

2004-2005 Warren Center Programs

Fellows Programs

2004/2005 Fellows Program, “Strategic Actions: Women, Power, and Gender Norms”

Co-directed by Holly McCammon (sociology) and Cecelia Tichi (English), participants in the program included Brooke Ackerly (political science), Karen Campbell (sociology), Vivien Fryd (art history), Melissa Snarr (divinity), Ronnie Steinberg (sociology), and Barbara Tsakirgis (classics and art history). Chancellor Gee joined the seminar for a lunchtime discussion once in the fall term and once in the spring term.

Williams S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow: **Benita Roth** (sociology, University of Binghamton, SUNY).

Visiting Speakers: **Wendy Martin** (English, Claremont Graduate University), **Marjorie Spruill** (history, University of South Carolina) and **Cindia Cameron** and **Sandra Robertson** (both of 9to5, National Association of Working Women).

2002/2003 Fellows Program “Medicine, Health, and Society” Members of the 2002/2003 Fellows Program organized a conference entitled “**Rethinking Inequalities and Differences in Medicine.**” It was held April 29th - May 1, 2005, and keynote speakers were **Vinh-Kim Nguyen** (medical anthropology, McGill University) and **David Williams** (sociology, epidemiology, and African American Studies, University of Michigan). Conference presenters represented 24 institutions in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.

2005 Graduate Student Summer Fellows Program The Warren Center sponsored a summer Fellows Program for graduate students at the dissertation writing stage in the summer of 2005. The 2005 Warren Center graduate student fellows were: **Hyeyurn Chung** (English), **Steve Sungchu Lee** (Sociology), **Brian McInnis** (German), **Carmen Canete Quesada** (Spanish), and **Beccie Randhawa** (English)

Special Events

2004 Harry C. Howard, Jr. Lecture

Noted journalist and author **Joe Klein** presented this year’s Harry Howard Jr. Lecture on Tuesday, October 26th in Wilson Hall 103 at 4:10 p.m.. His lecture was entitled “*All the King’s Men* and *Primary Colors*: The Relationship Between Political Fiction and Political Factors in Election Year 2004.” Klein is a senior writer at *Time* magazine and a regular contributor to *Paula Zahn Now* on CNN. His weekly column in *Time*, “In the Arena,” covers national and international affairs.

As “Anonymous,” Klein wrote the best selling novel *Primary Colors* (Warner Books, 1996) which was inspired by the 1992 U.S. Presidential race. The *New York Times Book Review* called it “one of the best political novels to appear in the latter half of the twentieth century.” Klein’s contribution to the field of political fiction was very much influenced by

Robert Penn Warren's novel *All the King's Men*. Warren's 1947 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is considered one of the greatest political novels of all time. It is loosely based on the life of Louisiana politician, Governor Huey Long. Klein's lecture was one of several events the Warren Center hosted to honor the centennial of Warren's birth. Warren was born April 25, 1905 in Guthrie, Kentucky, and graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1925.

During the week of the Howard Lecture, the Warren Center and the Sarratt Film Committee co-sponsored the showing of the films based on Warren's and Klein's novels. On October 27th, *All the King's Men* was shown; *Primary Colors* was shown on October 28th.

Celebrating 400 Years of *Don Quixote*

The Warren Center sponsored a conference on November 12th and 13th, 2004, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the publication of Miguel de Cervantes's classic work *Don Quixote* (the first part of which was published in 1605). Professor **Edward Friedman** (Spanish) was the conference coordinator. Two visiting speakers gave presentations. **Yvonne Jehenson** (Professor Emerita of Spanish and Comparative Literature at the University of Hartford) is the author of *Latin-American Women Writers: Class, Race, and Gender* (State University of New York Press, 1995) and is completing a book (with Peter N. Dunn) tentatively titled "The Utopian Nexus in Cervantes's *Don Quixote*." **Howard Mancing** (Professor of Spanish at Purdue University) has most recently edited the two volume *Cervantes Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press, 2003). He is also the author of *The Golden Age Comedia: Text, Theory, and Performance* (Purdue University Press, 1994). A third speaker, **Marina Brownlee** (Professor of Spanish Literature at Princeton University) is author of *The Cultural Labyrinth of Maria De Zayas* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000) and co-author of *Cultural Authority in Golden Age Spain* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995) was scheduled to speak but unable to make the conference. Professor Friedman read her paper to those present.

Where We Stand: Voices of Southern Dissent

The Warren Center, along with the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, cosponsored a panel discussion led by several prominent scholars who had contributed essays to the recently published volume entitled *Where We Stand: Voices of Southern Dissent*, edited by Anthony Dunbar (NewSouth Books, 2004). The discussion took place October 5th at 4:10 pm in the Renaissance Room at the Vanderbilt Law School. Panel members included: **John Egerton**, independent scholar; **Paul Gaston**, Professor Emeritus of Southern and Civil Rights History, University of Virginia; **Gene Nichol**, Burton Craige Professor of Law, University of North Carolina; **Laughlin McDonald**, Director, Voting Rights Project, ACLU; **Susan Ford Wiltshire**, Classical Studies, Vanderbilt University.

