

March 21-23, 2013

Media & Civil Rights History Symposium

Columbia, South Carolina



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
School of Journalism and
Mass Communications



Welcome to the symposium

Dr. Carol J. Pardun

Director, School of Journalism and Mass Communications

Welcome to the second Media & Civil Rights History Symposium hosted by the University of South Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communications! I am delighted to see so many returning scholars from our inaugural symposium, and I am delighted to welcome new friends to this community of scholars.

Our Symposium embraces a broad vision of civil rights history that reaches across nations, time periods, and social groups to include various past struggles for the right to exercise civil freedoms without government or social repression or discrimination. We believe that media and communication are central forces in history—particularly in struggles for justice and freedom—and that their role has been under-acknowledged and under-studied. It is our School’s goal to encourage more historical work in this area through not only hosting the Symposium on a biennial basis but also sponsoring the generous Farrar Award in Media & Civil Rights History. This year I’m pleased to announce that Carol Stabile of the University of Oregon has won the Farrar Award for her work on the blacklisting of women civil rights activists in the broadcast industry. Her Farrar Award Lecture will be a highlight of our gathering.

Our School is also committed to the teaching of media and civil rights history. You will see our undergraduate students attending Symposium events and paper panels, and we hope you will welcome them as fellow learners and historians. We believe this kind of learning experience for our students is special and profoundly important in helping them understand the historical imagination and the ways the past informs and shapes our present.

We are honored to have Katherine Mellen Charron as our keynote speaker. She will discuss the life of Septima Clark, an important South Carolina civil rights activist who contributed greatly to the movement in the South. We are also honored to have Cecil Williams, a noted civil rights photographer, as a special guest at our luncheon. He will exhibit his photographs and painting of Septima Clark at the event.

Thank you all for making time in your busy schedules to join us for this special gathering. We hope you will find the company of fellow scholars who care about media and civil rights history rejuvenating. And we hope you enjoy our beautiful South Carolina spring and hospitality.

2013 Symposium highlights

■ Dr. Katherine Mellen Charron (North Carolina State), author of the acclaimed biography *Freedom's Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark*, will give the Symposium's keynote address. An African-American woman from South Carolina, Clark was a primary architect and leader of the citizenship schools that fueled the Civil Rights Movement across the South.

■ Mr. Cecil Williams, noted civil rights photographer who worked for *Jet* magazine, will exhibit his photographs and portrait of Septima Clark at the keynote luncheon.

■ Dr. Charron will also give a public

book talk on *Freedom's Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark* at Richland Library for the wider community as part of the Symposium's outreach efforts. This talk is Friday evening.

■ The Symposium will have as its special guest the social studies curriculum development specialist for Columbia city schools.

■ Dr. Carol Stabile (University of Oregon), winner of the 2013 Farrar Award, will present her research in the Farrar Award Lecture at the symposium. She won the award for her article "The Typhoid Marys of the Left: Gender, Race, and the Broadcast Blacklist"

which appeared in the September 2011 issue of *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*.

■ The Symposium features a special roundtable of authors who have written book-length studies on media and civil rights history.

■ Scholars will present 40 papers representing 31 universities, 17 states, and one foreign country.

■ One undergraduate student from Warwick University in England will present a paper he wrote while he was an exchange student at USC last academic year.

2011 Symposium lookback

■ Isabel Wilkerson, author of the award-winning book *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, gave the keynote speech to a standing ovation. The same evening, as part of the Symposium's outreach to the community, Ms. Wilkerson gave a public book talk at the Richland Public Library that we were told was the best-attended book event the library had ever hosted.

■ We announced the winner of the inaugural Ronald T. and Gayla D. Farrar Media and Civil Rights History Award, which honors the best journal article or chapter in an edited book published in the previous two years on the historical relationship between media and civil rights. The winner, Dr. Gordon Mantler from Duke University, gave a featured lecture on his award-winning article "The Press Did You In: The Poor People's Campaign and the Mass Media" published in the spring 2010 issue



Isabel Wilkerson delivers the keynote address at the 2011 Symposium.

of *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics and Culture*.

