

2007-2008 Warren Center Programs

Fellows Programs

2007-2008 Fellows Program, “Black Europe, or Diasporic Research in/on Europe” co-directed by Tracy Sharpley-Whiting (African American and Diaspora Studies/French) and Lucius T. Outlaw, Jr. (African American and Diaspora Studies/philosophy). Participants in the program were Kathryn Gines (African American and Diaspora Studies/philosophy), Devin Fergus (history), Catherine Molineux (history), Ifeoma Nwankwo (English), Tiffany Patterson (African American and Diaspora Studies), and Hortense Spillers (English). The 2007-2008 William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow was Tina M. Camp (Women’s Studies/German, Duke University).

Guest Speakers: **Dorothea Smartt** joined the Fellows for a lunch meeting on September 25th to discuss her work as a black poet and performance artist in the Europe. She presented a spoken word session that evening, and a poetry workshop the following day (see Special Events). On February 13th the group hosted **Allison Blakely** (African American Studies, Boston University) for its weekly meeting. **Jemima Pierre** (African and African American Studies, University of Texas at Austin) presented her paper “‘You Are Rich Because You Are White’: Whiteness and Ideologies of Race in Modern Ghana” to the Fellows on March 12th, and **Trica Keaton** (American Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities) gave the talk “Racialization and Rioting in France: Perspectives from the Subaltern” on March 19. **Peary Brug** (Senior Lecturer in Psychology, St. Mary’s University College) shared his research from “Race, Ethnicity, Identification and Preference among Minority and Majority Adolescents in the Netherlands” on April 2nd. Lastly, on April 16th the group had an informal discussion with **Angela Y. Davis** (History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz) as part of her visiting professorship at Vanderbilt in April 2008.

2007-2008 Robert Penn Warren Graduate Student Fellows. Seven graduate students participated in the Warren Center’s second Dissertation Completion Fellowship Program. They were Michael Callaghan (anthropology), Josh Epstein (English), Megan Moran (history), George Sanders (sociology), Nicole Seymour (English), David Solodkow (Spanish and Portuguese), and Heather Talley (sociology). In the spring semester, they each presented a public lecture about their research.

Lecture Series: Michael Callaghan started the series with his lecture “Technologies of Power: Symbolic Capital and Terminal Preclassic Pottery in the Holmul Region, Guatemala” on March 11th, and was followed the next week by Nicole Seymour’s “Somatic Syntax: Replotting the Development Narrative in Carson McCullers’s *The Member of the Wedding*.” Josh Epstein, the George J. Graham Jr. Fellow, presented his talk “The Arts of Noise: George Antheil and the Modernist Writer” on March 27th. George Sanders, the American Studies Fellow, continued the series on April 8th with his talk “*Really* Amusing Ourselves to Death: Manufacturing Mortuary Ritual in the Contemporary U.S.,” followed by Megan Moran’s lecture “Patriarchy in Practice: Gender

Relations in a Late Medieval and Early Modern Florentine Family.” On April 22nd Heather Talley presented “Face Off: Transplantation as (Non) Vital Intervention.” David Solodkow closed the series with his paper “Writing the *Other*: Ethnography, Violence, and Evangelization in Fray Romon Pané’s *An Account of the Antiquities of the Indians*.” Each lecture took place in the Warren Center, followed by a reception.

Guest Speakers: On September 11th and 12th, the fellows participated in a public speaking workshop with **John Glavin** (Professor of English, Georgetown). The graduate students discussed journal publications with **John Sloop** (communication studies) on October 9th, and on November 15th they met with **Susan Kuyper** (Grants Resource officer, College of Arts and Science). **Keith Anthony**, Associate Director of the Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University, spoke with the group on December 4th about post-doctorate fellowship programs. In addition, the graduate student met twice during their fellowship year with **Richard McCarty**, Dean of the College of Arts and Science, to discuss their work. These lunches were held on December 6th and April 17th.

Special Events

Dorothea Smartt

Poet and performance artist Dorothea Smartt has received critical attention around the world for tackling multilayered cultural myths and the real life experiences of black women. Born in London of Barbadian heritage, Smartt has written extensively on the black European experience, and was invited to Vanderbilt by the Warren Center for the 2007-2008 Black Europe Fellows. During her visit – organized by Professor Ifeoma Nwankwo, and co-sponsored by the Black Cultural Center, the Department of English, and the Program in African American and Diaspora Studies – Smartt presented two public events at Vanderbilt: a spoken word performance on September 25th, and a poetry workshop on September 26th. In addition, she met with the Black Europe Fellows during their regular meeting time to discuss her work and life.

