I couldn’t have been given a better opportunity to commemorate Family History Month and the 200th Anniversary of the US ban of the International Slave Trade than by being asked to join an illusrious panel of speakers at the Inaugural Event of Roots & Branches. The conference which was held in Physicians Auditorium on the College of Charleston campus kicks off a series of workshops on African American genealogy that will be introduced in early 2008.

The conference was the perfect vehicle to highlight our rich hidden history and aid in raising the profiles of African-American researchers, genealogists, and the archivists that support the challenging endeavor of revealing our past.

I was honored to participate in a project that has such generous aims and objectives, as well as the potential to growth and support the research and documentation of African-American family histories. The excellent, detailed, and comprehensive content shared in the presentations and the caliber of the speakers cannot be measured. It reinforced my goals and my motivation for researching and creating a family history as much as I hope it encouraged the audience. The event was the perfect vehicle to circulate valuable resources and support for the aspiring genealogist and family historian.

For more information on the “Roots and Branches” workshop series visit www.gullahroots.com.
**Ending the International Slave Trade: A Bicentenary Inquiry**

**Draft Conference Schedule**

This conference is made possible in part by co-sponsorship from The Citadel, the Charleston School of Law, and multiple offices and departments at the College of Charleston.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2008 — College of Charleston**

8:00 pm: Requiem: A Contemporary Oration Honoring the Dead of The Middle Passage

Scottie Theater

Poems by Kwanza DAWES and music by John CARPENTER based on the art of Tom FEELENS

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2008**

Arnhold Hall, Jewish Studies Center, 96 Wentworth Street

Noon - 1 pm

Public reading Lawrence HILL reads from Someone Knows My Name

1:30 - 3:00 pm Panel 1: Economics and class issues

*That Ganfoul Branch* The Slavery Trade, The Global Cotton Kingdom, and South Carolina's Henry Laurens

Ronald W. BAILEY (Northeastern University)

Chair: Michael SIMPKINS (Charleston School of Law)

Panelists:

Kennetc GILBERT

9:00 - 11:00 am

The US Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1644-1867: An Assessment

David ELITIS (Emory University)

The International Slave Trade and the Making of the Southern Middle Class

Jennifer GOLOB (independent scholar)

Chair: Seymour DREUCHER (University of Pittsburgh)

Respondent: Jerome HANDLER (Virginia Foundation for the Humanities)

3:15 - 4:45 pm Panel 2: Abolition, the law, and its evasion

Defining "Wittness": Irish Americans and the Reopenin the International Slave Trade

David GLEESON (College of Charleston)

Chair: John SIMPKINS (Charleston School of Law)

Respondent: J. R. OLDFIELD (Southampton University, UK)

7:00 - 9:30 pm Opening Reception and Public Plenary Session

Vachovia Distinguished Public Lecture Series

Panel Discussion: "This Ambiguous Anniversary"

Physicians Memorial Auditorium

Karen B. MORGAN (Brandeis University), Bob FORBES (University of Connecticut), Paul LOVEJOY (New York University; Joseph INKORI (University of Rochester), Davaid RICHARDSON (WIllbcrforce University), Paul LOVEJOY (York University).

Chair: Jennifer JAMES (James Madison University)

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008**

Avery Research Center, 125 Bull Street

9:00 - 10:30 am Panel 3: Gulf and Creolization

"Since Peace Declared": The Long-Lingering Shadow of Slavery

J. Herman BLAKE (Medical University of South Carolina)

Slavery and the Rise of Anglo-African Culture in Early America

Hunt BOURDAIE (Cambridge University)

Marked Bodies, Cross-Sexile, and Petits-Marrons: A Pan-African Archaeology of Black Radicalism in the Atlantic World

Lena DELGADO DE TORRES (Binghamton University)

Race and African Ethnicity in the Slave Trading Correspondence of Henry Laurens

Sean M. KELLEY (Hartwick College)

Chair: Daniel LITTLEFIELD (University of South Carolina)

Respondent: Anayo ENECHUKWU (Africa Research Center, Enugu, Nigeria)

10:45 am - 12:15 pm Panel 4: Abolitionist discourse

The Grimke Sisters of Charleston and the Feminist Opposition to Slavery

Amy McCANLESS (College of Charleston)