DeLoss McGraw, "Reflections on Robert Penn Warren"

This exhibit honored the 100th anniversary of Robert Penn Warren's birth. Inspired by Warren's poetry, artist DeLoss McGraw created several works of art that were displayed throughout the month of April at the Warren Center. McGraw presented a lecture about the exhibit on Tuesday, April 5th at 4:10 pm in the Black Cultural Center. *The Vanderbilt*

Review (volume 20) ran a several page special section showcasing McGraw's work as well as an essay by the artist.

P.W. Singer

The Warren Center, in conjunction with VIPPS, co-hosted a public lecture by speaker P.W. Singer on Thursday, March 17th at 4:10 pm in the Moore Room at the Vanderbilt University law school. Dr. Singer is Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies, and Director, Project on U.S. Policy towards the Islamic World, at the Brookings Institution. The author of *Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry* (Cornell University Press, 2003), Dr. Singer's talk was in regard to his latest book, *Children at War* (Pantheon, 2005).

Sunday Afternoon with Robert Penn Warren

On the afternoon of Sunday, April 10th, the Warren Center hosted a public reading and reception in honor of the centennial of Warren's birth. Selections from his poems and prose were read and those participating included Chancellor Gordon Gee, Frank Dobson, Kate Daniels, Tony Earley, Mona Frederick, and Mark Jarman. In conjunction with the event, during the month of April a bust of Warren normally displayed at the Humanities Center, as well as copies of his books, were displayed in a special exhibit at Kirkland Hall.

Warren Center Seminars

American and Southern Studies Friday Lunch Bunch

Faculty with an interest in American Studies gathered monthly to lunch, enjoy each other's company, and hear a presentation on work-in-progress by a member of the group. Presentations ranged across the spectrum of American and Southern Studies. Seminar coordinator was Michael Kreyling (English; interim director, Program in American and Southern Studies).

Ancient and Medieval Studies Seminar

The purpose of the group was to foster interdisciplinary study of the time periods embraced in its title, which means not only history but language and literature, chiefly, though not exclusively, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. The main focus was on faculty and graduate student research. Seminar coordinators were Bill Caferro (history) and Tom McGinn (classical studies).

Circum-Atlantic Studies Group

Now in its fourth year, this group met monthly to read and treat works in-progress authored by participants. Participants' scholarship were interdisciplinary in nature, focused on at least two of the following regions—Africa, Europe, Latin and Central America, the Caribbean, and North America—and treat some aspect of the trans-Atlantic slave trade,

colonialism, and/or postcolonialism. At noon on Monday, November 15, visiting speaker **Lisa Lowe** (English/Comparative Literature, University of California, San Diego) led a lunch seminar. Lowe is the author of numerous books, including *Immigrant Acts*, a book about Asian American literature, and is currently at work on book about Asians in the Caribbean. On Friday, March 25th at 4:10 pm, visiting speaker **Julius Scott** (History/African and Afro-American studies, University of Michigan) gave a lecture entitled “The Haitian Revolution at Sea”. In it he explored not only the maritime dimensions of the Saint-Domingue revolution but the reaction to it as well. Seminar coordinators: Sean Goudie (English) and Jane Landers (history).

Diabetes Working Group

An initiative of the Center for Medicine Health and Society, this interdisciplinary working group met at the Warren Center. Seminar coordinator: Arleen Tuchman (history).

Diversity Reading Group

This group read current works that addressed a range of topics dealing with social and cultural diversity. Of special interest was how to define diversity, and whether to see it as a neutral or already normative concept, and the practical and political issues faced by contemporary pluralist societies. Seminar coordinators: Lynn Clarke (communication studies) and Diane Perpich (philosophy).

Language Matters

How are language, identity, and conceptual development linked? What can child language acquisition tell us about theories of mind? What cognitive and sociocultural dynamics are involved in adult second language acquisition? With participating faculty who work in psychology, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, and modern foreign languages, the Language Matters group explored issues related to language and cognition.

Guest Speaker: On Tuesday, April 12th at 12:00 noon, the group hosted **Michael Tomasello** (Max Planck Institute), author of *Constructing a Language: A Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition* (Harvard University Press, 2003).

