In June, the Rosa Parks Museum, Troy University (Montgomery, AL), and the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center (Penn State University) hosted the UNESCO TST-USA Education Project Summer Institute for Teachers in Montgomery, AL. Site Coordinator, Lisa Randle represented the CLAW program. Among the teachers and site coordinators at this year’s institute were special guests Paul Stephenson, chair of the British Legacy Commission and two of his colleagues from Bristol, England. Stephenson is a community worker, activists and long-time campaigner for civil rights for the British African-Caribbean community in Bristol. Rosa Park’s story inspired Stephenson to lead a boycott of the Bristol Omnibus Company which led to the revocation of the color bar in 1963. Stephenson is a Freeman of the City of Bristol and an OBE (Order of the British Empire).

Participants experienced activities, lectures, and tours each day that represented a section of the Civil Rights story in Alabama. On the first full day the topic was “Montgomery: Cradle of the Confederacy” which included visits to the Alabama State Capitol where Jefferson Davis took his oath of office as President of the Confederacy and where Governor Wallace made his famous speech “...segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever”; the first White House of the Confederacy; and Old Alabama Town’s 1850 Ordean House with its original urban slave quarters, an 1880 Shot Gun House and an unnamed black church. Day two, “What Did Freedom Mean?: Reconstructing the New South” included a trip to Tuskegee, Alabama where we visited Tuskegee Institute, George Washington Carver Museum, and Moton Field Tuskegee Airman Visitor Center. Day three, “The Civil Rights Movement in Montgomery,” involved a visit to the Rosa Parks Museum and Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church (the only church Martin Luther King pastured). Day four, “Roots of Struggle: the African American Community in Montgomery,” included a walking tour of Centennial Hill, a historical African American Community and the location of the Dexter Parsonage Museum & Interpretive Center. The Parsonage is interpreted to the years of 1954 to 1960 when the King family lived there. The afternoon was spent at the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance and Civil Rights Memorial Center. On day five, we traveled to Selma to visit the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute, tour the town, and walk over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. On the return trip to Montgomery, we paid respects to the memorial to Viola Liuzzo, a 39-year-old white woman shot while shuttling marchers to Selma from Montgomery. During the week we visited several NPS Interpretive Centers that focused on Civil Rights.

(Lisa B. Randle)

Message from the Director

Over the summer we learned that Dr. David Gleeson, who had been directing the CLAW program since Fall 2008, had accepted a new position as a professor of American history at Northumbria University in Newcastle, England. We are of course sad to lose such a wonderful colleague, but offer him our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future. Dr. Gleeson will retain an affiliate status with the College of Charleston that allows him to continue to collaborate with the CLAW program, and he is particularly committed to working with us on the Civil War conference scheduled for March 2011.

In Dr. Gleeson’s absence, I shall be resuming my position as director of the program, albeit on an interim basis. We will search for a permanent replacement to take over at the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year. Details of the search arrangements will be announced in due time.

The CLAW program’s offerings for 2009-10 look as appetizing and eclectic as ever, featuring a string of public lectures in the Fall by professors Jack Bass and Scott Poole, Edda Fields-Black, and James Walvin on the history of South Carolina, rice farming, and the slave trade, respectively. In the spring, Dr. Sarah Owens, in the College of Charleston’s Hispanic Studies department, is convening a conference on women in the Iberian-Atlantic World between 1500 and 1800. The CLAW program is also collaborating with Dr. Brian Kelly of Queen’s University, Belfast, and Dr. Kerry Taylor of the Citadel, to host a conference entitled “Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South.” Full details of both these conferences will appear in the January issue of Connections.

Simon Lewis
Interim Director—Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World
Associate Professor of English
**Highlights from Spring 2009**

**Regulated Wild**

The series of lectures and presentations entitled “Regulated Wild: The Impact of Human and Natural Forces on the Lowcountry Landscape” continued throughout the spring semester, beginning with a hands-on demonstration of batik-making using indigo dyes by renowned fabric artist Arianne King-Comer. In February, former CLAW director, Dr. David Shields, now at the University of South Carolina gave an excellent lecture on South Carolina’s leading viticulturist of the early 19th century, Nicholas Herembont. Independent scholar Edwin Gardner gave an illustrated lecture in March on the role of African American watermen on fishing and the fishing industry along the South Carolina coast, while in April Dr. Jean Everett from the College of Charleston’s Biology Department set out the ecological and historical significance of native longleaf pine forests. The entire series was rounded off by a panel discussion on the theme of “development.” Featuring South Carolina Commissioner for Agriculture Hugh Weathers, local property developer Rob Clement, City of Charleston planning officer Amanda Herring, C.E.O. of the South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations Bernard Mazyck, and Charles Lane of the South Carolina Development Bank, the panel, ably chaired by the Post and Courier’s Robert Behre, concluded that true development needed to pay attention to a “triple bottom-line:” not just short-term economic benefit, but long-term social and environmental benefit, too. As with the previous semester’s roundtable on sweetgrass, it was reassuring to find broad consensus among representatives of such diverse positions.

