

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Southern Oral History Program + Program on Public Life + *Southern Cultures*

spring 2009 newsletter



Exploring ten millennia of history, a million square miles of terrain and a limitless future

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From the Acting Director

IT HAS BEEN my great privilege to serve the Center for the Study of the American South during 2008–09. As common parlance has it these days, what's not to like? In historic and graceful Love House and Hutchins Forum, I work with three directors distinguished in their specialties and eager to work in a collective enterprise that is reaching an ever-expanding audience. Jacquelyn Dowd Hall has been at full speed organizing the April conference on the Long Civil Rights Movement. William Ferris attracts a steady stream of scholars and artists to talk strategies for studying and promoting the South. Ferrel Guillory keeps abreast of the current politics of the South as he facilitates seminars and meetings for legislators. I count myself fortunate in getting to learn with and through these distinguished colleagues. I've been equally pleased to have daily contact with Executive Editor Dave Shaw and Deputy Editor Ayse Erginer as they make certain that our journal *Southern Cultures* continues at the highest level of excellence. The Center's staff shares and supports our commitment to these endeavors.

2008–09 has been a banner year for our James A. Hutchins, Jr., Lecture Series. We have had either capacity or near-capacity audiences for each of them. We welcomed admiring audiences to the Center for the rotating art exhibits. Music-on-the-Porch sessions also attracted a good response. The tried-and-true programs are indeed in good health.

And we have boldly undertaken new initiatives. We organized the premiere showing of the acclaimed documentary *Moving Midway*, Godfrey Cheshire's filming of the relocation of the plantation house that had been engulfed by the twentieth century. The effort produced a story of family and racial complexity that resonated with the history of the Old South. In another "first," we joined with the Undergraduate Media Center, the Southern Folklore Collection, and the

North Carolina Collection to sponsor a two-day film festival celebrating the South's music. In June, we will host with the Morehead science program a seminar on "Darwin and the South" for graduate students and high school teachers.

Always, of course, there is the pleasure of working with the graduate students. It was gratifying to assemble the recipients of our summer research grants and hear them describe their results to peers from several disciplines. For another venture, the Center chose a coterie of graduate students to assist in describing the chief events of southern history and culture over the past 75 years. The Southern Governors Association will use the students' research as part of the anniversary exhibit that will travel to cities throughout the South. Three McColl Fellows and two post-doctoral scholars with us this year have demonstrated abundantly the great promise for the future of Southern Studies. With an undergraduate major in Southern Studies now approved for the American Studies Department, the vision of the Center for the Study of the American South grows significantly broader.

At this threshold moment in the Center's history, I thank and salute my colleagues who serve in the Love House and Hutchins Forum and the many friends who have supported the Center.

—Joseph M. Flora

Publishing the Long Civil Rights Movement: Year One

The Southern Oral History Program has just finished the first year of an exciting three-year collaboration, *Publishing the Long Civil Rights Movement*, funded by a \$937,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Our aim is to use new forms of print and digital media to create and publish civil rights movement-related scholarship. Our partners include the University of North Carolina Press, the UNC School of Law's Center for Civil Rights and the UNC Academic Affairs Library.

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, Spruill Professor of History and director of the SOHP, offered a framework for scholarship on the long civil rights movement in her 2004 presidential address to the Organization of American Historians, published the following year in the *Journal of American History*. Her goal was to challenge the traditional understanding of the civil rights movement as a 1960s phenomenon by looking back to the movement's origins in the 1930s and 1940s and forward to the activism it inspired through the end of the twentieth century. By collecting and publishing materials related to this many-faceted phenomenon, the Mellon project partners seek to expand civil rights scholarship

chronologically, demographically, thematically and geographically, thus overcoming a false sense of closure that relegates the struggle to one dramatic decade in the distinctive South. This project has acquired even more saliency and urgency in the wake of Barack Obama's successful presidential campaign. Amplified by the new political climate, the project aims to join a national conversation about where we have come from and about the challenges that we, as a society and a people, now face.

Under Project Director Sylvia Miller, the partners have inventoried the SOHP's and the library's extensive collections of civil rights materials and begun to develop an online environment in which scholars can access these primary sources, pursue collaborative research, and move toward publication. Seth M. Kotch, who joined the SOHP as its new coordinator of digital initiatives in August, is guiding the SOHP's efforts as well as planning other online and new media ventures.

For more on the project, please visit lcrm.unc.edu.



Southern Oral History Program Director
Jacquelyn Dowd Hall.



Women at the August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
Photo by Wally McNamee. Courtesy Corbis.



Gay rights marchers, Democratic National Convention, 1976. Photo by Warren K. Leffler. Courtesy Library of Congress.

“By confining the civil rights struggle to the South . . . to a single halcyon decade, and to limited, non-economic objectives, the master narrative simultaneously elevates and diminishes the movement. It ensures the status of the classical phase as a triumphal movement in a larger American progress narrative, yet it undermines its *gravitas*. It prevents one of the most remarkable mass movements in American history from speaking effectively to the challenges of our time.”

—Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, *Journal of American History*, 2005



Students demonstrate solidarity with striking bus workers, University of Santa Cruz, 2005.



March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 28, 1963. Photo by Warren K. Leffler. Courtesy Library of Congress.

LCRM Conference, April 3–4

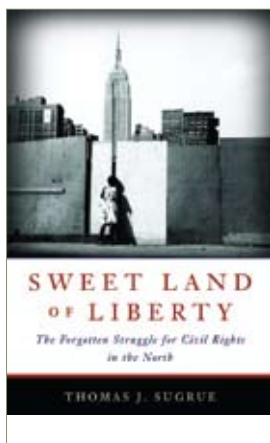
The SOHP hosts a national conference, “The Long Civil Rights Movement: Histories, Politics, Memories,” on April 3–4, 2009. Speakers will cover a wide range of topics and periods, looking beyond the South and stressing the region’s convergences with other parts of the U.S. and around the globe. They will focus not only on struggles for social justice, but also on the forces arrayed against these struggles, and on topics ranging from historical memory to Black Power, labor rights, sexuality and the war on poverty.

The keynote address, “Jim Crow’s Last Stand: Fighting Educational Inequality North and South,” will be delivered by Bancroft Award-winning historian Thomas J. Sugrue, author of *The Origins of the Urban Crisis* and the recently published *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggles for Civil Rights in the North*.

Sugrue is the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor of History and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. *Sweet Land of Liberty* is a current main selection of the History Book Club. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., of Harvard University, calls the book “a revelatory, daring, and ambitious book that overturns the conventional histories of America’s struggle for civil rights. This is one of those rare books that completely reorients our understanding of the past.” Later this year, Sugrue will deliver the Lawrence Stone Lectures in History at Princeton University on “The End of Race? Barack Obama as History.”

Sugrue will be introduced by Julius Chambers, director of the UNC School of Law’s Center for Civil Rights. Chambers’s legal career has included arguing the landmark *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* before the Supreme Court in 1971, and serving as Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and chancellor of North Carolina Central University.

Keynote Address by Thomas J. Sugrue



LCRM Broadens Charlotte Interview Project; Expands into Charleston and SC Low Country

The SOHP continued its Long Civil Rights Movement fieldwork for a number of hot but rewarding weeks last summer in Charlotte and Charleston, building on previous work in Birmingham, Chapel Hill, Louisville and New Orleans.

Charlotte

Focusing on issues of economic justice, Dwana Waugh headed back to Charlotte, where she had previously documented housing issues in the Belmont neighborhood. This time, she and fellow researcher Willie Griffin and former SOHP Associate Director Kerry Taylor explored the experiences of black domestic workers and blacks who desegregated all-white jobs during the post-World War II era.

Well into the 1960s, most black men and women in Charlotte found employment in the domestic service sector, working as maids, gardeners and chauffeurs. This pattern began to change only in the 1970s as pressure from the civil rights movement and the federal government opened new opportunities for African Americans in Charlotte's factories, hospitals and stores. Yet these interviews with firefighters and other

public-sector workers reveal that while employers and elected officials supported some of these changes, they also opposed more serious challenges, including efforts to establish labor unions.

