The Fourth Annual
Graduate Student Conference
In African American History

Conference Program

University of Memphis
October 18-19, 2002

Sponsored by
The University of Memphis
Department of History
The Graduate History Association
The Benjamin Hooks Institute for Social Change
Department of African and African American Studies

The University of Memphis offers equal educational opportunity to all persons without regard to race, sex, religion, age, color, handicap, veteran status, or national origin.

Fourth Annual Graduate History Conference
in African American History

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 18, 2002

12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Conference Registration
Upper Atrium, Fogelman Executive Center

1:00 – 3:15 p.m. Paper Session One

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Paper Session Two

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reception/Meet and Greet
Lower Atrium, Fogelman Executive Center

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Keynote Address–Dr. Wilma King,
University of Missouri
“You’ve Come a Long Way Baby: Images of African American Children in Selected Twentieth-Century Print Media”
Room 136, Fogelman Executive Center

Saturday, October 19, 2002

8:15 – 8:45 a.m. Coffee Reception
Upper Atrium, Fogelman Executive Center

8:45 – 10:45 a.m. Paper Session Three

Refreshments will be served in Upper Atrium between panel session

11:00 – 1:00 p.m. Paper Session Four

1:15 – 1:30 p.m. Closing Remarks
“Memphis State Eight” Prize Presentation
Upper Atrium, Fogelman Executive Center

Paper Session One
1:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Friday, October 18, 2002

Panel One
The Black Experience in Education
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 215

Chair: Angela Martin, University of Memphis
From Desegregation to Integration: The NAACP's Education Campaign in Virginia, 1954-1968
Brian Daugherty, College of William and Mary

Emancipation, Elevation, and Education: Black Education in New York City During the 1830s
Kristopher Burrell, City University of New York

Miller vs. Board of Education: The End of the Educational Exile of Black Deaf Students in Washington D.C.
Sandra Jowers, Howard University

“It Was Never About Being Able to Sit Next to White People”: Desegregation in Chapel Hill, North Carolina Public Schools, 1954-1969
Jennifer Nardone, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Commentator: Vivian Morris, University of Memphis

Panel Two

Racial Identity and Stereotypes
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 217

Chair: Linda Scott, University of Memphis
“Canaries” in the Coal Mine
Cerissa Chaney, University of Wisconsin

The Murder of William Johnson and The Construction of Race in Antebellum Natchez
Timothy Buckner, University of Texas at Austin

Beyond Bogle
Trevor Brookins, University of Pennsylvania

Judging By the Covers: Representations of African Americans on Song Sheets, 1860-1890
Sara Fanning, University of Texas at Austin

Commentators: Fred Knight and Doveanna Fulton, University of Memphis

Paper Session Two
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday, October 18, 2002

Panel One

African American Women
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 215

Chair: Bob Masters, University of Memphis
Panel One

Regional/Mid-South
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 215

Chair: Carl Brown, University of Memphis

Making Our Own Way: The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Panel Two

Black Nationalism
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 217

Chair: Sharon Bynum, University of Memphis

Africa in the Heart of Dixie: Oyotunji Village and the Yoruba Movement in America
Solomon Smith, University of Georgia

It Happened Here Too: The Black Liberation Movement of St. Louis, Missouri
Ken Jolly, University of Missouri

Commentator: Herbert Jones, LeMoyne-Owen College

Paper Session Three
8:45-10:45 a.m.
Saturday, October 19, 2002
and the Struggle for Education and Autonomy in Post-Reconstruction Mississippi
Alicia Jackson, University of Mississippi

The John Gaston “Negro” Appointment Controversy, 1956
Terrance Johnson, University of Memphis

Where Black Met White: The Racial Vision and Agenda of the Southern Sociological Congress
James Boshears, Auburn University

Commentator: Femi Ajanaku, LeMoyne-Owen College

Panel Two

Violence
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 217

Chair: John Robertson, University of Memphis

Violence in America is as American as Cherry Pie: The Decline and Systematic Repression of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense
James Jones, Ohio State University

Class and the “Bitter Cry” Against Apathy: Ida B. Wells and Francis Wiliard
Jessica Forehand, University of South Carolina

In Ghoulish Glee: The 1918 Lynching of Mary Turner
Timothy Pitts, Auburn University

Commentator: David Madlock, University of Memphis

Paper Session Four
11:00—1:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 19, 2002
Refreshments will be available between panel sessions

Panel One

African American Political Agency
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 215

Chair: Doug Cupples, University of Memphis

Freed People’s Politics: Establishing a Political Community in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1865-1868
Justin Behrend, Northwestern University

From Maternalism to Revolutionary Solidarity: Black Women Protesting America’s Involvement in the Vietnam War
Leaders, Reformers, and Martyrs: African-American Women in the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union
Thom Copeland, Henderson State University

Commentator: Gail Murray, Rhodes College

Panel Two

Slave Resistance
Fogelman Executive Center, Room 217

Chair: Gary Edwards, University of Memphis

Pattie Rollers to Pattie Owners: Ex-Slave Stories About Patrols as Anti-Slavery Arguments
Greg Downs, Northwestern University

Seas of Freedom: How New York City Slaves Utilized the Sea and Conflicts Between Slave Masters and Ship Captains as Tools of Resistance from 1700-1783
Charles Foy, Rutgers University

A “Runaway By Nature”? Plantation Slavery During the Civil War
Amy Crowson, University of Georgia

Commentator: Winthrop Jordan, University of Mississippi

"Memphis State Eight" Paper Prize Presentation

September 18, 1959, desegregation began at what was then Memphis State University. Under protection of police escort, Ralph Prater, Luther McClellan, John Simpson, Eleanor Gandy, Sammie Burnett, Bertha Mae Rogers, Rose Blakney, and Marvis LaVerne Kneeland braved crowds of demonstrators waving Confederate battle flags and "Civil Rights for Whites" signs. In this atmosphere of hostility, these students began their university education in an interracial setting. Plainclothes policemen were assigned to these "Memphis State Eight" escorting them to class. The students attended their classes during the school's four-hour morning session and left campus by noon. Elements of segregation persisted as they were forced to sit in the “Negro” section of Crump Stadium for football games and were prohibited from entering the school cafeteria and student center. Only two graduated within four years, although most of them eventually completed degrees either at the university or elsewhere.

In honor of these pioneers of educational integration, the University of Memphis Department of History and the
Graduate History Association are pleased to announce the continuation of "The Memphis State Eight" Paper Prize for excellence in historical writing of the African American experience. The paper prize is divided into first place ($250), second place ($125) and third place ($75) prizes and will be awarded during the closing ceremony of the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference in African American History on October 19, 2002.