Barely a week after the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln (and, coincidentally, of Charles Darwin), CLAW’s executive director Dr. O. Vernon Burton, Burroughs Distinguished Professor of Southern History at Coastal Carolina University, did the College the great honor of presenting a well-attended lecture on his new book *The Age of Lincoln*. Held in the auspicious surroundings of Randolph Hall, the lively talk generated some stimulating discussion from the audience and was recognized by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission as one of the major events held in South Carolina to recognize the anniversary.

In March, Professor Burton, under the auspices of the UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade curriculum project, addressed our fourth annual teachers’ workshop, *Was Abraham Lincoln a Southerner?*, at Boone Hall Plantation and Gardens, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. The workshop was funded in part by the Humanities CouncilSC, and included additional resources supplied by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, The Library of America, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, A&E, and The History Channel. In addition to Dr. Burton’s expertise, fifteen teachers from the length and breadth of South Carolina enjoyed a tour of Boone Hall’s new exhibition “Black History in America,” a Gullah presentation by Alada Shinault-Small, and a tour of the mansion.

In April, Dr. T. J. Desch-Obi of Baruch College, CUNY, set a daunting precedent for all future lecturers in the Wachovia Distinguished Lecture Series by demonstrating his physical athleticism as well as his intellectual acumen. During the demonstration by Capoeira Charleston preceding his outstandingly wide-ranging lecture on African martial arts (the topic of his Hines Prize-winning book *Fighting For Honor*), Dr. Desch-Obi impressed audience and performers alike by joining the capoeiristas in some of their physical artistry—he is the first lecturer I have even seen walking on his hands!

**Awards**

South Carolina African American Heritage Commission awarded the Carolina Lowcountry & Atlantic World Program (CLAW) their 2008 Project Award at their annual meeting on January 22, 2009 for our work on the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in 2007-2008.

College of Charleston awarded Dr. Simon K. Lewis (center), co-director of CLAW, the 2009 Alexander M. Sanders Jr. Presidential Legacy Award for Outstanding Public Service at the annual Excellence in Collegiate Education & Leadership (ExCEL) presentation on March 31, 2009.

**2009-2010 WACHOVIA DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES**

**Dr. Jack Bass (The Citadel) and Dr. W. Scott Poole (Department of History, College of Charleston)**

*Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 6 pm
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center, 96 Wentworth Street*

Joint authors of *The Palmetto State: The Making of Modern South Carolina*, hot off the press from the University of South Carolina Press, Professors Bass and Poole will give a lecture about their new book and about the history and historiography of South Carolina. Dr. Bass is one of the state’s best known journalists whose published work includes books on Senator Strom Thurmond and on the Orangeburg Massacre. Dr. Poole’s books include the award-winning *Never Surrender: Confederate Memory and Conservatism in the South Carolina Upcountry* (University of Georgia Press, 2004) and South Carolina’s Civil War (Mercer, 2005).

**Dr. James Walvin, University of York (UK)**

*Thursday, October 8, 2009, 7:00 pm
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center, 96 Wentworth Street*

James Walvin, who taught for many years at the University of York (UK), is one of the world’s leading authorities on the history of slavery and the slave trade. He has a prolific publishing record, including the 2007 book *The Trader, the Owner, the Slave and the Martin Luther King Memorial Prize-winning book Black and White*. Professor Walvin’s lecture will be on the notorious *Zong* massacre, an event in 1781 when 133 slaves were thrown, alive, from a slave ship as a storm approached. The case is the topic of Professor Walvin’s most recently completed manuscript and allows him to consider what the incident and the public response to it tells us about the slave trade in general and the changing sensibility about slavery itself towards the end of the eighteenth century.
CO-SPONSORED CONFERENCES

Professor would like to comment... be site of Florida conference. It was a major city in the Atlantic World with as other parts of North America. A strong connection to Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean as Atlantic cultural production, literary exchanges, economy, women's experience in the Atlantic World tell us about the not physically travel have on the Atlantic world? What role they bring with them? What influence did women who did... women? What role did women play in creating an Atlantic network? What can women's experience in the Atlantic World tell us about the Atlantic cultural production, literary exchanges, economy, race relations, religion, etc., between 1500 and 1800?

The conference features three keynote speakers: Lisa Vollendorf – Professor of Spanish, California State University at Long Beach
Allyson Poska – Professor of History, University of Mary Washington
Bianca Premo – Associate Professor of History, Florida International University

Charleston, South Carolina is a prime location for this conference. It was a major city in the Atlantic World with strong connections to Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean as well as other parts of North America. South Carolina was also site of Santa Elena (1566-1587), the northernmost Spanish settlement during the colonial period and the capital of La Florida Province. For more information, contact the conference coordinator, Dr. Sarah E. Owens (College of Charleston) at Owens@cofc.edu. The full schedule of the conference will be published in the January issue of Connections.

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 comment on our activities or contribute to them in any way.

FACULTY SEMINAR SERIES FALL 2009


October 9 ‘Slavery and Public Memory,’ Dr. James Walvin, Department of History, Emeritus, University of York (UK) – author of The Trader, the Owner, the Slave, Addlestone Library, Room 227, 205 Calhoun Street (corner of Calhoun and Coming Streets), 3:15 pm.