The Charlotte interviews provide insight into how African Americans in that city responded to new job opportunities and struggled to maintain their autonomy in a post-segregated economy.

Charleston

In Charleston, Taylor and Griffin were joined by researchers O. Jennifer Dixon and Rachel Martin for two weeks of interviews regarding the long-term impact of the civil rights protests of the 1960s.

Much of the interviewing centered on a historic 1969 hospital workers strike, during which several hundred black women were joined by the Hospital Workers Union 1199 and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in an effort to demand union recognition and an end to racially discriminatory practices. The strike stood at the crossroads between the classic phase of the civil rights movement, the rise of the Black Power movement, and the struggle for economic justice. Activists around the country looked to the vibrant Charleston movement as an indication that the combination of union power and Black Power might unleash a new tide of labor organizing among America's poor and unskilled.

Dixon focused her interviews on the working-class, black women who were the backbone of the strike, exploring how their stories had been marginalized within the traditionally told historical narrative of labor unrest in Charleston.



Members of the SOHP research team in Charleston, left to right, O. Jennifer Dixon, Kerry Taylor and Rachel Martin.

continues on next page

Martin turned her attention to historical memory by exploring the ways in which Charleston's heritage tourism industry portrays the civil rights movement. She interviewed representatives of Charleston's historic preservation societies, Gullah/Geechee activists, local neighborhood associations' officers and professional public historians. Their revealing interviews suggest that the battle for tourist dollars has affected the city's collective memory of the past.

Griffin, who has family ties to the area, documented an overlooked conflict in nearby Georgetown. Although the historic port city prides itself on its growing tourism and retirement industry, the local economy remains dependent on steel and paper production. Constructed in 1968, the Georgetown Steel mill polarized the

small community from the start by pitting African Americans and white business leaders against established white families who worried about the impact of pollution on housing values and tourism.

Two years later, workers backed by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference engaged in a successful nine-month strike to gain recognition for their union, United Steelworkers of America, Local 7898. In documenting this complicated tangle of race, class and environmental issues, Griffin's interviews underscore the continuing and ambiguous legacies of the 1960s freedom struggles.

“We didn't have no choice, either you accept being a second class citizen, going through the back door and all that stuff, or change it. I was one that was interested in changing it. What side would you have been on?”

—From an interview with Senator Robert Ford on what had motivated him to join the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at the age of 13.

From left, Mary Moultrie, Naomi White and Rosetta Simons, veterans of the 1969 hospital strike in Charleston.



New Interviews Highlight Justice, with a North Carolina flavor

The SOHP has added a number of important interviews to its collection this past year, including four conducted in 2007 by lawyer and writer Walter Bennett with William A. Johnson.

Born in 1920 in Lillington, North Carolina, Johnson was educated at Campbell College and UNC–Chapel Hill School of Law. He worked as a town and county attorney in Lillington and Harnett County, and served as a member of the Harnett County Board of Education. He later chaired the UNC Board of Governors, was state commissioner of revenue under Governor Terry Sanford, and served as a Superior Court judge. He was a recipient of the University Award from UNC in 2005.

Johnson's detailed recollections include his childhood on a North Carolina farm, his educational experiences, the establishment of his small-town legal practice and his tenure on the Board of Governors. Recording almost nine decades of memories, Johnson's interviews are a rich addition to our understanding of the changing landscape of North Carolina.

“Pretty early on in the case he called me up to the bench one day and said, ‘Bill, I want you to know something. Duke/Carolina are playing [football] this Saturday, and I’ve got tickets, and I intend to go to that ballgame. I want you to move this case along.’”

WILLIAM A. JOHNSON REMEMBERS



“I was representing three boys who were charged with stealing cotton after it had been picked. That’s a pretty serious crime in Harnett County in those days. The judge — who had himself quite a reputation as being a pretty stern

judge and former District Attorney — was trying the case. [He] was a great Carolina fan. Pretty early on in the case he called me up to the bench one day and said, ‘Bill, I want you to know something. Duke/Carolina are playing [football] this Saturday, and I’ve got tickets, and I intend to go to that ballgame. I want you to move this case along.’

“Well, we did, I thought, as well as we could at moving it, but long about Friday lunchtime it became pretty apparent we weren’t going to finish the case. I go up to the bench, and he points his finger and says, ‘You’re going to make me miss this football game and I don’t want that to happen. You get your clients back in and tell them that if they’ll plead guilty now they’ll get a very light sentence, and if they don’t you’re to convince them I’ll give them every day I can.’ Now you can make judgment on whether or not that was prejudging by the judge or not, but in any event that was a fact of life. I talked to my clients, ‘No sir, we ain’t going to plead guilty to something we didn’t do.’ We tried the case. About four o’clock Saturday afternoon the jury came back. ‘Guilty.’ And good as his word, he gave them every day the law would present.”

Southern Studies Undergraduate Major Is Launched



Professor Marcie Ferris,
"Cooking Up a Storm"



Professor Rachel Willis and class
at grave of Hinton James

With the launch of the newly-revised Southern Studies major, starting in the fall of 2009 UNC undergraduates will have the opportunity to focus their studies around the University's magnificent resources for the study of the American South. The American Studies Department at UNC is the home for the undergraduate major in Southern Studies. Students can focus undergraduate study at Carolina on southern history, literature, music, art, architecture, politics and southern culture. Students who choose this new major will take a dazzling array of courses that approach the study of the American South from different disciplinary perspectives. African-American Studies, Anthropology, Communications Studies, English, Folklore, Geography, History, Journalism, Music, Political Science, Public Policy, Religious Studies and Sociology courses are all available for Southern Studies majors. In addition, interdisciplinary courses in the American Studies Department will bring together different fields of study in dynamic new configurations. Students can explore southern foodways with Professor Marcie Ferris, southern vernacular architecture with Professor Kathy Roberts, the history of UNC with Professor Rachel Willis, southern music with Professor Bill Ferris, southern art and architecture with Professor Bernard Herman, the role of tobacco in the South with Professor Tim Marr, and more.

American Studies students have written senior honors theses on subjects ranging from Southern Barbecue to the Civil Rights Movement to Latina/o Immigration. Small seminar classes have taken students to the Ackland Art Museum, to Atlanta and Birmingham, to local food producers and to textile factories in North Carolina.

Honoring Dan Patterson

On the evening of October 3, 2008, the Center co-sponsored a program and reception at Wilson Library that celebrated Dan Patterson's eightieth birthday and announced the establishment of the Dan Patterson Fund for the Southern Folklife Collection. Patterson, who retired in 1998 as Kenan Professor of English and Folklore, had been approached by former students who wanted to honor him, and he had agreed to a birthday celebration in hopes that the occasion could recognize and benefit the Southern Folklife

Collection. To that end, Bland Simpson and Jill McCorkle emceed a program of traditional music, film clips from documentaries Patterson helped produce for the Folklore Curriculum's *American Traditional Culture* series and reminiscences by former students and friends. Filmmakers Tom Davenport and Cece Conway introduced clips from their films *Being a Joines* and *Born for Hard Luck*. Dennis Daniel, whose family was featured in Davenport's documentary *A Singing Stream*, talked about what that film has meant to his family.

Distinguished Professor Joins Faculty



Bernard Herman, George B. Tindall Professor of American Studies, joins colleagues in the American Studies Department who specialize in southern history, literature, folklore, foodways, music and economics, deepening UNC's strengths as a home for the study of the American South.

After a national search, Bernard Herman arrived in Chapel Hill January 1, 2009, to become the George B. Tindall Professor of American Studies. Professor Herman was formerly chair of the Department of Art History at the University of Delaware. As a member of the UNC community, Professor Herman will help to develop the new Southern Studies concentration for undergraduates, and will also teach graduate courses focused on the material culture of the American South. He will collaborate with museums and other institutions on projects that focus on public engagement through the material and visual cultures of the American South.

