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Robert Penn Warren
in his library at home in Fairfield, Conn. The family of America's first poet laureate has given the collection to WKU. See pages 2 & 3.
Warren scholars will find a place at WKU

In 1977, Robert Penn Warren published his last novel, A Place To Come To, which is about the author’s coming to terms with his roots. In literature, the setting’s an Alabama town; in life, it’s Guthrie, Ky., Warren’s hometown. The main character’s an uprooted college professor who’s a Dante scholar.

The book was described in a review as “an autobiographical unveiling of the author,” wrote Dr. Wilford Frizy, professor of English at WKU.

Now, for certain, Robert Penn Warren scholars will have “a place to come to” at Western Kentucky University. They may consult the author’s personal working library, see his hand-written notes in the margins of his books, touch the volumes he chose for his own private collection, because the family of America’s first Poet Laureate is donating Warren’s personal working library to the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies.

‘These kinds of things come along for an institution only rarely’

Western was already known to many Warren scholars because of the Center, which offers a fellowship and scholarship in Warren studies. The latest addition takes Warren studies to a new level, Miller said.

“Serious scholarship will not be done on Warren without the scholar coming to Western,” she said.

The collection, which also includes the laurel wreath presented to Warren when he became America’s first poet laureate in 1986, one of his three Pulitzer medals and other memorabilia, will be brought to Western in the near future and housed in a special room in the Kentucky Building, according to Riley Handy, head of library special collections at Western.

“We will create a space that will be very attractive for this collection,” Handy said. The room housing the collection will be located near the Kentucky Library’s reading room, making it easy for Warren scholars to access the materials and more secure than the Robert Penn Warren Center on campus, he said.

“Perhaps by the time of the next Warren meeting in April we’ll be able to open up a significant portion of the collection,” Handy said. The Robert Penn Warren Center conducts an annual Robert Penn Warren Symposium in April in honor of the author’s birthday.

Millichap, Miller and Handy recently went to Warren’s home in Fairfield, Conn. to meet with the Warren family and take a first look at the library.

Western formed the Warren Committee in 1986 and opened the Warren Room and the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies in 1988, said Miller, who is vice chair of the committee.

The annual symposium has attracted Warren scholars from around the world. Featured speakers have included Warren’s collaborator and friend, Cleanth Brooks; the official biographer, Joseph Blotner; bibliographer, James Grimshaw, and Warren’s Russian translator, Victor Golyshev. - Bob Skipper and Sheila Eison

The gift includes a collection of approximately 2,000 volumes.

Warren was named the first Poet Laureate of the United States in 1986. He also received Pulitzer Prizes for poetry and prose.

“We feel it would be important for scholars to have access to these books of such intimate working importance to RPW, rather than having them shunted off in some basement, more or less unusable for an indefinite period,” Eleanor Clark, Warren’s widow, wrote to English professor Mary Ellen Miller, offering the collection to Western.

“I am sure you are well aware of our feelings for Red’s (Warren’s) deep, lifelong bond to Kentucky, and of how much we have valued Western Kentucky’s deep service in preserving this bond,” she wrote. “For these reasons we have turned to you first in our thoughts about the books in question….”

The announcement was made by President Thomas C. Meredith and Joy Bale Boone, chair of the WKU Robert Penn Warren Committee, during a news conference Oct. 14.

“These kinds of things come along for an institution only rarely,” said President Meredith. “This is easily the most distinguished literary gift this institution has ever received and I suspect it is a gift that will be the envy of many institutions across the country,” Dr. Meredith said.

The books are of immeasurable scholarly value, according to Dr. Joseph Millichap, head of the English Department at Western and a Warren scholar. Many of the books contain Warren’s hand-written notes as the author used them for reference in his writing.

One of the works Millichap cited was a copy of Dante’s Divine Comedy, written in Italian, which Warren purchased in 1939 during a trip to Italy. Warren used this volume for reference for much of his writing, making personal notations in the margins, Millichap said. Later, Warren’s daughter, Rosanna, used the same book in her studies, making additional notes, he said.

