

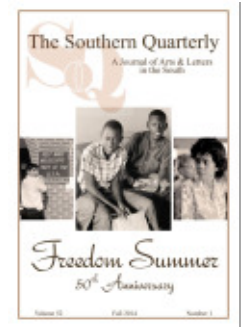


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The Conference Program: The “Freedom Summer 1964–2014 Conference” Program

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Appendix A

The Conference Program

Freedom Summer 1964-2014 *Conference*

The “Freedom Summer 1964-2014” conference examined the legacies of civil rights activism, engaging diverse audiences in public conversations about race and identity politics, the changing South, defining and protecting US citizenship, local people in global movements, and the education of future leaders. The conference featured keynote addresses by veterans and scholars of the civil rights movement, a Unity Day service-learning project, and teaching workshops on the civil rights movement.

Background: In the summer of 1964, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a coalition of civil rights organizations, which included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), concentrated on Mississippi to bring widespread attention to the extreme racism and segregated culture in the state. Hattiesburg was the primary site for creating “freedom schools” where African-Americans were taught civic education and cultural history that prepared them for becoming more informed citizens. Hundreds of black children also enrolled in freedom schools to supplement their deficient public school education. The volunteers who came from across the nation partnered with local people to challenge the racist status quo with public protests and political campaigns.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1: THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014

- 6P.M. OPENING RECEPTION-AFRICAN AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM
 Dr. Sherita L. Johnson, Director, Center for Black Studies,
 The University of Southern Mississippi
 Dr. Curtis Austin, Associate Professor and Director, Young Scholars Program
 Department of African-American and African Studies, The Ohio State University

DAY 2: FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014

- 8-10A.M. CHECK-IN AND ON-SITE/CEU REGISTRATION

- 8:30-9:50 A.M. OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME
 Dr. Sherita L. Johnson, Director, Southern Miss Center for Black Studies
 Dr. Johnny Dupree, Mayor, City of Hattiesburg
 Other Guest Speakers: Southern Miss Faculty / Administrators

10-11:30 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL #1: CHILDREN OF FREEDOM SUMMER

Commentator: Dr. Anthony J. Harris, Professor of Education, Mercer University; Author, *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round: A Coming of Age Story and a Personal Account of the Civil Rights Movement in Hattiesburg, Mississippi* (2013)

Freedom Summer 1964 Participants: Ms. Irene Williams Jones, Director, Harper-Wallin Family Education Center, Family Education and Parental Involvement, Hattiesburg, Miss.; and Ms. Debra Delgado, Hattiesburg City Council Ward Two

Chair: Dr. Sherita L. Johnson, Director, Southern Miss Center for Black Studies

This panel will discuss the roles of youth activists in the movement as well as the experiences of those children who attended/

WORKSHOP #1: TEACHING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (ELEMENTARY EDUCATION)

Facilitators: Dr. Deanne Stephens Nuwer, Associate Professor of History/Director, Katrina Research Center, The University of Southern Mississippi; Ms. Shugana Williams, Archivist and Digitization Specialist, Gandy Cultural Center

This workshop will provide educators with some suggested projects and lesson plans to incorporate Freedom Summer into the Mississippi Frameworks that outlines fourth grade objectives. By using a multidisciplinary approach to the subject, teachers will first review the history of Freedom Summer and its objectives. They then will learn how to create specific objects that are directly related to the Freedom Summer events. For example, a project centered on introducing music into the classroom to highlight one method of social protest used by Freedom Summer participants helps students learn that social movements can assume many different characteristics and still be effective. The workshop will provide a history of Freedom Summer, a list and biographical information about key participants, and political and social outcomes on grade

NOON-1 P.M. LUNCHEON KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mr. Charles Cobb, Journalist, Professor of Africana Studies at Brown University and Former Activist with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

1:30-3 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL #2: "FOOT SOLDIERS": WOMEN, POLITICS AND GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

Freedom Summer Participants: Ms. Dorie Ladner, Retired Social Worker; Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Joint Senior Lecturer, African-American Studies and Religion, University of Florida; Ms. Peggy Jean Connor, Hattiesburg Civil Rights and Social Justice Activist

Chair: Dr. Rebecca Tuuri, Assistant Professor of African-American History, The University of Southern Mississippi

Using their own stories and reflections of what they experienced during Freedom Summer in 1964, these women of Freedom Summer will discuss the importance of female activists in and around Hattiesburg during the efforts of that summer and the civil rights movement as a whole.

WORKSHOP #2: TEACHING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (SECONDARY EDUCATION)

Facilitators: Dr. Deanne Stephens Nuwer, Associate Professor of History/Director, Katrina Research Center, The University of Southern Mississippi; Ms. Shugana Williams, Archivist and Digitization Specialist, Gandy Cultural Center

This workshop will provide educators with suggested lesson plans to incorporate Freedom Summer into the Mississippi frameworks that outline ninth grade objectives. A multidisciplinary approach to teaching Freedom Summer will be the focus of this workshop. Teachers will first review the history of Freedom Summer and its objectives. They then will be introduced to oral history as a method of teaching Freedom Summer. For example, a CD of Freedom Summer participants that allows students to listen to those who were involved in the activities will highlight the effects of Freedom Summer and its outcomes in an innovative method. Educators will be instructed on how to make this resource an effective tool in the classroom. The workshop will provide a history of Freedom Summer, a list and biographical information of key participants, and political and social outcomes on grade level. Teachers will receive a resource booklet with suggested lesson plans and accompanying resources.

