

Academic Year 2009-10

**Program in
the Carolina Lowcountry
and the Atlantic World
(CLAW)**

Annual Report



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1. Narrative Summary

After a Fall semester that saw three faculty seminars and two public lectures, the CLAW program rounded out the year with a series of conferences and public symposia in Spring 2010 that included Sarah Owens's "Women of the Iberian-Atlantic (1500-1800)" (February 18-20), co-sponsorship of the 2010 Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850, and Brian Kelly's conference on "Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South." As a late addition to our schedule, we also hosted Katrina Browne, writer-director of the documentary *Traces of the Trade*, using a screening of her film to continue our public conversation on the trans-atlantic slave-trade and its legacy in Charleston. We also participated in the annual Carifest in mid-June, hosting a well-attended session on Jewish experience in the Caribbean.

Barry Stiefel beat out five competitors to win the 2009 Hines Prize, and we were delighted that Sam Hines (now Provost of the Citadel) could be on hand to make a formal presentation to Dr. Stiefel when he delivered his lecture on the book's topic—synagogues around the Atlantic World—in November. Dr. Stiefel's book is forthcoming in the CLAW series with USC Press, which added three new titles this academic year.

2. Personnel

In summer 2009 we learned that Dr. David Gleeson, who had been directing the program since Fall 2008, had accepted a position as a professor of American history at Northumbria University in England. Dr. Gleeson is maintaining his affiliation with the program, and we anticipate continued transatlantic collaboration following his move.

As a result of Dr. Gleeson's departure, Simon Lewis resumed directorship of the program on an interim basis, with Dr. John White being appointed as director from the 2010-2011 academic year on. Dr. White has his PhD on twentieth-century South Carolina history from the University of Florida and currently works in the Special Collections department of the Addlestone Library.

Lisa Randle completed her fifth year as site coordinator for the UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade curriculum initiative, and we have secured her position for a further year. Dr. Sarah Owens (Hispanic Studies) and Dr. Brian Kelly (Queen's University, Belfast), as well as numerous other members of College of Charleston faculty along with staff from local historical sites have given their time for the various different events.

3. Administrative Philosophy in 2009-10

Our policy of acting as a kind of clearing-house or facilitator for Atlantic World scholarship was apparent in both conferences we hosted in Spring 2010. Chiefly in the person of Lisa Randle, CLAW provided most of the logistical and administrative support

for Dr. Owens's and Dr. Kelly's conferences, though both Dr. Owens and Dr. Kelly raised significant external funds to finance the conferences.

Although the focus of our work is naturally on history, we continue to draw *on* as wide a range of scholarship as we can, thereby, we hope, drawing *in* as wide a public audience as possible. Collaboration with College of Charleston faculty from a range of departments (Hispanic Studies, Historic Preservation, History, etc.) is augmented by our outreach to historical organizations, schools, and so on. Some of our closest collaboration comes with the Avery Research Center, but we also have natural partners in the African American Studies program, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program, and the Office of Institutional Diversity, among others. Simon Lewis and Lisa Randle have forged valuable links with a number of sites and organizations locally and nationally, not least with the South Carolina African American heritage Association, the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, and the International African American Museum. This year we participated in talks about formalizing some of these connections with David Moltke-Hansen, who has worked to coordinate a similar range of institutions with overlapping interests in Philadelphia.

Simon Lewis has attended a number of the meetings of the Fort Moultrie/Fort Sumter Trust, which will be coordinating the local commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The governing question of that organization's commemoration will be "why fight?"; and the CLAW program's intention is to commemorate the war in a similarly inclusive rather than divisive fashion. At the very end of the academic year, Dr. Lewis attended the inaugural meeting of a group headed by well-known South Carolina artist Jonathan Green that is looking to use rice as a way to fully explore the history and culture of the Lowcountry. This project has great potential to revitalize some of the existing and shelved projects we have been involved with over the last ten years or so.