Millichap said the Divine Comedy forms the background of many of Warren’s works, including A Place To Come To.

Other books include personal notes and autographs by the authors, Millichap said.

One example is The Wedge by William Carlos Williams, which was printed in 1944 in a limited edition of 380 copies. The book includes a personal note to Warren from Williams.

“This is an important historical document as well as a rare book,” Millichap said.

- Bob Skipper and Sheila Eison
Western scholars on Robert Penn Warren

Several Western faculty have contributed to the body of scholarly pursuit of Robert Penn Warren's life and works.

Dr. Joseph Millichap, professor and head of WKU's English Department, has a new book, Robert Penn Warren: A Study of the Short Fiction, published in August by Twayne Publishers who say about Millichap's new work:

Although widely acclaimed as one of America's great men of letters, Warren's short fiction has, curiously, received scant critical attention. In this first book-length study of the stories (most of which were written between 1930 and 1946), Millichap identifies pivotal relationships between them and the poems and the well-known novels. He shows how these pieces reflect the themes and subjects Warren developed throughout his career—the interplay of memory and imagination, the autobiographical presence, the history of the South. Most important, this critical study brings to light some extraordinary stories that rank among Warren's finest achievements. August 1992 TSSF 39 0-8057-9346-6 Cloth $23.95

Dr. Nancy Davis, professor of English, and Dr. James L. Davis, professor of geography, co-authored a paper, Place in Robert Penn Warren's 'World Enough and Time,' in the Literature and Landscapes section of the National Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Diego, April 1992.

Mary Ellen Miller, associate professor of English, contributed a chapter on Robert Penn Warren to the Kentucky Encyclopedia, published this year by the University Press of Kentucky in celebration of Kentucky's Bicentennial.

Dr. Wilford Fridy, professor of English, teaches the Robert Penn Warren Seminar at WKU, and most recently has published in the Mississippi Quarterly. The Author and the Ball Player: An Imprint of Memory in the Writings of Robert Penn Warren, 44 (Spring 1991) 159-166; and Peering into the Pure Imagination: Robert Penn Warren's 'The Circus in the Attic,' 45 (Winter 1991-92) 69-76.

Robert Penn Warren was born in Guthrie, Ky. in 1905. After graduating summa cum laude from Vanderbilt University in 1925, he received a master's degree from the University of California (1927), and did graduate work at Yale University (1927-28) and at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar (B. Litt., 1930). Warren published ten novels, 16 volumes of poetry, and a volume of short stories; also a play, a collection of critical essays, a biography, three historical essays, a critical book on Dreiser and a study of Melville and two studies of race relations in America. The body of work was published in a period of 53 years—a period during which Warren had an active career as a professor of English.

All the King's Men (1946) won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. The Shelley Memorial Award recognized Warren's early poems. Promises (1957) won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, the Edna St. Vincent Millay prize for the Poetry Society of America and the National Book Award.

In 1944-45, Warren was the second occupant of the Chair of Poetry at the Library of Congress. In 1952 he was elected to the American Philosophical Society; in 1959 to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 1975 to the American Academy of Arts and Science. In 1967 he received the Bollingen Prize in Poetry for Selected Poems: New and Old, 1922-1966, and in 1970 the National Medal for Literature, and the Van Wyck Brooks Award for the book-length poem, Audubon: A Vision.

In 1974 he was chosen by the National Endowment for the Humanities to deliver the third annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. In 1975 he received the Emerson-Thoreau Award of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1976 he received the Copernicus Award from the Academy of American Poets, in recognition of his career but with special notice of Or Else—Poem (Poems 1968-1974). In 1977 he received the Harvard Noonne Prize for Poetry and the Wilma and Roswell Mossing Jr. Award. In 1979, for Now and Then, a book of new poems, he received his third Pulitzer Prize. In 1980 he received the Award of the Connecticut Arts Council, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Common Wealth Award for Literature and the Hubbell Memorial Award (The Modern Language Association). In 1981 he was a recipient of a Prize Fellowship of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

He was named America's Poet Laureate in 1986. He died Sept. 15, 1989.

