New/Old Director for CLAW—New Dean for LCWA

There have been some significant administrative changes in the CLAW program and in the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs (LCWA—same initials, different order). Now that Dr. John White has been formally appointed Dean of the Libraries at the College of Charleston, Dr. Simon Lewis will be resuming directorship of the CLAW program, aided by a steering committee comprising Dr. Mary Battle (Avery Research Center), Dr. Adam Mendelsohn (Jewish Studies), Dr. Ralph Muldrow (Historic Preservation), Dr. Sandy Slater (History), and Dr. Carl Wise (Hispanic Studies). Dr. White will retain a strong interest in the program and provide a vital connection between the program and the various digital projects of the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative to which CLAW associates have been contributing over the last few years. Dr. O. Vernon Burton (Clemson University) will continue as the program’s Executive Director.

The program also welcomes Dr. Antonio Tillis as the new Dean of LCWA. Dr. Tillis comes to us from Dartmouth College where he had been director of the African and African-American Studies program. Dr. Tillis’ expertise in Afro-Latin American history and culture gives him a great affinity to the work of the CLAW program, and we look forward to working with him. In a very exciting development, we are also looking forward to the move of the collections held by the South Carolina Historical Society to the Addlestone Library. This move has the double advantage of making the collection more accessible and freeing up space in the SCHS’s Fireproof Building on Meeting Street.

Panel Discussion on Plantation Tourism—September 2 at 6pm

Professor Ralph Muldrow (Historic Preservation) will moderate a panel discussion among three of Charleston’s most prominent tourism professionals—Michael Allen, former chair of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission and National Park Service park ranger; George McDaniel, Director of Drayton Hall, and Joseph McGill, former officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and founder-director of the Slave-Dwelling Project. The three panelists will share their thoughts on the current state of plantation tourism, bringing decades of experience in the tourism and/or preservation profession in and around Charleston to the discussion.

The event starts at 6pm on Tuesday, September 2nd in Arnold Hall in the Jewish Studies Center at 96 Wentworth Street on the College campus.

Lecture and Book-signing by Dr Richard Porcher

Richard Porcher’s long-awaited magnum opus The Market Preparation of Carolina Rice was published in the summer of 2014 by the University of South Carolina Press.

A botanist by training, Porcher has brought all his academic expertise together with the passion of a lowcountry native to provide a comprehensive history of the rice industry in South Carolina from its beginnings in the 1680s to its demise in the early twentieth century. In partnership with the Lowcountry Rice Project, the CLAW program will host a lecture and book-signing by Dr. Porcher on Tuesday, September 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the new Science Building at the corner of Calhoun and Coming Street, with a reception following in the Addlestone Library.
“Data Driven: Digital Humanities in the Library”—Conference Report

“Data Driven: Digital Humanities in the Library,” a conference held on the College of Charleston campus on June 20th-22nd of 2014, was a rousing success with over 85 registered attendees, three workshops, and ten 90-minute panel sessions on topics ranging from including digital scholarship and digital humanities projects in academic libraries, partnerships between humanities and library faculty, data curation and digital preservation frameworks, digital humanities needs assessments, and oral history in the digital age.

Keynote speakers for the event included Trevor Muñoz of the University of Maryland, Ricardo Ferrante of the Smithsonian Institution Archives, and Emily Gore of the Digital Public Library of America. Panelists came from as far afield as the British Library in London, UK.

Organized by John White and Heather Gilbert, the conference was sponsored by the South Carolina Digital Library, CLAW, the College of Charleston, and the Charleston Conference.

CLAW Program Publications

Spring 2014 saw the publication of two more titles in USC Press’s Lowcountry and Atlantic World series: Barry Stiefel’s 2009 Hines Prize-winning Jewish Sanctuary in the Atlantic World and David T Gleeson and Simon Lewis’s The Civil War as Global Conflict: Transnational Meanings of the American Civil War.

USC Press describes Dr Stiefel’s book as “a unique blend of cultural and architectural history that considers Jewish heritage as it expanded among the continents and islands linked by the Atlantic Ocean between the mid-fifteenth and early nineteenth centuries.”

The Civil War as Global Conflict collects 12 essays from the 2011 “Civil War Global Conflict” conference as well as six reflections on memory. Including work by James McPherson, Amanda Foreman, and Vernon Burton, the volume sets out to revise understanding of the war, and the context in which it was fought.

Family Histories Film Series—September 2014

On Wednesdays in September, at 4pm in ECTR 116, the CLAW program will be screening a series of films that look at “family histories” in the Lowcountry and Atlantic world.

We start on September 3rd with the 1989 SCETV film Family across the Sea, a film exploring the historical connection between South Carolina and Sierra Leone and recording the first “Gullah Homecoming” when leading members of the Gullah community made a historic visit to Sierra Leone.

On September 10th, join us for Katrina Browne’s Traces of the Trade, a film that looks at the connection between Africa and America from the perspective of slavetraders and their descendants—specifically the Brown family of Providence, Rhode Island.

The third film in the series (9/17) brings us back to South Carolina. Felicia Furman’s Shared History gives us another autobiographical look at the relationship between descendants of former slave-holders and descendants of the people they had enslaved. Furman’s film is especially interesting in that she is the granddaughter of Mary Simms Oliphant, whose pro-slavery school textbook on the history of South Carolina was used in schools in the state for over 50 years.