4. Annual Conferences

The CLAW program held two conferences in Spring 2010. Sarah Owens of the Dept. of Hispanic Studies organized "Women in the Ibero-American Atlantic (1500-1800)," for February 18 - 20 and Brian Kelly of Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, hosted "Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South." The former was a relatively compact affair involving some twenty-five presenters, while the latter featured more than sixty presenters. Both drew scholars from abroad as well as from all regions of the United States; both won glowing accolades from all present. In addition to CLAW's financial support, Sarah Owens secured funding from the Spanish Consulate, GEMELA, and a range of academic departments at the College of Charleston, while "Race, Labor, and Citizenship" won a major grant of \$4,000 from the Humanities Council^{SC}. CLAW provided the bulk of the administrative support to both conferences.

CLAW will have a symposium on the two Carolinas during the first two decades of the Eighteenth Century--"Crisis and Conflict in the Early Carolinas"--on October 9th and 10th, 2010. This conference is being convened by Brad Wood (East Kentucky

University), Michelle LeMaster (Lehigh University), and Sandra Slater (History, College of Charleston).

Planning continues for the major conference on “The Civil War – Global Conflict” for March 2011, and Simon Lewis has been invited by the African Literature Association to host their annual conference in Charleston in Spring 2013.

5. Book Series

Three new titles appeared this year. Rosemary Brana-Shute and Randy Sparks’s long-awaited *Paths to Freedom: Manumission in the Atlantic World* appeared in summer 2009, while David Shields’s *Material Culture in Anglo-America: Regional Identity and Urbanity in the Tidewater, Lowcountry, and Caribbean* was published in the fall. Rich Bodek and Simon Lewis’s *The Fruits of Exile: Central European Intellectual Immigration to America in the Age of Fascism* came out in January 2010. All three volumes comprised essays from CLAW conferences held, respectively, in 2000, 2002, and 2004. David Gleeson’s Irish Atlantic conference volume is currently in production and should appear next year. Barry Stiefel’s Hines Prize-winning book is also in production. David Gleeson and Simon Lewis continue work on the volume of essays from the 2008 abolition conference.

(For fuller details on the Series, see the relevant websites at <http://www.sc.edu/uscpres/> and <http://www.cofc.edu/atlanticworld/publishing.html>.)

6. Faculty Seminars 2009-10

September 25, 2009 – Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, author of *Deep Roots: Rice Farmers in West Africa and the African Diaspora* led a seminar on the history of rice-growing in West Africa.

October 9, 2009 – Dr. James Walvin, Department of History, Emeritus, University of York (UK) presented a seminar entitled “Slavery and Public Memory;” one of the world’s leading scholars of the trans-atlantic slave trade, Walvin is the author of, among numerous other books, *The Trader, the Owner, the Slave*.

November 19, 2009 - Visiting Professor and 2009 Hines Prize-winner Dr. Barry L. Stiefel, Department of Historic Preservation and Community Planning, College of Charleston presented portions of his forthcoming manuscript “Jewish Sanctuary in the Atlantic World: A Social and Architectural History.”

January 29, 2010. Dr. Sandra Slater, Department of History and Women’s and Gender Studies, College of Charleston, led a seminar entitled “‘Godly Carriage and Christian Behavior’: God’s Masculinity in Puritan New England, 1620-1650.”

7. Wachovia Public Lecture Series

September 17, 2009. Dr. W. Scott Poole presented a lecture on his collaborative work with Jack Bass, *The Palmetto State: The Making of Modern South Carolina*.

March 12, 2010. Funds from the Wachovia endowment were also used to sponsor the keynote lecture by Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor in American History at University of Pennsylvania and Pulitzer Prize-winner Dr. Steve Hahn. Dr. Hahn delivered his lecture in the International Longshormen's Association Hall, as part of the "Race, Labor and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South" Conference.