Herman, who specializes in southern material culture, received his B.A. in English at the College of William and Mary and his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in Folklore and Folklife. He is the author of a number of books dealing with southern architecture and material culture. In 2005 he received the Abbott Lowell Cummings Award in recognition of *Town House: Architecture and Material Life in the Early American City, 1780-1830* as the year's best book on North American vernacular architecture. He is currently at work on a book entitled "Quilt Space" that draws on his work with the art and artists of Gees Bend, Alabama, as well as "Borderlands," a volume of essays on the place of craft, self-taught and outsider arts in the contemporary art world.

An inventive and energetic teacher, Herman led his students and colleagues at Delaware in the creation of two volumes of oral history that chronicled foodways and community identity in Newark, Delaware. At UNC, his course on outsider art this spring will take students to Atlanta and Birmingham to meet with artists and collectors of art. He is also teaching a course on visual culture to an enthusiastic group of over 100 students, examining everything from graffiti art to vernacular photography.

Performances by the gospel group The Golden Echoes, old-time music duo Amy Davis and Jon Newlin, banjoist Bill Mansfield and fiddler Alan Jabbour highlighted the continuing vitality of traditional music in the South and the importance of the materials in the Library's Southern Folklife Collection. The celebration continued the following afternoon with another great tradition — North Carolina-style barbecue — at the home of Tom Rankin and Jill McCorkle.



Dan E. Patterson, Kenan Professor Emeritus of English and former chair of the Curriculum in Folklore

The Center Loses a Friend

When chemist **William F. Little** died unexpectedly on February 27 at age 79, the University lost one of its stalwarts — a cheerful and capable worker on many fronts. Bill, as his friends knew him, will probably be remembered most for his labors that helped make the Research Triangle Park a reality. At the Love House and Hutchins Forum, we will remember also his key role in the drama that led to the establishment of the Center for the Study of the American South.

The germ for the Center was modest. Under the umbrella of the Institute for Research and Social Sciences, a cadre of faculty members had been meeting regularly to discuss southern issues. Early participants included John Shelton Reed and Jim Peacock. Eventually there was talk of a journal and eventually a center. But how to make dreams reality? They needed help.

There is not space here to recount all the complexities of the history. Key supporters in the early negotiations included Chancellor Paul Hardin (who wanted assurances that more was envisioned than nostalgia), John Shelton Reed, Thad Beyle and Carol Reuss. But in the early '90s, there was some uncertainty about whether General Administration and the Board of Governors would approve new centers. Bill Little, thrust into the office of Provost when Dennis O'Connor resigned, would prove an invaluable ally. As Ferrel Guillory remembers it, a meeting in Little's office was crucial to the

development of the Center: Little leaned back, imagined a headline that would read "Board of Governors Turns Down Southern Center at Chapel Hill" — and added, with a smile, that wouldn't happen. He then gave a go-ahead to the writing of a proposal to send to General Administration. Reed remembers that Little was especially enthusiastic about prospects for *Southern Cultures*.

In 1994 the Center for the Study of the American South became a reality. In 2007, the Center moved into its renovated and expanded home at 410 E. Franklin Street, now known as the Love House and Hutchins Forum. It is fitting that we pay tribute in this space to Bill Little, a man of dreams and good sense.



Bill Little lent his influence and enthusiastic support to the creation of the Center for the Study of the American South.

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

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OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH IS
GRATEFUL TO THESE GENEROUS
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THE SOUTH AND THE WORLD.**

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Getting the Story on the *N&O*

DANA DI MAIO ON EDITING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

In 2007, the Southern Oral History Program began a project to document the history of one of the state's most influential institutions during the second half of the twentieth century, *The News & Observer* of Raleigh. The SOHP conducted some 33 interviews with over 20 of the people who knew the *N&O* best. The project was funded by the Josephus Daniels Charitable Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation. The Daniels family owned and published the paper for 101 years, from its founding in 1894 by Josephus Daniels to its sale in 1995 to McClatchy Newspapers, a national media corporation. While listening to and editing the interviews, I followed the stories of the paper's former editors, publishers and reporters. I also learned the paper's story through the memories of lawyers, politicians and public figures, including former governors Jim Hunt and James Holshouser, and William Friday, former president of the University of North Carolina system.

As I edited the transcripts for deposit in the archives, I was reminded of the striking differences between oral and written language. Real, unrehearsed speech is filled with false starts, asides and changes of subject. While sharing stories, a speaker may name people in passing without explaining who they are. The speaker may also mention well-known events without any explanation, assuming that the listener is familiar with them. However, these interviews will be archived for future generations, and a reader even five or 10 years from now may not recognize a name that is on the tip of everyone's tongue in 2009. Thus, it falls to an editor not only to correct typographical errors, but also to insert bracketed identifications of people, places and events. These identifications make the transcript clearer for today's readers and more useful for future researchers.

I had grown up reading the *N&O*, knew the names of columnists past and present like Barry Saunders, Dennis Rogers and A.C. Snow, and could identify some of the issues like tobacco and school redistricting that regularly made headlines. But as I read transcripts and listened to interviews, I was struck not just by the stories that had been reported in its pages, but by the tale of the newspaper itself. For much of the twentieth century, *The News & Observer* was not just a news source, it was the news source for the state capital and much of eastern North Carolina. Importantly, it not only reported the events, but also championed progress in the state through its editorials. Former staffers recalled that the paper did a good job of maintaining separation between the news division and the opinion pieces written by its editorial staff. Many Republicans in public life, however, disagreed. By the late 1960s and early 1970s, some referred to the paper as the "The Nuisance and Disturber" for what they perceived as its clear Democratic bias.

Former advertising and general manager Dave Jones recalled when editor Claude Sitton, newly arrived from *The New York Times* in 1968, met with a group of local civic leaders. "He started by saying that he thought it was very shrewd of the publisher to have him speak at this time because within a few months, probably none of them would come to hear him speak. Then he went on to say that popularity was not a valid goal; that what Raleigh had to deal with was the same thing that we'd always had to deal with, and that's how to manage change; and that the responsibility of the paper was to tell the truth."

Even those who complained of bias did not deny the influence of the paper. Former state governors spoke of how valuable the *N&O* was to their efforts in office, and other politicians recalled

how the paper's editorial support had aided their campaigns. The paper's controversial reputation could benefit even its detractors. A former campaign staffer for Senator Jesse Helms said that those like Helms who disagreed with the paper's views mustered support from their constituents by railing against *N&O* editorials.

In the age of online media, a daily newspaper is ever more an endangered species. These oral histories provide an exceptional record of the daily workings and legacies of an influential Southern paper during its heyday.



N&O Press in operation. Reprinted with permission of *The News & Observer*.

“One of the things that’s hard for people to understand about working for newspapers is the pressure, just the sheer pressure of producing a paper every single day, and the press of time. You know the press is going to start running at nine thirty and the story’s got to be done, and if it’s snowing a foot, if the power’s out, whatever it is, you’ve got to get a newspaper out today.”

— From oral history with Gary Pearce, former *N&O* state government reporter and city editor

Moving Midway Benefit Premiere



Friends of the Center gathered for bluegrass and barbecue before heading off to a premiere screening of Godfrey Cheshire's award-winning *Moving Midway: A Southern Plantation in Transit* at the Varsity Theater. This was the Center's first-ever benefit event, set in motion when Cheshire offered Center directors the use of his film for a fundraiser.

On a warm September night, Bill Smith of Crook's Corner graciously donated his time and talents to ensure that the guests had a wonderful meal of traditional North Carolina barbecue and his freshly-made jalapeño-cheddar hushpuppies.

