Program in the Carolina Lowcountry & Atlantic World

Annual Report
Academic Year 2012-2013
Academic Year 2012-13

1. Narrative Summary

The CLAW program was very productive in the 2012-2013 academic year. In the fall, Kevin Lowther delivered a public lecture entitled “The African American Odyssey of John Kizell: A South Carolina Slave Returns to Fight the Slave Trade in his African Homeland.” In February, Eric Foner delivered a public lecture on his book *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*. In March CLAW sponsored the annual African Literature Association four day conference entitled “Literature, Liberation and the Law.” The conference included 11 internationally-acclaimed keynote speakers and musicians, including speakers Cleveland Sellers, Moyez G. Vassanji, and Albert Louis (Albie) Sachs, 17 exhibitors and 365 panel participants from more than 20 countries in North and South America, Africa, and Asia. In addition to these events, the program also hosted a number of public lectures, events and book signings. The CLAW program was also a proud sponsor of The Jubilee Project: Commemorating 150 years of Emancipation and Educational Access in South Carolina.

During the course of the year, CLAW continued to expand its web presence through digital humanities projects such as After Slavery and the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative, as well as regular blog postings and events announcements.

2. Personnel

John White continued to serve as the Director of the CLAW program and Simon Lewis continued his role as Associate Director. Due to Dr. White’s appointment as Interim Dean of Libraries, the program hired Mary Battle, who was funded through a combination of grant and college funding, to act as the CLAW project coordinator for the Fall 2012 semester. She continued in this role from the beginning of the Spring 2013 semester through the ALA conference. In the Spring, Dr. Battle left this role and began as the new Public Historian at the Avery Research Center. Shelia Harrell-Roye contributed her time and expertise in conference planning for the ALA conference from her position as the Avery Outreach Coordinator. Claire Fund provided continued assistance throughout the academic year, and was integral to the financial and administrative planning of the ALA conference. Additionally, Lauren Saulino provided valuable support during the planning and execution of the ALA conference from her role in the International Studies department.

Heather Gilbert and Tyler Mobley in the Addlestone Library and Sandy Slater from the History department made major contributions to the program and assisted with publicity, the program’s web and conference portals, and other core functions.

3. Administrative Philosophy in 2011-12

This year the CLAW program was dedicated to public conferences and outreach. In addition to the regularly scheduled public lectures, book signings, events, and the African Literature Association conference, the largest conference ever hosted by the organization, CLAW assisted in the coordination of the Jubilee Project and the English Diaspora project (which is managed at Northumbria University in Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom). CLAW also remained vital in the ongoing support of the international After Slavery project and forged new international
partnerships with the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. CLAW continues its partnership with the Lowcountry Digital Library and the Palmetto Program: A Teaching American History Grant.

4. Annual Conferences

*Literature, Liberation, and the Law*

The 39th annual conference of the African Literature Association
With conveners Simon Lewis and conference committee Abdellatif Attafi, Mary P. Battle, Viviane Bekrou, Tim Carmichael, Jack Parson, Assan Sarr, John Walsh, John White (all College of Charleston), and Deborah Gammons (Charleston School of Law). For more information see: http://claw.cofc.edu/ala/conference.html

**Future conferences**

*Soundscapes: Music from the African Atlantic, 1600-present*

Planning continues for the 2014 CLAW conference. CLAW has already begun soliciting and accepting paper proposals that address the transnational and transcultural impacts of music throughout the Atlantic World. This conference will be held on March 7-9, 2014 at the College of Charleston. For more information see: http://blogs.cofc.edu/claw/2013/08/01/cfp-soundscapes-music-from-the-african-atlantic-1600-present/

5. Book Series

David Gleeson and Simon Lewis’s edited volume *Ambiguous Anniversary: The Bicentennial of the International Slave Trade Bans* was published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2012. The volume was derived from the 2008 conference, “Ending the International Slave Trade: A Bicentenary Inquiry.” Simon Lewis and David T. Gleeson’s collection *Civil War—Global Conflict* (deriving from the 2011 conference) is at the final copy-editing stage and page proofs have been delivered. An edited volume from the 2012 conference “Race, Gender, and Sexualities in the Atlantic World,” is in the copy editing stage and is expected by the publisher by the end of 2014.