Harry C. Howard Jr. Lecture. Charles S. Maier, Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University, presented this year’s Harry C. Howard Jr. Lecture at **4:10 p.m. on Monday, October 29th** in the Flynn Auditorium of Vanderbilt Law School. Maier, a renowned scholar of European social and intellectual history, is the author of *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors* (2006), and has written or edited books on communism, the Holocaust, national identity, political economy, the politics of inflation, the Marshall Plan, and other themes. Together with William Kirby and Sugata Bose, Maier is collaborating on a global history of the twentieth century, and he is writing a history of modern territoriality. He has been the recipient of several distinguished fellowships, including those from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He served as director of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies from 1994-2001, and again in autumn 2006. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1991.

Between Word and Image Symposium. On **October 25th and 26th**, the Warren Center sponsored a two-day campus symposium organized by its 2006-2007 “Between Word and Image” Fellows and designed to coincide with a Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery exhibition co-curated by the Warren Center Fellows and the gallery’s director, Joseph Mella. The exhibition, “More Than One: New Contemporary Prints and Multiples from the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Collection,” on view from October 4 - December 7, 2007, showcased the gallery’s recent acquisitions in the permanent collection, and highlighted those which reflect the relation between word and image, a question the seminar group spent the year exploring. In addition, the Fellows commissioned local artist **Erika Johnson** to create an original installation to be included in the exhibition. Following the Fine Arts Gallery exhibition, Johnson’s art work went on permanent display at the Warren Center. The concurrent symposium featured a keynote address, “Before and After: Two Decades After the Sistine Chapel Controversy,” by **Arthur C. Danto**, Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Columbia University and art critic for *The Nation*, on October 25th. A lunchtime lecture on October 26th “The Authorized Version: The Power of Word and Image in Text, Utterance, and Display” was given by **David Morgan**, Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Professor in Christianity and the Arts at Valparaiso University, a prolific scholar of the history of religious images.

Graduate Student Research Day

On Monday, March 30th, the Warren Center co-sponsored the keynote address of Graduate Student Research Day, given this year by **James Lang** (English, Assumption College). Professor Lang is the author of *Life on the Tenure Track*, and gave the keynote address “Research on the Tenure Track” to an audience of approximately 75 graduate students who had participated in Graduate Student Research Day activities, including panels and poster sessions. The Warren Center worked with representatives from the Graduate Student Council to plan the keynote address and to assist in organizing Research Day for Vanderbilt’s graduate students from many disciplines.

A Place for the Humanities

The spring of 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt University. To celebrate this achievement, the Center planned a series of diverse activities throughout 2008. The series, entitled “A Place for the Humanities” featured five events that highlighted the centrality of the humanities on our campus. On February 7th, the Warren Center co-sponsored a lecture by the activist **Rigoberta Menchú**. Menchú, the recipient of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, is widely known as a leading advocate of human rights and ethno-cultural reconciliation, not only in her native Guatemala but around the world. Her talk was held in the Benton Chapel Auditorium. Menchú came to Vanderbilt thanks to the efforts of the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, with whom the Warren Center co-sponsored the event.

On March 13th and 14th, several influential scholars from Europe and the United States convened for the Warren Center’s symposium “**Thinking with Franz Rosenzweig.**” This international gathering focused on Franz Rosenzweig, one of the most trenchant intellectuals, religious or secular, Jewish or non-Jewish, of the twentieth century. The

symposium was presented in association with the Vanderbilt University Library, the Program in Jewish Studies, the Max Kade Center for European Studies, and the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture. Participants in the symposium included: Helmut Walser Smith (history), Barbara Hahn (German), Meike Werner (German), Jim McFarland (German studies, Connecticut College), Gesine Palmer (religious studies, University of Luzerne), Nils Roemer (history, University of Texas, Dallas), Steve Dowden (German, Brandeis University), and several Vanderbilt graduate students.