Bruce Stone generously offered the use of the Varsity for the film premiere. *Moving Midway* was a perfect choice for the Center's first benefit. In the film, award-winning southern film critic Godfrey Cheshire uses the relocation of his family's North Carolina plantation as the occasion to examine the Southern plantation in American history and culture, including its impact on areas as diverse as music, movies and contemporary race relations. Part present-tense family drama, part cultural essay, the film also involves an ongoing dialogue between Cheshire and Dr. Robert Hinton, an African American history professor whose grandfather was born a slave at Midway Plantation. Learn more at movingmidway.com and midwayplantation.com

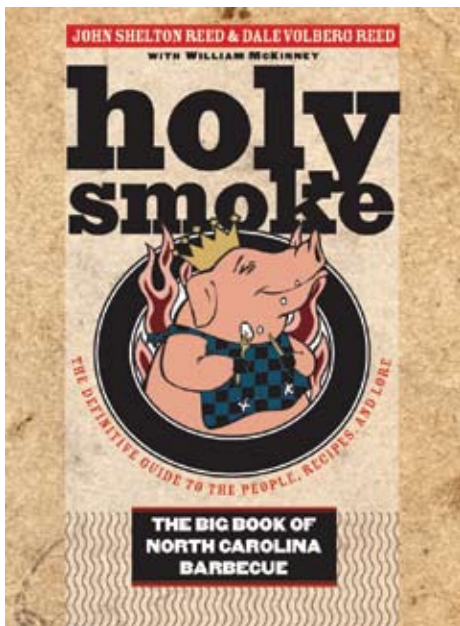


Local pickers Michael Holland, Joe Troop and John Hill played bluegrass in the parlor.



Guests mingled on the porch and lawn of the Love House and Hutchins Forum, doing their part to help raise money for the Center's public programs and support of research about the South.

Holy Smoke!



The Center hosted a celebration in late October to honor John Shelton Reed and Dale Volberg Reed on the publication of their new book about what they call “barbaculture.” *Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue* (UNC Press) explores the lore, recipes, traditions and people who have helped shape North Carolina’s passionate relationship with barbecue. Dozens of old friends turned out to eat barbecue, swap stories and have their copies of *Holy Smoke* signed by the authors.

John Shelton Reed is the founding editor of *Southern Cultures*, the Center’s award-winning journal. He and Dale, who are members of the Southern Foodways Alliance and the North Carolina Barbecue Society, have collaborated on other books, including *1001 Things Everyone Should Know about the South* and *Cornbread Nation 4: The Best of Southern Food Writing*.



Center staffers Dwana Waugh, Jennifer Donnally, Rachel Martin and Dana Di Maio helped serve the guests.



From left: Gina Mahalek, UNC Press; Dale Volberg Reed and John Shelton Reed; Erica Eisdorfer, Bull's Head Bookshop

The James A. Hutchins Lectures

The Center's James A. Hutchins Lecture series, with support from the General Alumni Association, brings speakers on a wide range of topics relating to the South to the University community and the public at no charge.

Our fall speakers were David Brown, Suzanne Marrs, Robert Morgan, Maurice Martinez, James McPherson, David Houston and John Inscow, who shared their expertise on topics from Eudora Welty to Mardi Gras Indians, colonial race relations to the emotional impact of Jim Crow, writing historical fiction to redefining southern art. Noted Civil War historian McPherson was brought to UNC through a collaboration with the Department of History and the Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense.

Spring semester presentations have included the CSAS Postdoctoral Fellows: Benjamin Wise spoke about his work on William Alexander Percy and the creation of gay identity in the American South, and Malinda Maynor Lowery discussed Lumbee identity in the Jim Crow South. Outside lecturers include Paul Sutter, who shared his work on the competing interpretations of Georgia's Providence Canyon, and noted essayist Hal Crowther, who

imagined H. L. Mencken's commentary on contemporary letters, manners and politics in the South. James T. Carson invoked the Canadian notion of "founding peoples" in a discussion of the nature of southern history. Rounding out the semester, Robert Cantwell will explain how southern music continues to be born out of a welter of folk practice, class formation and racial fascination.

The series is named in honor of James Alexander Hutchins, Jr, a distinguished alumnus of the University of North Carolina. Hutchins earned both his B.A. and M.A. under Howard Odum's direction

and carried his mentor's lessons throughout a government-service career devoted to leading the fight against world hunger.



Robert Cantwell's Hutchins lecture "Twang: Striking the Southern Note" considers the music created by southerners such as this pair, photographed in 1939.

Tell About the South: Lunchtime Conversations at the Center

Taking its name from a passage in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*, the Center's series of lunchtime presentations of works in progress by faculty and senior graduate students is well into a second successful year. Structured to provide a scholarly and collegial forum for comments and suggestions by an audience of academic peers, this year's talks have probed a broad range of southern scholarship. Topics have included literature as a window on southern life, demographic change in North Carolina, American

Indian issues and culture, antebellum student life in Chapel Hill, land use, race relations, struggles at the Mexican border and capital punishment.

"Tell about the South. What's it like there. What do they do there. Why do they live there. Why do they live at all...."

—William Faulkner

The Global South

The South fascinates scholars from all corners of the world as much as it does those of us who live here. During the 2008–09 academic year the Center hosted five visiting scholars, four from Indonesia and one from Croatia. We welcomed them to our Center programs and events, and assisted them in making connections within the academic community. Their projects encompass a wide range of research interests, and they were pleased to have the opportunity to make use of Carolina’s rich library and archival collections.



The visitors from Indonesia took home pictures of the Center blanketed with snow on Inauguration Day.

THE CENTER’S 2008-09 VISITING SCHOLARS

Tatit Hariyanti (Indonesia)

“African American Spirituals”

Abdillah Nugroho (Indonesia)

“African American Superstition in American Literature”

Biljana Oklopčić (Croatia)

“Male Stereotypes in the U. S. South: Their Literary (De)Construction in William Faulkner”

Tri Sedjati (Indonesia)

“Last Wills and Testaments”

Mohammad Thoyobi (Indonesia)

“Muslims in Post-9/11 America”

THE CENTER WELCOMES VISITING SCHOLARS

Those who wish to apply to be a visiting scholar at the Center should apply directly to CSAS.

For U.S. citizens living in the United States, the procedure is simple. Send your CV and a description of the research you plan to pursue in Chapel Hill to Barbara Call at CB #9127, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-9127 or bcall@email.unc.edu. Your materials will be reviewed, and if approved, an invitation to be a visiting scholar will be extended to you.

The application process is more rigorous and time-consuming for anyone coming from outside the United States, including U.S. citizens. All paperwork must be completed three months before the visit begins. Contact Barbara Call for information on how to begin the process.



In summer of 2008 a group of Vietnamese scholars visited the Center to discuss resistance to authority in the history of the South.

Speaking of the South: Ferrel Guillory



NBC News came to Chapel Hill to interview Guillory.

Ferrel Guillory directs the Center's Program on Public Life. As Jack Betts of the *Charlotte Observer* observed, "If you pay attention to public life in North Carolina, you'll notice that he's always running a seminar for southern legislators, or lining up speakers for the Southern Journalists Roundtable, or moderating panel discussions at meetings of learned groups or other professional associations."

During the 2008 campaign season Guillory's insights were featured in sound bites and interviews in national media, focusing attention on Carolina as an important center of political study and analysis.

"Ferrel's expertise in southern politics is always in high demand," said Dean Jean Folkert of UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. "The Carolina News Studio in Carroll Hall allows him to better meet the demands for state, national and international media outlets. He was one of the go-to analysts for the major networks and cable news stations throughout the 2008 election cycle."

Once the election results were tallied, incoming officials sought Guillory's aid in gathering information about the big issues they face. At the request of Governor-elect Bev Perdue's transition staff, the Program on Public Life assisted in organizing a November 25 gathering of business and civic leaders in Charlotte to discuss ideas and approaches to addressing the economic distress and turbulence facing the state and nation. The Program's staff collaborated with the Urban Institute of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in designing the program. Guillory served as moderator of the discussion at UNC-Charlotte, as well as at an earlier discussion of technology issues at the NC Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park.

