Announcement!

Professor Vernon Burton has been named Executive Director of the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program. Burton, a Professor of History and Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been involved with CLAW conferences and events for several years. He is the author of more than a hundred articles and the author or editor of seven books, including Pulitzer nominee In My Father's House Are Many Mansions: Family and Community in Edgfield, South Carolina.

David Shields stepped down as Director at the end of the academic year to take up the McClintock Chair in Southern Letters at the University of South Carolina. He will continue to serve as an adjunct member of the CLAW staff.

Update on the Transatlantic Slave Trade (TST) Project

The president of the University of Richmond very generously invited the five TST participating institutions, including the CLAW program, to meet for six days for an intense workshop for university faculty ("resource people") and, more importantly, the junior high school teachers who will be introducing the study of the Atlantic slave trade in their schools. Four enthusiastic teachers from Charleston attended and bonded with their counterparts from four other cities which the workshop was designed to encourage. Long days included lectures and activities dealing with the TST. The teachers will incorporate information on the TST in different courses and disciplines in their schools, and, in time, will teach other teachers. The TST project in the USA is working with UNESCO, which has already involved schools in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America in this multinational endeavor.

CONFERENCE REPORT:
Carolina Lowcountry & Caribbean Cuisines

From March 20-22, 2003, over two hundred and twenty-five attendees took part in the Carolina Lowcountry & Caribbean Conference which combined in equal measures academic rigor and practical instruction. The history, cultural significance, and nutrition of these regional food traditions were explored in conjunction with tastings, demonstrations of food preparation, and testimonies by regional chefs.

Eighty-three scholars, chefs, food writers, and cooking instructors participated in the program. Anchoring the academic component of the meeting were plenary lectures by Jessica Harris, John Taylor, Sidney Mintz, Dori Sanders, and Damon Fowler. Chefs from the principal restaurants in Charleston donated time and food to feed the conference attendees at an extraordinary reception at the newly-restored William Aiken house. The next night a four-hour pit barbecue took place at Middleton Place. The students and staff of Johnson & Wales prepared a lunch, and local chefs a southern breakfast, so that the cycle of meals was experienced from both traditions over the conference weekend.

Because there were concurrent sessions, attendees had to choose wisely among a rich smorgasbord of offerings. Topics included discussions of regional authenticity, the problems facing the local seafood industry, the history of slave nutrition, the place of food in Cuban identity, the food films of Stan Woodward, and a discussion of rice in honor of that doyen of Carolina food history, Karen Hess.

Newspaper and magazine food writers reflected on the task of evaluating local cuisines and educating readerships in regional food customs. Reporters from several national media outlets attended. In sum, the conference was so enlightening and tasty that there have been many calls for a reprise.

Program Committee Chair Jeffrey Pitcher will edit a volume including selected talks, menus, panel discussions, and recipes.
Upcoming Conferences, Symposia, and Meetings
Mark Your Calendar!

Souls of Black Folk Centenary Symposium
October 3rd

This symposium is a half-day event commemorating the 100th anniversary of W.E.B. Du Bois's "Souls of Black Folk". A public scholarly lecture will be presented on the impact of Du Bois's seminal publication, along with several thematic discussions including Du Bois and racial identity, Aver and Charleston, the NACP's spirituals, Harlem, African nationalism, and Du Bois as a public world scholar as told by Dr. Margaret Comack. The entire event is free and open to the public.
1:10-1:00 p.m. Panel Discussion I: The Legacy of Dr. Du Bois—Political and Local moderated by John Fichler Berger, College of Charleston English Department; Gena Gallery at the Avery Research Center; 125 Bull Street; Participating: Bernard Powers, History; Curtis Franks; Avery; Tom Campbell; SC School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
3:10-4:00 p.m. Panel Discussion II: The Legacy of Dr. Du Bois—Cultural and Global moderated by Scott Peeples, College of Charleston English Department; Gena Gallery at the Avery Research Center; Participating: Terence Westman, Alpha Phi African Studies, Concordia University, English.
7:12-9:00 p.m. Public Lecture by Professor Raymond Wolters, Keith Professor of History at the University of Delaware and author of the recently published book DU Rendal and His Rule, Physicians, and Reform: The Making of a Charitable Hospital
Sponsored by the College of Charleston and the African American Studies Program in conjunction with the Avery Research Center, academic departments and community organizations. For further information contact Constance Francis, Assistant Professor of English, College of Charleston on 841-9141.

Lecture by Dr. Miriam DeCosta-Willis
Thursday, October 30 – 7:00 PM

"The African Presence in Latin America"
Dr. DeCosta-Willis is the daughter of Frank A. DeCosta, Sr. 1916-1972, an attorney and the principal of the Avery Normal Institute, 1931-1941. Dr. DeCosta Willis is Professor Emeritus of African American History, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her edited works include: "The Memory History of the B. Wills: An Immigrant Portrait of the African American Young Woman, Daughters of the Diaspora, African American Women, and Sangare a Bokor the Art of Nancy Morgan. She will lecture on her recent research in Hispanic-American Literature.
Co-sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Studies in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. The lecture will be held at the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center 125 Bull Street. For additional information on this event contact the Avery Research Center on 841-9141.

Fall 2003

Faculty Seminars
Since the initiation of the CLAW, an important commitment has been the Faculty Seminar Series. Admitted only on campus, faculty from all disciplines are invited to present papers to other faculty for comment. Presentations could be finished chapters in process, or first drafts of articles the author wanted critiqued. In all cases these seminars have been very congenial gatherings among all the participants. CLAW is now opening these seminars to the public.
The following seminars will take place in Room 116 of the Education Center at 1:00 PM. Please check our website for updates, changes, and additions to the schedule.