Whitewashing Slavery: Christianity and the Abolition of the Slave Trade

Jerome TELUCKSINGH (University of the West Indies)

Samuel Wedley: Early English Abolitionist

Art TORPY (Independent Scholar)

Chair: J. R. OLDFIELD (Southampton)

12:15 - 2:00 pm Lunch with Queue (Gullah/Geechee Nation) and the Wisdom Circle Council of Elders of the Gullah/Geechee Nation

*Diwy da Vi Freedom: Exploring Gullah/Geechee Aspects of Abolition*

2:15 - 3:45 pm Panel 5: Resistance

To Pass for Free: Expectations of Urban Slavery and Urban Freedom in 18th-Century South Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements

Mariana DANTAS (Ohio University)

Black Jacobs in New Orleans? A Social and Cultural Interpretation of the 1811 Charles Desdunes Slave Insurrection

Jean-Pierre LE GLAUNEC (Dalhousie University)

*He Should Be Killed No Quick*: Enslaved Northeastern American Women's Resistance in the Eighteenth Century

To register for the conference please visit [http://www.cofe.edu/atlanticworld/Conference/620Page/Abolition_Conference_Registration_Form.pdf](http://www.cofe.edu/atlanticworld/Conference/620Page/Abolition_Conference_Registration_Form.pdf)

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**FACULTY SEMINAR SERIES — SPRING 2008**

January 18th: Faculty seminar: "Disease, Race, and Slavery: The Development of White Views of Black 'Immanities' to Tropical Fevers in the South Carolina Lowcountry, c. 1700-1830" by Dr. Peter McCannell, Blackrock House, 18 Bull Street, 3:15 pm.

February 22nd: Faculty seminar on new work in Charleston archaeology led by Dr. Nicholas Butler, Blackrock House, 18 Bull Street, 3:15 pm.

The CLAW program is always open to suggestions and offers of assistance. Please feel free to contact any of the directors of the program if you would like to

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USC Press has just published Nicholas Butler’s 2005 Hines Prize-winning Votaries of Apollo: The St. Cecilia Society and the Patronage of Concert Music in Charleston, South Carolina, 1766–1820. Blending archival research with musical expertise, Butler offers a definitive history of the dynamic concert life in late eighteenth-century Charleston, when the exclusive St. Cecilia Society functioned as North America’s premier musical organization. Kate Van Winkle Keller of the Colonial Music Institute calls the book “a landmark study in eighteenth-century American music research with a wealth of carefully integrated information about the arts and material culture.”

The winner of the 2007 Hines Prize, T. J. Desch-Obi’s Fighting for Honor will appear in February 2008. Including 45 illustrations, this rich history of the arrival and dissemination of African martial arts in the Atlantic world furthers our understanding of the powerful influence of enslaved populations on our collective social history. Grounded in historical and cultural anthropological methodologies, Desch-Obi traces the influence of well-delineated African traditions on long-observed but misunderstood African and African American cultural activities in North America, Brazil, and the Caribbean. He links the Brazilian martial art capoeira to reports of slave activities recorded in colonial and antebellum North America, and images of kalenda African stick-fighting techniques to the Haitian Revolution.

Collections of essays from the 2000 conference on manumission in the Atlantic World, the 2002 material culture conference, the 2003 cuisines conference, the 2004 conference on Jewish intellectual émigrés, and the 2006 Irish Atlantic conference are also in various stages of production.

Hearty congratulations are in order for CLAW Executive Director O. Vernon Burton whose recent book The Age of Lincoln won the 2007 Heartland Prize for Non-Fiction. The book is earning rave reviews, typified by this opening paragraph by John David Smith for bookpage.com: “If the Civil War era was America’s Iliad, then historian Orville Vernon Burton is our latest Homer. Burton, a distinguished scholar at the University of Illinois, is best known for his widely acclaimed In My Father’s House Are Many Mansions (1985), a brilliantly nuanced social history of Edgefield County, South Carolina. With The Age of Lincoln, Burton has significantly widened his lens, ratcheted up his analysis and produced a magisterial narrative history of American social and intellectual life from the age of slavery up to the era of Jim Crow. New details, fresh insights and sparkling interpretations punctuate nearly every page of Burton’s fast-paced and elegantly written new book.”