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"Long Civil Rights" Project, page 4

# CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Southern Oral History Program + Program on Public Life + Southern Cultures

spring 2008 newsletter



Exploring ten millennia of history, a million square miles of terrain and a limitless future

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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cover: In 1970, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system opened under the most extensive school busing plan ever. Photo courtesy *Charlotte Observer*. see “[Long Civil Rights Project](#), page 4



Charlotte civil rights activist Annie Fiaadjigbe. see “[Long Civil Rights Movement in Charlotte](#),” page 8

## *From the Director*

THE PAST YEAR has been one of the Center's most exciting yet. We

are extremely proud of our handsome new quarters at the Love House and Hutchins Forum. Kendra Cotton has moved up to become our associate director. The Southern Oral History Program has won major support from the Mellon Foundation to combine a path-breaking initiative in digital scholarship with its ongoing work on the "long civil rights movement." And those changes are just the beginning. You can read about more far-reaching developments throughout this newsletter.

The change that has made the most visible difference is our move to the Love House and Hutchins Forum. This inviting old house, with its high ceilings and wide, wrap-around porch, provides the perfect environment to do our work and to keep building the strong ties between Carolina and its surrounding region. We are deeply grateful to the generous friends who made it all possible, especially the family of the late James A. Hutchins Jr., distinguished graduate of the class of 1937.

With so many wonderful developments afoot, I have mixed feelings about taking a one-year leave of absence as Center director in 2008–09. I wish that I could be part of the action next year as the Center uses its recent growth to keep building upon its work with the University, North Carolina, the South and the world. But you can't do everything at once, and I have a prior writing commitment that recent busy years have not allowed me to complete. Now that the Center has sailed through one major transition, the time seems ripe for a stint in the library to do that project justice. I eagerly look forward to returning to the Center and the history department in 2009–10.

In the meantime, I am deeply grateful to my friend and colleague Professor Joseph Flora, who will serve as the Center's acting director in my absence. Joe is a longtime friend of the Center who is an expert in Southern literature and the former chair of Carolina's English department. Our summer newsletter will introduce him to you more fully. In the meantime, I hope you'll celebrate with me in knowing that the Center will be in such good hands.

—Harry L. Watson



Local 22 strike at R.J. Reynolds in Winston-Salem, 1947. see "[Working-Class History Bolstered](#)," page 14



Joseph M. Flora will serve as the Center's acting director for 2008–09. see "[Joe Flora](#)," page 12

## Mellon Foundation Funds Joint “Long Civil Rights” Project

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A historic \$937,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York marks an important milestone for the Southern Oral History Program’s ongoing Long Civil Rights Movement initiative. The three-year grant—“Publishing the Long Civil Rights Movement”—is a collaborative effort at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by SOHP, UNC Press, the Center for Civil Rights in the School of Law and UNC library that allows the SOHP to join its partners in exploring new ways of producing and disseminating Civil Rights Movement-related scholarship through print and digital media.

Since 2001, SOHP researchers have been documenting social justice activism in the post-1960s South with an emphasis on school desegregation and on struggles for economic justice and gender equality. These efforts have produced one of the nation’s most extensive collections of oral history interviews related to social change in the 20<sup>th</sup>-century South. With Mellon grant funding, according to SOHP director Jacquelyn Hall, the organization will “develop new

avenues of communicating its scholarly findings” while using digital technology to “invite the participation of a community of scholars in ways that we would not have dreamed of just a few years ago.”

The grant is part of a Mellon Foundation program to advance scholarship in the humanities by developing new ways of connecting the publishing activities of university presses with the academic priorities of their universities. UNC officials proposed that the project be built around the Press and the University’s strength in interdisciplinary civil rights scholarship. Kate Torrey, the director of UNC Press, suggested that Hall’s essay “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past” might provide the foundation for the grant, and the project partners spent eight months crafting their proposal.

A central theme of Hall’s essay is that the narrative of the Civil Rights Movement has been erroneously limited to the tumultuous decade between the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, which made school segregation illegal, and the Civil



Southern Oral History Program director Jacquelyn Hall, author of the essay “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past.”

Rights Act of 1964. Hall asserted that the “longer civil rights movement” began in the liberal and radical milieu of the late 1930s, continued well beyond the 1960s, and included the political and legal backlash that has led to a re-segregation of schools and neighborhoods and threatens the social aims inherent in the Brown decision. She argued for a widening of the window of civil rights chronologically, spatially, and ideologically to include contemporary issues such as race and the public schools, economic justice and the women’s and gay rights movements that were inspired by civil rights struggles. In so doing, Hall sought to debunk popularized notions of the Civil Rights Movement that, in effect, diminish its lasting meaning and obscure its continuing power and relevance.

Upon learning of Mellon’s decision in December 2007, Torrey said that UNC Press will “be able to explore new opportunities for linking audio materials with textual materials and photographs to reinforce and illuminate scholarly and legal analysis.” Aligning UNC Press with the strengths of the University would create a powerful platform that could serve as a catalyst for collaboration and shared capital investment in university-based publishing, she said.

Torrey noted that the Press has long been a leader in making its titles available to libraries in non-print as well as traditional ink-on-paper formats, but she

acknowledged that economic pressures have limited the extent to which they have been able to experiment with different digital forms. “The expertise and the dollars involved in entering the digital arena present a high hurdle for university presses,” Torrey said. “The Mellon Foundation, which has been the single most generous foundation in exploring scholarly communication within the humanities, has given us support to experiment.”

Richard Szary, director of the Louis Round Wilson Library and associate university librarian for special collections, explained that the Library, SOHP and UNC Press would bring a complementary set of skills to the project. Szary oversees the Library’s newly established Carolina Digital Library and Archives. He and his staff bring considerable technical expertise to the Mellon grant project. “A good part of our role will be to provide the underlying infrastructure, the digital publishing platform, if you will, that we also need for our own purposes at the library,” Szary said.

Szary said there is much the Library and SOHP can learn from UNC Press in terms of editing and selecting materials and tailoring products to fit a market need. “The technical developments are going to be challenging, but the grant will also help the Library and SOHP to build a new model of working together with the Press in new and exciting ways,” Szary said.

*continued on page 6*

**The nearly \$1 million Mellon grant will give as yet unimagined form and breadth to SOHP’s work on the “Long Civil Rights Movement,” a collection of oral histories dating from the 1930s through the present gathered in response to SOHP director Jacquelyn Hall’s essay by the same title.**



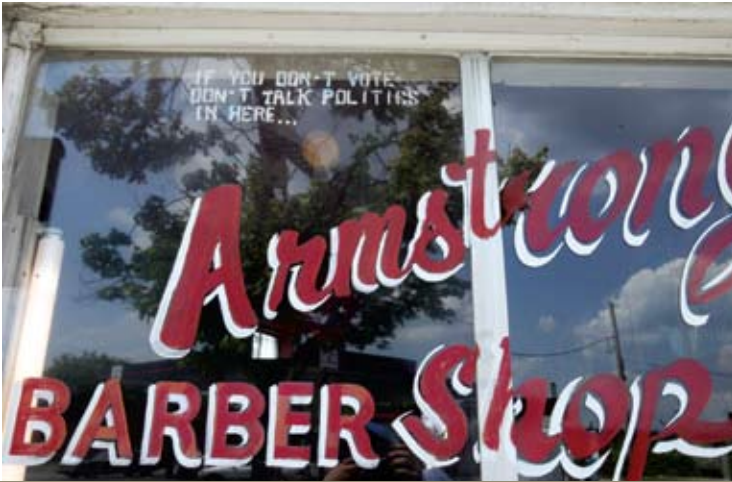
Memphis sanitation workers on strike, 1968. Photo by Ernest Withers, from the 1993 documentary *At the River I Stand*, by David Appleby.

*continued from page 5* “We’ve always had a good relationship with the Press, but this deepens it in many complementary ways. We are equally excited about working with the Center for Civil Rights and the array of scholars on this subject across campus.”

The Library’s Southern Historical Collection is the repository for SOHP’s recordings and transcripts. Currently, a \$500,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services is funding collaboration between SOHP and the Library’s “Documenting the American South” group to make 500 interviews available on line. The project is also developing

pathbreaking tools for synchronizing the voice of each storyteller with a scrolling transcript and making oral histories searchable in ways they have never been before, according to Hall. The Long Civil Rights initiative, Hall believes, will be able to learn from and build on this project.

