UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL HUMANITIES CENTER INITIATIVE

The College of Charleston was not selected as the site for the South Atlantic Regional Humanities Center under the auspices of the National Endowment Center. A University of Virginia/Virginia Humanities Council consortium was designated as the site, and we will support their efforts. Tulane was designated as the site for the Deep South Center. Instead of the proposed $1 million appropriation annually for five years, however, each of the centers will receive $380,000 the first year only, and the new NEH chairman said he would not seek additional funding from Congress.

Although we are disappointed at not having been selected, we are continuing our plans to develop a humanities center built around our strengths in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, the Jewish Studies Program, and the Avery Research Center in African American History and Culture. We are already engaged with Tulane University in a UNESCO sponsored project on the TransAtlantic Slave Trade and have begun developing a joint project with the Tulane Center on the African American Diaspora. We will be seeking external funding to support our efforts and will be calling upon our many friends who supported our application to assist us in building our research and educational agenda. And we appreciate very much the support we received from so many people that allowed us to come so close.

CONFERENCE ON CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY AND CARIBBEAN CUISINES

CALL FOR PAPERS

March 2003

The College of Charleston Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World, together with Johnson & Wales University in Charleston, will sponsor a conference on Carolina Lowcountry and Caribbean Cuisines. The conference is intended as a forum for the presentation and discussion of scholarly papers, which will then be collected for publication. In addition to the scholarly panels, the conference will feature a number of events of broader interest to culinary professionals and the public such as cooking demonstrations, historic tours, and theme dinners. Participants will also be invited from the International Association for Culinary Professionals and the Southern Foodways Association.

The Program Committee seeks proposals containing original scholarship on the development of Lowcountry cuisine in Charleston and its many regions: the Carolinas, the South, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic World. The sessions will be organized around three basic themes: the influence of the Caribbean, the material culture of food in the Carolina Lowcountry, and Southern cooking: old and new. Papers focusing on all historical eras, including the present, will be considered. Comparative and interdisciplinary approaches are particularly welcome. The following short list of possible topics should be considered suggestive, not exclusive.

- Particular ingredients (rice, peanuts)
- Ethnic cooking (Soul food, Chinese, Greek)
- Trade and markets (Charleston and Kingston)
- Migration (West Indians, Huguenots)
- Technology (milling, curing, baking)
- Industrial foods and popular culture (Coca-Cola, Krispy Kream)
- Politics, nutrition, and health
- Restaurants, spas, and hotels
- Food and identity in the Old South and the New

All individuals who would like to participate should submit a proposal no later than June 30, 2002. The proposal should include the title or specific theme and a brief synthesis no more than one page in length. The due date has been chosen to allow the Program Committee time to select the proposals, organize the panels, and communicate their decisions by October 2002.

The conference will take place at the Lightsey Conference Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, from Thursday, March 20 to Saturday, March 22, 2003. We ask that the completed papers be submitted in electronic form by February 1, 2003, to give the commentators and participants time to read them. The optimum length of papers is 10 to 20 pages including bibliographies. Oral presentations will be limited to 25 minutes and should briefly summarize the contents to encourage discussion rather than read the papers.

Communications should be directed to:
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On February 15th, Professor Joe Kelly of the Department of English at the College of Charleston, presented his paper “The Failure of John England.” The paper, a version of which recently appeared in _New Hibernia Review_, argued that in the crucial decade of the 1830s Bishop John England failed to live up to his potentially emancipatory beliefs and backed down in lending official Catholic opposition to slavery in Charleston.

On March 22nd, College of Charleston Music Professor Trevor Weston will be presenting “A Black Renaissance in Charleston,” a paper in which he will discuss his research into the vibrant classical music community in Charleston between the 1910s and 1930s among its African American citizens. Many of these musicians were connected to the Avery Normal Institute’s concert series, but many others worked through area churches to provide concerts and poetry readings for the community with compositions and arrangements by important black composers of the Black Renaissance. [Blacklock House]

On April 2nd, noted Yale University art historian Professor Robert Irving, will deliver a lecture on the Colonial Architecture of the British Caribbean. Irving is the author of _Indian Summer_, a study of the colonial British architecture of India. [Simons 309—in conjunction with Program in Historic Preservation, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies]

The final seminar in this term’s series will be led on April 12th by College of Charleston historian Professor Christophe Boucher. Boucher’s paper re-appraises the impact of the fur trade among the Petun people in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century southern Ontario. [Magnolia Room, Stern Student Center]

The seminars take place at 3:15; Professor Irving’s lecture is at 3 p.m.
Professor Vernon Burton is pleased to announce that the Program in the Carolina Lowcountry & the Atlantic World will co-sponsor with the History Department of the Citadel a meeting of the Southern Intellectual History Circle on the last weekend of February 2004. The Southern Intellectual History Circle is a society concerned with documenting the development and influence of ideas in the south from the time of European settlement to the present day. Sponsor of the Southern Texts Society series of publications of primary texts in southern intellectual and cultural history, the Circle holds an annual meeting that intensively explores a theme or intellectual problem. The theme for the 2004 meeting remains to be determined.