It was Guillory who initially proposed to University administrators the creation of the Center for the Study of the American South. His skills and experience then made him the obvious choice to head up one of the Center's core components, the Program on Public Life, and in March 1997 he accepted a joint appointment as director of the Program on Public Life and professor of journalism. His background as a political writer, editor and columnist at Raleigh's *News & Observer* made him a natural choice for his second post, in Carolina's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

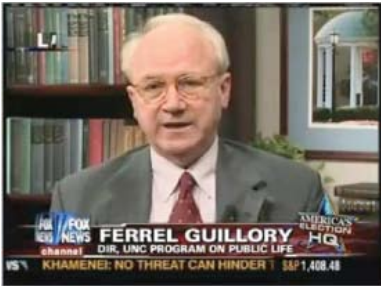
"This is going to embarrass a good man, but he's got it coming," said Jack Betts of the *Charlotte Observer*. "For folks like Ferrel Guillory who help us understand where we've been and where we need to go, we all ought to be grateful."



Guillory recorded many of the interviews in the Carolina News Studio at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



Ferrel Guillory's insights were sought by local and national media during the 2008 election season.



“Ferrel’s expertise in southern politics is always in high demand. The Carolina News Studio in Carroll Hall allows him to better meet that demand for state, national and international media outlets. He was one of the go-to analysts for the major networks and cable news stations during the 2008 election cycle.”

—Dean Jean Folkerts, UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Program on Public Life

Since its founding in 1997, the Program on Public Life has worked to enable the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to serve the people of the state and the region. The Program provides “research brokerage,” connecting the knowledge of university scholars to the work of elected officials, opinion leaders, policymakers, and civic, business and community leaders.

The Program’s major initiative for 2008 was its work for the Triangle Community Foundation, which commissioned the Program on Public Life to research patterns of giving and to consult with religious, corporate and civic leaders about giving in their communities. The result was “How the Triangle Gives Back: A Report to the Region.” This report represents the most comprehensive data-collection effort to date on the philanthropic capacity of the Triangle region.

Former Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco participated in the Program’s third Carolina Seminar on Coastalization in March 2008, a day-long roundtable on the needs of economically distressed communities in preparing for and recovering from natural disasters. Blanco drew on her experiences in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. These seminars were developed in collaboration with William G. Ross, Jr., Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



“The Triangle Gives Back project has been an exciting opportunity for the Program on Public Life. It has allowed us to build upon our ongoing study of North Carolina’s population growth and to expand our research portfolio to include new efforts in the areas of public law and philanthropy.”

—Andrew Holton, Associate Director for Research



Former Governor of Mississippi William Winter helped the Program celebrate its tenth annual Seminar for Southern Legislators.

In November, the Program hosted its tenth annual Leadership Seminar for Southern Legislators, drawing 25 legislators from across the South to Chapel Hill for seminars led by faculty and invited experts about “A Changing South in a Changing World.” Topics included regional and global economic trends, ethics in public life, higher education, youth issues and the changing media. A celebratory dinner, followed by a speech by former Mississippi Governor William Winter, added a festive note. More than 140 legislators have participated in these four-day seminars since 1999.

The Program publishes *NC DataNet*, which offers an in-depth look at the data on trends that drive North Carolina politics and government. Two election-oriented issues were available to the public at its web site, www.SouthNow.org. A pre-primary issue offered a comprehensive listing of the results of party primaries and general elections in races for president, governor and U.S. Senator since 1960. A pre-general election issue provided background on voter turnout and the shifting electorate in North Carolina.

Other ways in which the Program on Public life carries out its mandate from the North Carolina Legislature – that is, to provide analysis of trends and issues – are by publishing *Carolina Context*, a report focusing on research findings by UNC faculty and graduate students on demographic, economic, education and environmental issues; and by holding dinner-discussions for legislators. Recent discussions have focused on community giving, water use issues and middle school achievement.



Southern Cultures Slates New Special Music Issue for Release this Summer



This summer, *Southern Cultures*, the Center's award-winning quarterly, will release its third special music issue, including another CD, for diehard music fans and true collectors. The first two music issues quickly sold out, and the editors anticipate an extremely high demand for the next edition, too.

The newest all-music theme issue will once again feature provocative and engaging material. Special guest authors rank the South's best musicians in the top ten all-time blues greats, the top ten country music stars, the top ten all-time southern jazz greats, and the top ten southern rockers. In the amazing "Son" Thomas interviews, James "Son" Thomas tells how he worked for the Devil when he played the blues, and, in "A Brief History of the Boogie," Madonna talks about the brand of music that influenced all others. This special issue also includes articles on the music of Pura Fé, "The Mill Mother's Lament," Emmett Till in southern songs, and a poignant photo essay of Piedmont bluesmen, *as well as* a CD that features the best new acts on the southern scene and timeless cuts from our region's unforgettable musicians.

Over the last decade *Southern Cultures* has grown in large part due to its emphasis on reader-friendliness. According to the Council of Editors of Learned Journals, "The rich array of photographs and graphics, and the sincere and effective attempt at readerly appeal, go well beyond what is attempted by most. This dimension of *Southern Cultures* is truly impressive." Each printed issue now reaches 3,000–4,000 readers, and *Southern Cultures* additionally receives tens of thousands of visits every year to its online editions through Project Muse. In nearly sixty issues across fifteen volumes *Southern Cultures* also has increased its readership by publishing an impressive array of award-winning authors.

In addition to three music issues, *Southern Cultures* has released many other popular theme issues — often with CDs or DVDs — and following this year's music issue, readers also will receive a special issue devoted entirely to southern food. This special issue is included with all new subscriptions. Because demand is extraordinary for theme issues, especially for music issues, the only way to ensure receiving the new issues on music and food is to subscribe today, while supplies last. Visit www.SouthernCultures.org; call 919.962.4201; or email UNCPress_Journals@unc.edu.

“Music on the Porch” Concert and Conversation

In the late afternoon of an overcast fall day last September, on the porch of the Love House and Hutchins Forum, the Center hosted an intimate concert featuring four songwriters from our vibrant local music scene. The event, the Center’s inaugural “Music on the Porch” concert, featured Sara Bell of Regina Hexaphone, Shark Quest and Lud; Michael Holland of Jennyanykind; Ivan Howard of The Rosebuds; and Reid Johnson of Schooner. In addition to enjoying performances by the musicians of their solo material, the audience enjoyed an unusual peek into the formative environment that has shaped their music.

Katherine Doss, who received her Master’s degree in Folklore at Carolina, moderated the event. She queried each artist about the creative process, what contributes to the fertile creative community here in the Triangle, and how growing up in the South influenced each artist’s musical aesthetic.



Clockwise from top left: Sara Bell, Michael Holland, Ivan Howard and Reid Johnson

Sounds of the South on Film



Early last September, in the Pleasants Family Meeting Room of Wilson Library, two evenings of documentary films and live music—Sounds of the South on Film: Ballads to Gospel and Hip Hop—demonstrated the evolution of southern musical traditions.

and filmmaker Ali Neff gave some background before screening her project about rap in the Mississippi Delta, *Let the World Listen Right*.

The next evening began with the music of The Golden Echoes, who are featured in the film that followed their rousing performance. *A Singing Stream: A Black Family Chronicle* was introduced by Professor Alvis Dunn.

This documentary film festival was the result of a collaboration between the Center for the Study of the American South; Media Library; Robert House Undergraduate Library; Southern Folklife Collection; North Carolina Collection; and Friends of the Library.

Ballad singer Denise Norton O’Sullivan opened the first evening. Filmmaker Martha King introduced her film *Madison County Project: Documenting the Sound*, which documents O’Sullivan’s family and its musical traditions. After a short break, rap duo Relative-T set the mood

Art at the Center



The renovated Love House and Hutchins Forum, with its wide hallway and high ceilings, works well as a gallery space. In keeping with its focus on the history and culture of the American South, the Center selects artists to hang their work here for two months, and opens each show with a public meet-the-artist reception. Since last winter, we have welcomed photographers John Rosenthal, David Page, Tom Neff, Christopher Sims and Charles Dennis; and painter Willie French Lowery.

In addition to hosting receptions and regular Thursday afternoon gallery hours, the Center encourages art faculty and students to take advantage of these artists and their work to structure learning opportunities.