Friday, April 4th, 2008 marked the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Warren Center commemorated this occasion with a conference April 3rd – 5th, entitled **We Speak for Ourselves: A Poet, a Prophet, and Voices for the 21st Century**. The conference took as its starting point Robert Penn Warren's 1965 volume *Who Speaks for the Negro?*, in which Warren records interviews he conducted with dozens of major civil rights leaders, including King. The Warren Center worked with Professor Lucius T. Outlaw and Reverend James M. Lawson, along with partners at the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University, to create a program that would revisit unresolved questions raised in the book and by its provocative title. The Warren Center invited a diverse group of scholars and activists, including five of the original interviewees from *Who Speaks for the Negro?*, to participate in several activities over the course of the three days. On April 3rd, the group attended a screening of the film *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*, produced by **Lolis Eric Elie**, a journalist and writer whose father, Lolis Elie, was interviewed by Warren for *Who Speaks for the Negro?*. On Friday, April 4th, the anniversary of King's death, **Angela Davis**, Professor of History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, gave a lecture entitled "We Are Not Now Living the Dream: Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and Human Rights in the 21st Century" to an overflow audience of nearly 500. Later that day, the group joined in a panel discussion of Warren's book, which featured **Houston Baker**, Distinguished University Professor and Professor of English at Vanderbilt University; **Richard King**, Professor of American Intellectual History at the University of Nottingham; and **Ruth Turner Perot**, Executive Director of the Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, who was interviewed by Warren in 1964 when she was Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). A keynote address by **Reverend James M. Lawson**, Distinguished Visiting Professor at Vanderbilt University, who was also interviewed for Warren's *Who Speaks for the Negro?*, took place that evening at the Fisk University Chapel, with a performance by the Fisk University Choir. The group of participants also gathered for a final full day of closed-door sessions to continue the much-needed conversation on community and justice in the history and future of the movement. All the sessions of the conference were recorded on video, and join the original audio recordings and Warren's notes and correspondence on the complete web archive of *Who Speaks for the Negro?* developed and hosted in conjunction with the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

On Saturday, April 12th, the Warren Center hosted a rousing **concert at the Blair School of Music**. Dale Cockrell, Professor of Musicology, worked for many years to produce faithful recordings of the music documented in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* books. The concert brought together talented musicians and special guests to give

a public performance of these historic Appalachian songs. The musicians included: Allison Brown, Matt Combs, Rachel Combs, Pat Enright, Buddy Greene, Karen Krieger, Andy Todd, and Andrea Zohn. Professor Cockrell was the master of ceremonies for the evening; Terryl Hallquist (theatre) narrated many passages from the *Little House on the Prairie* books; and the 4th grade class from Oak Hill School performed a dance to “The Irish Washerwoman.” The event, presented with the Blair School of Music, was free and open to the public, and nearly 200 audience members attended the concert.

Warren Center Seminars

American Studies Working Paper Series. This group brought together faculty and graduate students interested in American Studies to meet to discuss participants’ work-in-progress. The format of the Series was as follows: papers were circulated before the meeting; speakers gave a short introduction to their paper followed by two formal comments (one from a participant inside the discipline and one from outside the discipline); then the rest of the group joined in with additional comments. The goal of the group was to create interdisciplinary dialogue and to provide an opportunity for the American Studies community to learn about the research of its members.

Seminar coordinator: Teresa Goddu (English/American Studies)

Guest Speakers: For the first meeting of the semester, September 20th, **Susan Schulten** (history, University of Denver) presented a paper on “The Cartography of Slavery and the Authority of Statistics.” On November 1st, **Stephanie Lindquist** (political science) gave the paper “Who’s the Activist? Comparing Justices from Rehnquist, Burger, and Warren Courts.” **Christopher Freeburg** (English, University of Illinois) met with the group on January 24th to discuss “Melville’s Americas and the Iconography of the End.” The final meeting of the year was with **George Sanders**, American Studies Graduate Student Fellow at the Warren Center, for his lecture “ ‘Late’ Capital: Negotiating the New American Way of Death.”

Ancient and Medieval Studies Seminar. The purpose of the group is 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 group met on September 17th, November 27th, and December 19th in the fall semester; **Barbara Tsakirgis** led a discussion on January 18th to start off the spring semester, followed by a meeting on February 20th. On April 21st, seminar participant **Wendy Hennequin** (languages, literature, and philosophy, Tennessee State University) shared from her work on Grendel. Seminar coordinator: Tracy Miller (history of art).