While it is far too early to decide outcomes, the people involved in the project believe that this grant can serve as a model for others to follow. “There are so many more questions than answers right now about the production, publication and consumption of innovative scholarship and legal analysis, but the



The barbershop of James Armstrong, who with his family led efforts to desegregate the Birmingham, Alabama, schools in the 1950s and 1960s.

*Photo courtesy of Jeong Gyoung-Youl.*

“We will learn a tremendous amount and I am optimistic that this kind of collaboration can carry over in other areas.”

Mellon grant gives us the chance to work those questions out,” Torrey said. “We will learn a tremendous amount and I am optimistic that this kind of collaboration can carry over in other areas.”

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is a private foundation that makes grants in the areas of higher education and scholarship, scholarly communications, research in information technology, museums and art conservation, performing arts and conservation and the environment. For more information, visit the Mellon Foundation Web site: <http://www.mellon.org>



Civil rights group pickets Jim Crow showing of *Gone With the Wind* at the Lincoln Theater in Washington, D.C.

## The Long Civil Rights Movement in Charlotte

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For the past three summers, SOHP associates have collected reminiscences from men and women who, in the 1970s, fought to keep the doors of equal opportunity open and to extend the civil rights struggle into new arenas. This effort to document the “Long Civil Rights Movement” has taken our researchers to Louisville, Birmingham, Chapel Hill, New Orleans and Charlotte.

In Charlotte, SOHP graduate assistant Dwana Waugh conducted 12 interviews with residents of the Belmont neighborhood, which was in the midst of historic changes. The city had recently demolished Piedmont Courts, a 1940s-era public-housing project in Belmont, and begun replacing it with mixed-income housing units, including apartments, town homes and condominiums. Local residents expressed ambivalence about these changes. While some hoped the influx of middle-class home buyers would curb the

epidemic crime rate, others were wary of government promises to preserve the neighborhood’s character and culture. With memories of the late-1960s urban renewal schemes still fresh, residents feared that these new efforts at revitalization would push African American residents from the neighborhood and erase black history from the city. Some longtime homeowners hoped to cash in on rising property values, while others worried that they will be unable to afford the taxes. These excerpts from Waugh’s interviews demonstrate the mix of hope and apprehension regarding the city’s revitalization effort

**Florine Dennis**, a Belmont homeowner, discussed her involvement with a neighborhood advocacy taskforce. She described how watching young children serve as look-outs for drug dealers and seeing young women sell their bodies for drugs convinced her to fight crime in the community: “I guess I really got infuriated

With memories of the late-1960s urban renewal schemes still fresh, residents feared that these new efforts at revitalization would push African American residents from the neighborhood and erase black history from the city.



Juanita and Thomas Gooding on the porch of their Belmont home.



when there was one drug dealer who said, ‘Nothing happens on this street without me, my say-so.’ And I said, ‘OK.’ That was a challenge. [Even if you’re afraid], do it afraid. You can be afraid and still do it.”

**Annie Fiadjigbe** spoke to Waugh while overlooking the site of her former home in Piedmont Courts, which had recently been demolished. Fiadjigbe lived there until she moved into a home nearby fifteen years ago. Through her work as a family advocate at the Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church, Fiadjigbe observed that local black women were often caught in an oppressive cycle of poverty. Because no one valued residents of Belmont or Piedmont Courts, Fiadjigbe argued that “there was more depression [in Piedmont Courts] than there is in the city of Charlotte. Because we’re taught as black women to be strong, we don’t understand that we have depression. That’s what I was dealing with, and a lot of the women in Piedmont Courts—depression.

And if you’re depressed, you don’t know. You can’t practically get your children out for school every day.”

**Adrienne White**, a municipal worker who resided in Piedmont Courts throughout the 1980s, expressed the fears of erasure that many Belmont residents shared: “The housing in mixed neighborhoods where Piedmont Courts used to stand ... where Belmont still exists, those houses, those places will be places that will only exist in the memories of the people that used to live there.”

“... Even if you’re afraid,  
do it afraid. You can be afraid  
and still do it.”



Florine Dennis discusses grassroots efforts to battle crime in Belmont.



Local activist Annie Fiadjigbe served as a panelist at the October 2007 annual meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in Charlotte. Several SOHP associates, including Sarah Thuesen, Pamela Grundy and Dwana Waugh, also participated in the session, which was devoted to Charlotte’s Long Civil Rights Movement history.

*All photos courtesy of Matthew Parker.*

## *Kendra Cotton Promoted to Associate Director*

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In January, Kendra Davenport Cotton was promoted to associate director of the Center for the Study of the American South. “She combines a deep understanding of the South with great ideas for the Center’s future,” said director Harry Watson.

In January, Kendra Davenport Cotton was promoted to associate director of the Center after serving as assistant director for programs with the Center’s Program on Public Life since 2005. In her new role, Cotton will administer existing Center programs and develop new ones, while also seeking funding sources to support programs and initiatives.

Cotton is eager to build upon the Center’s established successes in the humanities. “I am also excited about developing and augmenting its work with the social sciences, specifically with regard to trends and public policies affecting North Carolina and the South,” she said. “This expansion of focus will lead to greater funding opportunities. Ultimately, I want us to position the Center—and by extension the University—as the first line of contact for anyone seeking knowledge about the Southern region, be it past, present or future.”

Cotton has consistently pursued employment and research opportunities that have enabled her to gain insight into the social, political and policy environment of the American South. She is currently a doctoral candidate in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While pursuing her degree, she worked as a research associate with the Chapin Hall Center for Children at

## *Changing Places — Center Staff Find New Roles*

Inspired by the changes brought about by the move to the Love House and Hutchins Forum, some of the Center’s staff have traded in old hats for new ones.

Lisa Eveleigh, longtime *Southern Cultures* managing editor, has moved into a new position managing the Center’s public relations and communications while still acting as editorial consultant to the journal. Ayse Erginer, previously special programs coordinator and associate editor at *Southern Cultures*, has moved into the role of the journal’s managing editor.

“I am delighted to have the opportunity to devote my energies to the journal full time,” said Erginer. “And I’m really pleased to help bring the Center’s programs and research to the public,” added Eveleigh

Nancy Gray Schoonmaker, a doctoral student in southern history at Carolina, makes sure that all the details concerning the Center’s programs and special projects, including the James A. Hutchins Lectures, fall neatly into place. No small task that.

By day, Reid Johnson, who has assisted Bill Ferris, the Center’s senior associate director,

the University of Chicago and for the Duke Endowment's Program for the Rural Carolinas. Before coming to the Center's Program on Public Life, she also worked with various advocacy organizations within the state, including the North Carolina Rural Center, the Center for Teaching Quality and the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits.

"Kendra Cotton combines a deep understanding of the South with enormous energy, imagination and great ideas for the Center's future," said Center director Harry Watson. "We are thrilled that she is taking up the challenge as associate director."

A native Arkansan, Cotton is particularly interested in exploring the political and policy effects of the burgeoning Latinization of the American South. She holds a master's degree in public administration from North Carolina State University and a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. ☞

"Ultimately, I want us to position the Center—and by extension the University—as the first line of contact for anyone seeking knowledge about the Southern region, be it past, present or future."

for over a year, now helps manage the office and assists the new associate director, Kendra Cotton. By night, he is the guitar and voice of the indie rock band Schooner ([www.schoonermusic.com](http://www.schoonermusic.com)).

The one new face wearing an old hat is Dana Di Maio, who joins the Center as the new assistant to Bill Ferris. Di Maio grew up in Durham and comes to the Center after a stint as a production intern at "The State of Things" on North Carolina Public Radio. ☞

New face Dana Di Maio (seated left) joined the Center in January. Reid Johnson and Ayse Erginer (seated, left to right) along with Nancy Schoonmaker and Lisa Eveleigh (standing, left to right) have taken on new roles.



## *Joe Flora to Serve as Center Acting Director in 2008*

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Joseph M. Flora, distinguished UNC English professor and an experienced administrator and expert on Southern literature, will serve as the Center's acting director for 2008–09 while Harry Watson is on leave.