3:30-5 P.M.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL #3: POLITICS IN THE PULPIT: HATTIESBURG'S BLACK CHURCHES OF FREEDOM SUMMER

Freedom Summer Participants: Rev. Dr. John E. Cameron, Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; Rev. Mattie Gibson, Superintendent of the Greenwood District of the United Methodist Church; Ms. Stephanie Hoze, Executive Director of Child Nutrition, Hattiesburg Public Schools
Chair: Dr. Kimberley Davis, Associate Professor of Music, The University of Southern Mississippi

This panel discusses the role of African-American church leaders and their congregations during the civil rights movement. Panel participants are members and former members/leaders of local churches who will discuss the activities of mass meetings (many organized by SNCC) and freedom schools held in their sanctuaries, as well as other activities of the church during Freedom Summer.

WORKSHOP #3: FREEDOM SUMMER 2014-CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

Facilitators: Dr. Kevin Greene, Assistant Professor of History, The University of Southern Mississippi; Dr. Richard Conville, Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies and Service-Learning, The University of Southern Mississippi; Southern Miss student, Mr. Don Holmes, a senior English major with minors in history, black studies and Spanish

This workshop features speakers who have taught interdisciplinary courses on the civil rights movement and who have been engaged in social justice issues. The workshop will provide Mississippi educators who teach at the high school and college levels with the best teacher practices aimed at incorporating civic engagement in their curriculum. The workshop will feature three main segments: the civil rights knowledge gap between current high school and college students and civil rights veterans, the use of service-learning as a learning strategy for teaching civil rights, and case studies of these practices used in Hattiesburg and McComb, Miss. Participants in the workshop will receive lecture/discussion source materials and PowerPoint summaries.

DAY 3: SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2014

9-10:30 A.M. PLENARY SESSION: REMEMBERING CHANEY, GOODMAN AND SCHWERNER
Commentator: Dr. Dave Davies, Professor, School of Mass Communication and Journalism, and Dean, Honors College, The University of Southern Mississippi

Chair: Dr. Cheryl Jenkins, Associate Director, Center for Black Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi

Invited journalists who have covered issues of civil rights in the state will discuss the violence and white resistance to the civil rights movement with specific focus on the disappearance of three CORE members—James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner—on June 21, 1964, in Neshoba County, Miss. (their bodies later found near Philadelphia, Miss.). The investigation and aftermath of the case will be re-examined as this tragic event has come to signal the start of Freedom Summer in 1964. The panel is co-sponsored by the Southern Miss Association of Black Journalists.

11 A.M.
-12:30 P.M.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL #4: "WHY I LIVE IN MISSISSIPPI": BEYOND THE STIGMA OF BRANDED RACISM

Commentator: Dr. Louis M. Kyriakoudes, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage, The University of Southern Mississippi

Chair: Dr. Sherita L. Johnson, Director, Center for Black Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi

This panel will discuss the challenges of being a resident (or claiming "roots") in Mississippi, considering the state's tarnished reputation for racism and inequality (past and present). The panel's theme was inspired by Medgar Evers' article (by the same title) published in *Ebony* magazine in 1958 and later in 1963 after his murder. Selections of oral histories (archived in Southern Miss' "Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive") will be used for presentations. Panel participants are residents of the state.

PANEL #5: ACCESSING AND USING CIVIL RIGHTS ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Participants: Ms. Jennifer Brannock, Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana/Associate Professor, The University of Southern Mississippi; Mr. Michael Edmonds, Deputy Director, Archives-Library Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wis.; Jacqueline Johnson, Archivist of the Western College Memorial Archives, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Chair: Mr. Stephen Haller, Curator of Historical Manuscripts and Archives / Assistant Professor, The University

This panel will focus on the types of materials at three significant repositories and how to access archival materials for use in various research venues (including classrooms).

1-2 P.M.

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Emily Crosby, Professor of History, State University of New York (Geneseo)

2:30-4 P.M.

FILM SCREENING/DISCUSSION: "STANDING ON MY SISTERS' SHOULDERS"

The award-winning documentary "Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders" takes on the civil rights movement in Mississippi in the 1950s and 1960s from the point of view of the courageous women who lived it and emerged as its grassroots leaders. These women stood up and fought for the right to vote and the right to equal education. The civil rights movement brought forth many heroes, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks, yet most people have never heard of Annie Devine, Fannie Lou Hamer, Unita Blackwell, Mae Bertha Carter, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland or Victoria Gray Adams. But without the efforts of these women, the civil rights movement in Mississippi would not have been possible. In a state where lynching of black males was the highest in the nation, a unique opportunity for women emerged to become activists in the movement. This film documents their story of commitment, bravery and leadership in the face of a hostile and violent segregated society.

4:15-5:30 P.M. BUS TOUR: '64 FREEDOM SUMMER TRAIL

A guided/narrated bus tour will be conducted of the historic path of the civil rights movement Freedom Summer Trail. Participants will be given an introduction of the trail and the historical significance of each stop on the tour.

TBA

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT- CITY OF HATTIESBURG

Coordinated by the Center for Community and Civic Engagement, The University of Southern Mississippi

6:30P.M.

BANQUET: HONORING THE PARTICIPANTS OF FREEDOM SUMMER LAKE TERRACE CONVENTION CENTER