Guest Speakers: On October 2nd at 12:00 p.m., the group heard a talk by visiting speaker **Claudia Brown**, (art history, Arizona State University) entitled, "Song Dynasty Topographical Paintings and their Legacy in the Qing Period." The following day Prof. Brown gave a public lecture, co-sponsored by the Warren Center, at the Frist Center for Visual Arts entitled, "Beauty and Expression: Ming and Qing Paintings in the Roy and Marilyn Papp Collection" to highlight works of art on exhibit there. On March 19th, **Merle Langdon** (classics, University of Tennessee at Knoxville) presented the paper “Shepherds Can’t Write: Literacy in Archaic Attica.” The visit was co-sponsored by the Department of Classics, in conjunction with a talk by Aleydis Van De Moortel (classics,

University of Tennessee at Knoxville), at the Parthenon the preceding day.

Circum-Atlantic Studies Group. This group met monthly and read and treated works-in-progress authored by participants or other significant work in the field. The focus was on scholarship that is interdisciplinary in nature, and focuses on at least two of the following regions—Africa, Europe, Latin and Central America, the Caribbean, and North America—and treats some aspect of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, and/or postcolonialism. The first meeting was on September 26th, followed by a talk by **Rosanne Adderley** (African-American and Diaspora Studies) entitled “Ethnographic Knowledge and Abolitionist Politics: Colonial Office Rethinking of Africans in the Context of Slave Trade Suppression” on October 17th. **Ifeoma Nwankwo** (English) presented her work, “Economies of Exotic Desire: Reciprocal Representations in U.S. African-American and Afro-Caribbean Popular Culture (1990-2000)” on November 14th. Seminar coordinator: Jane Landers (history).

Guest Speakers: The group once again hosted the Black Atlantic History Lecture with the Department of History and the Program in African-American and Diaspora Studies in honor of Black History Month. This year the lecture was presented by **David Eltis** (history, Emory University) on February 13th. Professor Eltis, a leading scholar of the early modern Atlantic World, slavery, and migration, is the author of *Economic Growth and the Ending of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, and *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas*. The talk, entitled “The New Slave Voyages Website (beta version): Interfaces and Implications” took place in the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, followed by a reception. Later that semester, on March 21st, **Christopher Leslie Brown** (history, Columbia University) gave a lecture on “Empire and Information on the West African Coast in the Era of Abolition,” also at the Black Cultural Center.

Disability Studies Reading Group. This interdisciplinary reading group explored the emerging, interdisciplinary field of disability studies, a field which is simultaneously a political project emphasizing social justice and collective action and an intellectual endeavor addressing questions about subject formation, power, bodies, subjugated knowledges, and normalization. The group met for lunch to discuss readings on September 5, October 3, November 7, January 16, February 6, and March 12. Seminar coordinators: Heather L. Talley (sociology) and Stacy Clifford (political science).

Guest Speakers: **Lennard Davis** (English, University of Illinois at Chicago) met with the group over lunch on April 24th, and then gave a public lecture that afternoon at the Black Cultural Center. Davis, who is a founding scholar in the field of Disabilities Studies, presented the lecture “Obsession: Can a Disease Have a History?” followed by a reception at the Warren Center. The talk was co-sponsored by the Departments of Sociology, Political Science, and Women’s and Gender Studies.

Food Politics Reading and Working Group. The group met to address a broad range of topics: the history of organic agriculture, the ethics of food consumption, urban farming and agricultural literacy, and the politics of health and nutrition as they pertain to the food industry. Each meeting included discussion of readings as well as discussion of actionable responses, with the goal of developing a group project focused on food, social justice, and sustainability. The readings for the year were: *Soil and Health: A Study of Organic Agriculture* by Sir Albert Howard; *Omnivore’s Dilemma* by Michael Pollan; *On*

Good Land: The Autobiography of an Urban Farm by Michael Ableman; *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health* by Marion Nestle; *Food for the Future: Conditions and Contradictions of Sustainability* by Patricia Allen; and *The Anthropology of Food and Body* by Carole Counihan. The seminar met on September 10th, October 1st, October 26th, November 26th, January 28th, February 18th, March 10th, and April 14th. Seminar coordinators: Darcy Freedman (Program in Community Research and Action) and John Morrell (English).

Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life. The Warren Center and the American Studies Program co-sponsored a monthly seminar to provide opportunities for exchange among faculty members who were interested in or who were involved in projects that engage public scholarship. The national organization “Imagining America” is a consortium of colleges and universities committed to public scholarship in the arts, humanities and design. During an introductory meeting discussion on January 30th, and a second meeting on April 9th, the group discussed joining the consortium, and ideas for using Imagining America resources at Vanderbilt. Seminar Coordinators: Mona Frederick (Warren Center), Teresa Goddu (English/American Studies).