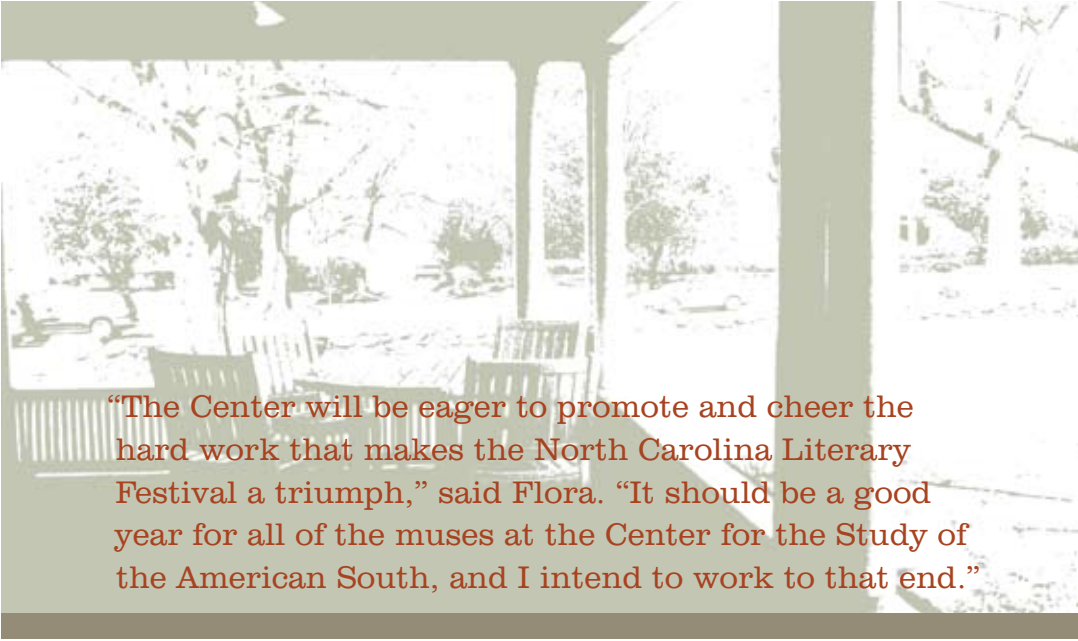
Joseph M. Flora, distinguished UNC English professor and an experienced administrator and expert on Southern literature, will serve as acting director for 2008–09 while Harry Watson takes a one-year leave of absence.

Watson is putting teaching and administration temporarily aside to complete a two-volume introduction to American history co-authored with professor Jane Dailey of the University of Chicago. To be published by Bedford/St. Martin's, the book is titled *The American Republic: A History of the United States*. "I was nearly half finished when I started with the Center in 1999," said Watson, "but progress has been very slow ever since. Now that the new building is complete, I'm very grateful that the University is giving me time to finish up my other major project."

A professor at Carolina since 1962, Flora has served as associate dean of the Graduate School and

twice served as chair of the English department. He has edited with Robert Bain several bibliographical and critical studies of Southern literature. In 2001, he was named Atlanta Professor of Southern Culture. In 2002, he edited, with Lucinda MacKethan, *The Companion to Southern Literature*. With Amber Vogel, he edited *Southern Writers: A New Biographical Dictionary*, which received the 2006 Jules and Frances Landry Award.

Flora will direct the Center's programs with a view towards the 2008–09 North Carolina Literary Festival, a week-long celebration of the book that will take place in April 2009 and will be hosted by UNC. The Center launched the original festival in 1998, and since then hosting the event has rotated among North Carolina State University, Duke University and UNC. Barbara Kingsolver and Tom Wolfe spoke at the most recent festival, held at Duke in 2006, which also showcased



“The Center will be eager to promote and cheer the hard work that makes the North Carolina Literary Festival a triumph,” said Flora. “It should be a good year for all of the muses at the Center for the Study of the American South, and I intend to work to that end.”

the rich trove of writers who live in North Carolina.

“Joe brings tremendous experience and knowledge to the Center,” said Watson. “We will all benefit from his expertise in Southern literature as the North Carolina book festival once again attracts tremendous national attention.”

Flora serves on the editorial boards of *Studies in Short Fiction*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, *The Thomas Wolfe Review* and *The Hemingway Review*. He has been president of the Western Literature Association, the Thomas Wolfe Society, the South Atlantic Modern Language Association and the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English.

“Calliope, Melpomene and Thalia are the muses who most insistently demand my attention, though they regularly send me to Clio and her other sisters,” said Flora. “So it is a happy bonus that my year as acting director of the Center coincides with the University’s

labors that will bring the North Carolina Literary Festival to Chapel Hill in 2009.”

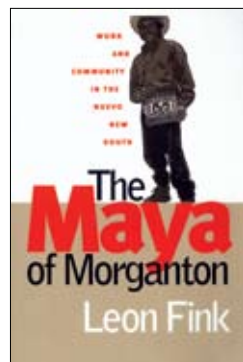
Flora observed that with the many dedicated readers in this area UNC welcomes the opportunity to host the writers who have helped us better appreciate and understand the South and the world. “The Center will be eager to promote and cheer the hard work that makes this event a triumph,” said Flora. “It should be a good year for all of the muses at the Center for the Study of the American South, and I intend to work to that end.” ☞

## Labor and Working-Class History Collection Bolstered

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Twenty years ago, the publication of *Like a Family*—the pathbreaking study of life and labor in the mill villages of the Carolinas—marked the culmination of SOHP’s earliest efforts to document the history, culture and politics of working people. Since then, our collection has grown to include hundreds of interviews with timber workers, university housekeepers and cafeteria workers and Appalachian coal miners. Much of this work has been sustained by Duke University economist and UNC graduate Robert Conrad (BA 1970), who in 1990 established the Dorothy Bean and Harold Speas Conrad Oral History Endowment to support SOHP’s efforts to collect oral histories of working people like Conrad’s mother, a textile mill worker and his father, a millworker, milkman and long-haul truck driver.

With the help of this endowment, SOHP recently added three major deposits to its collection. First, University of Illinois at Chicago history professor and longtime SOHP friend Leon Fink deposited nearly 100 interviews he compiled while researching *The Maya of Morganton* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003). The interviews detail efforts



Leon Fink’s interviews offer a global slant to labor issues.



New SOHP deposits include dozens of interviews with members of Local 22, shown here on strike at R.J. Reynolds in Winston-Salem, 1947.

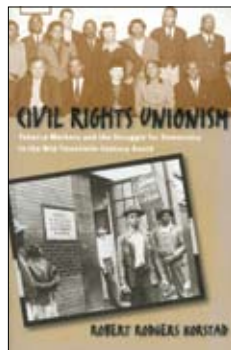
of Guatemalan and Mexican immigrants struggling to unionize a North Carolina poultry plant. His interviews with line workers, organizers and civic leaders will have broad appeal to scholars and activists interested in understanding the global dimensions of migration, labor relations and human rights struggles.

This past summer, Duke historian Robert Korstad provided us with a large collection of interviews that he had conducted for his prize-winning book on the Winston-Salem tobacco workers' fight for labor and civil rights in the 1940s. *Civil Rights Unionism* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003) has won four major awards and focused new attention on campaigns for racial equality and economic justice in the years preceding the emergence of a mass movement for black civil rights.

Finally, we added more than twenty hours of interview recordings with labor folklorist Archie Green, including an extended interview conducted in 1985 by UNC English professor Robert Cantwell, along with a more recent interview that was edited by SOHP's Kerry Taylor and published in the fall 2007 issue of *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*.

Green (b. 1917) has been a longtime friend of SOHP and UNC. The Southern Folklife Collection holds Green's personal papers as well as the music collection he helped assemble as a member of the John Edwards Memorial Fund. Additionally, each year the UNC folklore curriculum awards Archie Green Occupational Folklife Fellowships to encourage the study of labor culture and history. The Cantwell and Taylor interviews cover the sweep of Green's rich personal and professional life and are essential sources for anyone researching campus activism in the 1930s, waterfront workers during World War II, labor songs and worker culture, the folk revival and the establishment of the American Folklife Center.