Among the highlights of the next year’s schedule are the paintings of Mississippi artist Martha Ferris, Douglas Gorsline’s illustrations for Thomas Wolfe’s *Look Homeward Angel*, the photographs of blues historian Bill Ferris, paintings by Nerys Levy, Jeff Whetstone’s photographs and works by painter Scott Meyers.

“The Center for the Study of the American South brought Thomas Neff to town for an exhibition of his photographs, ‘Holding Out and Hanging On: Surviving Hurricane Katrina.’ He spent two hours with my students, sharing his experiences with the aftermath of Katrina and his life as a photographer. He was engaging and open to all of us and inspired one student to track down a large-format 4 x 5 camera and make images based on his work. The Center has been a great resource.”

—Susan Harbage Page, UNC Chapel Hill Department of Art



Musician and artist Willie French Lowery shared songs and stories at his meet-the-artist reception in February.



FOCUS Magazine (April 2008) placed LSU professor Thomas Neff’s *Holding Out and Hanging On* at #4 on its list of the “top ten best selling photography books.”

New Staff at CSAS

David Cline joined the Southern Oral History Program as its associate director in August. A former journalist and arts administrator, he is completing doctoral work at UNC-CH. The author of *Creating Choice: A Community Responds to the Need for Abortion and Birth Control, 1961-1973* (Palgrave, 2006), he has also contributed to public history projects including a National Public Radio documentary on the Korean War. Cline received the National Council on Public History's New Professional Award in 2004. He has been an SOHP research assistant on and off since 2004, and has taught public history and oral history at Duke University.

Seth Kotch is the Southern Oral History Program's coordinator of digital initiatives. He has worked for the SOHP since 2003, when he arrived at Carolina as a graduate student in American history. As coordinator of digital initiatives, Seth is helping the SOHP take advantage of new technologies to make its oral histories useful in new ways. He is also working with UNC Press and other partners on the Publishing the Long Civil Rights Movement project, which is seeking out new models of scholarly publishing.

Susan Marston joined the CSAS staff in July 2008 as the Center's accountant. Dealing with all the state, trust and grant funds that support the Center, she comes to us with considerable experience in university accounting, having worked for five years at NC State and most recently in Carolina's Department of English and Comparative Literature for ten years. Susan also contributes her not-inconsiderable skills in writing and proofreading to Center operations.

Jennifer Weaver joined the Program on Public Life in January 2009. She brings a lifelong interest in North Carolina politics and policy, and looks forward to engaging with the academic community to connect research with policymakers in order to inform and enrich the public policy of our state. Jennifer joins the Program as a Ph.D. candidate in political science and will use this background and her strong writing skills to enhance and further develop the work of POPL.

Friends and Associates

The Center for the Study of the American South continues to grow and evolve as the South evolves. You can support the Center's ongoing work by becoming a Center Friend or a Center Associate.

Friends, for a \$250 donation to the Center, receive a complimentary one-year subscription to our award-winning journal *Southern Cultures* and invitations to special Center activities.

Associates, who give \$1,000 or more, receive a complimentary five-year subscription to *Southern Cultures* and more invitations to our special events.

Simply send your name, address and donation to the Center or call us at 919.962.5665.

**Center for the Study of the American South
Love House and Hutchins Forum
UNC-Chapel Hill
410 East Franklin St., CB# 9127
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-9127**

To donate online, visit www.UNCSouth.org

Golden LEAF Foundation Community Assistance Initiative Front-End County Assessments

In the fall of 2008, the Golden LEAF Foundation approached UNC–Chapel Hill’s School of Government about providing the Foundation with data and background materials that will inform and guide its programmatic efforts in six North Carolina counties selected to participate in its Community Assistance Initiative. For two years, this initiative has provided direct project support for stimulus efforts that improve the life circumstances of citizens residing in underprivileged parts of the state. Columbus, Halifax, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton and Vance

counties were selected from among the 40 counties in the state classified by the N.C. Department of Commerce as Tier 1, the most distressed areas. Center Associate Director Kendra Davenport Cotton serves as co-principal investigator of this front-end assessment project along with Will Lambe, associate director of the School of Government Community and Economic Development Program.



County Tier Designations

The N.C. Department of Commerce annually ranks the state’s 100 counties based on economic well-being and assigns each a Tier designation. The 40 most distressed counties are designated as Tier 1, the next 40 as Tier 2 and the 20 least distressed as Tier 3.

From the Center to You

B.B. KING MUSEUM

www.bbkingmuseum.org



B.B. King and blues scholar Bill Ferris became friends in the 1960s. This photo is from 1974.

After six years of planning, development, construction and preparation, the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola, Mississippi opened its doors to visitors in September 2008. Located in the hometown of the world-famous blues musician, the B.B. King Museum seeks to educate and inspire visitors with stories of King's early life and rise to fame, as well as contextual portraits of the Mississippi Delta worlds in which he grew up. A key focus is the presentation of these worlds through the voices and experiences of the people who know them best, B.B. King and his longtime friends and neighbors.

The Center for the Study of the American South convened experts at UNC in 2007 to review proposed exhibition content. Blues scholar Bill Ferris, CSAS senior associate director, was a natural pick to advise the museum team. Ferris, who worked extensively with B.B. King in the 1960s and 1970s to help preserve the blues legend's words and memories for scholars and music lovers everywhere, contributed photographs and other media from his work to be used in museum displays. Ferris and CSAS associates helped the design team connect with the people and resources necessary to make the new museum a world-class institution. The project was guided by acclaimed exhibit designer Cissy Foote Anklam of Museum Concepts in Arlington, Virginia. John Hubbel, UNC Folklore Curriculum graduate, was an integral member of the museum's design team.

DESTINATION CLEVELAND COUNTY**www.destinationclevelandcounty.org**

Destination Cleveland County (DCC) has been in conversation with the Center ever since the Shelby, North Carolina nonprofit sought advice in early 2007 on its work to revitalize and transform Cleveland County through cultural tourism.

In June 2007, DCC leaders and Shelby native and banjo legend Earl Scruggs visited Chapel Hill to talk about their vision for the Earl Scruggs Center and Don Gibson Theatre. CSAS directors convened UNC experts from various fields to sit down with DCC and discuss resources and models from which the group could draw for their projects. DCC used this input to marshal ever-growing public support for the project, which they envision as a hub for economic development as well as a cultural landmark, and returned to Chapel Hill in the spring of 2008 to further refine their plans.

The group's goal is to honor and preserve the area's existing culture while building from it to create new institutions. September 27, 2008 saw the groundbreaking for renovations to the historic Don Gibson Theatre, a performance venue that will become a landmark for lovers of North Carolina music. Plans are well underway for the Earl Scruggs Center, which will honor Scruggs's musical achievements and also immerse visitors in the cultural heritage of North Carolina's western Piedmont. CSAS helped connect DCC with a group of oral historians, who began a cultural inventory of Cleveland County by meeting with longtime residents and recording interviews with them.



UNC oral historians Janet Hoshour, Brendan Greaves, Jeff Currie and Dwana Waugh worked on the cultural inventory of Cleveland County.

HORACE CARTER DOCUMENTARY**www.carter-klan.org/HoraceCarter.html**

Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman has agreed to record narration for the upcoming documentary, organized by CSAS, to tell the story of newspaperman Horace Carter's stand against the Ku Klux Klan in the early 1950s.

Carter was editor of the *Tabor City Tribune* in Tabor City, North Carolina. During a Klan uprising in the area, Carter distinguished himself by standing up to the Klan in his editorials for the paper. Understanding the economic and personal risks involved in speaking out against the Klan's violence and hatred, Carter felt a moral responsibility to take these risks. He waged a public campaign against the Klan for two years, until the Klan's power in the area faded and its leaders were prosecuted for the crimes they had committed. In 1953 Carter was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his actions. Carter, who is still writing for the *Tabor City Tribune*, is the father of UNC Trustee Rusty Carter.