Photo left: 'The Wedge', William Carlos Williams. A gift to Warren from the author, to be given to WKU.
BellSouth's CEO to share tips of trade

When President Meredith heard the chairman of the board of BellSouth Corp. address a CHE Education workshop, he was so impressed by the speech on education that after being introduced to him by WKU Regent Monnie Hankins, staff manager at South Central Bell in Louisville, Dr. Meredith invited John McClendenin to speak to Western students.

McClendenin, who is also the chief executive officer of the largest of the regional Bell telecommunications companies, will visit the WKU campus tomorrow (Oct. 29) and will speak on What Business Expects of College Graduates.

McClendenin will begin his visit by speaking to a junior-level marketing class at 10:30 a.m. Then he will address faculty, students and other invited guests at 1 p.m. in Grise Hall Auditorium.

A native of El Paso, Texas, McClendenin is a 1955 graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and served as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command.

He began his telephone career with the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. He then moved to the Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Co. in Seattle before joining American Telephone and Telegraph Co. in New York. He was elected president of Southern Bell in April 1981 and became chief executive officer of BellSouth on Jan. 1, 1984. BellSouth owns Southern Bell, South Central Bell and BellSouth Enterprises and is one of the 25 largest U.S. public companies.

Students ponder: To be, or not to be, a president

WKU graduate students planning careers in higher education heard what it's like to be the president recently when President Thomas Meredith was a guest lecturer on the role of the president in American higher education.

The class was Higher Education in America, a general introduction to higher education, taught by Dr. James Heck, executive assistant to the president, who brought the class into Dr. Meredith's office.

The course emphasizes a broad understanding of major issues and problems associated with American higher education.

Discussion included give-and-take, with class members responding to a query by President Meredith on what the students believe the role of the President is.

They told WKU's president that they believed his job included being a motivator, a representative of the university to the community, a decision-maker, a role model and standard-setter for excellence and innovation.

Dr. Meredith discussed the various constituen-
cies presidents must work with, both internal and external, which included students, faculty and professional staff, classified staff, alumni, various communities served by Western state and local officials, members of the state Council on Higher Education, education officials on the federal level and the university's Board of Regents.

"One of the most significant challenges in the public relations domain is to convince people that 'An investment in higher education is good for all of society,'" the President told the class.

Discussion also focused upon both personal and professional demands on the job of being a president.

Deja vu?

Last Wednesday, as On Campus went to press, an Associated Press story said state agencies and universities will again carry the burden of more budget cuts.

Gov. Berreton Jones issued the order by memo from Secretary of the Cabinet Kevin Hable, Finance Secretary Joe Prather and State Budget Director Claude Vaughan.

Public schools will again be exempt, however, the memo said.

Officials said the state's revenue may be 70 million less than expected for the current fiscal year, and that "it will be necessary to complete contingency plans for possible budget cuts" by agencies and universities.

Immediately discretionary spending was ordered stopped, including hiring, equipment purchases, travel, program expansions and property acquisitions or lease modifications.

Press Story break: John Clendenin to speak to Western students.

Congratulations to new members of Staff Advisory Council!

Staff Advisory Council representatives elected for 1992-93 are:
- Professional non-faculty: Marjorie Dye and Jim Garner;
- Secretarial/Clerical: Jane Brooks, Academic Affairs; Sue Pillow, Administration and Technology and Anna Highland, President and Student Affairs;
- Technical/Paraprofessional: Mike Wallace;
- Skilled Craft: Larry Holder and Service/Maintenance: Marie Keown.

Sue Pillow was elected chair of the council at its first meeting last week.