■ Twenty-two original papers were presented at the Symposium by scholars representing 21 universities, 16 states, and two foreign countries.

■ We screened a 35-minute excerpt from the then-forthcoming PBS documentary *Freedom Riders*, followed by a group discussion led by



2011 Farrar Award Winner Gordon Mantler, left, stands with Ronald Farrar.

two eminent historians: Dr. Patricia Sullivan (USC), author of *Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement*, and Dr. Jane Rhodes (Macalester), author of *Framing the Black Panthers: The Spectacular Rise of a Black Power Icon*.

■ As another outreach effort, we held a teaching panel for area middle and high school teachers on teaching civil rights and media in the classroom.

Symposium schedule

Thursday, March 21

5-7 p.m. Opening reception, Inn at USC

Friday, March 22

9-10:15 a.m. Research panels

Broadcasting the Struggle: News, Activism, and the Arts

Carolina Room A

Rewriting Cultural Memory of the 1960s in Alice Childress's *Wine in the Wilderness*. *Carol Bunch Davis, Texas A&M-Galveston.*

Television and the 1960 New Orleans School Desegregation Crisis. *David Bennett, Michigan State University.*

WAFR, Black Power Radio, and the Media and the Movement Project. *Joshua Clark Davis, Duke University.*

Chair/Commentator: Gwyneth Mellinger, Baker University.

Mississippi, Then and Now: The Many Voices of the Press

Carolina Room B

Reporting Race and Resistance in Dixie: The White Mississippi Press and Civil Rights. *Rebecca Miller Davis, University of Missouri-Kansas City.*

Corrupting the Minds of the South: Segregation, Media Suppression and the Student Press. *David Wallace, University of South Carolina-Upstate.*

Fifty Years Later: Ole Miss Works to Open the Doors. *Kathleen W. Wickham, University of Mississippi.*

Chair/Commentator: Marjorie Spruill, University of South Carolina.

10:15-10:30 a.m. Mid-morning break

10:30-11:45 a.m. Research panels

Black Women and the Struggle: Black Radicalism, Blacklists, and a Fighting Press

Carolina Room A

End to the Neglect of the Problems of the Negro Woman! Claudia Jones and the U.S. Communist Party's Black Belt Thesis Pamphlets. *Trevor Joy Sangrey, Washington University in St. Louis.*

Racist Witch Hunters: Shirley Graham and the Broadcast Blacklist. *Carol A. Stabile, University of Oregon.*

Ethel Payne's Advocacy Journalism: Using Reporting as a Weapon in the Civil Rights Struggle. *James McGrath Morris, Independent Writer/Scholar.*

Chair/Commentator: Jan Whitt, University of Colorado.

The Press in Black and White: Communism, Labor, and Protest

Carolina Room B

"To Serve the Cause of Negro Equality": James E. Jackson, Jr., *The Worker*, and the CPUSA in the Civil Rights Era. *Sara Rzeszutek Haviland, St. Francis College.*

Beyond the Bounds of Tolerance: *Commercial Appeal* Editorials and the 1968 Memphis Garbage Strike. *Thomas J. Hrach, University of Memphis.*

Roi Ottley, Black Internationalism, and the Press during World War II. *Mark Andrew Huddle, Georgia College and State University.*

Excuse Our Tone: The Use of Militant Rhetoric by the African American Press during World War II. *Earnest L. Perry, University of Missouri.*

Chair/Commentator: Aniko Bodroghkozy, University of Virginia.

Noon- 2 p.m. Keynote luncheon

2:15-3:30 p.m. Research panels

Visual Culture from Civil Rights to Black Power: Comic Books, Cartoons, and Posters

Carolina Room A

Back to Black: A Visual Analysis of Blaxploitation Press Books and Posters. *Katrina M. Overby, Indiana University.*

From Coon to Civic Ideal: The Black Male Body and Cartoon Citizenship in the Civil Rights Era. *Rebecca A. Wanzo, Washington University in St. Louis.*

Race and EC Comics in the Civil Rights Era. *Qiana J. Whitted, University of South Carolina.*

Chair/Commentator: Barbara Friedman, University of North Carolina.

