

**ALLIANCE FOR TRUTH AND RACIAL RECONCILIATION
PLANNING CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 9-11, 2007**

Friday, November 9th
Student Union 405 A/B

2:00 p.m. **Anthony Crawford Remembered Memorial Committee Case Study**
Doria Johnson, Co-Founder Anthony Crawford Remembered Memorial Committee

The Anthony Crawford Remembered Memorial Committee would like to see the South Carolina state legislature offer an apology for the lynching of Anthony Crawford, and other lynching victims. In tandem, this action opens the door for honest conversations about race, culpability, liability, truth and reconciliation in the Abbeville community. Those of us in the Northern Diaspora have a place in this conversation, and benefit too from open dialogue and action plans, to include, for one, public school curriculum that accurately contextualizes slavery, Reconstruction and Jim Crow. We want to see the state of South Carolina honestly reflect African American contributions to its evolution, and we desire to work closely to construct appropriate memorials to all lynching victims that are reported by families, the media, academics and folklore.

2:30 p.m. **Preserving Difficult History: the Sam Hose Lynching of 1899**
Dianne Wood, acting director, Coweta County African American Heritage Museum and Research Center, Newnan, GA and Rich Rusk, secretary, Moores Ford Memorial Committee, Monroe, GA

Can the Moore's Ford Memorial Committee's ten year effort to commemorate a hometown racial atrocity, and the successful experiences of other grassroots memorial groups popping up around the South, be "exported" to the hundreds of communities across the nation where lynchings and racial violence occurred? That is the challenge facing the MFMC and Southern Truth and Reconciliation (STAR) in presenting a spring 2006 program, with mixed although continuing results, in Newnan, Georgia, where Sam Hose was lynched in 1899. His brutal murder drew international opprobrium and several thousand Atlantans by train to Newnan to witness the festival. Preserving such horrible and controversial history presents unique challenges for Coweta County's African American history museum. Volunteer director Dianne Woods will discuss the museum's promising launch in 2003, with much community support. She faces a continuing challenge to attract enough volunteers, funds, and energy to fulfill the museum's mission – to faithfully record local black history and especially family history – as well as erecting a slave cabin and renovating a historic African American school. www.africanamericanalliance.net

3:00 p.m.

The Rosewood Case

Sherry DuPree, Janie Bradley-Blake, Garlenda Greene-Grant

In 1993, the Rosewood bill failed again, a historical document was commissioned by the Florida Board of Regents to give an accurate report on the Rosewood incident. No other special commission was formed. The family was represented by Arnette Doctor with support from the Florida Black Caucus, the NAACP, and the pro bono services of the Holland & Knight Lawyers. Janie Bradley-Blake will discuss the 1994 Florida Legislative hearings statements of Minnie Lee Langley, Willie Evans, and other Rosewood survivors. Sherry Sherrod DuPree will discuss the legislative statements of white residents Leslie and Ernest Parham who characterized Rosewood as a "good community." In 1994, under a claims bill, the State of Florida paid reparations to Rosewood survivors for failing to protect good citizens in 1923.

Willie Howard Case

Dr. Marvin Dunn and Sherry DuPree

On January 2, 1944, Willie James Howard, a fifteen-year old African American boy was lynched by three white men in Live Oak, Florida. His offense was writing a love letter to a white girl. Although the men involved were known to have abducted the child and carried him to the Suwannee River where he was drowned, the state refused to pursue the case and the men were never charged despite efforts by the national NAACP. African American historian Dr. Marvin Dunn has researched the case and has directed, narrated, and produced a film covering the events. It includes interviews with relatives of the victim and documents efforts to have the state of Florida reopen the case. See www.wjhstory.com for more on the case. The twenty-four minutes color film is available on DVD.

3:30 p.m.

Greensboro, North Carolina case study

Ed Whitfield and Lisa Magarrell

We will present on the Greensboro TRC and, specifically, on assessing its impact to date in the community and on the connections made between Greensboro and other communities/groups interested in learning about this experience.

4:00 p.m.

“Taking a Step Back to Take a Step Forward: A 'Menu of Options' for Truth and Reconciliation Work in the U.S.”

Matthew Bersagel Braley and Darryl Roberts

Drawing on comparative research carried out by students of law professor Sherrilyn Ifill, S.T.A.R. will offer an analysis of the 'menu of options' emerging from existing truth and reconciliation efforts in the U.S. The presentation will conclude by exploring ways of making this research accessible and useful for persons interested in pursuing truth and reconciliation work in their communities.