As the Southern labor force continues to change, the SOHP collection will continue to keep pace, documenting the lives and voices of Southern workers. **If you know of existing labor-related oral histories that we should add to the collection**, please contact Beth Millwood to help build upon this rich tradition: 919-962-0455 or [emillwoo@email.unc.edu](mailto:emillwoo@email.unc.edu). ☺



Robert Korstad's book documents labor struggle in Winston-Salem.



Labor folklorist Archie Green.  
Photo courtesy of Adam Machado.

## Ferris Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

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Bill Ferris, senior associate director at the Center, received a Guggenheim fellowship in 2007 to produce a book and multimedia project on the roots of Mississippi blues.

### LOOK FOR THESE NEW ARTICLES ON THE SOUTH BY BILL FERRIS:

“A Lengthening Chain in the Shape of Memories: The Irish and Southern Culture,” forthcoming in *Lost Colonies: Ireland and the American South* (Four Courts Press), edited by Nicholas Allen and Bryan Giemza.

“Richard Wright and the Blues,” to be published in a special issue of *Mississippi Quarterly* on Richard Wright, edited by Jerry Ward.

“Foreword” to *Tennessee Folklore Sampler: Selections from Seventy Years of the Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin* (University of Tennessee Press), edited by Anthony Cavender and Ted Olson.

“Introduction” to Jim McGuire: *Nashville Portraits: Legends of Country Music* (Globe Pequot Press, 2007).

In 2007, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation awarded a fellowship to William R. Ferris, Joel R. Williamson eminent professor of history and senior associate director of the Center, to support his research on the Mississippi blues.

Ferris began the Guggenheim Fellowship in January and is devoting his time to a book and multimedia project titled *The Roots of Mississippi Blues*, featuring the musicians that he photographed, recorded and filmed in the 1960s. He will juxtapose the lives and music of these Mississippi musicians with post-Hurricane Katrina musicians to, in his words, “underscore how poverty, music and black culture shape our national experience.” He will also consider how water-related tragedies—from enslavement and the Middle Passage to natural disasters such as the Mississippi River Flood of 1927 and Hurricane Katrina—are powerful backdrops for the blues.

Currently, all of his interviews with musicians have been transcribed and edited. The photographs, recordings and films that will be included in an accompanying CD/DVD have been digitized, and Ferris is writing the introductory chapters. The book will be published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Guggenheim Fellows are appointed based on distinguished past achievement and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. The 2007 winners include 189 artists, scholars and scientists selected from almost 2,800 applicants for awards totaling \$7.6 million.

For more information on the Guggenheim Fellows, visit [www.gf.org](http://www.gf.org).



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## Love House and Hutchins Forum Opening, April 2007

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The Love House and Hutchins Forum, home of the Center for the Study of the American South.

On a gorgeous day in April under a Carolina-blue sky, a historic Southern house on Franklin Street with longstanding ties to the University, lovingly renovated and expanded, reopened its doors as the new home for the Center for the Study of the American South.

A dedication at the 410 E. Franklin St. property, known as the Love House and Hutchins Forum, featured remarks by University officials and guests and a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by tours of the renovated home, a lunch of North Carolina pit barbecue on the lawn, and porch-front performances by the Tony Williamson Band, a bluegrass group and the Branchettes, a gospel duo.

Chancellor James Moeser welcomed the guests. Erskine Bowles, UNC system president; Roger Perry, current chair of the UNC Board of Trustees; and Harry L. Watson, director of the Center; made additional opening remarks. William R. Ferris, senior associate director of the Center, introduced the event's honored speaker, Henry Louis "Skip" Gates Jr., humanities professor and director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University.

The property's most recent tenant was historian Spencie Love, Cornelia Phillips Spencer's

great-granddaughter. After Love moved out, she was instrumental in obtaining a Love Family Foundation gift to the University to start the renovation. The seven-room, one-story house has deep porches, wide lawns and large shade trees.

After renovations and a 900-square-foot addition named for the late James A. Hutchins Jr., a 1937 UNC graduate, the resulting building was ready for new tenants. Paul Kapp, UNC historic preservation manager, oversaw the renovation and addition.

Glenn Hutchins, co-founder and managing director of Silver Lake Partners of New York City, donated funds for the project to honor his father. James Hutchins studied with the celebrated Carolina sociologist Howard Odum, who is credited with building the University's commitment to tackling social and economic challenges in the South when he came to Carolina in 1920.

The Center was founded in 1992 to encourage teaching, research and service for the South at UNC, to deepen scholarly understanding of the South and its people and cultures, and to make the University's best resources available to states and communities facing challenges within the region. ☞

*see photos on following pages*

## Love House and Hutchins Forum Opening, April 2007



The house is readied for the opening-day ceremony, April 21, 2007.



Marguerite Hutchins, Chancellor James Moeser and Spencie Love cut the ribbon at the opening of the Love House and Hutchins Forum, the Center's new home.



Harry Watson, director of the Center for the Study of the American South, greets guests and thanks all those whose work, dedication and generosity made the day possible.



Chancellor James Moeser gives the welcoming address.



Roger Perry, chair of the UNC Board of Trustees, greets the crowd gathered on the lawn.



Karol Mason, vice-chair of the UNC Board of Trustees, with Bill Ferris, senior associate director of the Center, and Henry Louis "Skip" Gates Jr., director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard, who gave the dedication speech.



Skip Gates (left), director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute, Harvard, and Erskine Bowles (right), president of the UNC system, with Glenn Hutchins, co-founder and managing director of Silver Lake Partners of New York City, who donated funds to build the Hutchins Forum addition in honor of his late father, James A. Hutchins.



Marguerite Hutchins with her son Glenn Hutchins.

## The Center for the Study of the American South thanks the major benefactors who made the Love House and Hutchins Forum possible.

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## James A. Hutchins Lectures, 2007–08

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The Center's James A. Hutchins Lectures, a series of public presentations and discussions, enriches the cultural life of the University and the Chapel Hill community with insights into Southern culture, history and public policy. This fall the Center began a collaboration with the UNC General Alumni Association and moved the lectures to the George Watts Hill Alumni Center. The series is free and open to the public.

Our fall speakers were Otis L. Graham Jr., Christopher Arris Oakley, Robert E. Bonner, William W. Freehling and John Wharton Lowe. They shared their research on topics from FDR and the environment to the literary legacy of the Haitian revolution. With support from Clara Sue Kidwell and UNC's American Indian Center, Oakley's lecture on a 1958 KKK rally to threaten the Lumbee tribe and the national media's interpretation of this event drew a crowd of nearly 200 and was covered by *The Alumni Review*.

Spring semester kicked off with Center postdoctoral fellow Danielle McGuire's study of how the ongoing problem of rape mobilized activism by Rosa Parks and others who eventually launched the Montgomery bus boycott. In February, Louis Kyriakoudes, associate professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi, connected the origins of the cigarette epidemic in the American South with the economic forces fueling today's global tobacco epidemic, and Center postdoctoral fellow Stephen Inrig addressed Republican Senator Jesse Helms's impact on American AIDS policy. Illinois State University historian Amy Wood's exploration of lynching, spectacle and cinema between 1900 and 1940 and Duke professor Thavolia Glymph's presentation of her current work on gender, war and violence in the interaction between enslaved women and Union and Confederate armies follow on March 18 and 25, respectively. Katherine Mellen Charron caps the spring series, discussing the efforts of Septima Poinsette Clark in educating freed blacks and how their newly understood rights as citizens fed into the ongoing black freedom struggle.

For more information about the Hutchins Lectures, visit the Center's Web site at [www.UNCSouth.org](http://www.UNCSouth.org).



Smoking in the South and its relationship to the global tobacco epidemic was the topic of a February James A. Hutchins Lecture by Louis M. Kyriakoudes of the University of Southern Mississippi.



James A. Hutchins (right), pitching North Carolina sweet potatoes with Britt Cobb in Amsterdam, 1978.

## *About James Alexander Hutchins Jr.*

The series is named in honor of James Alexander Hutchins Jr. (1917-2002), a distinguished alumnus of the University of North Carolina who spent most of his life fighting world hunger. Hutchins earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees under Howard Odum's direction and carried his mentor's lessons to his first job with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1939. Jim and Marguerite Hutchins married in 1940 and raised three children: Julia, Alex and Glenn. Hutchins served in the U.S. Navy in World War II, and then returned to the Department of Agriculture, where he fought rural and urban hunger and helped create the nation's first school lunch program.

