The Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World has been selected as one of the two finalists for the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Regional Humanities Center competition for the South Atlantic Region. The NEH plans to create 10 such centers across the country to explore the diverse characteristics of the nation’s regions. George Farr, NEH Acting Deputy Chairman, said, “People everywhere define themselves through the places where they live or where they grew up — their ‘sense of place.’ History, folklore, language, and landscape — all the things we know as the humanities — shape us in deep ways. By exploring its regional character, we rediscover the roots and recommon Americans.” Farr describes the regional centers as “reservoirs for a region’s cultural heritage, gathering places for shared learning by people of all ages and backgrounds, and as springboards for new research.”

The centers will support research on regional topics, document regional history, preserve cultural resources, develop K-12 learning opportunities, build college-level degree programs in regional studies, and foster cultural tourism. While the focus is on regional history and culture, the centers are also intended to emphasize comparisons and connections with the broader world. In that context, the NEH praised the Program’s Atlantic approach to the history of the South Atlantic region, a focus that will continue to direct our creative efforts. Our intention is to design a genuinely inclusive and accessible center with programs that reflect the multi-lingual and multi-ethnic diversity within the entire region.

The South Atlantic region (which includes Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) was especially well represented with every major state university within the region applying. The College is honored to be selected to compete with the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and the Virginia Humanities Council, who submitted a collaborative proposal, for the final round.

The College has received one year of NEH funding to develop plans for a regional center. In December 2000, the College will submit a proposal for full-scale implementation funding. One institution in each region will be awarded a grant of $5 million. Each institution must match this amount 3 to 1, raising $15 million over seven years. The goal is for each of the 10 centers to have a $20 million endowment to support its programs. Acting Deputy Chairman Farr called the centers “a gift to future generations of Americans, who will be able to enjoy the programs and resources of the 10 permanently endowed educational and cultural anchors that celebrate the nation’s regions.” Tax-deductible gifts to the College’s initiative can be made to the College of Charleston Foundation.

Program Receives Major National Endowment for the Humanities Grant: College of Charleston to Compete for Regional Humanities Center

A Major Tourism Conference!
Please join us for

**Plantations of the Mind: Marketing Myths and Memories in the Heritage Tourism Industry**

April 6-9, 2000, College of Charleston

How have plantations been marketed as tourist destinations?

How does plantation tourism compare to touring Irish great houses or Italian villas?

How is slavery portrayed at plantations in South Carolina, Virginia, Louisiana, and the Caribbean?

What role do presidential plantations play in shaping our understanding of U.S. history?

Learn about these topics and more from historians, preservationists, geographers, economists, anthropologists, public historians, tour guides, writers, and others connected with the heritage tourism field. Don’t miss the opportunity to get a fresh look at local plantation sites on our tours scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. See the back page of this newsletter for more information, and for a full program, see our website at [http://www.cofc.edu/~htourism/](http://www.cofc.edu/~htourism/), or contact the address below.

Registration is $75 if postmarked before March 17, and $95 if postmarked after that date (there is a special $35 rate for students). Tour fees are additional. Mail your check with your name, address, affiliation (if any), phone number, and email address to Ms. Amelia Spatz, History Dept., College of Charleston, 66 George St., Charleston, SC 29424.

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**Tell about the South**

(for more information on speakers and their topics, please see sidebar)

A LECTURE SERIES AT THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2000, 7:00 p.m.; Tate Center Auditorium, 9 Liberty Street, Room 207; reception to follow in the Tate Gallery co-sponsored by the Avery Research Center.

Charles Joyner

"Sea Island Legacy: Folk Tradition and the Civil Rights Movement"

**CELEBRATING WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH**

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2000, 7:00 p.m.; Tate Center Auditorium, 9 Liberty Street, Room 207; reception to follow in the Tate Gallery co-sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program.

Jane H. and William H. Pease

"Two 19th Century Carolina Critiques of Marriage from Sue King, Subversive Novelist and Caroline Carson, Conventional Correspondent"

**WACHOVIA LECTURE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2000, 7:00 p.m.; Randolph Hall, 66 George Street; reception to follow at the Faculty House, 20 Glebe Street.

Bertram Wyatt-Brown

"The End of Duels: The Aftermath of Confederate Defeat in South Carolina"

**WACHOVIA LECTURE**

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2000, 7:00 p.m.; Randolph Hall, 66 George Street; reception to follow at the Faculty House, 20 Glebe Street.

Kevin Phillips

"The Carolina Lowcountry and Three English-Speaking Civil Wars: 1640-49, 1775-83, 1861-65"

A NEW BOOK SERIES AT KIAWASSET TOWN HALL

Kiaawah Town Hall is the location for all events, with receptions following lectures. All books in the series are available at Chapter Two Booksstore and at the event. $10 admission fee payable at the door.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2000, 5:00 p.m.

Charles Joyner

*Shared Traditions: Southern History and Folk Culture*

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2000, 5:00 p.m.

Laylon Wayne Jordan & Elizabeth H. Stringfellow

*A Place Called St. John’s: The Story of John’s, Edisto, Wadmalaw, Kiawah, and Seabrook Islands of South Carolina*

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000, 5:00 p.m.

Bertram Wyatt-Brown

*Southern Honor: Ethics and Behavior in the Old South*

and

The House of Percy: Honor, Melancholy, and Imagination in a Southern Family

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2000, 1:00 p.m.

