50 Years After Freedom Summer: Understanding the Past, Building the Future

Conference and Reunion
Miami University
October 11-14, 2014
Historian, social activist, writer, co-chair of Veterans of Hope Project, Professor of Religion and Social Transformation at Illiff School of Theology in Denver, and friend and confidante of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Conference Committee joins Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children’s Defense Fund, in paying tribute to Dr. Harding, who had been scheduled to attend the conference.

Her essay, published in the Huffington Post after Dr. Harding’s May 19 death, cited an excerpt from a speech he gave in 2012 on his 81st birthday:

He told us he believed America was a wounded nation, but despite so many years of struggle he remained convinced America could and must get better. He urged all of us to commit ourselves to healing America and making our country what it should be. We can honor him by repeating his important message and trying to make it reality.

He shared a line he heard a West African poet recite: “He made this fantastic statement that I want to pass on to you as a birthday gift. He said, ‘I am a citizen of a country that does not yet exist.’” The poet was speaking about his homeland, which was going through political turmoil on the road to independence. But my dear brother Vincent said it applied to our current national spiritual and moral crisis in America: “We are citizens of a country that we still have to create—a just country, a compassionate country, a forgiving country, a multiracial, multi-religious country, a joyful country that cares about its children and about its elders, that cares about itself and about the world, that cares about what the earth needs as well as what individual people need.”

“I am, you are, a citizen of a country that does not yet exist,” he continued, “and that badly needs to exist. And I want to offer you the opportunity to celebrate my birthday with me by pledging deep in you that you are not going to give up this life without offering yourself totally to the creation of this country that does not yet exist.”
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Welcome — or welcome back — to Oxford, Ohio!

Fifty years ago this past summer, the city where Miami University has made its home for more than two centuries was making headlines across the country. Some 800 young people spent two weeks on what was then the Western College for Women — and is now Miami’s Western Campus — preparing for the challenge of a lifetime. After one week of training, volunteers headed to Mississippi to encourage black Mississippians to register to vote. Within days, the second wave of volunteers followed having learned how to set up Freedom Schools, community centers, and other sites to critical services in African-American communities. During that same time, two organizers and one volunteer left Oxford, arrived in Mississippi, and, just a day later, lost their lives at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan. Since that time, the Miami University community has come to know and tell the many stories of Freedom Summer 1964 and to celebrate improvements in racial inequities while pushing for continued freedoms for all persons.

That has been especially true in recent months, during a year we called “Celebrating Freedom.” We have welcomed a cadre of leading civil rights figures to campus — Judi Hampton of “Eyes on the Prize” fame; former NAACP president Ben Jealous; authors Jonathan Kozol and Bruce Watson; Freedom Summer photographer Herbert Randall; immigration activist Jose Vargas; and journalists such as Wil Haygood, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, and Juan Williams — to showcase their role in advancing civil rights. We continued the celebration as this academic year began with civil rights film discussions and art exhibits at the Miami Art Museum, the Armstrong Student Center, and the Miami Middletown campus. With this conference, “50 Years After Freedom Summer: Understanding the Past, Building the Future,” we bring our commemoration to a close with four days of focus on the goals and ideals of that summer now five decades past.

If you were a volunteer or trainer during Freedom Summer 1964, we welcome you back to Oxford. If you are a scholar, student, or activist making your first visit to Oxford, we offer our appreciation for your interest and participation. If you are a member of the Miami or wider Oxford community, we applaud you for taking the time to deepen your understanding and appreciation of that pivotal season in our nation’s history. To all of you, we express our sincere appreciation for helping to carry on the goal of ensuring freedom on all fronts — for all people.

Sincerely,

David Hodge
President
October 2014

Dear Freedom Summer Reunion and Conference Participants:

In June of 1964, an estimated 800 students gathered on the campus of Western College for Women. The Mississippi Summer Training sessions in Oxford, Ohio, would forever change their lives and those of Mississippi residents. We are thrilled that so many of you — the 1964 Freedom Summer volunteers and trainers, civil rights activists, academics, and members of the Oxford, Miami University, and other communities and countries – are here to commemorate the legacy of that time at "50 Years After Freedom Summer: Understanding the Past, Building the Future."