November 19 Visiting Professor and 2009 Hines Prize Winner Barry L. Stiefel, Department of Historic Preservation and Community Planning, College of Charleston – author of the forthcoming manuscript “Jewish Sanctuary in the Atlantic World: A Social and Architectural History.” Levin Library, Jewish Studies Center, 2nd Floor, 96 Wentworth Street, 7:00 pm.

Mark your calendar!

CLAW – CO-SPONSORED CONFERENCES

Women of the Iberian-Atlantic (1500-1800)
February 18 -20, 2010

This interdisciplinary conference welcomes papers on Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American history, literature, cultural production, etc. The conference will examine questions such as: Who were the women that traveled from the Iberian Peninsula to the New World or vice-versa? What ideas did they bring with them? What influence did women who did not physically travel have on the Atlantic world? What role did women play in creating an Atlantic network? What can women’s experience in the Atlantic World tell us about the Atlantic cultural production, literary exchanges, economy, race relations, religion, etc., between 1500 and 1800?

The conference features three keynote speakers:
Lisa Vollendorf – Professor of Spanish, California State University at Long Beach
Allyson Poska – Professor of History, University of Mary Washington
Bianca Premo – Associate Professor of History, Florida International University

Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post Emancipation South
March 11-13, 2010

One hundred years ago the outstanding African American scholar-activist, W. E. B. Du Bois, presented to the American Historical Association a paper entitled "Reconstruction and Its Benefits." In the paper and in his seminal Black Reconstruction, published a quarter century later, Du Bois not only exposed the racial assumptions underpinning the then dominant view of the period following slave emancipation: he insisted that the struggles over slavery and the shape of the freedom that followed were central to the history of America’s working people, calling it “the kernel and meaning of the labor movement in the United States.” Over the past generation, historians have built upon Du Bois’s powerful insight about the connections between race, labor and citizenship in the post-emancipation South, producing some of the most compelling scholarship in the field of U.S. history. This conference will provide a forum for some of this new scholarship and will include a keynote lecture by Steven Hahn, author of the prize-winning A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration.

As part of the commitment to making this scholarship widely available to teachers and students outside of higher education, labor and community activists, and interested citizens, a teachers’ workshop, as well as panels that attempt to link new scholarship and public/popular history and/or online learning will be offered. For more information contact the conference chair Brian Kelly (Queen’s University Belfast) at b.kelly@qub.ac.uk. The full schedule of the conference will be published in the January issue of Connections.

FUTURE CLAW CONFERENCES:

The US Civil War and Its Global Implications
(wor ming title)
March 3 – 5, 2011

In 2011, the United States will observe the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. The Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World at the College of Charleston will host an international conference to mark this important anniversary. In keeping with the ethos of CLAW we will examine this event by hosting a conference that will focus on the international effects and implications of the Civil War on the Atlantic and wider world. Some of the questions to be addressed include: How did the Union and Confederacy operate foreign diplomacy? How did nations in the rest of the world view this conflict? What did Americans, particularly South Carolinians, think of international attitudes toward the United and Confederate States? What did Americans living abroad think of the conflict? What impact did Confederate exiles/colonies have on their host countries? What impact did American Emancipation have on slavery in Latin America, Africa etc.? How did the Civil War influence World views of the U.S., particularly the South, and how did Unionists/ Confederates see themselves in the world? How is the Civil War remembered and recreated internationally in literature, film, and in popular memorabilia? How did international religious alliances play into the conflict and its representations? A formal call for papers will be announced early in 2010.
Barry L. Stiefel Wins 2009 Hines Prize

The Hines Prize is awarded biennially for the best first book manuscript on a Carolina Lowcountry and/or Atlantic World topic. The prize carries a cash award of $1,000 and preferential consideration by the University of South Carolina Press for the Program's book series. This year's winner is Dr. Barry L. Stiefel for his manuscript "Jewish Sanctuary in the Atlantic World: A Social and Architectural History." The manuscript impressed the prize committee readers by its comprehensive reach around the Atlantic World, taking in Jewish communities in Western Europe, North and South America, and the Caribbean. Stiefel argues that "the art and architecture of the synagogues in the Atlantic World...became an expression of the new prosperity and aura of acceptance" that Jews experienced from the seventeenth century on.

Dr. Stiefel will lead a faculty seminar on his work on November 19th, 2009.

“The Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World” Book Series

Comprising essays from the 2000 conference on manumission in the Atlantic World, Rosemary Brana-Shute and Randy Sparks’s long-awaited Paths to Freedom: Manumission in the Atlantic World has recently appeared as the 13th title already in print in the program’s book series. David Shields’s collection of essays from the 2002 material culture conference, and Rich Bodek and Simon Lewis’s edited volume from the 2004 Jewish intellectual émigré conference are scheduled to appear later this year or early in 2010, while collections from the 2003 cuisines conference, the 2007 Irish Atlantic conference, and the 2008 abolition bicentenary conference are all also in various stages of production.