

Two Worlds Collide: Christopher Columbus and His Legacy

Saturday, March 14, 1992
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
David K. Wilson Hall, Room 126*
Vanderbilt University

\$15.00 per person includes lunch
Please reply with reservation form by **March 7**
Questions? Call Carol Thomas in the Office of Alumni Programs, 322-2929

Schedule

- 8:30 a.m.** COFFEE AND REGISTRATION
9:00 a.m. COLUMBUS: THE MAN AND HIS TIMES
Marshall Eakin, Associate Professor of History; Paul H. Freedman, Professor of History
- 10:30 a.m.** HISTORICAL AND MYTHICAL ORIGINS OF THE NEW WORLD: A QUEST FOR IDENTITY
William Luis, Associate Professor of Spanish; Cecelia Tichi, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English
- 12:15 p.m.** LUNCH
1:00 p.m. THE LEGACY OF COLUMBUS
A panel discussion with all four faculty members
- 2:00 p.m.** ADJOURN

Presented by the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities

*David K. Wilson Hall is the new psychology building on 21st Avenue between the Law School and Kissam Quadrangle. Parking is available in any of the University's lots on West End or 21st.

October 12, 1992, marks the five hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas. The voyage of Columbus brought together two worlds that had lived in isolation from each other for millennia. His voyage initiated an exchange between the "Old World" of Europe, Africa, and Asia, and the "New World" of the Americas that profoundly transformed both worlds. The collision of these two worlds is arguably the most important event in the history of the western world since the rise of Christianity.

The upcoming Quincentennial of the voyage of Columbus has attracted a great deal of media attention, and has provoked a heated debate over the significance of Columbus' voyage and his legacy for the Old World and the New. This symposium will bring together two historians and two literary scholars to discuss Columbus and his significance. The historians will offer their views on Columbus and the Europe of his day, while the literary scholars will examine the meaning of Columbus as seen through literature in the United States and Latin America. A final panel discussion will bring together all four speakers to reflect on the legacy of Columbus.

About the Faculty

Marshall C. Eakin, Associate Professor of History
Acting director of Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, Professor Eakin is a specialist in 20th century Latin America. He is co-director of the 1992 Robert Penn Warren Center Fellows Program, and faculty advisor and participant in Vanderbilt's Alternative Spring Break. Among his numerous books and papers is *British Enterprise in Brazil*.

Paul H. Freedman, Professor of History
Professor Freedman is a medievalist who specializes

in the history of Spain. A former director of both Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies in the Department of History, he is currently assistant to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. His list of publications is long, topped by his most recent book, *The Origins of Peasant Servitude in Medieval Catalonia* (1991).

William Luis, Associate Professor of Spanish
Professor Luis came to Vanderbilt from the State University of New York at Binghamton where he was director of the Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies. His areas of specialty are Caribbean and African-Hispanic literature. He is the author of *Literary Bondage: Slavery in Cuban Literature* (1990) and *Voices from Under: The Black Narrative in Latin America and the Caribbean* (1984).

Cecelia Tichi, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English
Professor Tichi is a specialist in American literature and American culture. Widely published in scholarly journals, she is the author of several books, including her most recent, *Electronic Hearth: Creating an American Television Culture* (1991), and *Shifting Gears: Technology, Literature, Culture in Modernist America* (1987).

These four faculty members are among ten who were selected as 1991-92 Fellows of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Fellows Program. The program enables faculty from different disciplines and schools within the University to come together for study on a given topic each year. The topic this year is "Transatlantic Encounters: The Discovery of the New World and the Old." On March 14, come be a beneficiary of this ongoing study.