In 1964, Western College opened its campus for civil rights training that would become a pivotal event in the American Civil Rights Movement. With that act, the college with a reputation for fostering independent thinkers cemented its place in local, state, national, and international history. It was at Western that many of the Freedom Summer veterans first learned that many of their brothers and sisters in Mississippi and elsewhere lived under the brutal injustices of segregation and were denied so many basic rights: the right to vote; the right to live and work where they wanted; the right to dine in restaurants; the right to sit in movie theaters; the right to attend the schools they desired; the right to speak out against injustice; and the right to hope and plan for a brighter future for their children.

While we recognize that much work remains to secure equal rights for all in our country, we celebrate how far we have come as a nation and a people, and we commit ourselves to continuing the work to ensure inclusion and equality for everyone in our nation. This is the spirit with which we conceived this conference: understanding the past and building the future.

This conference is dedicated to all who have devoted their lives to these efforts over the past 50 years and to all of our brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the struggle. We pay particular tribute to the recently deceased Dr. Vincent Harding, who had planned to be with us this week. Dr. Harding, like so many of the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement, believed that a "just country, a compassionate country … a joyful country" was within reach for those who continued to work for the rights of all. As we offer gratitude for his extraordinary contributions, we thank, too, the many groups and individuals who came together to make this conference possible. Among them:

- Nearly four dozen Miami University entities – from the President’s Office to the Western College Alumnae Association to the individual departments and programs, which contributed funds, along with generous individuals, to support the conference. They are listed in full in the back of this program.

- Community partners including the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Oxford Chapter of the NAACP, the Ohio Farmer’s Union, the Oxford Community Arts Center, and a Community Outreach Subcommittee headed by one of Oxford’s own civil rights visionaries, Sybil Harris Miller, Miami ’66.

- Nearly 25 Miami University faculty, students, and staff from all across campus who assisted with tasks big and small, as members of the Planning Committee. Special acknowledgements to Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, co-founder of the conference, for her work on reunion events and community outreach; Mary Jane Berman, director of the Center for American and World Cultures, who chaired our fundraising and oversaw logistics with the very able assistance of Dorothy Falke of the CAWC; Kate Rousmaniere, our programming chair who assembled outstanding panels; and Patricia Gallagher Newberry, our communications chair, who coordinated our communications efforts.

- More than 125 conference presenters, who will speak to a diverse range of topics from a wide selection of disciplines and points of view.

- You – our conference guests – for joining us to once again honor the veterans of Freedom Summer of 1964 and to reflect on how that moment in civil rights history helped to pave the path to so many other efforts to provide justice for all. It is our hope that this conference will also inspire, educate, and motivate the next generation of “freedom fighters” to become active in social justice and civil rights issues as they prepare to become citizens of the world.

Yours in the struggle,
Jacqueline Johnson
Chair, "50 Years After Freedom Summer” Planning Committee
The Mississippi Summer Project of 1964 was a complex and creative campaign that came at a crucial turning point in the American Civil Rights Movement. “Freedom Summer,” as it would later be called, involved a coalition of several organizations, with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee as its driving force. Throughout the early 1960s, SNCC developed direct action sit-in strategies, participated in Freedom Rides, developed projects throughout the South, and eventually turned its focus to voting rights and voter education. The Mississippi Summer Project illustrates a complex and multipronged initiative that was designed to inform the entire nation about the plight of African-Americans in Mississippi, shining the spotlight on injustices that had been ignored there. Frustrated by the escalating violence and the murders of key allies in Mississippi communities, Bob Moses suggested that SNCC focus all its resources on Mississippi and reinvigorate its work by recruiting volunteers from a national pool of college students. Moses’ proposal was extremely controversial. Why should SNCC invite uninformed outsiders who might jeopardize delicate relationships with local people forged through their hard work?