Hutchins met new challenges when America's postwar farm economy shifted from scarcity to surplus. As chief of the Direct Distribution Branch for the Department of Agriculture's Food Distribution Service, he coordinated programs in 84 countries and became a founder of CARE, the global anti-poverty organization. As head of the federal government's Commodity Credit Corporation in the 1970s, he helped stabilize and protect domestic prices and farm income, while also selling agricultural commodities to foreign markets. He later recalled, "I spent the first twenty years of my career giving away food, and the next twenty years selling it."

## Southern Cultures Releases Fifteen-Year Anthology and Slates a Special Issue on Hurricane Katrina for this Summer

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### ANNIVERSARY READER

What does “redneck” mean? What’s going to happen to the Southern accent? What makes black Southerners laugh? What is “real” country music? These are the kinds of questions that pop up in this collection of notable essays from *Southern Cultures*, the journal of the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Intentionally plural, *Southern Cultures* was founded in 1993 to present all sides of the American South, from sorority sisters to Pocahontas, from kudzu to the blues.



This volume collects 27 essays from the journal’s first fifteen years, bringing together some of the most memorable and engaging essays as well as some of those most requested for use in classrooms. A stellar cast of contributors discusses themes of identity, pride, traditions, changes, conflicts and stereotypes. Topics range from black migrants in Chicago to Mexican immigrants in North Carolina, from Tennessee wrestlers to Martin Luther King, from the Civil War to contemporary debates about the Confederate flag. Funny and serious, historical and contemporary, the collection offers something new for every South-watcher, with fresh perspectives on enduring debates about the people and cultures of America’s most complex region.

### SPECIAL KATRINA ISSUE

With photographs and stories never published before, this summer *Southern Cultures* will look at the South’s most infamous natural disaster like no one else ever has—or ever will—and show how one hurricane could splinter a city, a coast and a nation. Three hurricane seasons after Katrina *Southern Cultures* can finally tell the stories of the seven who survived after fleeing upstairs to the last room in a floating, twisting, disintegrating inn—and what happened when those last four walls collapsed into the storm surge. This special issue will reveal how Plaquemines Parish pulled off a stunning evacuation of one of the poorest and most vulnerable stretches at the mouth of the Mississippi and how Hollywood

predicted Katrina’s aftermath in a 1938 film. *Southern Cultures* will expose how the federal government’s reengineering of the Mississippi sank New Orleans even further below sea level before the *Cat-4* sat on top of the city. We’ll tell how the National Guard threw food at the feet of New Orleans evacuees and how one man paddled a boat with his dead mother aboard to rescue the homeless and desperate. Order *The Hurricane Katrina Issue* today, while supplies last. Visit [www.SouthernCultures.org](http://www.SouthernCultures.org); call 919-962-4201; or email [UNCPress\\_Journals@unc.edu](mailto:UNCPress_Journals@unc.edu).

## Contributors to the fifteenth anniversary reader

**Derek H. Alderman**, East Carolina University  
**Donna G'Segner Alderman**, Greenville, North Carolina  
**S. Jonathan Bass**, Samford University  
**Dwight B. Billings**, University of Kentucky  
**Catherine W. Bishir**, Preservation North Carolina  
**Kathleen M. Blee**, University of Pittsburgh  
**Elizabeth Boyd**, Vanderbilt University  
**James C. Cobb**, University of Georgia  
**Peter A. Coclanis**,  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Joseph Crespino**, Emory University  
**Drew Gilpin Faust**, Harvard University  
**franklin forts**, University of Georgia  
**David Goldfield**, University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
**Larry J. Griffin**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Adam Gussow**, University of Mississippi  
**Trudier Harris**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Patrick Huber**, University of Missouri-Rolla

**Louis M. Kyriakoudes**, University of Southern Mississippi  
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**Timothy B. Tyson**, Duke University  
**Anthony Walton**, Bowdoin College  
**Harry L. Watson**,  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Charles Reagan Wilson**, University of Mississippi  
**C. Vann Woodward** (1908–1999)

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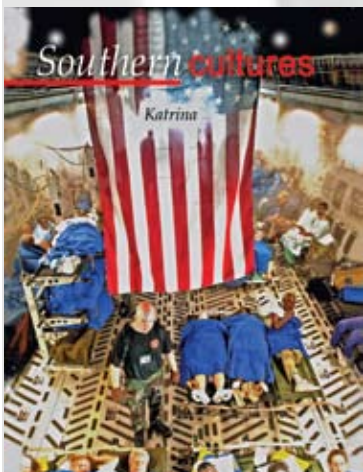
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## Program on Public Life Offers Data Research, Policy Analysis to State Leaders

---

For the past two years, the Program on Public Life has received an appropriation in the N.C. state budget with instructions to “provide the General Assembly with reports on demographic, social, economic and environmental trends.” As a result, the Program embarked on a productive period of delivering policy-related analysis to decision makers and of convening policy discussions.

A new publication, *Carolina Context*, was launched as a vehicle for disseminating white papers. To date, the Program has published five white papers drawing upon the strengths of scholars and agencies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

- an analysis of N. C. population growth trends by Ferrel Guillory and Andrew Holton of the Program’s staff;
- an assessment of the math-science teacher pipeline by Trip Stallings, a doctoral student in the school of education;
- an analysis of the potential of the allied health-care industry to provide job opportunities for North Carolinians by Erin Fraher of the Sheps Center for Health Services Research and Aaron McKethan, Ph.D., of the Brookings Institute;
- a case study of job-training for North Carolina’s life sciences manufacturing industry by Nichola Lowe, assistant professor in the department of city and regional planning and
- an overview by two nursing professors of the North Carolina mental-health systems with a discrete proposal for enhancing mental health coverage in disadvantaged and rural communities.

...the Program on Public Life has received an appropriation in the state budget with instructions to “provide the General Assembly with reports on demographic, social, economic and environmental trends.”

In addition to publishing the papers, the Program has conducted six dinner discussions with state legislators on trends and issues during the 2006 and 2007 legislative sessions. The demography paper formed the basis for three discussion evenings. Authors of the papers on math-science teachers and allied health services also presented their findings at separate dinners with lawmakers. At another legislative dinner, Pete Andrews, chair of UNC’s department of public policy, outlined his research on energy options for North Carolina’s future.



*Carolina Context* joins the Program's array of publications, which also include *NC DataNet* and *SouthNow*. All can be found on the Program's Web site, [www.southnow.org](http://www.southnow.org).

In March, the Program organized the North Carolina Editorial Writers Roundtable, which featured discussions among editorialists, university faculty and state legislators.

Two months later, participants from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia gathered in Chapel Hill for a two-day roundtable titled "Improving the Educational Outcomes of Immigrant Children in the Southeast." The roundtable was a collaboration of the Washington-based Migration Policy Institute, UNC public policy professor Krista Perreira and the Program on Public Life.

The Program on Public Life has also hosted several seminars on major issues facing the state and region. A follow-up meeting to the October 2006 Seminar on Coastalization held in collaboration with Bill Ross, secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was held in mid-November. A meeting in Pine Knoll Shores brought together faculty, state and local officials and policy makers for a discussion on climate change and its effects on the state's inner banks.

Also in November, the Program co-sponsored, along with UNC's Program in the Humanities and Human Values, the Leadership Seminar for Southern Legislators. This seminar, held annually since 1998, has brought more than 130 state legislators from 10 states to the Carolina campus. ☞



Center advisory board members Hodding Carter III (left), University Professor of Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and former president of the Knight Foundation, and William F. Winter (right), former governor of Mississippi and regular lecturer at the Program on Public Life's Seminar for Southern Legislators.

## *Virtual Museum Tells Carolina's History*

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### **"THE CAROLINA STORY" AT MUSEUM.UNC.EDU**

Fire up the laptop, head to <http://museum.unc.edu> and experience the history of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill without leaving your living room. The Web-based museum, a joint project of the Center and the University Library, chronicles many of Carolina's people and events from the University's founding to the present day.

This museum is notably different, however, from many American universities' presentations of their own histories. UNC's virtual museum contains blunt historical truths, including the role of slavery in the growth of the university.

