.

The 2003 Harry C. Howard Jr. Lecture was presented by **Kay Redfield Jamison** (Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Honorary Professor of English at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland) on Thursday, October 17th. Her talk was entitled “A Life in Moods: Personal and Professional Perspectives on Mental Illness.” The following day, Professor Jamison met with members of the Medicine, Health, and Society seminar. She is the author of many works, including *Touched with Fire: Manic-Depressive Illness and the Artistic Temperament* (Free Press, 1993), *An Unquiet Mind* (Picador, 1995); and *Night Falls Fast: Understanding Suicide* (Picador, 1999). She also co-authored an influential medical text on manic-depression entitled *Manic-Depressive Illness* (Oxford University Press, 1990). She has received numerous academic awards, including the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

Investigating Identity and Experience: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on Gender, Sexuality, and Cultural Politics

The program, designed to complement the Fellows Program work on “Gender, Sexuality and Cultural Politics” brought together more than fifty scholars representing a host of disciplines from thirty-two institutions of higher learning. Keynote speakers for the conference were **Lisa Duggan** (Associate Professor of History and American Studies at NYU and William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow at the Warren Center), and **Uma Narayan** (philosophy and Director of the Women’s Studies Program, Vassar College). The 2002/2003 Fellows awarded a \$500 prize for the best graduate student paper to **Christina B. Hanhardt** from New York University for her paper entitled “Beyond Gay Enclaves: Reconfiguring the Urban Geography of Sexual Minority ‘Safety.’” The conference was coordinated by Vanderbilt graduate students **Jennifer Bird-Pollan** (philosophy) and **Tisha Kamlay** (English).

National Endowment for the Humanities Grants Seminar

On Thursday, September 26th **Dr. Kenneth Kolson**, Deputy Director of Research Programs at the NEH, led a presentation that included an overview of research grant programs at the NEH, the proposal review process, current NEH initiatives, and a mock panel review. Dr. Kolson also met individually with interested faculty members from Vanderbilt University and other area colleges and universities. This program was cosponsored by the Office of Sponsored Research.

National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Event

Mona Frederick and Associate Professor of English Kate Daniels 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.

Philip Levine: A 75th Birthday Celebration at Vanderbilt University

In conjunction with the English Department's Gertrude Vanderbilt and Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Program honoring **Philip Levine**, the Warren Center and several undergraduate creative writing majors hosted a Saturday luncheon for Levine and the poets gathered in his honor. Other poets involved in the event included **Christopher Buckley, Kate Daniels, Peter Everwine, Charles Hanzlicek, Edward Hirsch, Mark Jarman, Galway Kinnell, Dorianne Laux, Paul Mariani, and Gerald Stern.**

Race and Wealth Disparity in 21st Century America

The Warren Center and the Vanderbilt Law School co-sponsored a research circle entitled "Race and Wealth Disparity in 21st Century America." Members of faculty from Vanderbilt University and from several other local universities met regularly and began a series of public lectures. This project was funded by the Ford Foundation and was directed by Professor of Law Beverly Moran. During a campus visit to give the Chancellor's Lecture, **Cornell West** (Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion, Princeton University) met with the seminar participants.

Public lectures: **Cecelia Tichi** (William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English) "White Collar Blues: Movin' On in the New Gilded Age"; **Bruce Barry** (Brownlee O. Curry Associate Professor of Management and Associate Professor of Sociology) "Corporatism and Inequality: The Race to the Bottom (Line)"; **Anne Demo** (communication studies) "Communities in Conflict: Labor and Mobility in an Anglo Hamlet"; **Edward Fisher** (anthropology and Director of the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies) "Selling Identities: Race, Class, and the Quest for Authenticity in the Late Capitalist Market"

Special Lecture: Noel Polk

Noel Polk (professor of American Literature at the University of Southern Mississippi) gave a public lecture on his newly-edited version of Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* published in 2001 by Harcourt Press. Professor Polk also met with a graduate student seminar at the Warren Center. The event was cosponsored by the English Department.

"Two Towns of Jasper,"

The Warren Center co-sponsored a film and discussion at the Belcourt Theater on Wednesday January 15, 2003 as part of Martin Luther King lecture series. Filmed in Jasper, Texas during the trial of three men accused of the brutal, racially motivated murder of James Byrd, the film uses separate black and white film crews to examine the attitudes of a town divided by race. Leading a discussion with the film makers, **Whitney Dow** and

Marco Williams, were **Forrest Harris** (VU Divinity School and American Baptist College), **Richard King** (history), **Lucius Outlaw** (philosophy and African American Studies), and **Carol Swain** (political science and law). The Warren Center also purchased a banner that will hang on the campus each year during the MLK Lecture Series.