The final film of the series (9/24) takes a slightly different tack. All My Babies (1951) is a midwifery training film by George Stoney made for the Georgia Department of Health. It chronicles midwife Mary Coley as she goes about her work in the African American community in and around Albany, Georgia.
AY 2014-2015

Wells Fargo Lectures by Tristan Stubbs (10/30) and Ras Michael Brown (11/6)

Tristan Stubbs won the 2013 Hines Prize for his Cambridge PhD dissertation on slave overseers on colonial era plantations in Virginia, Carolina and Georgia. He has lectured in American and Caribbean studies at the University of Sussex, has been Gilder Lehrman Fellow at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at the Virginia Historical Society, and Lewis P. Jones Visiting Fellow at the University of South Carolina. His work has appeared in journals, magazines, encyclopedias and online. Dr. Ras Michael Brown holds a joint appointment in History and Africana Studies at Southern Illinois University. He researches the religious and environmental cultures of African-descended people throughout the African-Atlantic Diaspora, especially the cultures of West-Central Africans and their descendants in the United States South. His book, African-Atlantic Cultures and the South Carolina Lowcountry (Cambridge University Press, 2012), examines perceptions of the natural world in the religious ideas and practices of African-descended communities in the Lowcountry from the colonial period into the 20th century. African-Atlantic Cultures and the South Carolina Lowcountry won the 2013 Albert J. Raboteau Book Prize for the Best Book in Africana Religions by the Journal of Africana Religions.

Faculty Seminar Series Resumes

The CLAW Faculty Seminar Series resumes this fall with both Dr. Stubbs and Dr. Brown leading seminars on their work in October and November. In addition to featuring visiting scholars, the series allows College of Charleston and other local CLAW affiliated faculty to present work in progress or recently published work. About ten days before the scheduled symposium we will circulate a published chapter or unpublished article for reading prior to the symposium session. At the session, the author of the circulated work will give a brief introduction to her/his work and then lead a discussion on it. In the case of works in progress, the seminar session gives the authors valuable feedback as they prepare to submit the article for publication.

The fall seminar sessions both take place at 3:15 on Fridays in the Addlestone Library, Room 227:

October 31st: Tristan Stubbs on the role of overseers on colonial plantations.

November 7th: Ras Michael Brown on African-Atlantic Cultures in the Lowcountry

Spring Events—Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration

In mid-February expect two sessions focusing on the fall/liberation of Charleston, a panel discussion featuring professors W. Marvin Dulaney, Amy McCandless, Bernard Powers, and Scott Poole; and a faculty seminar session based on his book The Longest Siege by Professor Joseph Kelly.

To mark the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, we will have a Wells Fargo public lecture by Dr. Richard Carwardine, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, introduced by fellow Lincoln-scholar and CLAW Executive Director O. Vernon Burton. Dr. Carwardine will probably also lead a seminar session.

On Saturday April 18th the Fort Sumter/Fort Moultrie Trust will host a pair of panel discussions on the end of the war featuring a stellar line-up of internationally known Civil War scholars including Eric Foner, David Blight and Nell Painter.

The following day will see an interfaith memorial service honoring all of the dead of the Civil War at Hampton Park. Both events will be held in the spirit of reconciliation set out by Lincoln in his Inaugural Address.

Spring 2015 will see a series of events commemorating the end of the Civil War.
Calendar of Events Fall 2014/Spring 2015

September
2    Panel discussion on plantation tourism
3    Fall Film Series: *Family Across the Sea*
10   Fall Film Series: *Traces of the Trade*
16   Lecture/book-signing and Reception: Richard Porcher
17   Fall Film Series: *Shared History*
24   Fall Film Series: *All My Babies*

October
29/30 Wells Fargo Lecture/Faculty Seminar by Tristan Stubbs

November
6/7   Wells Fargo Lecture/Faculty Seminar by Ras Michael Brown

February
18   Panel discussion on fall/liberation of Charleston in 1865
20   Faculty Seminar by Joseph Kelly

March
11   Wells Fargo Lecture by Richard Carwardine

April
18   Panel discussion on end of the Civil War (Dock Street Theatre)
19   Interfaith memorial service for Civil War dead (Hampton Park)

Southern Association of Women Historians:

Tenth Southern Conference on Women's History
Re-membering/Gendering:
Women, Historical Tourism, and Public History
June 11-14, 2015

College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina
The Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH) will hold its tenth triennial conference from June 11-14, 2015 at the College of Charleston.

Co-sponsored by the CLAW program, The Citadel, and Clemson University, the conference provides a stimulating and congenial forum for discussing all aspects of women’s history. Its program seeks to reflect the best in recent scholarship in women’s history by university professors, graduate students, museum curators, public historians, and independent scholars.

Panel sessions will explore the conference themes: public history, tourism, memory, historic commemoration, and marketing history.

For fuller details, see the SAWH website at: http://thesawh.org/triennial-conference/sawh-triennial-conference/call-for-papers/

Hines Prize 2015

The Hines Prize is awarded to the best first book relating to any aspect of the Carolina Lowcountry and/or the Atlantic World. The prize carries a cash award of $1,000 and preferential consideration by the University of South Carolina Press for the CLAW Program's book series. If you have a manuscript on a topic pertaining to the Carolina Lowcountry and/or Atlantic World, please send a copy to CLAW Director Simon Lewis at lewiss@cofc.edu before May 15th, 2015.

Previous winners of the Hines Prize are as follows:

2013  Dr. Tristan Stubbs - *The Plantation Overseers of Eighteenth-Century Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia*

2011  Dr. Michael D. Thompson - *Working on the Dock of the Bay: Labor and Life along Charleston's Waterfront, 1783-1861*

2009  Barry Stiefel - *Jewish Sanctuary in the Atlantic World: A Social and Architectural History*


2005  Nicholas Michael Butler - *Votaries of Apollo: The St. Cecilia Society and the Patronage of Concert Music in Charleston, South Carolina, 1766-1820*

2003  Bradford Wood - *This Remote Part of the World: Regional Formation in Lower Cape Fear, North Carolina, 1725-1775*