Lift Every Voice and Sing: Music as Protest and Ethnic Identity

Carolina Room B

An Oral History of African American Gospel Artists and Social Commentary from 1945-1960. *Nathaniel Frederick, Winthrop University.*

"I Want Jazz, Man, and Nothing Else": The Influences of Overtly Politically Conscious Jazz Albums on Civil Rights Activism, 1960-1963. *Nicholas Gaffney, Northern Virginia Community College.*

Sophie Tucker and Racial Meaning. *Lauren Rebecca Sklaroff, University of South Carolina.*

Chair/Commentator: Birgitta Johnson, University of South Carolina.

3:30-3:45 p.m. Mid-afternoon break

3:45-5 p.m. Research panels

Authors' Roundtable: Recent Books on Media and Civil Rights History

Carolina Room A

Equal Time: Television and the Civil Rights Movement (University of Illinois Press, 2012). Author: Aniko Bodroghkozy, University of Virginia.

The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation (Vintage, 2006). Co-author: Hank Klibanoff, Emory University.

Chasing Newsroom Diversity: From Jim Crow to Affirmative Action (University of Illinois Press, 2013). Author: Gwyneth Mellinger, Baker University.

Burning Crosses and Activist Journalism: Hazel Brannon Smith and the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement (University Press of America, 2009). Author: Jan Whitt, University of Colorado.

Moderator: Sid Bedingfield, University of South Carolina.

Keynote Speaker

Katherine Mellen Charron



The School of Journalism and Mass Communications is delighted to present the keynote speaker for the 2013 Media & Civil Rights History Symposium: Katherine Mellen Charron, author of the acclaimed biography *Freedom's Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark* (UNC Press, 2012). Charron is an associate professor of history at North Carolina State University.

In the mid-1950s, Septima Poinsette Clark, a South Carolina public school teacher, developed a citizenship training program that enabled thousands of African Americans to register to vote. The program showed them how to link the power of the ballot to concrete strategies for individual and communal empowerment. In this vibrantly written biography, Katherine Charron demonstrates Clark's crucial role and the role of many black women teachers in making education a cornerstone of the 20th-century freedom struggle. Using Clark's life as a lens, Charron sheds valuable new light on southern black women's activism in national, state, and judicial politics, from the Progressive Era to the civil rights movement and beyond.

Praise for *Freedom's Teacher*

"An essential addition to the growing number of biographies of black women educators and activists...It challenges us to broaden our understanding of the development of the civil rights era, the definition of civil rights leadership, and the role of education in laying the foundation for protest and social justice in the twentieth century."



—*The American Historical Review*

"Deeply researched and engaging. . . . Charron's richly suggestive biography of Septima Clark will surely stimulate more work on the African American women who made the possibilities of the movement realities."

—*Journal of American History*

"[A] deft narrative. . . . A compelling story about someone whose name may not be included as a leader in the civil rights movement but certainly should be."

—*The Journal of Southern History*

Friday, March 22 Noon – 2 p.m. Inn at USC | 7 p.m. Richland Library 1431 Assembly St.

Congratulations

Ronald D. and Gayla T. Farrar
Media & Civil Rights History Award

Carol Stabile



Carol A. Stabile has won the 2013 Ronald T. and Gayla D. Farrar Media and Civil Rights History Award for her article published in the September 2011 issue of *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*: “The Typhoid Marys of the Left: Gender, Race and the Broadcast Blacklist.”

Stabile holds the rank of Professor at the University of Oregon in the School of Journalism and Communication and the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies. She is also the Director of the Center for the Study of Women in Society at Oregon. She is the author of *Feminism and the Technological Fix*, editor of *Turning the Century: Essays in Media and Cultural Studies*, co-editor of *Prime Time Animation: Television Animation and American Culture*, and author of *White Victims, Black Villains: Gender, Race, and Crime News in US Culture*.

The Farrar Award judges were Drs. Patricia Sullivan (University of South Carolina), Phillip Jeter (Winston-Salem State University), and Earnest Perry (University of Missouri). The award recognizes the best journal article or chapter in an edited book about the historical relationship between media and civil rights published during the previous two years.

