

2010 SIGNATURE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

Race, Slavery and the Civil War: The Tough Stuff of American History and Memory

Dr. James O. Horton, Conference Chair

Friday, September 24, 2010

Norfolk State University

Focus: The role of race and slavery in the Civil War - both before, during, and after the Civil War (including meaning and memory)

Program:

The program will be conducted in an interactive panel format, with speakers who are respected academic and public historians. Dr. Horton will provide opening comments, set the context for the day's topics and discussion, and will serve as moderator of each of the two sessions. Panels will begin with a 10-minute overview by each panelist, followed by a 45-minute group discussion. Dr. Horton will keep discussions on track, pose questions, draw out comments, etc. Questions from the audience and online community will be submitted in writing, compiled by a Question Manager, and answered during a 30-minute Q and A session after each session.

Session I: "*Race, Slavery and the Civil War*"

Discussion will center on the coming of the war through 1865. Topics addressed will include slavery as a central cause of the Civil War; Southern reaction to the election of Lincoln; Lincoln and Emancipation; the Underground Railroad; and the military experience of African-Americans in the Civil War, including the myth of Black Confederates. Panelists are:

- Ira Berlin (University of Maryland)
- Spencer Crew (George Mason University)
- Bruce Levine (University of Illinois)
- Edna Greene Medford (Howard University)

Session II: "*The Tough Stuff of American History and Memory*"

Focus: Discussion will focus on the meaning and memory of the Civil War. The session will be unscripted and multi-media intensive, beginning with an 11-minute video clip, "The Unfinished Civil War." Discussions will center on meaning and memory, introducing difficult dialogues into the community and the classroom, and the National Park Service's evolution in public interpretation. Panelists are:

- David Blight (Yale University)
- James McPherson (Princeton University)
- Cassandra Newby-Alexander (Norfolk State University)
- Dwight Pitcaithley (Chief Historian Emeritus, National Park Service; New Mexico State University)

Note: Jean Fagan Yellin may also participate in Session II, schedule permitting

Conference Schedule:

Thursday, September 23 (Day before conference):

- 1:00 p.m. Pre-conference tours of historic sites for presenters arranged by host committee. Note: Pre- and Post-conference tours and special offers for conference attendees may also be arranged.
- 4:30 p.m. Event walk-through and rehearsal (Dr. Horton and presenters)
- 6:00 p.m. Informal dinner for presenters and Norfolk-area VIPs.

Friday, September 24:

- 7:30 a.m. Doors open for registration
(Information tables ready, Book sales begin, Concessions open)
- 7:30 a.m. VIP lounge open for presenters and VIPs (Beverage service)
- 8:45 a.m. Conference speakers assemble
Welcome by NSU, Commission Chairman and other officials
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and comments by James O. Horton
- 9:15-10:45 a.m. Session I: "Race, Slavery and the Civil War"
- Ira Berlin
 - Spencer Crew
 - Bruce Levine
 - Edna Medford
- 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Question and Answer
(Questions submitted in writing and electronically throughout the day. QM will be on duty to read, vet and combine the questions, presenting them to Dr. Horton for discussion)
- 11:45 a.m. -
1:30 p.m. Lunch break, Facilitated Feedback, and Affinity Group lunches
- Attendees will be invited to bring lunch, purchase food at concessions, eat on campus, or be provided with list of nearby restaurants
 - Lunch will be at attendees' expense
 - Affinity Group lunches: local sesquicentennial committee leaders, Educators
 - Facilitated Feedback sessions: John Coski and Ervin Jordan

VIP lunch will be provided for Commission members, speakers and participants, and invited guests. Venue TBD

- 1:30-3:00 p.m. Session II: "The Tough Stuff of American History and Memory"
Note: Session begins with video, "The Unfinished Civil War"
- David Blight
 - James McPherson
 - Cassandra Newby-Alexander
 - Dwight Pitcaithley
- 3:00-3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Question and Answer
- 4:00 -4:15 p.m. Program conclusion; Segue to 2011 with Dr. Robertson; Goodbyes
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Book signing
 Venue: To be determined
 Contractor for book sale: To be determined
- 4:30-7:00 p.m. Reception for Commission members, speakers and participants and invited guests at President Meyers' home

Presenter /Speaker/Publication Summary:

Honoraria: Chair: \$5,000
 Panelists (9): \$3,000 each = \$27,000

Expenses: Air travel/train/mileage, overnight accommodations, and meals
 \$1,000 for 7 speakers = \$7,000

Conference publication:
 Editor (Chair): \$3,000
 Editorial Assistant: \$5,000

Logistics:

Registration

- Will be completed through the Sesquicentennial Commission website
- Pre-registration is required, but conference is free to the public
- Venue holds 1,700. If registration exceeds that number, attendees will be directed to Student Center for webcast viewing.
- Work out lunch options prior to website launch

Print Materials

Marketing materials: Save the Date cards and Conference program

Parking and Security:

Attendees will not have to pay to park; it is not anticipated that traffic control or additional security will be required for this event.

Overnight accommodations:

A room block has been secured for panelists and Commission members at the Marriott Waterside. Information on area hotels, with special rates for conference attendees, will be posted on the website.

Resource Room:

Books will be offered for sale. A book signing opportunity will be provided at the conclusion of the conference and perhaps also during lunch. The book vendor must agree to sell Commission lapel pins and other Commission products at no markup.

Press Releases

Press releases will be developed by the Commission and NSU. Where practical, they will be jointly released.

Simulcasting

Depending on the number of registrants, the host institution will provide in the Student Center so a simulcast of the conference can be offered to those who arrive after all seats in the venue have been filled.

Marketing:

The conference will be marketed widely through the websites, listservs, blogs, event calendars, and newsletters of: historical sites and museums, professional and academic associations, colleges and universities, local tourism agencies, Civil War roundtables, interested groups, etc.

Partners in the statewide marketing effort will be: the Commission, host institution, local sesquicentennial committees, and Advisory Council members. The host institution is asked to market the conference widely in the community and to alumni.

Recording and Distribution:

Boitnott Visual Communications (BVC) is the Commission's preferred contractor for sound and setup. The Commission will secure a contract with Community Idea Stations (WCVE) to film and edit the proceedings for DVD release. In addition, a court reporter will be onsite to produce a written transcript of the proceedings for assistance with the book publication.

Publication of the Proceedings:

The Commission is working with UVA Press to publish the proceedings from each Signature Conference as a seven-volume collection; this will be the second in the series. Elizabeth Chenery will work with Dr. Horton and the Commission as Editorial Assistant and Logistics Advisor.