"This project was born of both pride and responsibility," said Center director Harry Watson. "Carolina has a rich and complex story that includes some very painful episodes. It's important to thoroughly understand our past in order to move intelligently to the future."

The museum consists of general introductory material, links to bibliographies on University history compiled by the North Carolina Collection, and 15 special exhibits of approximately 20 screens each, covering topics including Carolina's founding, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the coming of coeducation and modern developments like the rise of health affairs and the research mission. Throughout the exhibits are links to further information, including original source materials available through the University Library's Documenting the American South and other online collections.

Chancellor James Moeser asked staff at the Center and the Library to begin developing the resource after a symposium in 2004 that examined the Reconstruction era at Carolina. Historian Annette Cox researched and wrote the text.

"I came away from those discussions believing foremost that at Carolina we needed to raise the basic level of understanding of our university history—among students, administrators, faculty and staff," Moeser said. "As we develop the virtual museum, we are facing our proud moments together with some distressing historical realities, many of which are shared in our state and national histories."

Moeser said the museum is not a complete University history, emphasizing that museum creators are aware of important omissions.

"This is an outstanding beginning, and we have a long list of topics we plan to include as we work to expand the museum," he said. "The bottom line is that we need to continue to add to our understanding of history, not subtract from it." ☺



“This project was born of both pride and responsibility,” said Center director Harry Watson. “Carolina has a rich and complex story that includes some very painful episodes. It’s important to thoroughly understand our past in order to move intelligently to the future.”

## Visit Us on the Web

You can quickly find the Center and its different programs on the Web, thanks to these short, easily remembered addresses. Visit us soon — stop by and sit a spell.

Center for the Study of the American South [www.UNCSouth.org](http://www.UNCSouth.org)

Southern Oral History Program [www.sohp.org](http://www.sohp.org)

Program on Public Life [www.southnow.org](http://www.southnow.org)

UNC-Chapel Hill Virtual Museum [museum.unc.edu](http://museum.unc.edu)

## SOHP Alum Publishes Pathbreaking North Carolina History Textbook

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On September 24, more than 70 SOHP friends and associates gathered at the Love House and Hutchins Forum to celebrate the release of historian Pamela Grundy's innovative eighth-grade textbook, *A Journey Through North Carolina*. Grundy's textbook makes extensive use of oral histories to reflect the experiences of everyday North Carolinians. The book includes material from dozens of interviews from SOHP's "Listening for a Change" project, an initiative to document unrecorded aspects of North Carolina's post-World War II history funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

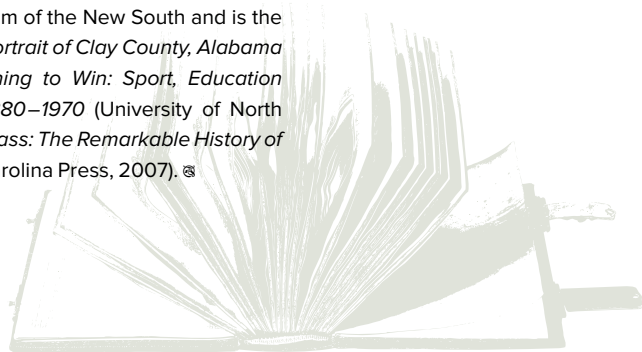


SOHP veteran Pamela Grundy releases her new state history textbook at a Love House and Hutchins Forum gathering in Chapel Hill.

SOHP director Jacquelyn Hall noted that many of those in attendance contributed to "Listening for a Change" and that the event served as a reminder of the stream of books, articles, photo exhibits, performances and films that emerged from the project. Hall also pointed out that a key goal of the project was to enrich the teaching of North Carolina history in the public schools. Grundy's book represented a major contribution to that effort, which also included teachers' institutes led by SOHP in collaboration with the North Carolina Humanities Council.

Grundy holds a doctorate in history from UNC-Chapel Hill (1997) and served as an SOHP research associate for several years. She was the curator of the oral

history-based exhibit "Carrying the Spirit: Voices of Desegregation at West Charlotte High School" for the Museum of the New South and is the author of *You Always Think of Home: A Portrait of Clay County, Alabama* (University of Georgia Press, 1991); *Learning to Win: Sport, Education and Social Change In North Carolina, 1880-1970* (University of North Carolina Press, 2001); and *Shattering the Glass: The Remarkable History of Women's Basketball* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007). ☞



## Interviews Explore Influence of Raleigh *News and Observer*

In January 2007, the SOHP launched an examination of the impact and influence of the *News and Observer* of Raleigh across the second half of the twentieth century. As North Carolina assumed its modern form, the *NEO* covered politics, the operations of state government and public-policy debate with energy and commitment, serving readers across the state and region. In 1995, after 101 years of Daniels family ownership, the paper was sold to McClatchy Corporation, now the nation's largest publisher of daily newspapers.

The SOHP's Beth Millwood and Joseph Mosnier have together completed twenty-five interviews (others are planned) with former governors and key legislative leaders; longtime

*NEO* management figures, editors and reporters; Daniels family members; and industry observers. "Not only do the interviews highlight the *NEO*'s admirable commitment to public service through vigorous news reporting and an assertive editorial posture — keeping state government honest, helping to inform public debate — but they also detail the more melancholy dimensions of the end of the era of family-owned newspapers," Mosnier noted recently.

Project interviews will become part of the permanent SOHP Collection within UNC's Southern Historical Collection. The *NEO* project is supported by a generous grant from the Josephus Daniels Charitable Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation. ☺

## Documentary Film on Jesse Helms Premieres on UNC-TV



In January a Center-supported documentary on Jesse Helms premiered on UNC-TV. [Senator No: Jesse Helms](#) explores the origins of Jesse Helms's politics, from his Southern Baptist roots in the Jim Crow South to his political baptism in North Carolina's racially-charged 1950 U.S. Senate race. Trumpeting Old South values as an editorialist and politician, Helms crashed headlong into the Civil Rights Movement, communism, abortion, gay rights — virtually every major issue of his time. Yet in the twilight of his career, Helms had a very public — and intriguing — reversal on international AIDS relief.

Independent filmmaker John Wilson had unique access to Helms himself, vast archives spanning his 60 years in media and politics and a diverse group of Helms's allies, opponents and observers, from Jerry Falwell to Bono. Actor Will Patton narrates, with an original music score by Chris Frank of the Red Clay Ramblers. Wilson's previous collaborations with UNC-TV include the Emmy Award-winning *Dr. Frank: The Life and Times of Frank Porter Graham*, narrated by Charles Kuralt. ☺

## From the Center to You

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### JOHN HUBBELL ON HIS WORK WITH THE B.B. KING MUSEUM

*In 2006 John Hubbell received a Center-sponsored, graduate-student grant to study Memphis soul music. Two years later, he has completed his studies at UNC but continues the Center's work by helping to create the new B.B. King Museum in Indianola, Mississippi. You can keep track of the museum's progress at [www.bbkingmuseum.org](http://www.bbkingmuseum.org). Feel free to send your comments to Hubbell at [john@oldbridgemediacom](mailto:john@oldbridgemediacom).*

Sitting in his Las Vegas office, B.B. King threw me a playful scowl, leaned back in his chair and scratched his head in response to a question. "I'm telling you what, boy—you've got me stretching my brains," he said to me, jabbing my arm. "I ain't worked this hard since last week."

I hadn't worked this hard since my thesis at UNC a few months beforehand. But it's hard to match tales with a musician who, at 82, worked hundreds of days this year coast to coast, continuing as one of the most enduring figures in American music. When it comes to talk of hard work, B.B. always wins.

Forming a new narrative of B.B.'s life story has been my mission since receiving my degree from the UNC



Center associate John Hubbell at left; Bill McPherson, chair of the board of the new B.B. King museum in Indianola, Mississippi; and Connie Gibbons, the museum's executive director, with B.B. King.



B.B. King, speaking recently with Center senior associate director Bill Ferris regarding the new museum about his life and home scheduled to open in September in Indianola, Mississippi.

Graduate Curriculum in Folklore in May 2007. As a member of the team building the forthcoming B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in B.B.'s hometown of Indianola, Mississippi, I'm helping to shape the text visitors will read while also developing the museum's interactive exhibits, documentaries, educational programs and Web-based material.