Kevin Phillips

*The Counsels’ Wars: Religion, Politics and the Triumph of Anglo-America*

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**Scholars for the Lecture Series: “Tell about the South”**

Charles Joyner

Sharon Tradition: Southern History and Folk Culture

Grounded in Charles Joyner’s unique blend of rigorous scholarship and genuine curiosity, these thoughtful and incisive essays by the eminent southern historian and folklorist explore the South’s extraordinary amalgam of cultural traditions. Ranging from rites of passage to defense of the slave plantation to the question of John Brown, from the crystallization of language to the musical brews of blues, country, jazz, and rock, *Sharon Tradition* reveals the rich and distinctive culture that has emerged from the mingling of African and European ways of expression and life. “Charles Joyner has devoted his entire career to followways, folk music, and folklore. He loves it as family, as he does the people and the land where it flourishes.” —C. Vance Woodward

Joyner is Barrow Professor of Southern History and Folklore at the University of South Carolina and a founder of the Riversedge: A South Carolina Slave Community.

Jane H. and William H. Pease

A Family of Women: *The Carolina Petigru in Peace and War*

with

Charles Wyatt-Brown’s wide-ranging re-examination of pre-Civil War Southern culture demonstrates the pervasiveness of the age-old code of honor in many aspects of human relations, from child-rearing habits to criminal justice and lynching law. Southern Honor shows how honor was the animating force in the antebellum South, the very keystone of the slave-holding Southern morality.

The House of Percy: Honor, Melancholy, and Imagination in a Southern Family

With

The study of St. John’s Colony is traced from its settlement in the colonial period through the development of the antebellum plantation culture, the devastation of the Civil War and its aftermath, and the slow recovery of the region leading to the present-day promise of renewed prosperity. Special attention is given to the contributions of African Americans to the culture and agriculture of the islands.

Kevin Phillips

The Counsels’ Wars: Religion, Politics and the Triumph of Anglo-America

A strikingly fresh and revisionist exploration for the rise of Anglo-America as the dominant cultural and political force in the world today by the bestselling author of *The Politics of Rich and Poor.* The question at the heart of *The Counsels’ Wars* is this: How did Anglo-America evolve over a mere three hundred years from a small Tudor kingdom into a global community with such a tight grip on the world today, while no other European society did? The answer to the question, according to Phillips, lies in a close examination of three bloody, English-speaking civil wars: the English Civil War, the American Revolution, and the American Civil War. With the new millennium unfolding and triggering widespread reassessment of our nation’s place in world history, *The Counsels’ Wars* provides just the kind of magisterial sweep and revisionist spark to ignite widespread interest and debate. This grand religious, military, and political epic is the multi-dimensional story of the triumph of Anglo-America. “This is an elegant and provocative book...Phillips not only sets out his own conclusions, but he has given us a powerfully intricate and thought-provoking vision of the world as we see it today. It is a book that is both interesting and thought-provoking.” —John M. Munro, Professor of History, Princeton University.

“Plantations of the Mind” April 6-9, 2000
MARKETING MYTHS AND MEMORIES IN THE HERITAGE TOURISM INDUSTRY
An interdisciplinary, international conference to be held at the College of Charleston

Tens of thousands of visitors make their way to Lowcountry plantations every year; what are they hoping to find? Are they looking for a true sense of the South, and if so, do plantations provide an appropriate interpretation of our complicated history?

A major conference, co-sponsored by the College of Charleston, the Historic Charleston Foundation, and the Middleton Place Foundation, will explore the complexities surrounding heritage tourism in South Carolina.

Former plantations continue to be a powerful lure to visitors, but increasingly the Plantation Legend is coming under scrutiny. Historians, sociologists, public historians, site interpreters and tour guides, and other scholars will come together to discuss four sets of issues:

- **Visitor motivation:** Why are so many people interested in traveling to former plantations? The conference will address the psychology of tourism and the cultural needs that are met by the heritage industry.

- **Presentation and marketing of memory:** What do plantations symbolize today, what have they symbolized, and how are they represented? What views of the past are being taught at historic plantation sites? Whose history is represented and whose is left out? How do those who own and control historic plantations make decisions on marketing and presentation?

- **Reception and interpretation:** What is actually being learned at historic plantation sites? What underlies interpretation? What happens at sites where memories are contested? What modes of inquiry and representation are appropriate in investigating plantations as cultural landscapes?

- **Impact:** How are images and memories created or reinforced by the heritage industry, influencing the development of the landscape, the regional economy, and public policy in general? Is this type of tourism fostering cross-cultural learning and understanding?

The Plantations conference will include scholars from across the U.S. and abroad, including:

- **Edward Ball** (winner of the National Book Award for his book *Slaves in the Family*)

- **John Michael Vlach** (Professor of American Studies at George Washington University and author of *Back of the Big House and Philip Simmons Ironworker*)

- **Dean McCannell** (Professor of Sociology and Chair of Landscape Architecture at the University of California-Davis, and author of many books on Postmodernity, including *The Tourist*)

This conference is a collaboration of professors from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of the Arts, the School of Business and Economics, the Program in Historic Preservation and Community Planning, Department of Art History, and the Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World.

Additional funding provided by the South Carolina Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information contact Amelia Spatz, History Department, College of Charleston, 66 George St., Charleston SC 29424, (843)953-1420, or visit our Web site under construction at (http://www.cofc.edu/atlanticworld/).

CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY & ATLANTIC WORLD
Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World
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66 George Street • Charleston, SC 29424

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Program Website Up and Running! Visit our new website at www.cofc.edu/atlanticworld/. You can find conference programs and registration information, announcements of upcoming events, back issues of "Connections," and other information. Welcome your feedback on the site.