From the judges

“Drawing on a rich array of primary sources, Carol Stabile’s essay offers a fresh look at the intersection of anti-communism and civil rights activism during the 1950s, focusing on the broadcast industry as a primary arena of struggle. In the process, Stabile draws attention to two figures, African American musician Hazel Scott and white actor Jean Muir. Both were active proponents of racial justice and equality. Scott is particularly notable as a black woman who briefly hosted her own television show in the 1950s. The essay convincingly demonstrates how the views of a small minority, which aggressively defined civil rights as a sign of communist sympathies, could effectively leverage the power of the federal government and corporate sponsors to marginalize and effectively “silence” individuals sympathetic to the cause of racial justice during the 1950s, a formative decade for television as well as for the Civil Rights Movement.”

Saturday, March 23 2:15 – 3:30 p.m. Carolina Room A Inn at USC

Levers of Power: US Institutions and Print Culture in Struggles for Civil Rights

Carolina Room B

“High Civic Ideals and Lofty Political Aspirations”: Race, Gender, and the Culture of Print in Early Twentieth Century NAACP Activism. *Susan Bragg, Georgia Southwestern State University.*

“The Southern Way of Life in the Deep North”: Southern Journalists and the Discovery of American Racism in the 1950s. *Richard L. Hughes, Illinois State University.*

The Ambivalent Martyr: Eugene V. Debs and the Espionage Act of 1917. *A. Jay Wagner, Indiana University.*

Chair/Commentator: Aimee Edmondson, Ohio University.

Dinner on your own—Five Points or the Vista (transportation provided)

Saturday, March 23

9-10:15 a.m.

Research panels

Local People: Press Coverage of Civil Rights in South Carolina

Carolina Room A

Dixie at Bat: The Role of the National Media in “Little League’s Civil War.” *Ramon M. Jackson, University of South Carolina.*

Lamar, 1970 and the Making of a Civil Rights Narrative in South Carolina. *Nathan Saunders, University of South Carolina.*

The Orangeburg Massacre: The Journalistic Record and Public Memory. *Alex Rutherford, University of Warwick, UK.*

Chair/Commentator: Kenneth Campbell, University of South Carolina.

Extending the History of the Black Press: Black Religious and Fraternal Print Culture

Carolina Room B

An Infighting Press? African American Religious Print Culture in the Civil Rights Movement. *Gemma Evans, University of Nottingham, UK.*

Fraternal News: African American Fraternalism, News, and the Shaping of Civil Rights. *Derrick A. Lanois, Georgia State University.*

A Collision of Hate and Faith: The Religious Press Responds to Birmingham, 1963. *Mike Trice, Florida Southern College.*

Chair/Commentator: Leon Jackson, University of South Carolina.

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Mid-morning break

10:30-11:45 a.m.

Research panels

Remembering the Civil Rights Movement: The Role of the Press in Collective Memory

Carolina Room A

The Devil’s Box: Television, U.S. Anti-Apartheid Activism, and Civil Rights Memory. *Jennifer Bratyanski, Queens University of Charlotte.*