The documentary is being produced in association with CSAS by filmmakers Walt Campbell and Martin Clark. Campbell holds a Ph.D. in American history from UNC, and is an accomplished author and filmmaker. Clark has had a hand in a number of award-winning film projects, including his 1994 documentary on UNC President and U.S. Senator from North Carolina, Frank Porter Graham.



Horace Carter, editor of the *Tabor City Tribune*, reads teletype.

continues on next page

From the Center to You

WINGS OVER JORDAN DOCUMENTARY

The film project documenting Wings Over Jordan, the historic black choir, is wrapping up its first phase as the project team prepares its report to the MacArthur Foundation. A generous MacArthur grant allowed the team, which includes CSAS Senior Associate Director Bill Ferris, to hold planning sessions, conduct research and film interviews that will be key components of the final documentary.

The documentary team is working with filmmaker Madison Davis Lacy, a four-time Emmy Award winner who has created and contributed to many notable broadcast productions and documentaries. The team's first product is a film trailer to introduce the project to people and foundations who can help finance production of the planned feature-length film. The trailer includes material from interviews about the choir with historians John Hope Franklin and UNC's own William Leuchtenburg and Jerma Jackson, civic leader and public historian R. Kelly Bryant, and musicologist and composer T. J. Anderson.

Serving as executive producer for the Wings Over Jordan project is Jim Dougherty, who as director of the media program at the National Endowment for the Humanities was responsible for funding a number of award-winning PBS films projects, including Ken Burns's *Civil War* series and the presidential biographies produced for *The American Experience*. A historian and published scholar, Dougherty is a visiting fellow at the Center for the Study of the American South.

PENN CENTER, INC.

www.penncenter.com

CSAS's Bill Ferris and David Cline recently joined other members of UNC's faculty and staff in a discussion with Rosalyn Browne and Ada McKenzie from the Penn Center, site of one of the country's first schools for freed slaves and today a significant African American historical and cultural institution. Browne and McKenzie shared information about their center and their work, and gathered information about resources and projects at UNC. CSAS looks forward to the rich possibilities for future collaborations between the two institutions.

Located on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, the Penn Center holds a wealth of resources on Gullah culture and the heritage of the Sea Islands off the coast of the southeastern United States. A major archive from the Penn Center, featuring pictures and sound recordings, is housed in UNC's Wilson Library.



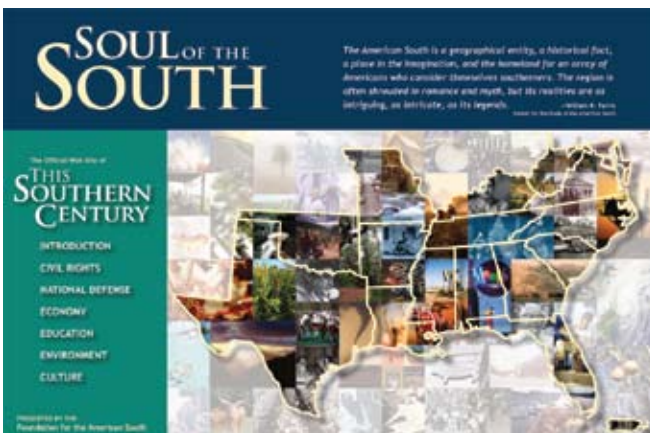
Pine Cottage at the Penn Center welcomes visitors.

 THIS SOUTHERN CENTURY PROJECT: 75 YEARS OF SOUTHERN HISTORY

In the fall of 2008, the Center for the Study of the American South began a collaboration with the Southern Governors' Association (SGA), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit group that facilitates communication and cooperation among the governors of sixteen southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Founded in 1934, SGA will celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary this year by creating *This Southern Century*, a traveling interactive exhibit and web site chronicling the history, culture and transformation of the American South over the years since SGA began.

Prompted by CSAS, the SGA contacted the University Libraries and reached an agreement to house the SGA's permanent archive at Carolina.

SGA continues to work with Senior Associate Director Bill Ferris and his assistant, Dana Di Maio. CSAS selected five exceptional graduate students to conduct research for the project. The research team's findings — consisting of hundreds of pages of history, anecdotes, notable works, recipes, songs and more — make up a significant portion of the SGA's grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities. With funding from the NEH and other sources, the SGA will use its seventy-fifth anniversary to share the South's rich history with people across the region. CSAS is proud to have played a part in bringing this valuable project to life.



SouloftheSouth.com, a companion web site to *This Southern Century*, will initiate a living network of institutions that specialize in the culture, history, politics and scholarship of the South.

From the Center to You

“WOMEN IN THE IVORY TOWER”

On February 24, 2009, SOHP Director **Jacquelyn Dowd Hall** and SOHP research assistant **Jennifer Donnally** presented “Women in the Ivory Tower: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the 1970s” to the University Women’s Club and the Sir Walter Cabinet, an organization of legislators’ spouses. Research leading to this presentation began in the summer of 2007, when the SOHP partnered with the Association for Women Faculty and Professionals to record the experiences of female faculty and administrators. Donnally and fellow graduate research assistant Rachel Martin interviewed more than a dozen female faculty and administrators who pushed through the previously closed doors of the University leadership during the tumultuous decade of the 1970s. The interviews, now deposited at the Southern Historical Collection, record the personal stories of women who came of age in the 1960s, arrived at UNC in the 1970s, had a major impact on the University and, in many cases, stayed on, building successful professional careers at Carolina. The 70-person audience responded with an outpouring of stories that reflected their battle scars and achievements.



Gillian Cell, first and only female chair of the History Department, and the first female Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



Dean Elizabeth Kimball (center) and the School of Nursing Faculty, 1950s.

OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

Harry Watson, Center Director and Professor of History, presented the Annual Martin Luther King Day Lecture, “Remembering Wilmington, 1898,” at the Judea Reform Synagogue in Durham on January 16. Dr. Watson also delivered a talk, “Majority Rule, Equal Rights, and Limited Government: The Complex Legacy of Andrew Jackson,” for the Heritage Lecture Series at Barton College in Wilson, N.C., on February 24.

William Ferris, Senior Associate Director, strummed his guitar and talked about “Memory and a Sense of Place in the American South” at the Carteret Arts Forum in Morehead City, N.C., on March 6.

Joseph Flora, Acting Center Director, gave talks in January for the Chapel Hill Kiwanis Club, in March for Chapel Hill Rotary, and in May for the UNC General Alumni Association and for the North Carolina Historical Book Club in Greensboro.

David Cline, Associate Director of the SOHP, guest-lectured on oral history in several classes at Duke University and one at UNC–Greensboro.

Elizabeth Millwood, the SOHP’s Outreach Coordinator conducted a community oral history workshop in New Bern, N.C. in the fall.

Rachel Martin, Research Assistant for the SOHP, played interview excerpts and talked about Durham’s Hayti neighborhood in her presentation “The Voices of Hayti: A Community Remembered,” at the Stanford L. Warren Library on February 19.

The SOHP also recorded dozens of interviews at “Our Stories, In Focus,” a series of three community events in March in Chapel Hill and Carrboro organized by UNC’s Program in the Humanities and Human Values and the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission.

New Finding Aids Online

NEW ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

www.lib.unc.edu/mss

The collections housed at Wilson Library draw scholars of the South from around the world to Carolina. We are pleased to share a sample of new collections with finding aids recently made available online by the Southern Historical Collection and Southern Folklife Collection.

Southern Historical Collection

Caswell County Historical Association Collection, #5401

Letters and financial and legal documents of Joseph S. Totten (1806–1861), a slave trader in Caswell County.

Frank Caldwell Patton Papers, #5402

Correspondence with prominent politicians including Jesse Helms, Sam Ervin and Charles Jonas.

Marcus and Yetta Danneman Papers on the King Family, #5375

Correspondence, photographs, printed materials and other items of this couple who owned a grocery store across the street from the



Coretta Scott King performing in a fashion show at Ebenezer Baptist in Atlanta on April 16, 1961, from the Marcus and Yetta Danneman Papers on the King Family. Courtesy of the Southern Historical Collection.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, chiefly documenting their relationship with the King family.