February 26

Professor Alba Bah from the College of Charleston's history department will offer a program on the Lowcountry's Connections to Liberia: Past, Present, and Future. Bah, who is the Director of African Studies has taught at Howard University and at the University of Liberia. He is currently working on a history of Charleston-Wise African connections.

November 14

Professor Douglas Friedman of the Political Science Department at the College of Charleston will present a talk entitled "Human Rights and Cuba-U.S. Relations." Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, his main teaching and research interests include Comparative Politics - Latin America, Economic and Political Development, and Revolution. Friedman is the author of His State and Underdevelopment in Spanish America: The Political Roots of Dependency in Peru and Argentina.

TBA
W. Scott Poole, Assistant Professor of History, will give a talk based on his soon-to-be released book Never Surrender: The Last Cause in the South Carolina Uprising, 1793-1903

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the College has teamed with CLAW in organizing this interdisciplinary colloquium on "Imagining Pilgrimages in the Atlantic World" as well as the various calls of saints that developed. Along with a plenary speaker, sessions will consist of panel discussions of the papers, which participants and audience members will read in advance. If you are interested in attending, please check the Atlantic World website at www.atlanticroots.org for information.

November 21

Pi Alpha Alpha Society, the professional association for students in the social sciences, will hold a meeting on "Theological and Religious Dimensions of Entrepreneurship." The meeting will take place in Room 116 of the Education Center at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Southern Intellectual History Circle Meeting
February 26-28, 2004

CLAW and the Citadel's Department of History are proud to co-sponsor the Southern Intellectual History Circle Meeting to be held in Charleston next February. This year's theme will explore the American South through the lens of postcolonialism, by bringing together historians and literary scholars, who have been most active in using postcolonial studies. "Mapping" Sessions are open to the public and will be held at venues on the College of Charleston and the Citadel campuses. Please consult our website for complete information which appears in our next issue.

Thursday, February 26, College of Charleston
Preliminary Session: 7:00 PM

Chair: Vernon Burton, University of Illinois and CLAW

John Matthews, Boston University, "The U.S. South, Modern American Empire, and Post-Colonial Studies"

Friday, February 27, Citadel
Panel on John Matthews' Talk 9:00-10:30 AM

Chair: Patricia Yang, University of Michigan
Richard Godden, University of Sussex
Manjula Srinath, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
James Peacock, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Session 1 - 10:45-12:15 PM

Jonathan Smith, University of Pennsylvania and University of Montreal, "What Recent Challenges to Postcolonialism Mean to a Postcolonial Model of Southern Studies". Deborah Cohn, Indiana University, "Postcolonial Studies, Latin America, and the U.S. South"

Commentator: Scott Reming, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

Steven Stowe, Indiana University

Session 2 - 2:30-4:15 PM

Chair: David Sibley, University of South Carolina, "The Western Design and Southern Ambition: The Prehistory of Southern Imperialism". François Furet, University of Montreal, "National Identities in Post-Revolutionary America".

Commentator: Robert Bonner, Michigan State University

Jane Dalley, Johns Hopkins University

Saturday, February 28, College of Charleston
Roundtable Discussion of Session 1 9:30-11:30 AM

Chair: Michael O'Brien, University of Kentucky

Roundtable Discussion of Session 2 1:30-3:30 PM

Chair: TBA

For more updates and announcements, please visit our website at www.atlanticroots.org
"This Remote Part of the World":
The Formation of North Carolina's Lower Cape Fear Region, 1725-1775, by Hines Prize-winner Bradford J. Wood

Brad Wood, Ph.D. The Johns Hopkins University (1999) is an Assistant Professor of History at Eastern Kentucky University. A public lecture by Dr. Wood will be scheduled as soon as the book appears. Meanwhile, he has sent us this synopsis.

"My study strives to recapture the regional character of settlement and development in the Lower Cape Fear area of Coastal North Carolina before the American Revolution. It draws attention not only to the key distinctive elements of Lower Cape Fear society, but, even more important, to the broader processes of regional development, into the forces that shaped life for settlers expanding into the many new regional societies of early- and mid-eighteenth-century America.

"Permanent settlement along the lower reaches of North Carolina's Cape Fear River began around 1725 and, by the American Revolution, the Lower Cape Fear had emerged as a distinct region in North Carolina. The early impetus for settlement in the region came from elite North and South Carolinians, most notably members of South Carolina's prominent Moore family, who sought to profit from the region's forest resources, port facilities, and rice-growing potential. This settlement received a relatively limited number of immigrants, but they came from a variety of places in the British Atlantic world, as well as larger groups from both North and South Carolina. While some scholars have noted similarities between the Lower Cape Fear settlements and the South Carolina Lowcountry, the society that developed in this region differed significantly from neighboring societies in both Carolinas. Residents of the colonial Lower Cape Fear depended heavily on neighborhood and kinship networks that were often geographically confined to the region itself.

"Though the Lower Cape Fear never developed a very significant rice-growing economy during the colonial period, naval stores and other forest industries combined with agricultural activities to bring much greater export profits to the Lower Cape Fear than to any other part of North Carolina. Lower Cape Fear residents accumulated North Carolina's largest amounts of property in both land and slaves. By the late colonial period, slaves made up a majority of the Lower Cape Fear's still sparse population and Wilmington, while still quite small in size, served as the most important trading entrepot between Norfolk and Charleston. Consequently, by 1775, the Lower Cape Fear region differed from other areas of North Carolina in social structure, in labor and staple production routines; in transportation, trading, and urbanization patterns; in patterns of wealth; and in historical development."