Dr. Raymond Mendel elected faculty regent

Dr. Raymond M. Mendel, professor of psychology, has been elected to a three-year term as faculty representative on the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents. Mendel was elected 277-136 in last Thursday’s balloting over Dr. Arvin Vos, professor of philosophy and religion. More than 70 percent (415 of 578) of faculty eligible voted in the campus-wide runoff election. Mendel and Vos were the top two finishers in an earlier election between five candidates.

Mendel will be sworn in during the board’s January meeting.

A native of London, England, Mendel joined the faculty at Western in 1972. His degrees include a B.A. from Grinnell College and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

His membership have included Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi. He has previously served as a graduate research assistant in Iowa State’s psychology department.
Rap music as street culture

Dr. Cheryl Keyes, assistant professor of folk studies in the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies, is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minorities for 1992-93.

She is becoming well known for her study of rap music, and is author of the first doctoral dissertation written on the subject, entitled, "Rappin to the Beat: Rap Music as Street Culture Among African Americans."

She is a visiting scholar at New York University where she will assess the 20-year period, 1972-1992 of rap music under the mentorship of Distinguished Professor and scholar, Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Ginoble.

The native of Baton Rouge, La., has a musical background, and comes from a family of musicians. Her brother, Willie, a saxophonist, hosted jazz sessions in their home when Keyes was just a youngster. Willie was a composer and arranger for Southern University's Jazz Band Ensemble, and he and his friends were students of Alvin Batiste, a top name jazz educator and performer who records for Columbia records.

Of this ensemble, Keyes happily recalls, "They were very fine players, and I began to want to study music seriously." She studied jazz and classical piano, and hungrily imbibed everything her older brother could teach her about music theory. She recalls she eagerly learned how to transpose music for different parts for different instruments, unaware that the seed had probably been planted then that grew into her doctoral study on rap music.

She earned a bachelor of music education degree at Xavier University in Louisiana and her masters of music and Ph.D. degrees in Folklore/Ethnomusicology from the University of Indiana, Bloomington.

Keyes says as a college student, she continued to enjoy the theoretical aspects of different music systems of different cultures. She explains: "Most of the notational systems used in music are Western, based on equal distances of pitches, meaning that if you were to use that system in another musical system that may not be Western, in terms of writing, where pitches are varied, such as Eastern or African, you'd find there's a tendency to sing in-between the notes. What this does is contribute to the alteration of the diatonic scale which gives us the blues note."

As a young teaching assistant at IU, she'd begun hearing what we've come to know as rap coming from some students for whom she was coaching and writing musical arrangements for the Soul Revue Section of the school's African-American Arts Institute.

"I'd been reading about the boundaries between speech and song, and about some musical systems that produce sound much like speech. "After rehearsal one day the guys broke down their music, and they were playing this music that had a little chant, and a little rhyme, and it was sort of humorous. I asked them, 'What is that?' and they said, 'Oh, that's rap music; that's the latest popular music."

I knew then that would be an excellent study, because it does sound like singing, and it sounds like speaking, and I said to myself, 'That's what I want to do.' "Batiste helped me recognize the African connection to our music," said Keyes. "He's an eclectic musician, and if he hears something good, he might use it in his jazz. If he heard some good rhythms in rap, he'd utilize them too. When I went to Indiana, I was all caught up into jazz.

"But then it became rap. It was something about this music that was a composite of my musical experiences and verbal experiences in the South," she says, adding, "It's fascinating to find so much expression within the rap genre that most people don't know is there."

"Rap represents a continuum of African American music, a composite of past traditional music and verbal forms," Keyes explains, and its beginning can be traced to the Epic Bard tradition of West Africa. "When blacks came to America, traditions continued, but they were transformed and interpreted to deal with the realities of people's situations here," she says."The preacher and sermons became extremely important on the plantations. Then storytelling, rhyme in game songs, such as the Dozens, that blacks play, and then blues songs, in rhyme," Keyes relates.