Marc Angenot

This group met several times during the month of February in preparation for visiting speaker Marc Angenot’s lecture on February 23, at 5:00 pm. The author of numerous books, Angenot is the James McGill Professor of French Language and Literature at McGill University whose most recent publication is *La Rhétorique de la Propaganda Socialiste*. In addition to Angenot, **Michel Pierssens** (Professor of French, University of Montreal); **Josias Semujanga** (Professor of French, University of Montreal); and **Robert Barsky** (French) also spoke. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of French and Italian, a Program Enhancement Grant in Canadian Studies, and the Robert Penn Warren Center.

Medicine, Health, and Society Workshop/Planning Group

This interdisciplinary seminar met monthly to discuss common concerns and hear talks by

members and visiting speakers. Seminar coordinator: Matthew Ramsey (history).

Nineteenth-Century Studies Seminar

This group focused upon the history, art, literature, and culture of the long nineteenth century (ca. 1760-1914). Current scholarship by group members and others was considered and meetings were held on a monthly basis at the Warren Center. The first meeting took place on Wednesday, February 16th at 3:00 pm with **Mark Schoenfeld** (English) presenting a selection from his current book project.

Traffic in Women: Antiquity to the Present

This seminar examined the long history of traffic in women including women who are captured in conquest, exchanged through marriage, and sold by family members for economic reasons. Seminar coordinators: Sara Eigen (German) and Lynn Ramey (French).

Vanderbilt Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies

This was an interdisciplinary forum for faculty and graduate students with an interest in literature, history, music, art, and culture from 1400-1800. The group met monthly to discuss ongoing research by a faculty member, recent publication in the field, or the work of a visiting scholar. Seminar coordinator: Leah Marcus (English).

Women's and Gender Studies Seminar

This seminar highlighted work being done on campus in the area of women's and gender studies.

Speakers: The first meeting took place at 4:10 pm Wednesday, February 2, with **Monica Casper** (women's studies and sociology) giving a lecture entitled, "Deer in the Headlights: On Bambi, Motherhood, and Feminism in the Bush Years." Speakers were **Chuck Morris** on March 30th at 4:10 pm and **Tracy Sharpley-Whiting** (French and African-American studies) on April 13th at 4:10 pm.

Other Projects

The Atlantic Community Unraveling?: States, Protest Movements, and the Transformation of US-European Relations, 1969-1983

The Warren Center hosted a reception on September 17th in honor of the Trans-Atlantic conference participants. Co-directing the conference were **Thomas A. Schwartz** (History), **Matthias Schulz** (History) and **Bernd Schäfer** (German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C).

Dorothy Allison

In honor of writer Dorothy Allison's on-campus lecture, the Warren Center hosted a breakfast for her on Friday, November 12.

Madison Smartt Bell

The Warren Center hosted a dinner on Thursday, December 2nd, 2005 in honor of writer Madison Smartt Bell. At 4pm that day, Bell had given a public lecture on his recently published novel *The Stone that the Builder Refused*. The book is the third and final volume in his Haitian Revolutionary trilogy.

MaryAnn Caws (Comparative Literature, English, and French, City University of New York) spoke to the Baudelaire Seminar about “Surrealism Still,” on February 17, 2005.

Thomas Childers (History, University of Pennsylvania) gave the keynote Holocaust Lecture, entitled "The Serpent's Egg: Anti-Semitism and Nazi Electoral Popularity 1930-1933," on October 21.

Kathryn Gines

Kathryn Gines spoke in the African American Diaspora Studies Program’s “Smoke, Lilies, and Jade Lecture Series” on Thursday, September 30th, 2005. Gines, who is a Fellow at the Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University, gave a talk entitled “The Debate between Sartre and Fanon: Attaining and Retaining ‘Authentic’ Race Consciousness.” The talk was presented at the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, and following her talk the Warren Center hosted a reception in her honor at the Vaughn home.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance

The Warren Center was a co-sponsor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Series. The featured speaker, **Bernice Reagon**, spoke on January 19th, 2005, and it was a joint presentation as part of the MLK lecture series. Committee meetings were held monthly at the Warren Center

Race, Identity, Nationality

On Friday, February 25th at 5:00 pm the Warren Center funded an opening reception in honor of those participating in the graduate student “Race, Identity, Nationality” Conference.

Special Exhibit: “Perspectives on the Diseased Body”

In April, this exhibit was installed in Special Collections at the General Library. Running through mid-May, it was curated by Stephen Rachman of Michigan State University, the William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow for 2003-2004. He arranged for Yale University to lend five paintings by the nineteenth-century Cantonese artist known as La Qua. These five paintings were only a small sample of a larger collection of portraits that he painted of patients of the Reverend Dr. Peter Parker. Parker was an American Presbyterian minister and physician who established a successful surgical practice in China. The patients suffered from shockingly large and deforming tumors. The Lam Qua paintings were supplemented by illustrated works on surgery and pathology that had been published in the West in the nineteenth century.

National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Event

Mona Frederick, Associate Professor of History Jane Landers, and Professor of Spanish Cathy Jade 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.