A Place for the Humanities

ROBERT PENN WARREN CENTER

20th Anniversary Events

Healing Communities Torn by Racism and Violence

FEBRUARY 7, 2008
7 p.m. • Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University

The recipient of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, Rigoberta Menchú is widely known as a leading advocate of human rights and ethno-cultural reconciliation, not only in her native Guatemala, but also around the world. She is the subject of the testimonial biography I, Rigoberta Menchú and the author of the autobiographical work Crossing Borders. Menchú comes to Vanderbilt through the efforts of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, with whom the Warren Center is co-sponsoring the event.

Thinking with Franz Rosenzweig

MARCH 13-14, 2008

Several influential scholars from Europe and the United States will convene for an international gathering that will focus on the works of Franz Rosenzweig, one of the most trenchant intellectuals—religious or secular, Jewish or non-Jewish—of the twentieth century. The symposium is 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.

We Speak for Ourselves: A Poet, a Prophet, and Voices for Change in the 21st Century

APRIL 3-5, 2008

April 4, 2008, marks forty years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This conference, which co-sponsored by Fisk University, takes as its starting point Robert Penn Warren’s provocatively titled 1965 volume Who Speaks for the Negro?, in which Warren recorded interviews that he conducted with dozens of major civil rights leaders, including King. At the conference, the Warren Center will bring together many of the figures whom Warren interviewed, as well as other activists, scholars, and community leaders working on human rights issues today.

Appalachian Music Concert Series

APRIL 12, 2008

8 p.m. • Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music

Dale Cockrell, professor of musicology, has worked for many years to produce faithful recordings of the music embedded in Laura Ingalls Wilder’s Little House on the Prairie books. The concert, hosted by the Warren Center, will bring together talented musicians and special guests for a public performance of the historic songs. The event media scholarly research, music making of the highest order, and educational outreach to children of all ages.

Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities

COMING IN FALL 2008

As the eighth chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bruce Cole has launched “We the People,” an initiative to encourage the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. The Warren Center, in conjunction with the Vanderbilt University Chancellor’s Office, will present his public lecture.

www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw_center • (615) 343-6060
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Celebrating 20 Years

A PLACE FOR THE HUMANITIES

THE ROBERT PENN WARREN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

at Vanderbilt University promotes interdisciplinary research and study in the humanities, social sciences, and when appropriate, natural sciences. Because cooperative study in higher education is crucial to the modern university and the society it influences, the Warren Center is designed to intensify and increase interdisciplinary discussion of academic, social, and cultural issues. Members of the Vanderbilt community representing a wide variety of specializations take part in the Warren Center’s programs. The work of the Warren Center strengthens the place of the humanities not only at Vanderbilt but also within the larger society in which we live.

2008 marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Robert Penn Warren Center. In celebration of this landmark year, the Center has planned a series of diverse activities entitled “A Place for the Humanities.” These five events will highlight the centrality of the humanities on our campus. Please check our Web site regularly at www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw_center for updates and more detailed information.

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