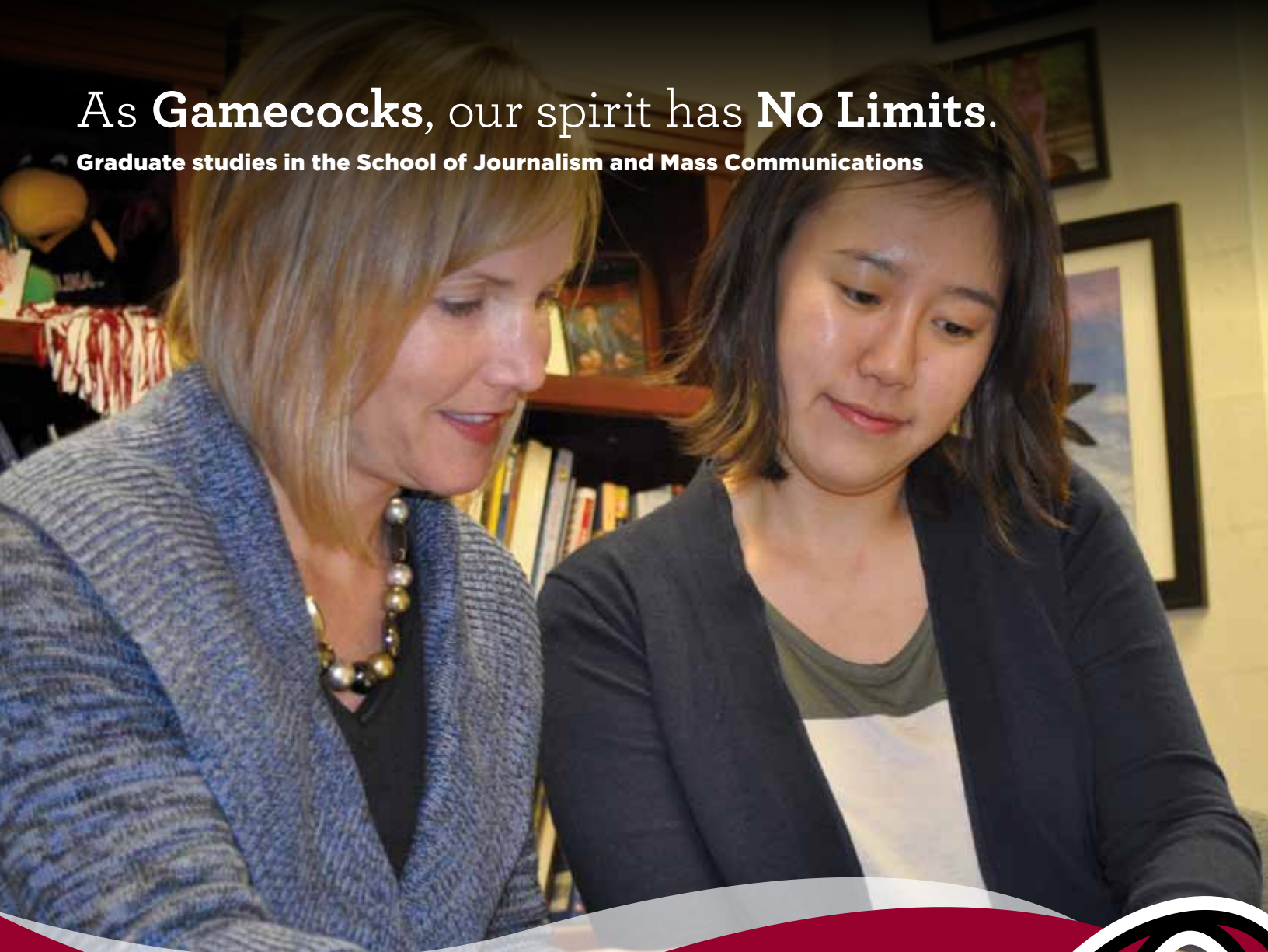
Regret the Error: Memory and Apology in News Coverage of the Civil Rights Movement. *Barbara Friedman, University of North Carolina, and Lorraine Ahearn, University of North Carolina.*

Memories of Montgomery: National, Regional, and Local News Coverage of Rosa Parks’ Death. *Meagan Manning, University of Minnesota.*

Chair/Commentator: Perzavia Praylow, Georgia Regents University.

As **Gamecocks**, our spirit has **No Limits**.

Graduate studies in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications



SJMC faculty at the University of South Carolina include scholars leading the field in the study of **new and convergent media**. They are exploring media effects, mobile communications, bias in political election coverage, convergent journalism and organizational adoption of innovation. **The Science and Health Communication Research Group** is a multidisciplinary effort aimed at strengthening collaborative research among several schools and colleges at the University of South Carolina. Communication researchers are studying media portrayals of health issues, public perceptions of emerging technologies, public engagement, risk communications, media sociology and nonprofit health communication for donor engagement. **Communication history** researchers are pursuing a variety of scholarly interests: First Amendment history, history of the book and print culture, the historical role of journalism in American public life, the media and civil rights history, the representation of minorities in media, and collective memory and media.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

School of Journalism and
Mass Communications

jour.sc.edu/

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.