Munson Monroe Buford Papers, #5380

Confederate soldier's diaries, correspondence and other materials.

Coalition for Alternatives to Shearon Harris (CASH), #5404

News clippings, flyers, public relations information and legislative information.

Brian Bain Collection of Materials on *Shalom Y'all*

Video footage, photographic stills, audio materials, scripts, photographs of interviewees and images from the making of the film *Shalom Y'all*.

Southern Folklife Collection

Becky Johnson Collection, #20405

Photographs, negatives, slides and other materials, chiefly 1980–2001, from a variety of bluegrass musicians, festivals, conferences and related events.

Nancy Kalow Collection, #20113

Collection of 24 8mm videotapes of various aspects of North Carolina folklife recorded by Kalow between 1987 and 1991.

John D. Loudermilk Collection

Papers, photographs, audio recordings, posters and artifacts.

George Hamilton IV Collection

Audiovisual materials, papers and photographs pertaining to Hamilton's life and career.

Center Postdoctoral Fellows

The Center's third annual Postdoctoral Fellowships in Southern Studies were awarded to Benjamin Wise and Malinda Maynor Lowery. Both fellows presented their work to faculty and graduate students soon after the start of the academic year, and to the public this spring as James A. Hutchins lecturers (see page 16).



MALINDA MAYNOR LOWERY

Lowery, formerly an assistant professor of history at Harvard University, joins the history faculty at Carolina this fall. A Lumbee Indian, her work challenges common assumptions that the South's racial cleavages involved only blacks and whites. Lowery examines Indian identity and federal policy during the Jim Crow era, showing how American and southern identities acquire new layers of meaning when confronted with the Lumbees. The profound ambiguities of race, citizenship and colonialism find essential expression in the intersection of Indian, southern, and American identities. Lowery is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker.

Malinda Maynor Lowery is completing a project on Lumbee identity in the Jim Crow South and beginning a study of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and coal mining in the late nineteenth century. She earned her Ph.D. in History at Carolina.

Supporting Graduate Studies

The Center for the Study of the American South supports graduate work with a focus on the South through competitive fellowships and grants.

2008–09 McColl Dissertation Year Fellows

Kristina Bobo, *Department of English
and Comparative Literature*

Seth Kotch, *Department of History*

Timothy J. Williams, *Department of History*

The Center awards two postdoctoral fellowships each year, bringing two outstanding junior scholars to Carolina to be a part of our academic community as they prepare for publication book-length manuscripts about some aspect of the American South. The Center encourages applicants who are working on issues of southern regional identity and distinctiveness, and who can make use of archival resources at UNC and in the Triangle area. For more information, visit the Center's web site at www.UNCSouth.org.



BENJAMIN E. WISE

Wise is currently working on a biography entitled "Cosmopolitan Southerner: The Life and World of William Alexander Percy." William Alexander Percy is well known to students of the American South as author of *Lanterns on the Levee*, plantation owner, and adoptive father of the novelist Walker Percy. Wise's project considers the lesser-known aspects of Percy's historical experience: namely, his participation in and contribution to the emergence of a modern gay identity in America. Wise is also co-author of a second book project, "Ballot Security and Minority Vote Suppression in the Twentieth Century."

Ben Wise received his Ph.D. in History from Rice University in 2008. He taught history and academic writing at Harvard University for two years before becoming a Center postdoctoral fellow.

2008 Summer Research Grant Recipients

Linda D'Anna, *Curriculum in Ecology*
 Mary Elizabeth Fitts, *Department of Anthropology*
 Georgina Gajewski, *Department of History*
 Nicholas Gaskill, *Department of English and Comparative Literature*
 Robert Ferguson, *Department of History*
 Shana Judge, *Department of Public Policy*
 Megan Kassabaum, *Department of Anthropology*

Timothy Miller, *Department of Music*
 Ali Neff, *Department of Communication Studies*
 Amanda Page, *Department of English and Comparative Literature*
 Josh Parshall, *Curriculum in Folklore*
 Helena Safron, *Curriculum in Folklore*
 Ben Shields, *Department of Anthropology*
 Katy Smith, *Department of History*

Center for the Study of the American South

www.UNCSouth.org

Established by the UNC Board of Governors in 1992, the Center for the Study of the American South fosters scholarship and exploration into the past, present and future of the region. The Center's mission is to extend the historic role of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as the premier institution for research, teaching and public dialogue on the history, culture and contemporary experience of the American South.

Southern Oral History Program

www.SOHP.org

Fostering a critical yet democratic understanding of the South – its history, culture, problems and prospects

For 35 years, the Southern Oral History Program has recorded the voices of the past. Students and faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have interviewed more than 5,000 southerners—from mill workers to civil rights leaders to a future president of the United States. Made available to the public through the University Library's renowned Southern Historical Collection, these priceless recordings and transcripts capture the vivid personalities, poignant personal stories and behind-the-scenes decision making that bring history to life. Visit our web site for program updates, audio samples from the SOHP collection, descriptions of our research, a comprehensive "how to" section and more.

Program on Public Life

www.SouthNow.org

Connecting the knowledge of scholars to the work of elected officials, journalists and civic leaders

Established in 1997, the Program on Public Life works to enable the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to serve the people of the state and region by informing the public agenda and nurturing leadership. The Program serves as a vehicle for the University to exercise its scholarly strength, civic tradition and historic mission of public service in North Carolina and the South. Visit our web site to read our publications, *Carolina Context*, *NC DataNet* and *SouthNow*, and catch up on Program news.

Southern Cultures

www.SouthernCultures.org

The quarterly, nonprofit journal of the Center for the Study of the American South

Published for the Center for the Study of the American South by the University of North Carolina Press, *Southern Cultures* provides a rich forum for animated, informed voices discussing all aspects of southern life. Compiling the best of academic and general-interest writing, each issue features insightful articles, entertaining columns and captivating photographs—all bound in an award-winning design.

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Student Ambassador Program

The Center launched its Student Ambassador Program in fall 2008, inviting applications from outstanding Carolina students with an interest in the study of the South. The ambassadors assist with Center events and programming and are invited to seminars and meetings not otherwise open to students.

Application materials for the Student Ambassador Program are available through a link on our home page at www.UNCSouth.org.



The Center's current Student Ambassadors: front, Cameron Kirby and Chris Carter; rear, Katherine Doss, Elizabeth McCain and Courtney Handy. Not pictured, Shaun Blanchard

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Going Lean, Going Green

You are holding the last newsletter the Center will print and mail to all of you. We're going to a virtual version with the next newsletter.

We have two reasons to make this change at this time.

- **It will conserve resources.**
- **It will save money.**

If you are on the Center's email list and receive news about our programs and events, you will automatically receive the next edition by email. If you are not on our email list, or if you are but would like to also receive a newsletter that you can page through, please drop us a line with your mailing address.

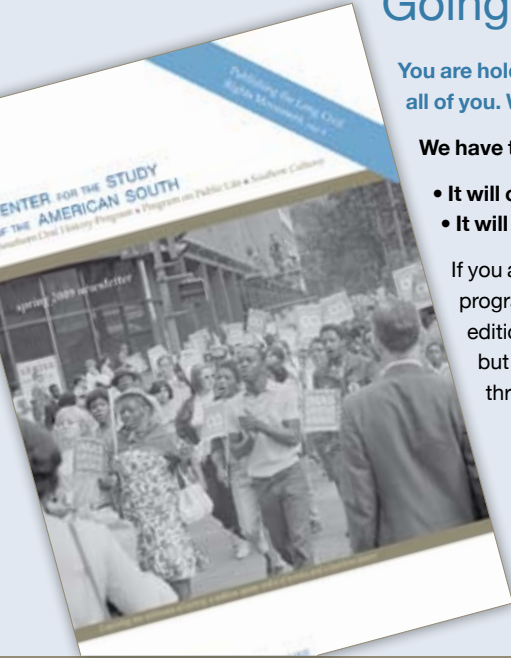
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"You don't have to be famous for your life to be history."
—Nell Sigmon

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