With doubts and trepidation, debates raged within SNCC as its leaders conceived the “Summer Project” and recruited students from all over the country. Voting rights had been a key focus of SNCC’s efforts in Mississippi. However, by this point in their efforts, activists knew just how enormous the obstacles to voting were, so Freedom Summer was much more than a voting rights campaign. There were three major focuses: 1.) educating and registering African-American voters; 2.) establishing Freedom Schools to teach youth core subjects while emphasizing black history and citizenship skills; 3.) building community centers that offered health care, recreation, and necessary social support systems. Other related efforts included public relations and communications, research projects, legal efforts, the Delta ministry project, the Medical Committee for Human Rights, and the “White Folk’s Project,” an effort to organize white working class allies in the Gulf Coast region. Freedom Summer was a comprehensive effort to re-imagine Mississippi and introduce African-Americans to the rights, privileges, and support systems enjoyed by other American citizens.

In working toward these ambitious goals, Freedom Summer brought together four very different groups of people. Civil rights activists from organizations like SNCC and CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) attracted mostly Northern-educated college students. Another group included local Mississippi citizens and activists. These risk-takers were willing to endure reprisals from employers, family, and friends. They founded COFO (Council of Federated Organizations) that managed the coalition of organizations running the summer project, and they founded MFDP (Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party). Finally, there were volunteers — college students who
volunteered for the Summer Project. In mid-June 1964, the groups met in Oxford, Ohio, at Western College for Women to prepare for the summer’s work. The volunteers had applied for the Summer Project, providing references and undergoing interviews. Each provided funds for housing and food, as well as bail if arrested.

The orientation at Western College for Women is significant for many reasons. It illustrates many of the growing pains social movements experience as they reached out to recruit and train new members. Activists had to train new volunteers in how to, first, survive in Mississippi and then, secondarily, how to register voters, teach in Freedom Schools, or organize community members. How could they transfer all of their knowledge from their previous struggles to the new recruits? How could they create a shared understanding of their goals and a unified sense of purpose? How could white students of privilege begin to understand the institutionalized oppression that the people of Mississippi had experienced? Because the project took place all over the state, the orientation was the one moment when all of the activists were in one place and time, making it an important opportunity to develop group solidarity and launch a publicity campaign. The national media eagerly filmed white college students learning nonviolent ways to face violent opposition. SNCC activists had begun to wonder if the American public had become desensitized to images of black bodies facing violence. Would the American people become interested in the injustices in Mississippi if they saw their own sons and daughters in the front lines of the struggle? The orientation peaked the interest of the public. At the start of the second week of training — when Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman went missing — there was no doubt that this was a national story of historic proportions. The disappearance of the three men was exactly the situation that trainers in Oxford taught volunteers to avoid. From Oxford, SNCC appealed to the federal government for FBI intervention to find the three men and federal protection for the rest of the summer. By the end of the second week, activists knew Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman were most likely dead. Bob Moses encouraged volunteers with any doubts to drop out of the project.

Early on the morning of June 20, 1964, the three men — Schwerner, a white organizer from New York; Chaney, a black activist from Meridian, Miss.; and Goodman, a white Freedom Summer volunteer from New York — had left Oxford, Ohio, headed for Mississippi. The next day, they left Meridian,
Miss., for a town 40 miles north called Philadelphia, aiming to investigate a church burning near there. A Neshoba County sheriff arrested them there, allegedly for speeding, and held them in the county jail in Philadelphia until about 10 that night. They disappeared immediately after their release, ambushed by the Ku Klux Klan. The burned remains of their car were discovered in a nearby swamp a day after their disappearance. Six weeks later, on Aug. 4, their bodies were discovered on a farm southwest of Philadelphia, buried under a 15-foot earthen dam. Chaney had been badly beaten and all three had been shot.

The deaths of Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman brought intense and lasting attention to the Freedom Summer Project. “My husband, Michael Schwerner, did not die in vain,” his widow, Rita Schwerner, told media in 1964. “If he and Andrew Goodman had been Negroes, the world would have taken little notice of their deaths. After all, the slaying of a Negro in Mississippi is not news. It is only because my husband and Andrew Goodman were white that the national alarm has been sounded.” The state of Mississippi initially charged 18 individuals with violating the civil rights of Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman. In 1967, the state convicted seven of them, sending them to prison in 1970 for terms that lasted less than six years. In 2005, after reopening the case, the state convicted Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray Killen of manslaughter in connection with the deaths and sentenced him to 60 years in prison. Killen, now 89, is imprisoned at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman.