In fewer than five minutes, Keyes can chronicle the evolution of rap, from the 1920s and fifties, a northern urban way of black speaking, to political rap which was first popularized by the Black Nationalist H. "Rap" Brown. His way of speaking represented the music of a growing black nationalist movement that took place in the mid-sixties. "Brown was good with rhyme and controversy, and often what he said had two-fold meanings. For example, when he said, If America don't come around, America will be burnt down, people could confuse the Afro-American vernacular and take Brown literally to mean a burnt down America or a society which would deteriorate."

Soon rap became a "catch-all" term, and it continued to change with artists in the 1960s and 70s. "Something else I found very interesting came to me one of my interviewees, and it involves disco music which became big in the 1970s," Keyes says. "I'm told the African-American youth of New York City became disillusioned by the overcommercialization of Disco, and so they went back into their own communities and recreated, instead of indoor discotheques, outdoor discos, where you'd have a microphone take stereo units to the courts, plug them in and produce a funk-style music."

Under the spell of James Brown, rap resorted back to original, uncut, African-American music for the young people called funk. Rap also became a deterrent to gang violence in New York City. "Rap has such a long history, and a genre that demands study from its many aspects, including aesthetic, performance, socio-cultural and its political aspects as well," Keyes says.

At WKU, Keyes teaches courses in African-American folk studies and American traditional song. This summer she participated in a six-week program for college professors sponsored by the Ford Foundation at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Black Literature and Culture and she conducted a seminar on African-American music for the Minnesota Institute for the Advancement of Teaching.

Keyes also has completed an article on women rappers, and she did an assessment of the only collection of women blues and jazz performers for Rosetta Records, a 19-volume work.

She's also just finished an encyclopedia entry on rap. This past summer she was a presenter at the Michigan Folklore Festival, and by later September she'll be invited to conduct a week-long seminar in African-American music and experience in Chaska, Minn. for the Minnesota Institute for the Advancement of Teaching, sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

-Sheila Eisen
ACCOUNTING
Dr. Steven D. White has had User Information Satisfaction for Maintained Accounting Systems: The Validity and Reliability of the Short-Form Measure accepted for publication in the Journal of Computer Information Systems.

BIOLOGY
Dr. Cheryl Davis has two papers in the Journal of Parasitology concerning her research on the parasite, Trypanosoma cruzi, which is the cause of Chagas' disease, spread by the reduvid bug found in the southern United States.

ECONOMICS

ENGLISH

GEOGEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

HISTORY


Dr. Jason Thompson has a new book, Sir Gardner Wilkinson and His Circle, published by the University of Texas Press.


LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICES


ODGEN COLLEGE
Dean Charles Kupchella co-authored a series of four articles appearing in the summer (Vol. 7) issue of the Journal of Cancer Education describing the results of a survey of cancer teaching and funding for cancer education in American medical schools.

Public radio begins fund drive Nov. 7

Become a member in November is the theme for the 12th annual membership drive for WKU's Public Radio Service beginning Saturday, Nov. 7. The eight-day membership drive has a goal of $69,000. Last year, more than 1,500 listeners became subscribing members, contributing more than $65,000 to help cover programming and operating costs.

During the drive, volunteers will answer phones as well as conduct telemarketing campaigns in Owensboro, Glasgow, Somerset, Elizabethtown and Campbellsville.

Western's public radio provides over 60 percent of the Commonwealth with news and information through WKYU-FM in Bowling Green and repeater stations WDCI-FM Somerset, WKPB-FM, Henderson and WKUE-FM, Elizabethtown.

Call 5489.

Students top $170,000 in Phonathon

With $196,885 in pledges as the last call was finished, the WKU 1992 Student-Alumni Phonathon set records in both the amount and percentage increase.

According to Ron Beck, associate director of alumni affairs, the 13th annual Phonathon surpassed the goal of $170,000 and was well above the 1991 total of $166,000. "This is a dramatic increase," Beck said.

Beck attributed the increase to three factors: *Alumni were able to target gifts to specific academic or other program. Gifts not targeted will be used "where the University need is greatest," Beck said.

*Donors are more responsive in times of real need, he said. Western is facing a real need after suffering through two budget cuts, Beck said.