Intellectual Life of the Commons. The Warren Center again hosted a series of dinner conversations for faculty members interested in the development of intellectual possibilities for faculty and undergraduates in The Commons. The series, organized by Frank Wcislo and the newly appointed Faculty Heads of House of The Commons, convened for dinner on September 25th and November 8th.

Metaphysics. This graduate student discussion group met once on September 27th. Seminar coordinator: Kenneth Faber (philosophy).

Nineteenth Century Seminar. This group focused upon the history, art, literature, and culture of the long nineteenth century, and met three to four times per semester. Each meeting consists of a presentation of a work by a visiting scholar, Vanderbilt faculty member, or graduate student, followed by a discussion of that work with the author. Meetings were held on October 12th, November 29th, January 31st, February 29th and April 4th. Seminar coordinator: Elizabeth Meadows (English).

Queer Theory/Gender Theory Graduate Student Reading Group. The group met to discuss emergent issues in queer theory and its intersections with theories of gender, race, class, sexuality, and history. Meetings alternated between reading-based discussions and workshop formats. During workshops, seminar participants volunteered their work for feedback from the larger group; discussions explored the ways in which current issues within the scope of queer theory are developing across disciplinary boundaries. The reading group came together on September 28th, October 25th, November 30th, January 25th, March 28th, and April 18th, discussing readings from *No Future* by Lee Edelman and

Images of Bliss: Ejaculation, Masculinity, Meaning by Murat Aydemir, and reviewing peer work by Rebecca Chapman and Nicole Seymour. Seminar coordinators: Rebecca Chapman (English) and Sarah Kersh (English).

Guest Speaker: On February 21st, **Madhavi Menon** (literature, American University) gave the public lecture “Citation and Its Discontents: On Not Naming Shakespeare,” co-sponsored by the Warren Center and the Department of English. The following day, Professor Menon met with the Queer Theory group over lunch to discuss her research and career in academia, in addition to having dinner and lunch meetings with several students individually.

Reclaiming Citizenship. This interdisciplinary group gathered to explore theories of citizenship that could be translated into a useable pedagogical framework. As a working group, they used discussions of these theoretical concerns to construct syllabi for use by group members and sponsoring programs. The group met for lunch on September 13th, October 25th, November 15th, January 17th, February 28th, March 20th, and April 10th. At these meetings they discussed various readings, including *Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History* by Rogers M. Smith; *Poems from Guantanamo: The Detainees Speak* edited by Ariel Dorfman; *Post Scarcity Anarchism* by Murray Bookchin; *The Shock Doctrine* by Naomi Klein; and *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue* by Samuel Delaney. Seminar coordinators: Derrick Spires (English) and Sarah Passino Muller (English).

Vanderbilt Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies. This interdisciplinary forum for faculty and graduate students with an interest in literature, history, music, art, and culture from 1400-1800 met monthly to discuss ongoing research by a faculty member, recent publications in the field, or the work of a visiting scholar. On October 8th, GEMCS discussed a dissertation abstract by **Gladys Robalino** (Spanish & Portuguese). On November 12th, the reading in discussion was from *Queer/Early/Modern* by Carla Freccero, who spoke in the Department of English earlier that month. A later meeting, on December 10th, was led by **Dahlia Porter** (English) to discuss her work on Francis Bacon for an upcoming book, and graduate student **Olivia Grenvitz** (French & Italian) presented her work on January 21st. Seminar coordinator: Leah Marcus (English).

Guest Speaker: **Dolora Chappelle-Wojciehowski** (English, University of Texas, Austin) met with the group on March 17th to give a lecture entitled “The Animal Hospitals of Gujarat, or The Transmigrations of Pietro della Valle in 17th-c. India.” The visit was co-sponsored by the Department of English.

Women’s and Gender Studies Seminar. This seminar highlighted work being done on campus in the area of women’s and gender studies. The first meeting of the semester was a presentation from **Richard McGregor** (religious studies) entitled, “Islamic Studies at Vanderbilt: the Promise and Perils of an Area Study” on September 19th. It was followed by a talk by **Melissa Snarr** (ethics, Divinity School) on October 24th entitled, “Complex Coalitions: Feminist and Religious Activists in the U.S. Living Wage Movement.” The group did not meet during the spring semester, but redirected the mission for the following year. Seminar coordinator: Shubhra Sharma (Women’s and Gender Studies).

