

'Innovation Award' Supports Workshops

SOHP Extends a Long Tradition of Public Services

In October 2002, the SOHP received an "Innovation Award" from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, one of just three such awards made nationally. Designed to advance graduate education in the humanities by "encourag[ing] Ph.D. students to interact with the world outside the academy as part of their graduate training," the Award funded "Sowing Skills, Harvesting History," a series of workshops designed to advance oral history research at the community level. The workshops, each led by a pair of UNC graduate students trained and supported by SOHP staff, drew capacity audiences in Washington, Winston-Salem, and Waynesville. Additional funding was provided by the North Carolina Humanities Council, with whom we partnered in advertising the workshops.

Workshop leaders Katie Otis and Danny DeVries (Washington), Angela Hornsby and Rivka Eisner (Winston-Salem), and Kerry Taylor and Kate Willink (Waynesville) provided "basic training" in oral history, discussing oral history theory, interview techniques, equipment, post-interview processing, and ways to share and present findings. Attendees, who included leaders of local historical societies, high school and community college instructors, representatives of museums and community-based civic organizations, college students, and family historians and genealogists, shared their plans for a rich array of local oral history studies. Participants' enthusiasm confirmed our belief that oral history is an excellent means to forge partnerships between university-based researchers and the public at large, and our conviction that UNC graduate students make invaluable, and underappreciated, contributions to the life of the University and the state.

During the next several months, the six workshop co-leaders will provide consulting support to local groups with active oral history projects underway. This effort will extend the SOHP's ties to groups producing new historical knowledge across the state, while also enriching the training of the doctoral students by allowing them to reach beyond the walls of the academy as a key element of their graduate training.

Building on our success, we plan to seek both permanent University support for such outreach and, in the short term, further support from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Apart from the 'Innovation Award' workshops, the SOHP continued to serve the wider public as a clearinghouse for oral history expertise, offering advice, support, and training to a broad constituency. Jacquelyn Hall and fellow history faculty member and former National Endowment for the Humanities chair Bill Ferris provided advice to Sen. Edward Kennedy concerning a prospective major oral history study of his senatorial career. SOHP coordinator of outreach Beth Millwood spearheaded our ongoing outreach efforts, which involved every member of the SOHP staff. Besides fielding countless telephone requests for advice and guidance, Millwood consulted at length, for example, with representatives from UNC-Wilmington's library staff, the Atlantic Beach Historical Society, and the Historic Greenville Foundation, and teamed with Southern Historical Collection manuscripts librarian Linda Sellars to explain the SOHP Collection to visiting American Studies scholars from Spain and, separately, to visiting scholars from Namibia who are beginning an oral history program in that country. Millwood also facilitated the Namibians' attendance at an SOHP oral history workshop. With Jacquelyn Hall, she consulted with Dr. Janna Dieckman in the School of Nursing on an oral history component of a project documenting nursing care for the chronically ill. Millwood also joined SOHP associate director Joe Mosnier for an oral history

THE SOUTHERN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM IS OFFERING

SOHP

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

The Southern Oral History Program, in collaboration with the North Carolina Humanities Council, will present three ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS during spring 2003. These workshops, designed to advance oral history at the community level, are free and open to the general public. No prior experience with oral history is required.

Each workshop will provide examples, hands-on "basic training" in oral history, the use of appropriate interview techniques, and discuss the past. Workshop leaders will discuss oral history theory, interview techniques, equipment, post-interview processing, and ways to share and present findings. This training is ideal for members of local historical groups, schools, and other community-based organizations, as well as for family historians and genealogists.

The SOHP will select a small number of projects that emerge from or are encouraged by the workshops for subsequent consulting and advisory support.

THE WORKSHOPS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC, BUT PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

March 6, 2003 Washington, NC	OTIS, KATIE AND DEVRIES, DANNY P.O. Box 1000 112 East North St. Washington, NC 27880 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
March 22, 2003 Winston-Salem, NC	HORNBSBY, ANGELA AND EISNER, RIVKA P.O. Box 1000 2000 E. Franklin Dr. Winston-Salem, NC 27399 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
April 26, 2003 Waynesville, NC	TAYLOR, KERRY AND WILLINK, KATE P.O. Box 1000 415 S. Cleveland St. Waynesville, NC 28786 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Handouts about oral history are available at each workshop registration table.

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The NCHC Awarded in 1973 and widely recognized as one of the nation's top oral history programs, seeks to foster a critical yet sensitive understanding of the South's history, culture, problems, and prospects. The Program is part of the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.