April 22, 2010. The Wachovia Distinguished Lecture Series also featured Dr. Lacy Ford, Professor of history and chair of the department at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Ford presented a lecture based on the research he has done into nineteenth-century Southern church leaders' attitudes that provided the core of his most recent book, *Deliver Us from Evil: The Slavery Question in the Old South*.

8. UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade Curriculum Initiative

The UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade Curriculum Initiative continued under the direction of Lisa Randle.

UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade Curriculum Initiative

June 22-30, 2009. Lisa B. Randle represented the College of Charleston's Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program at the annual UNESCO-TST USA Summer Institute for Teachers held in Montgomery, Alabama.

September 12, 2009. Lisa B. Randle delivered a presentation entitled "Creating Thematic Maps using Google Earth" (based on her experience at the Summer Institute in Alabama) at Geofest, South Carolina Geographic Alliance Center for Geographic Excellence, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

October 7-10, 2009. Lisa B. Randle presented "Creating Thematic Maps using Google Earth" at the South Carolina Council for Social Studies Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

January 29, 2010. Lisa B. Randle, as an ex-officio commissioner, participated in the annual conference of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, West Columbia, South Carolina.

March 11, 2010 Lisa B. Randle read paper by Stephanie Yuhl, College of the Holy Cross, "Re-mapping the Tourist/Trade: Confronting Slavery's Commercial Core at Charleston's Old Slave Mart Museum," at the public session on "Race and Public Memory in Post-Emancipation Charleston" at the "Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South" Conference, College of Charleston.

March 13, 2010. Lisa B. Randle hosted the CLAW program's fifth annual teachers' workshop, "Reconstructing Lives, 1865 and Beyond: Using Primary Sources to Explore Race, Labor, and Political Changes after Slavery," as part of the Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South Conference, at Avery Research Center. The workshop was funded in part by the Humanities Council^{SC}. Twenty teachers attended from across the state as well as other conference attendees.

March 27, 2010. Lisa B. Randle presented at Geofest, South Carolina Geographic Alliance Center for Geographic Excellence, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

June 17, 2010. Lisa B. Randle coordinated the second annual Carifest Symposium *Synagogues and Solidarity: Jewish Connections between the Caribbean and South Carolina*, which featured Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jennifer Henriques-Philips, Barry Stiefel, Michael Stoner, and Saskia Coenen-Snyder. This event was held in collaboration with South Carolina Caribbean Culture and Heritage, Inc.

9. Co-sponsored Events and Other Activities

The program contributed \$750 to the CRE conference in February.

A travel grant of \$150 was awarded to Master of Environmental Studies graduate student Kate Skaggs, who presented a paper at the annual Association of American Geographers conference in Washington, DC, in April.

April 17, 2010. The CLAW program also co-sponsored with the Avery Research Center and the Office of Institutional Diversity a presentation by Katrina Browne, *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*, held at The Avery Research Center.

June 17, 2010. The Carifest Symposium event was held in collaboration with South Carolina Caribbean Culture and Heritage, Inc.

10. Grants Awarded and Applied for

We received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant through the Humanities Council of South Carolina for our fifth annual teachers' workshop, held as part of the "Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South" conference at the Avery Research Center.

11. Planning for 2009-10 and beyond

With Simon Lewis stepping down as director, Dr. John White will take over directorship of the program. Dr. Lewis will maintain a position with the program as associate

director, and Dr. White has already begun to formalize a larger group of CLAW affiliates. With the Civil War sesquicentennial on the horizon, we anticipate a busy next four years in programming. We also hope to make some headway with fund-raising, particularly in relation to a web-based research project that we have referred to in the past as ‘The Charleston Project,’ but that we now think of as an expanded “Race, Labor, and Citizenship” project.

Key issues of staffing and space for the program remain, and while the College’s new strategic plan highlighted areas where we believe the CLAW program could and should play significant roles, we have yet to see much real progress.