Understanding the Middle East Lecture Series

Three speakers took part in the lecture series. **Benjamin R. Barber** (Gershon and Carol Kekst Professor of Civil Society at the University of Maryland and a principal of the Democracy Collaborative in New York City) spoke on Tuesday, November 19th. Professor Barber's 15 books include *Strong Democracy* (University of California Press, 1984); *Jihad vs. McWorld* (Times Books, 1995, paperback, Ballantine Books; 1996); *A Passion for Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 1999); and *The Truth of Power: Intellectual Affairs in the Clinton White House* (Norton, 2001). **Ebrahim Moosa** (associate professor of religion and co-director of the Center for Study of Muslim Networks) gave a public lecture on Thursday, March 20th entitled "Rethinking Islam in Modernity." Professor Moosa's research interests are in the area of Islamic thought, especially Islamic law, ethics, theology and critical theory. He is the author of many published essays in Islamic thought ranging from issues in ethics and law covering topics such as human rights, women's rights, Muslim family law, medical ethics and political ethics to historical studies that deal with questions of Qur'an exegesis and medieval Islamic law and philosophy. **Kenan Makiya** (Adjunct Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Brandeis University) presented a lecture entitled "The United States and Post-Saddam Iraq" on March 27th. His book *Republic of Fear* (1989) became a bestseller after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. Professor Makiya's next book, *The Monument* (1991), is an essay on the aesthetics of power and kitsch. Both *Republic of Fear* and *The Monument* were written under the pseudonym, Samir al-Khalil. *Cruelty and Silence: War, Tyranny, Uprising and the Arab World* (1993) was published under Makiya's own name.

We the People

The Warren Center hosted a one week summer seminar in June 2003 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 institute was co-directed by **Sue Chaney Gilmore** and **Mary Catherine Bradshaw**, both teachers at Hillsboro High School in Nashville, TN. Vanderbilt faculty members who participated in the project were **Lisa Bressman** (law school), **John Lachs** (philosophy), **Samuel T. McSeveney** (history), and **Susan Wiltshire** (classical studies).

Warren Center Seminars

Baudelaire and Hugo: Strong Poets, Competing Poetics

This informal group met six times during the semester and was cosponsored by the Department of French and the W. T. Bandy Center.

Guest Speaker: **Margaret Miner** (French, University of Illinois) "Hugo and Baudelaire."

Circum-Atlantic Studies Group

This group met regularly to read and treat works in-progress authored by participants. Participants' scholarship was interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on at least two of the following regions—Africa, Europe, Latin and Central America, the Caribbean, and North America—and treating some aspect of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, and or postcolonialism.

Guest Speaker: **Jane T. Merritt** (history, Old Dominion University).

Early Modern Studies Group

This was an interdisciplinary forum for faculty and graduate students with an interest in literature, history, music, art, and culture from 1400-1800.

Guest Speakers: **Tom Conley** (Professor of Romance Languages, Harvard University) “Map, Text, and Image of the Americas,” **Peter Lake** (Professor of History, Princeton University) “Ben Jonson, *Sejanus*, and the Politics of Roman (Catholic) Virtue,” and **Rick Rambuss** (English, Emory University).

Environmental Studies Working Group

This group was concerned with the role of individuals and communities in the creation of risks to human health and the environment, and the extent to which the risks may differ based on individual and community characteristics. Faculty from various disciplines had the opportunity to learn about each others' research and teaching interests in environmental issues. Additionally, there were two visiting speakers, one each semester. Co-sponsored by the Institute for Environmental Risk and Resources Management.

Gender and Strategic Thinking Working Group

Seminar participants discussed ways gender has been used strategically and the ways in which feminists have worked strategically to promote gender-aware agendas.

Medicine, Health, and Society Workshop/Planning Group

This interdisciplinary seminar met monthly to discuss common concerns and hear talks by members and visiting speakers.

Guest Speaker: **Charles Rosenberg** (history of medicine, Harvard) gave a public lecture entitled “Complimentary to What? Alternative to Whom? On the Scientific Project in Medicine.” He also met for a luncheon discussion with the workshop.

Phenomenology Reading Group. This was a graduate student seminar.

Positive Psychology Reading Group

Positive Psychology is a new field of psychology that focuses on improving the best in human beings and institutions. The group read Martin Seligman's *Authentic Happiness* and engaged in an interdisciplinary examination of the theory, research and applications of this new field.

Vanderbilt Forum for Peace

This was an opportunity for on-going conversations regarding the possibilities of peace in the modern world.

Visual Culture Reading Group

Seminar examined a number of themes and issues, including: power, identity, and the visual; images and the public sphere; visuality, memory and politics; and visual logic and the movement of history

Guest Speaker: **Barbara Biesecker** (associate professor of rhetoric and communication studies at the University of Iowa) gave a public lecture entitled “Love and the Nation: Whiteness, Women and WWII in Contemporary American Public Culture.” She also met with the Visual Culture reading group.

Warren Center Summer Seminars

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for High School Teachers

The Warren Center was home to a five week NEH seminar for high school teachers entitled “The Outsider: Picaresque Variations in Narrative and Film” directed by Edward Friedman, Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature. The Warren Center also hosted an opening reception for the group.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers

Because the Warren Center had already committed its space to the seminar directed by Professor Friedman, we were not able to provide meeting space for this NEH seminar. The Warren Center did, however, host a reception in honor of the participants in Professor Don Doyle’s seminar on “Faulkner and Southern History.”

Other Projects.

Konrad Jarausch (Lurcy Professor of European Civilization, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) met for a luncheon seminar with a group of faculty at the Warren Center.

Claude Lanzman (director of the documentary *Shoah*) delivered the Holocaust Lecture and met with students at the Warren Center for a lunchtime discussion.

Washington University Humanities Center

Gerald Early (Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters and Director of the International Writers Center) and **Jian Leng** (Assistant Director) visited the Warren Center in order to learn more about our programs. Washington University plans to expand its International Writers Center and the Warren Center was one of several centers across the U.S. that they perceived to be model programs.