The museum, to open in September 2008, traces B.B.'s Odyssey-like journey via an intimate look at his life, as well as the sounds, people and places that have shaped him. The facility is being built inside a cotton gin where B.B. once worked before heading north, guitar in hand, on what would become a worldwide ambassadorship for the blues. Now, local officials are hoping the museum will become a much-needed anchor of regional economic development.

My study in CSAS-affiliated programs is proving invaluable. Instead of assuming a detached, institutional voice, our work amplifies the words of local residents, longtime friends of B.B.—as well as his own words—to explain his life and his home. Visitors will learn of Delta poverty and culture, the Civil Rights Movement and other defining aspects of the region chiefly through oral histories and tales of lived experience. Through them, B.B. emerges as a man with an incredible work ethic, compassion—and several surprises.

A highlight so far: Placing B.B. on my cell phone one day with Bill Ferris, who was vacationing with his wife, Marcie, in Maine. Earlier that day, B.B.'s eyes glistened as our team showed him our work and plans. He clasped his hands in prayer and looked skyward before thanking us. We're the thankful ones, naturally. But such moments have made work on this demanding project tremendously rewarding. — John Hubbell

#### CENTER HOSTS MISSISSIPPI'S DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY, SUPPORTERS OF SHELBY'S EARL SCRUGGS CENTER

With the move to a permanent home, the Center is now much more accessible and visible as an easy, one-stop shopping site for UNC resources and expertise on the South. Recently, two community groups from as nearby as Shelby, North Carolina, and as far away as the Mississippi Delta traveled to Chapel Hill to discuss their projects and further collaborations with experts in Southern studies ranging from folklore to music to history. The Center sponsored these meetings, which were held at the Love House and Hutchins Forum.

#### DESTINATION CLEVELAND COUNTY

In June, members of Destination Cleveland County (DCC) traveled to the Center to seek advice on a proposed project to renovate the historic Don Gibson Theater and create the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, N.C. These two attractions will be named after two of Cleveland County's most famous native sons: Earl Scruggs, the Grammy Award-winning banjo legend and singer/songwriter Don Gibson.

Led by Marta Holden and Brownie Plaster, DCC's chief goal is to revitalize Cleveland County by transforming it into a destination for music lovers and heritage tourists. Earl Scruggs himself joined the group on their visit to Chapel Hill.

“The Center for the Study of the American South has been a great resource for us...”

— Marta Holden,

Destination Cleveland County

“The Center for the Study of the American South has been a great resource for us, offering expert guidance and support as we explore and celebrate our region's cultural, historical and musical roots,” said Holden. “This critical partnership has encouraged and strengthened our efforts every step of the way.”

UNC professors and staff, including Glenn Hinson, chair of the curriculum in folklore; Paul Jones, director of Ibiblio.org; Scott Parker, director of the Institute of Outdoor Drama; Steve Weiss, head of the Southern Folklife Collection; and Jesse White, director of the Office of Economic and Business Development, along with Beverly Patterson, director of the North Carolina Folklife Institute, joined Center director Harry Watson and Bill Ferris, the Center's senior associate director and a well-known authority on Southern music, in their discussions with DCC. *continued on page 32*

## From the Center to You, CONT.

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Banjo legend Earl Scruggs, center, with family, members of Destination Cleveland County and affiliates of the Center for the Study of the American South at the Love House and Hutchins Forum in June. The Center has been advising the DCC in their creation of the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, North Carolina.

The N.C. foothills region is rich in both music and history, and DCC invites everyone to visit its charming southern community that embraces the future while preserving the past. For more information, visit [www.destinationclevelandcounty.org/](http://www.destinationclevelandcounty.org/).

### DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

In November, administrators and faculty of Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, came to the Center to explore ways to expand their university's current partnerships with UNC and Duke University. For a number of years, Luther Brown, who directs the Delta Center for Learning and Culture at Delta State, has placed Robertson Scholars (merit-based scholarship students from both North Carolina universities) in nonprofit, community-based organizations in the Delta for a summer service program. The Delta Center also works closely on projects with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, directed by Tom Rankin.

"Bill Ferris and Tom Rankin have interests in the Mississippi Delta, and there are long-term connections

between the Delta and especially UNC," said Brown. "We are experiencing major changes in the ways that Mississippi approaches heritage, especially with regards to the Delta, and these changes will provide new opportunities for research into heritage issues like the blues, civil rights, oral histories, documentary studies, etc."

Brown and the other Delta State visitors, including the university's president, John Hilpert; Billy Moore, the interim provost; and Collier Parker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, met with a group of UNC and Duke Southern-studies scholars, including Robertson Scholar Tom Allin; Tony Brown, president of the Robertson Scholar's Program; Marcie Ferris, associate director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies; photographer Tim Gordon; UNC folklore graduate student Ali Neff; UNC history professor Theda Perdue; UNC communications studies professor Della Pollock; UNC anthropology professor Vin Steponaitis and Jesse White, director of the Office of Economic and Business Development, as well as Watson, Ferris and Rankin. ☺



### OUTREACH EFFORTS MOVE ORAL HISTORY OFF-CAMPUS AND INTO THE COMMUNITY

Over the years, SOHP has trained hundreds of people across the South in oral history methodology through library workshops, community forums, history classes and one-on-one sessions. A less-heralded aspect of our community outreach work involves ongoing guidance to individuals and groups as they design and execute their projects.

Dwana Waugh, a fifth-year doctoral candidate in history and research assistant with the SOHP, has offered just this kind of assistance to a Chapel Hill-based project, “Because We’re Still Here (and Moving): Mapping a World of Black History in our Own Backyard.” This project examines two historic African American neighborhoods — Pine Knolls and Northside—to illuminate the stories of residents concerned with the dramatic changes taking place in their communities. Waugh has provided the group with historical information about Chapel Hill and shared with its student researchers her insights into conducting oral interviews.



Outreach Coordinator Beth Millwood (left), with project leader Linda Henry, accepting a collection of interviews documenting African American history in Pamlico County.

In June 2007, SOHP Outreach Coordinator Beth Millwood helped to celebrate the completion of “Preserving the African American Experience in Pamlico County,” a project to which she provided advice on depositing guidelines. Over 75 people gathered in the Pamlico Middle School in Stonewall, North Carolina, to listen to several of the thirty-five county residents who recorded their reflections on life prior to the Civil Rights Movement. In donating copies of the tapes and transcripts to the

Pamlico County Library and UNC’s Southern Historical Collection, the project leader Linda Henry of St. Augustine College, emphasized the importance of allowing the material “to be preserved in a place where it can be shared.” She also noted that this donation marked the first local black history collection at the county library. ☺

## Center Postdoctoral Fellows Writing on AIDS, Civil Rights

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In 2007 the Center awarded the second-round of one-year postdoctoral fellowships in Southern studies. The recipients of the award, Stephen Inrig, a recent Ph.D. from Duke University and Danielle L. McGuire, who received her doctorate from Rutgers University in December 2006 and will teach at Wayne State University in the fall, are well into their year of revising book-length manuscripts for publication. Both fellows presented their work early in 2008 at the James A. Hutchins Lectures (see page 20).



Stephen Inrig, a recent Ph.D. from Duke University and recipient of a Center postdoctoral fellowship in Southern Studies. His work focuses on the AIDS epidemic in North Carolina.

Taking its title from a line in Albert Camus's *The Plague*, Inrig's manuscript is a historical analysis of the AIDS epidemic in North Carolina. "In a Place So Ordinary: North Carolina and the Problem of AIDS" explores the ways HIV/AIDS affected people in North Carolina and how people in the state shaped the epidemic in the United States and around the world. Key to Inrig's analysis is the role Southern communities played in transitioning AIDS policies away from their exceptionalist origins toward more traditional public health strategies.

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## Project Explores the Lives of Faculty Women

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When Sallie B. Marks became UNC's first permanent, full-time female faculty member in 1927, few of her colleagues would have predicted that by the next century, more than 40 percent of the faculty would be women. Even in the early 1960s, recalled Gillian Cell, the first tenure-track faculty member to join the history department, "there weren't many other women to find, and the consequence is, looking back, the friends I have from the 1960s are men." As the Civil Rights Movement swept across UNC's campus,

however, women and minorities pushed for greater equality and opportunity at Chapel Hill. Working with the UNC Association of Women Faculty and Professionals, the SOHP's University History Project is documenting the struggles and achievements of female faculty over the past 40 years.