The Freedom Summer story has been told dozens of times over the past 50 years – in media accounts, books, films, and more. In Oxford, Miami University memorialized the three civil rights workers in 2000, installing the Freedom Summer Memorial on Western Campus next to Kumler Memorial Chapel. The university hosted a conference and reunion commemorating Freedom Summer’s 25th, 40th, and 45th anniversaries, and began working on 50th anniversary events in 2012.

The 50th anniversary inspired Miami’s broader “Celebrating Freedom” programming of the past year. “Celebrating Freedom: Understanding the Past, Building the Future” included a year of events to reflect on the progress made and the efforts yet to come in the United States and globally to ensure the freedom and dignity of all people. The celebration focused on such issues as civil rights, immigration, voting rights, women’s rights, gay rights, freedom of speech, human rights, and others — all related to the basic right of freedom.
Freedom Summer walking tour, 2014, photo by Patricia Gallagher Newberry.

Volunteer Roland Duerksen, center, in Mississippi in 1964, courtesy of Duerksen Photograph Collection, Western College Memorial Archives.

Volunteer Carole Gross Colca in Mississippi in 1964, courtesy of Colca Photograph Collection, Western College Memorial Archives.
Saturday, October 11, Reunion Day 1

8-11:30 a.m. Arrive at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) with courtesy shuttle to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center departing from CVG baggage claim information desk at 12:30 p.m. Arriving civil rights veterans will be provided a boxed lunch on the shuttle. (Other guests may dine at restaurants in downtown Cincinnati, including The Yard House Restaurant across from the Freedom Center, 95 E. Freedom Way, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, (513) 381-4071.)

1-4 p.m. Visit National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, 50 E. Freedom Way, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, (513) 333-7739. Registration packets will be available for all pre-registered participants. Refreshments available in third-floor private room for reunion attendees.

2:30 p.m. “Choosing Freedom: The Mississippi Summer Project 1964.” This 25-minute production — created by Miami University theatre students and performed by Cincinnati high school students who are docents of the Freedom Center — depicts the 1964 Freedom Summer training in Oxford.

3 p.m. Self-guided Freedom Center tours including “All for the Cause,” an exhibit of 35 mixed-media portraits of civil rights leaders by Larry Collins, Miami University Art Department.

4:45 p.m. Official welcome and announcements, Discovery Room 1.

5:05 p.m. Buffet dinner at Freedom Center, Hall of Everyday Freedom Heroes and Terrace, for pre-registered attendees. (Dinner on own, in downtown Cincinnati, for all others.)

6:45 p.m. Social break.

7:05 p.m. Welcome by President C.G. Newsome, president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

7:10 p.m. Discussion and songs with Freedom Singers Charles Neblett and Rutha Mae Harris, Hall of Everyday Freedom Heroes and Terrace. (Ticketed event.)

7:50 p.m. Student-to-student question-and-answer session.

8:30 p.m. Transportation to Marcum Center and other hotels in Oxford.
Sunday, October 12, Reunion Day 2

7:45 a.m. Shuttle service from Marcum Center and Oxford hotels begins. (Breakfast on own.)

9-10:15 a.m. Interfaith Gathering, Kumler Memorial Chapel, Miami Western Campus.

10:15-10:30 a.m. Light refreshments, Miami Western Campus, Peabody Hall Parlor 115.

10:30 a.m.-noon Options include:
  • Story circles/sharing groups, 10:30 a.m.-noon, civil rights veterans only, in Peabody Hall 21, 24, 29, and 31. Moderator Gloria Wade Gayles will invite participants to respond to Vincent Harding’s 1964 address, available at http://www.crmvet.org/docs/harding.htm. (Open only to registered 1964 veterans.)
  • “Walk with Me: Freedom Summer Interactive History Tour,” 10:30-11:30 a.m., beginning at Clawson Hall on Western Drive, progressing to Peabody Hall and concluding at the Freedom Summer Memorial. This 45-minute, student-led, interactive experience immerses participants in the events surrounding Freedom Summer. (The tour is wheelchair accessible.)