Guest Speaker: The group co-sponsored a luncheon with the Global Feminisms Collaborative for filmmaker **Kum Kum Bhavnani**, director of “The Shape of Water” on October 4th, the day after she screened her film at Vanderbilt.

Women in Academe Series. This series included workshops and discussion sessions on topics related to gender and the academy. Meetings were held over lunch on October 5th, January 22nd, and February 15th. Series coordinators: Stacy Nunnally (Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center), and Kim Petrie (BRET).

Other Projects

Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life 2007 National Conference

Mona Frederick chaired a panel to discuss the role of humanities centers in public scholarship at the annual Imagining America Conference from September 6-8, 2007. The panel, “The University Humanities Center: A Roundtable on its Roles and Responsibilities,” included Evan Carton (Humanities Institute, University of Texas, Austin), Jasonne Grabher (Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas), Teresa Mangum (Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, University of Iowa), and Marica Tacconi (Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Penn State University).

Holocaust Lecture Series: Nicholas Stargardt

The Warren Center co-sponsored the 2007 Holocaust Lecture Series by hosting Nicholas Stargardt, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, United Kingdom. Dr. Stargardt gave his lecture “The Children of Hitler’s War” on November 1st. Drawing on a wide range of new sources, from welfare and medical files to private diaries, letters and drawings, Stargardt evoked the individual voices of children under Nazi rule and brought their experiences of the war together. Professor Stargardt has written extensively about modern German history and the Holocaust, most notably in his acclaimed *Witnesses of War: Children’s Lives under the Nazis*.

Imagining Europe: Turning Points in the Evolution of a Continent

The Warren Center was a co-sponsor of the conference organized by John McCarthy of the Max Kade Center for European Studies hosted November 1-4, 2007 at Vanderbilt. The conference brought together more than thirty Europeanists from several disciplines in honor of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, a turning point in more recent efforts to unify Europe. These scholars revisited such decisive moments and asked what marks they left on the cultural, economic, and political footprint of Europe today.

National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Event.

Mona Frederick and Edward Friedman (Spanish & Portuguese) traveled to Washington, D.C. March 3-4, 2008 to meet 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.

Mara Negrón

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese hosted a talk by Mara Negrón, Professor at the University of Puerto Rico, on March 12th, 2008. The lecture, “The Conversions of Sarah Kofman,” was co-sponsored by the Warren Center, as the talk related to the work of the Center’s seminar on Women’s and Gender Studies.

Reflections on Czernowitz 100 Years Later: Yiddish Culture in the Twentieth Century

In 1908 a collection of prominent Yiddish writers and thinkers gathered to discuss the future of Jewish culture in Yiddish. This gathering at Vanderbilt, held from March 30-31, 2008, returned to the ground of the Czernowitz conference a century later. The conference drew participants from national and international universities to address the idea of Yiddish as the foundation of a Jewish national culture. The Warren Center was a co-sponsor of this event, hosting a reception for the scholars at the conference.

Beyond Our Beginnings: Women Writers from Working and Lower Class Backgrounds

The English Department organized a gathering of women writers from working and lower class backgrounds to discuss their work and give public readings over the course of three days, March 25-27, 2008. The Warren Center co-sponsored the event, hosting a reception on March 25th in honor of the invited writers: Dorothy Allison, Joy Castro, Karen Saylor-McElmurray, Heather Sellers, and Minton Sparks.

Pier Massimo Forni

Pier Massimo Forni, Professor of Italian Literature and Director of The Civility Initiative at Johns Hopkins University, gave a public lecture on April 3rd entitled “Life is a Relational Experience: Civility, Ethics and Quality of Life.” Professor Forni’s visit was organized by Professor Andrea Mirabile in the Department of French and Italian, and was co-sponsored by the Warren Center, along with the Faculty Senate, Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions, Center for Patient and Professional Advocacy, Law School, and the Office of the Dean of Students.

Nil Santiáñez

The Warren Center was a co-sponsor for the talk “Tropologías del *Habitus* Fascista: Colonialismo Y Endocolonialismo en el Discurso Africanista Español” by Nil Santiáñez (Spanish, St. Louis University) on April 4th. The talk was arranged by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and co-sponsored by the Max Kade Center for European Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies.

Peter Demetz

The renowned literary critic Peter Demetz, Professor Emeritus of Germanic Languages and Literature, came to Vanderbilt on April 4th, 2008, to give a talk from his new book *My*

Prague: Prague Under German Occupation. The visit was sponsored by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, and the Warren Center served as co-sponsor to the talk.