4:30 p.m. **“Ten Years With the Moore's Ford Memorial Committee: Old Problems & New Challenges - Where Do We Go From Here?”**
Hattie Lawson

In 1997, grassroots organizers formed the Moore’s Ford Memorial Committee to commemorate two African American couples - George and Mae Murray Dorsey, Roger and Dorothy Malcom - killed on July 25, 1946 by a lynch mob at the Moore’s Ford Bridge, forty miles east of Atlanta. We first located their four gravesites, then helped restore the cemeteries and installed grave markers. We held a memorial service for the Dorseys and Malcoms, then a military service for World War II veteran George Dorsey. We host an annual high school talent show/MLK celebration, also a scholarship banquet, paying seven \$1,000 awards to graduating seniors of local public high schools. We have called for prosecution, believing several killers to be still alive, and the FBI has reopened the case. Yet ten years of organizing and some success have brought new problems and challenges. MFMC chair person Hattie Lawson will discuss how we became who we are, community support and opposition to our work, challenges in moving forward when dealing with a stagnated investigation. Most importantly, she will ask, "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

5:30 p.m. **Sherrilyn Ifill, Author of *On the Courthouse Lawn***
Booksigning at Barnes and Noble, Student Union on campus

7-10 p.m. **Reception at Susan Glisson’s house**

Saturday, November 10th
Peabody 206

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Keepers of Love Cemetery, Scottsville, Texas, case study**
China Galland and Doris Vittatoe

China Galland, author of the newly published *Love Cemetery, Unburying the Secret History of Slaves*, will be joined by Doris Vittatoe, the leader in Love Cemetery's surrounding descendent community's efforts to reclaim and regain access to their historic, nearly 175-year-old African American cemetery in East Texas. Galland will show a short DVD (7 min) on Love Cemetery, and together, Galland and Vittatoe will present the dilemmas that the community has encountered in not only re-establishing the cemetery, but in continuing to have access to it. They will also share strategies for overcoming the current lock-out by a local timber corporation and the importance of media in telling this story and the critical need for multi-racial alliances.

9:00 a.m. **Friends of Pleasant Gardens, Chattanooga, Tennessee, case study**
LaFrederick Thirkill

I plan to show digital images of scenes from “Dead Innocent: The Ed Johnson Story.” I also plan to discuss the accomplishments of our organization on the Ed Johnson case.

9:30 a.m.

Jim Crow Must Go in Taylor County, GA

Maceo Snipes/Butler, GA, Case Study

John Cole Vodicka, Director of the Prison and Jail Project, and Rev. Ezekiel Holly, 3rd Vice President of the Georgia State Conference NAACP

Maceo Snipes served two years in the U.S. Army, spending most of that time in the Pacific Theatre. He was honorably discharged in September 1945. Snipes returned home to Taylor County, Georgia. On July 18, 1946, Snipes dared to become the first African American to cast a ballot in Taylor County since Reconstruction. Later that evening four white men pulled Snipes from his mother's home and shot him to death. He died two days later, July 20, 1946. The Snipes family buried Maceo Snipes somewhere in an unmarked grave and most of the family fled Taylor County. The four white men, claiming self-defense, were exonerated by a coroner's inquest.

For more than 60 years, Taylor County officials have permitted the courthouse display of two Jim Crow plaques that remember those Taylor County soldiers who served in WWII. One of the plaques lists the names of White veterans; the other lists those the plaque labels "Colored." One of the "colored" veterans listed is Maceo Snipes. These segregated plaques are an insult to everyone who served in WWII from Taylor County and they should not be on display in a public building any more than white and "colored" water fountains. The Taylor County Commission has decided to "integrate" the names of the veterans and create a third plaque to hang in the courthouse lobby. But Commissioners refuse to take down the racist, segregated plaques. It's long past time for the racist plaques to come down. It's time for Maceo Snipes to be recognized for the martyr and hero he is.

10:00 a.m.

Charles Moore and Henry Dee Case Study

Thomas Moore/Dunn Lampton/David Ridgen/Angela Givens

Thomas Moore will describe his personal struggles over the years dealing with the 1964 murder of his brother, Charles, and his friend Henry Dee, and about his personal efforts to secure justice in the case. He and CBC filmmaker David Ridgen worked together for over two years, along with US attorney Dunn Lampton, to get the case into the courtroom. In the process, they re-energized state, national and international media coverage of the case, and tried to involve local Mississippi communities in it. Dunn Lampton, also a lead prosecutor in the case, will describe his role and the importance of Moore's involvement as a victim's family member. The panel will conclude with a discussion about the positive aspects of direct confrontation between victims and perpetrators, and the delicate process of inner confrontation and reconciliation Thomas Moore undertook through the production of Ridgen's film.