6. Wachovia Public Lectures

October 4, 2013. ‘Your wife will be your biggest accuser’: Reinforcing Codes of Manhood at New England Witch Trials. Dr. Richard Godbeer, Professor of History at the University of Miami.

7. Co-sponsored Events and Other Activities

January 31, 2013. In partnership with Addlestone, Dr. Colin Wilder of the University of South Carolina Digital Humanities Center delivered a lecture entitled *Digital Humanities Initiatives and Partnerships*. Addlestone Library, Charleston, SC.
February 1, 2013. In partnership with Addlestone Library and the After Slavery project, Eric Foner, Brian Kelly and Michael McCann delivered a day-long workshop entitled *Teaching the New History of Emancipation in the Carolinas*. Addlestone Library, Charleston, SC.

March 21, 2013. In partnership with the Jubilee Project and in conjunction with the African Literature Association conference, Alison McLetchie spoke at the event ‘*I Have Known Rivers*: Ceremonies to honor the Men, Women, and Children forced into the Middle Passage and the Struggle of Africans and African Descendants throughout the World. Brittlebank Park, Charleston, SC.

April 8, 2013. In partnership with the Avery Research Center, Dr. Iain Whyte delivered a public lecture on abolitionists William and Ellen Craft in Scotland from 1850-51. Avery Research Center, Charleston, SC.

April 9, 2013. In partnership with Addlestone Library, Dr. Iain Whyte discussed his recent book, *Send Back the Money!* The Free Church of Scotland and American Slavery. Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

May 28-June 10, 2013. In partnership with the English Diaspora Project, Northumbria University, the Arts & Humanities Research Council and the Lowcountry Digital Library, Exhibition of archival materials that explores the role of English immigrants in American and Canadian life, the history of St. George’s societies and Shakespeare in America. The opening of this exhibition on May 28th includes a reception, a public lecture by Dr. David Gleeson and a cultural performance by Hexham Morris, a traditional folk dancing group from Northumberland, England. Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

June 13, 2013. In partnership with the Avery Research Center, Emory Historian Joseph Crespino delivered a public talk for the Teaching American History program. Avery Research Center, Charleston, SC.

**Upcoming events**

November 8, 2013. *Researching Slavery at the University of South Carolina and Presenting it to the Public: Building the ‘Slavery at South Carolina College’ Website*, Robert Weyeneth and Evan Kutzler, University of South Carolina. Co-sponsored by the Avery Research Center, Charleston, SC.


**8. Grants Awarded and Applied for**

The African Literature Association Conference was supported through a number of grants, including $5,000 from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, $2500 from the Herzman-Fishman Foundation, and $250 from the local Alliance Francaise.

CLAW Partnered with the Lowcountry Digital Library on two grants to support the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI): $7,500 from the Humanities Council of South Carolina for the
African Passages, Lowcountry Adaptations Project and $133,100 from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation for the two year LDHI project.

9. Planning for 2013-14 and beyond

Digital scholarship projects supported by CLAW, now and in the future:

**Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI)** is a digital public history project hosted by the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL) at the College of Charleston. Funded through a pilot project grant from the Humanities Council of South Carolina and a major grant award from the Dorothy and Gaylord Donnelley Foundation, LDHI serves as a digital consultation service, scholarly editorial resource, and online platform for partner institutions and collaborative scholars to translate multi-institutional archival materials, historic landscape features and structures, and scholarly research into digital public history exhibition projects. Projects on LDHI that were supported in part by the CLAW program include:

- **African Passages, Lowcountry Adaptations**, an online exhibition series about the history of slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade from the Atlantic World to Charleston and the South Carolina Lowcountry. [http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/africanpassageslowcountryadapt](http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/africanpassageslowcountryadapt)

- **The Orangeburg Massacre**, an online exhibition outlining the events of the Orangeburg Massacre. On February 8, 1968, South Carolina Highway Patrolmen opened fire on African American college students protesting against ongoing segregation in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Three students were killed and twenty-eight wounded. This shooting was one of the most violent events in South Carolina’s twentieth century civil rights history. [http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/orangeburg-massacre](http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/orangeburg-massacre)

CLAW’s support of the After Slavery project continued this academic year with the creation of a fully mobile-friendly and social media enabled blog [http://afterslavery.wordpress.com/](http://afterslavery.wordpress.com/) and the beginning of migration of the After Slavery website into the LDHI content management system.