Graduate research assistant Jennifer Donnally spent the summer of 2007 reconstructing the association's story with material available in the University archive. Graduate research assistant Rachel Martin

Set between 1940 and 1975, McGuire's *At the Dark End of the Street: Sexualized Violence, Community Mobilization and the African American Freedom Struggle* examines how sexual violence and the defense of black womanhood served as catalysts for the modern Civil Rights Movement. In viewing civil rights history through the lens of sexual assault, McGuire's work sheds light on issues of sexual violence and power that plague communities throughout the world.

Each year, the Center awards two postdoctoral fellowships to support outstanding junior scholars in the revision of book-length manuscripts for publication in fields related to the American South. Especially welcome are projects that draw on the special collections of the University Library or other research collections of the Triangle area, or that explicitly engage issues of southern regional identity or distinctiveness.



For more information, visit the Center's web site at [www.UNCSouth.org](http://www.UNCSouth.org). ☒

Center postdoctoral fellow Danielle L. McGuire received her doctorate from Rutgers University in December 2006. Her work examines how sexual violence and the defense of black womanhood served as catalysts for the modern Civil Rights Movement.

has since interviewed several association leaders including Cell, Jane Brown, Connie Eble and Mary Turner Lane. More interviews round out the spring semester. As this generation of female faculty and professionals retires and a new generation takes their place, this collection of first-person testimonies will help to provide women at UNC with important landmarks of their past. ☒

**As the Civil Rights Movement swept across UNC's campus, women and minorities pushed for greater equality and opportunity at Chapel Hill.**

## Carolina to Host Richard Wright Centennial

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Acclaimed author Richard Wright (1908-1960) is the subject of a week-long centennial celebration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in April 2008.

Pioneering African American novelist Richard Wright will be the focus of a special tribute by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in April 2008. The project marks what would have been Wright's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a weeklong series of seminars and presentations on his life's work, delivered by a select panel, including Julia Wright, his daughter, various performers, and the South's premier literary scholars.

The Center is co-sponsoring the Richard Wright Centennial along with Carolina Performing Arts, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities.

Organizers anticipate that the project will bring greater understanding of Wright's place within the American literary canon. The seminar-style format will explore elements of Wright's contributions to literary, social and political currents, culminating in an April 13 colloquium hosted by the Institute for the Arts and Humanities.

At the colloquium, Julia Wright will deliver a paper titled "Richard Wright's Premonition of Katrina in

his Flood Stories." A panel of literary scholars will respond to her work. Invited guests include Wright experts Jerry Ward of Dillard University and Margaret Bauer of East Carolina University. Carolina professors Trudier Harris, Mae Henderson and Laurence Avery will also participate.

Additionally, Richard Wright's dramatic art will come to life during an evening commemoration at UNC's historic Memorial Hall. Nationally and regionally renowned actors and musicians will headline a program tracing Wright's life story, developed in part through the author's own writings.

Performances of his other works will be interwoven throughout the evening's celebration. Audiences can expect to be treated to selections pulled from sources comprising *Black Boy*, *Long Black Song*, *Blueprint for Negro Writing*, *Joe Louis Uncovers Dynamite* and *White Man, Listen* as well as Wright's lesser-known letters, poetry and musical compositions.

In the days preceding the Memorial Hall commemoration, the Centennial celebration will

## About the Guests

✎ Julia Wright is her father's eldest daughter and a writer herself, having composed memoirs of life with her father, as well as an outspoken critic of the death penalty.

✎ Jerry Ward is a professor of English and African-American studies at Dillard University in New Orleans and is co-editor of the *Richard Wright Encyclopedia*.

✎ Margaret Bauer is the Rives Chair Professor of Southern Literature at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and has written about Richard Wright's collaboration with Paul Green for the *Mississippi Quarterly*.

✎ Trudier Harris is J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of English at UNC-Chapel Hill and author of many books on African American literature and folklore.

✎ Mae Henderson is a professor of English and comparative literature at UNC-Chapel Hill whose work focuses on African American literature and literary theory.

An expert on Paul Green, Laurence Avery is a professor of English and comparative literature at UNC-Chapel Hill and will moderate the April 13 symposium.

feature a series of staged readings of Carolina alumnus and noted playwright Paul Green's adaptation of *Native Son*, the product of a collaboration between Green and Wright undertaken in Chapel Hill during the summer of 1940.

A unique collaboration between the University, the Chapel Hill community and regional academia, the Richard Wright Centennial Celebration seeks to raise awareness of Wright's impact on national identity. Organizers say Wright's legacy today is as relevant as ever, for his words analyzing what it means to be black, Southern and American speak as powerfully now as a century ago.

For more information, contact Jonah Garson, coordinator, UNC Wright Centennial at [jonahgarson@gmail.com](mailto:jonahgarson@gmail.com) or 919-619-5467. ☒

This project marks what would have been Wright's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a week-long series of seminars and presentations on his life's work.

## *Center for the Study of the American South*

Established by the UNC Board of Governors in 1992, the Center for the Study of the American South fosters scholarship and exploration into the past, present and future of the region. The Center's mission is to extend the historic role of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as the premier institution for research, teaching and public dialogue on the history, culture and contemporary experience of the American South.

### *Southern Oral History Program*

#### *Now residing in the Center for the Study of the American South*

For 35 years, the Southern Oral History Program has recorded the voices of the past. Students and faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have interviewed more than 4,000 Southerners—from mill workers to civil rights leaders to a future president of the United States. Made available to the public through the University Library's renowned Southern Historical Collection, these priceless recordings and transcripts capture the vivid personalities, poignant personal stories and behind-the-scenes decision making that bring history to life.

Visit [www.sohp.org](http://www.sohp.org) for program updates, audio samples from the SOHP collection, feature stories describing our research, a comprehensive "how to" section and more.

### *Program on Public Life*

#### *Now residing in the Center for the Study of the American South*

Established in 1997, the Program on Public Life works to enable the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to serve the people of the state and region by informing the public agenda and nurturing leadership. The program serves as a vehicle for the University to exercise its scholarly strength, civic tradition and historic mission of public service in North Carolina and the South.

### *Southern Cultures*

#### *The quarterly, nonprofit journal of the Center for the Study of the American South*

Published for the Center for the Study of the American South by the University of North Carolina Press, *Southern Cultures* provides a rich forum of animated, informed voices discussing all aspects of Southern life. Compiling the best of academic and general interest writing, each issue features insightful articles, entertaining columns and captivating photographs—all bound in an award-winning design.

#### *Contributors to this issue of the newsletter include*

Kendra Cotton, Ayse Erginer, Lisa Eveleigh, Jonah Garson, Jacquelyn Hall, John Hubbell, Reid Johnson, Rachel Martin, Joe Mosnier, Beth Millwood, Kerry Taylor, Dave Shaw, Nancy Gray Schoonmaker, Harry Watson and Dwana Waugh.

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## Love House and Hutchins Forum Featured on Town Holiday House Tour

In early December, the Center's new home, the Love House and Hutchins Forum (1887), along with the University President's House (1906), the Hooper-Kyser House (1814), the Widow Puckett House (1817) and other beautiful, historic homes on East Franklin St., threw open its doors during the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill's annual Holiday House Tour, "A Walk Down Franklin Street." "I am deeply indebted to the Center for allowing their beautiful offices to be opened," said Barbara Pipkin, secretary of the Preservation Society. "It's wonderful for people to see that such a restored and renovated historic home functions so well in its new life." ☞



Greenery, handmade birdhouses and bird nests from the N.C. Museum of Life and Science adorn the fireplace mantels.



Barbara Pipkin, Preservation Society secretary, Center director Harry Watson and Marguerite Hutchins, Center benefactor and docent.

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The Center for the Study of the American South continues to grow and evolve as the South evolves. You can support the Center's ongoing work by becoming a Center Associate.

Associates who donate \$100 or more will receive a complimentary 1-year subscription to the Center's award-winning *Southern Cultures*. Donors of \$500 or more will receive a lifetime subscription.

Simply send your name, address and donation to the address below or call us as 919.962.5665.

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*"You don't have to be famous for your life to be history."*  
—Nell Sigmon

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