10:30 a.m.

Diversity International Television Network

Bishop Clarence B. Harris

My presentation will examine the role that our nation's Educational System, the Federal Government, Religious Institutions, the media and current family units have contributed to

the racial conflict and illiteracy in the US. I will also illustrate how my network, Diversity International Television (www.diversityitn.com), is the only network to offer viable solutions to our current crisis and provides a voice for those with substantive and meaningful content. DITN has been structured to create a sustained equilibrium between profit and non-profit entities to yield both social and financial returns for all.

11:00 a.m. The African-American Muslim Community-Building and Successful Strategy of Self-Help/Self Determination
Okolo Rashid

The focus of this presentation will be on the community building efforts of the African American Muslim community through its successful strategy of self-help and self-determination. In particular, the discussion is to share the African American Muslim community's approach to addressing the issue of race and reconciliation, and peace building. This will also include this community's unique history, in its development, evolution, and transformation from that of a Black separatist community ideology to that of mainstream, promoting diversity and universal brotherhood. The interest is to see what can be learned from this model toward the promotion of racial reconciliation and peace building among ethnic and cultural communities. Also, this is an effort to broaden the dialogue around such issues to be more inclusive of other voices within the African American community that represent other important aspects of the African and African American experience. Additionally, peace-building strategies and ideas inherent in Al-Islam will be introduced, and practical examples of such strategies in West African history during the Middle Ages.

11:30 a.m. 1906/2006/2106 and Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot
Priscilla Smith

We will present an excerpt from our dance theater work "1906/2006/2106" that was developed by our company in examination of events of 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, how events of 2006 are echoes of them, and what we think 2106 could be. The "themes that encapsulate it" include community organizing, performance as memorial, and community building. We have created a community of our performance ensemble and think it's a nice example of community building.

12:00 p.m. Lunch (opportunity for reports from additional groups, updating on any work since last year's conference)

1:00 p.m. Coming to the Table, Richmond, Virginia, Case Study
Will Hairston

Coming to the Table is building a new legacy by bringing together the descendants of families linked through slavery. We are trying to live out the part of Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech where he called for the "Sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners to sit down together at the table of brotherhood". Our approach is to build on

King's legacy and includes principles of trauma healing and restorative justice. Coming to the Table is interested in collaborating with any organization that is working on building a new legacy in racial reconciliation.

1:30 p.m. Panel with Engaged Listeners
Moderator: Natasha Barnes

Rita Bender, Alfred Brophy, Margaret Burnham, James Campbell, David Cunningham, Sherrilyn Ifill, Daniel Kryder, Thee Smith, William Winter

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. Break out Sessions:

Peabody 206 *Peabody 202* *Peabody 209*

Work groups:

1. Lobbying/Till Bill
2. ATRR structure/work
3. Plan a 2008 conference in Atlanta
4. State-wide truth commissions creation
5. Immigration issues/monitoring hate groups/anti-Muslim violence

6:00 Conclude for the day

7:00 (optional) Southern Studies Prom in Barnard Observatory's Tupelo Room
(Refreshments and music)

Sunday, November 11th

Peabody 206

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Break-Out Work Groups

Peabody 206 *Peabody 202* *Peabody 209*

10:30 a.m. Report Back from Work Groups

11:30 a.m. Closing Ceremony

ENGAGED LISTENERS

Rita Bender is a principal in the firm Skellenger Bender in Seattle. Her practice focuses on family law and adoption, and legal ethics. Ms. Bender is a lifelong activist and the widow of Michael Schwerner. She was a participant in the “Freedom Summer” campaign to register black voters in Mississippi, working in Meridian for six months before the murder of her husband, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman. She has been speaking and writing on issues of truth acknowledgment and restorative justice, including an address last spring to the Northeastern Law School/Harvard Law School Crimes of the Civil Rights Era Conference on the significance and deficits of the Edgar Ray Killen trial.

