

# TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROGRAM

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A partnership of the University of Alabama Department of History, College of Education, the Alabama Museum of Natural History, the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools, the Alabama Consortium for Educational Renewal, and the Westervelt-Warner Museum of American Art

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## Making History - Cohort I Master History Teachers

### Highlights:

- Summer Institute 2004 - 19 teachers participated in 2 week graduate history course on Civil Rights and Southern History
- History Alive! workshop on powerful teaching strategies August 25
- Traveling Trunks workshop by the Alabama Museum of Natural History and the Westervelt-Warner Museum of American Art September 14
- Historians- and Teachers-in-Residence assist in classrooms
- Student Surveys administered to high school classes in the City and County Schools December 2004

### “While we read history we make history.”

The teachers in the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools made history in 2004 when they participated in the Teaching American History Program summer institute and fall workshops. Never before have teachers in the city and county been offered such extensive and on-going opportunities for professional development in U.S. History. Two weeks of intensive graduate coursework in Civil Rights and Southern History immersed 5th, 6th, 10th, and 11th grade teachers in rich primary source material and powerful teaching strategies. Twelve professors from the Univer-

sity of Alabama history department, Law School, Museum of Natural History, and College of Education joined together to captivate, motivate, stimulate, and inspire the experienced teachers who came from 8 to 3 everyday. Field trips on and off the UA campus kept interest and enthusiasm high.

Two workshops in the fall offered additional teaching strategies and museum materials. Kathleen Geraghty from Teachers Curriculum Institute flew in from Flor-

ida to present powerful interactive History Alive! teaching strategies in August. A few weeks later, our museum partners presented their trav-

*The traveling trunk was a breath of fresh air to our American History studies. The "hands-on" replicas of colonial toys, clothing, and musical instruments played in the past gave my students a concrete source in which they could construct their personal references to colonial times. Misconceptions of how imports, such as tea, were packaged gave us all a new mental picture of the "Boston Tea Party"! -Susie Morris*

eling trunks available only to TAHF teachers. The breadth and uniqueness (continued on back)



## Looking Forward to Cohort II Summer Institute July 18 - 29

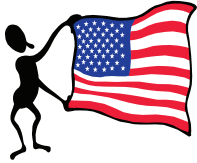
Recruitment for Summer Institute 2005 Revolution to Reconciliation in Alabama and America: The Living Constitution in a Diverse Society (1607-2005) begins this month. We widened enrollment to include 4th grade teachers along with our 5th, 6th, 10th, and 11th,

grades since so much of what is covered is applicable to the Alabama history curriculum. Meetings will be held at all city and county high schools with feeder middle and elementary school teachers invited to attend. Once again summer participants will re-

ceive a \$500 stipend, free books, lesson plans, CDs DVDs, atlases, etc. The Institute will be led by Dr. Greg Dorr of the University of Alabama's History Department and Dr. Liza Wilson of the College of Education, with a variety of visiting professors. Four workshops will be held during the year.

## Making History in the Teaching American History Program (continued)

of these outstanding visual and kinesthetic tools have proved to be a success with the students. They are a great way to motivate interest in American history.



Making history as teachers in Cohort 1 are Becky Brown, Brookwood High; Lisa Matherson, Yosondra Irby, Bryant High; Russell

Hammack, Jerome Jennings, David Truhett, Central High; Diane Gosa, Echols Middle; Christy Passmore, Brookwood Middle; Ryan Ballard, Brookwood Elementary; Susie Morris, Flatwoods Elementary;

Wanda Gellington, Faucett-Vestavia Elementary; Terry Langford, Maxwell Elementary; Barbara Beemer, Northridge High; Tina Williams, Skyland Elementary; Angela Williams, Tuscaloosa Middle; Terri Burnette, University Place Montessori; and Barbara Thompson, Wilma Daniel, Westlawn Middle.

The Teaching American History Program is a research study. Besides the teachers in Cohort I, 20 teachers who did not participate in the summer institute and workshops agreed to be in a “control” group. Along with Cohort I they took online content and resource surveys and agreed to have their

students surveyed about attitudes and instructional strategies. In December we collected data from the high school teachers and students in the two groups. Dr. Joan Barth from the Institute of Social Science Research at the University of Alabama is working with us to analyze it to learn about the effectiveness of our program. Thank you control group teachers Brenda Peoples, Wanda Lovell, Bryant High; Kristie Gray, Ray Hubbard, David Stanley, Brookwood High, Janet Crowder, Kelly Green, Ann-Marie Peirano, Northridge; Shari Gilbert, Hillcrest High; and James Bonds, Holt High. Research will continue in the spring semester.

## February and March Workshops

Master History Teachers can attend two new workshops. February 24 Dr. Jennifer Dail of the University of Alabama will present reading strategies for history with an online discussion with Chris Crowe, author of two books the teachers will receive, *Murder in Mississippi, 1955*—a fictional account of the murder of Emmet Till—and *Getting Away with Murder: The True Story*

*of the Emmett Till Case*, a non-fiction work. Examples using both early and late periods of U.S. history will be given as well as a notebook of strategies and graphic organizers.

TAHP Master History Teachers, Lisa Matherson, Bryant High, and Susie Morris, Flatwoods Elementary will lead the final workshop on technology in March.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

**Read all about it!**



Hats off to TAHP Master History Teacher and Advisory Council Member, **Yosondra Irby**, who won the Tuscaloosa City Schools System-wide nomination for Teacher of the Year and was named Local School Communicator of the Year for the Alabama LSCA.

## Historians- and Teachers-in-Residence

Six graduate students in History and Education at the University of Alabama work closely with our Master History Teachers providing them with websites, maps, books, lessons plans, PowerPoint presentations, and other audio-visuals assuring historical accuracy and student interest. Randy Hourigan,

Mike Mansfield, and Leah Vincent, doctoral students in history, and Melissa Cook, Randi Hamm (Fall Semester), Ashley Potoukian (Spring), and Mindy Pierce in the Masters program in Education, make up the hard-working, deeply appreciated, corps of Historians—and Teachers-in-Residence.

## Information on TAHP

For more information on TAHP contact ZuZu Freyer,  
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