"Giving increases as the Phonathon builds from a larger base of donors each year, he said.

"We are gratified that our alumni have responded in an outstanding manner to the financial needs of our University," Beck said.

Flu shots still available

The Student Health Service continues administering flu vaccinations.

According to Beth Rush, shots will be given today and Friday, Oct. 28 and 30. Hours are 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Fee is $10.

The Faculty Development Committee meets monthly on second Fridays to consider funding applications. They must be in the Office of Academic Affairs by the last Friday of each month, dates varying to accommodate holidays.

For application materials and guidelines, contact your dean's office or Academic Affairs, 2296.
COMING UP

October

28
DECA Leadership Conference #2, DUC, 8 a.m.

29
"Aliens 3," DUCT, 7 & 9 p.m.
Nursing Seminar, DUC 309, 5 p.m.
Fall District Beta meeting, DUC, 8 a.m.
Board of Regents meeting, WAB, Regents Room, 9 a.m.

30
Chamber of Commerce Coffee Hour, Ag Expo, 7:30 a.m.
Volleyball. WKU vs. Virginia Tech, Diddle, 7 p.m.
"Aliens 3," DUCT, 7 & 9 p.m.
Mid-West Association for Latin American Studies Conference, DUC, 8 a.m.

November

31
"The Adventures of Harlequin," Gordon Wilson, 1 & 3:30 p.m.
Mid-West Association for Latin American Studies Conference, DUC, 8 a.m.
"Aliens 3," DUCT, 7 & 9 p.m.
College Awareness Day, VMA, GCC, DUC, 8 a.m.
WKU Volleyball vs. Central Florida, Diddle, 3 p.m.
YMCA Cheerleading Competition, Diddle, 8 a.m.

3
University Closed for Presidential Election

4
"Autumn Skies," planetarium show, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty/Staff Health Fair, DUCT, 8 a.m.
Nursing Seminar, DUC 349, 5:30 p.m.
Nurses Career Day, GCCB, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 40 hospitals, 300 participants. Call 3095.
"Unlawful Entry," DUCT, 7 & 9 p.m.
Social Services Meeting, DUC 340, 8 a.m.
Convenience Store Institute Workshop, DUC 308, 8 a.m.
UCB Cousteau Society Lecture, DUC T, 7 p.m.
"How To Relax" seminar, Jones Jagger 325, 7 p.m.
Leadership for the 90's class, Grise 335, 8:30 a.m.
Phi Beta Lambda Reception, GCC 100, 4 p.m.
Phi Beta Lambda Meeting, DUC 340, 8:15 p.m.
Jazz Ensemble, GCCB, 8 p.m.
Boy Scout Council Meeting, DUC 226, 6:30 p.m.

5
"Autumn Skies," planetarium show, 7:30 p.m.
Fall Pension & Employee Benefits Update Telecast, Florence Schneider, 11 a.m.
UCB Dance Contest, Nite Class, 8 p.m.
Nursing Seminar, DUC 349, 5:30 p.m.

6
Convenience Store Institute Workshop, DUC 308, 8 a.m.
Faculty/Staff Health Fair, Preston Center, 8 a.m.-noon
Convenience Store Institute Workshop, DUC 308, 8 a.m.
"Unlawful Entry," DUCT, 7 & 9 p.m.

7
"Unlawful Entry," DUCT, 7 & 9 p.m.

9
Edwards Graduate Recital, FAC, Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

10
"How To Relax" seminar, Jones Jagers 325, 7 p.m.
Leadership for the 90's class, Grise 335, 8:30 a.m.
Phi Beta Lambda Reception, GCC 100, 4 p.m.
Phi Beta Lambda Meeting, DUC 340, 8:15 p.m.
Jazz Ensemble, GCCB, 8 p.m.
Boy Scout Council Meeting, DUC 226, 6:30 p.m.

Coming Up is prepared from the University Master Calendar in the Office of University Relations. To schedule, call 2497.