Margaret Burnham is a professor of law at Northeastern University School of Law and Director of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. She began her career at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She has served on the Massachusetts Trial Court. She was a founding partner at Boston’s first law firm headed by an African-American woman. She served on an international human rights inquiry in South Africa. Her research interests are in comparative constitutional law, human rights, and the United States’ civil rights movement. She is a graduate of Tougaloo College and a veteran of the Mississippi civil rights movement.

Alfred Brophy is a professor of law at the University of Alabama. Al Brophy has written extensively on race and property law in colonial, antebellum and early Twentieth Century America. Since 2003 he has served as book reviews editor of *Law and History Review*. His current research is on the intersection of property and equity, antebellum jurisprudence, antebellum libraries, and the idea of equality in early twentieth century black thought and its influence on the civil rights movement.

James Campbell is an associate professor of history at Brown University. His research focuses on African American history and on the wider history of the Black Atlantic. He is the author of *Songs of Zion: The African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and South Africa* (1995), which was awarded the Organization of American Historians’ Frederick Jackson Turner Prize and the Carl Sandburg Literary Award for Non-Fiction. Most recently, he authored *Middle Passages: African American Journeys to Africa, 1787-2005* (2006), which recounts more than two hundred years of black American encounters with Africa, from the arrival of the first liberated slaves in what would become Liberia to the photojournalism and heritage tourism of the twenty-first century. He has also been involved with a range of public history and curricular projects, including projects focusing on race and the American Revolution, the history of the Rhode Island Slave Trade, and the Civil Rights Movement. Most recently he has collaborated with Susan Smulyan of Brown’s Department of American Civilization and Ernie Limbo of Tougaloo College in creating “Freedom Now!”, a website exploring the history of the Mississippi Freedom Movement.

David Cunningham is an associate professor of sociology at Brandeis University. He has taught courses on community organization, race and power in social life, social movements, and research design. His book, *There’s Something Happening Here: The New Left, the Klan, and FBI Counterintelligence* (2004), analyzes the counterintelligence program of the FBI that was discovered in the early 1970s and terminated as an illegal operation. His current research focuses on the mobilization of the Ku Klux Klan activity during the civil rights era. In March 2007 he presented to the Mississippi Historical Society a paper entitled “Wade in the Water:

Memory and Community in the Delta,” discussing interesting ways to use iPods in the recording and playing of Oral history. He directs a project engaging Brandeis students in oral history in Mississippi.

Sherrilyn Ifill is a professor of law at the University of Maryland. Prior to joining the Faculty in 1993, Professor Ifill served as an Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. in New York, where she litigated voting rights cases, including *Houston Lawyers’ Association v. Texas*, in which the Supreme Court held that judicial elections are subject to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. During her tenure at Maryland law school, Professor Ifill has continued to litigate and consult on cases on behalf of low-income and minority communities.

Daniel Kryder is an associate professor of political science at Brandeis University and Director of Graduate Studies. His research and teaching focus on American political development, the history of race policy and politics, the presidency, and wartime politics. His book, *Divided Arsenal: Race and the American State During World War II* (2001), scrutinizes African-Americans’ wartime experience on the home front during World War II. His current scholarship concerns the relationship between policing and democratization in American history, reparations, war’s relationship to domestic reform, and qualitative historical methods.

Thee Smith is an associate professor at Emory University. Professor Smith was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy (N.H.), St. John's College (Annapolis), Virginia Theological Seminary (Alexandria), and the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley). His academic and teaching specialties include philosophy of religion, African American religious studies, liberation theology, and religion and violence, in which areas he teaches both in Emory's undergraduate Department of Religion and Graduate Division of Religion. He is the author of *Conjuring Culture: Biblical Formations of Black America* (Oxford, 1994), and co-editor with Mark Wallace (Swarthmore) of *Curing Violence: Essays on Rene Girard*, (Polebridge, 1994). Professor Smith received the 1994 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence for *Conjuring Culture*.

William Winter practices law with the Jackson, MS, firm of Watkins Ludlum Winter & Stennis, P.A. Winter is most well known for his role in leading the charge for publicly-funded primary education while he was the fifty-eighth governor of Mississippi from 1980-1984. His governance echoed his belief that all people, regardless of race or class, should be entitled to the same rights and privileges as the most privileged enjoys. In a substantial way, Governor Winter's accomplishments were honored in 1997 when President Bill Clinton initiated "One America," an unprecedented national conversation on race. Winter served on the board of One America, helping to bring the only deep-South public forum to the University of Mississippi. President Bill Clinton has called Winter a “great champion of civil rights.”