“Orientation to Freedom Summer: An Interactive Quest for Social Justice,” National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start-Up Project, Peabody Hall front porch. In this location-based game, players will use an iOS device and a free “app” to experience the training for Freedom Summer. Student facilitators, along with creator and organizer Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, Miami University Theatre Department, will have devices available for use and will serve as guides in the test of this prototype.

Noon-1 p.m. Boxed lunch, Peabody Hall Parlor 115. (Open only to registered 1964 veterans.)

1:10-1:45 p.m. Unveiling of Freedom Summer Chimes, Freedom Summer Memorial, next to Kumler Memorial Chapel, with remarks by Miami University President David Hodge. The Freedom Summer Chimes and three dogwood trees commemorate James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, slain in Mississippi after leaving Oxford in June of 1964, and others who have devoted their lives to civil rights and social justice.
1:45-4:30 p.m.  
Options include:

- “Remembering Oxford Ohio Orientation,” photographs and participatory timeline, Peabody Hall 120. See photos and a timeline of events that took place in Oxford, Ohio, in June 1964, and share your memories. Facilitated by Western Program Interdisciplinary Studies students.

- “History Harvest,” Peabody Hall 120. Donate personal materials (documents, records, diaries, photographs, etc.) to the Freedom Summer Collection at the Western College Archives.

2-3 p.m.  
Options include:

- “Faces of Freedom Summer” tour and talk with transportation provided from Peabody Hall to Miami University Art Museum. This milestone anniversary exhibition commemorating the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Project features more than 100 photos printed from the original negatives taken by photojournalist Herbert Randall. Additional materials include documents distributed to the trainees, Philip Morsberger’s painting titled “Missing No. 1” (based on the FBI missing persons poster), and a documentary about the photographer created by Miami University Media, Journalism & Film students Sara Hornbeck and Emily Potten under the direction of Kathy Conkwright, Miami University Journalism Program. Mr. Randall will conduct a tour and talk about his work at 2 p.m., with a reception in his honor, co-sponsored by the Association of Black Faculty & Staff, at 3 p.m. “Faces” continues through Dec. 6 at the Art Museum, open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, noon-5 p.m.

- “Passing the Torch,” Leonard Theatre, Peabody Hall 121. Undergraduate students from the Miami University Social Action Center and the Andrew Goodman Foundation Ambassador program discuss the power of voting and how students can engage, educate, and mobilize their communities to take collective action using their voices and networks.

3-3:15 p.m.  
Refreshments in Peabody Hall, Parlor 115.

3:15-4:30 p.m.  

4:30-5 p.m.  
Shuttle service from Peabody Hall to hotels, and hotels to Community Program.

5-7:15 p.m.  
Community Program and Dinner, Oxford Community Arts Center, 10 S. College Ave., Oxford, Ohio, with art exhibit by Talawanda High School students. Sponsored by the Oxford NAACP, The Ohio Farmer’s Union, the Oxford Community Arts Center, and the Robert E. Strippel Memorial Continuing Dialogue on Social Justice and Human Rights. (Ticketed event.)
7:20 p.m. Shuttle service to hotels.

7:30 p.m.

“Training for Freedom: How Ordinary People in an Unusual Time & Unlikely Place Made Extraordinary History,” presented by Kathy Conkwright, Miami Journalism Program, and Jacqueline Johnson, Miami Archives, at the Oxford Community Arts Center. This special screening will include selected scenes from a work-in-progress documentary that depicts the transformational story of the 1964 Freedom Summer orientation sessions held on the grounds of the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio. Film clips explore what happened over the course of just six days in this small, isolated Midwestern town that made it possible for dramatically different groups to break down the barriers of race, class, and gender and come together as one united force on the front lines of America’s freedom struggle. Learn more about why they were willing to risk their lives, liberties, and freedoms to guarantee the same for every American citizen; and how their efforts defined a divided nation and altered the course of history. Screening of 30 minutes will be followed with Q&A of 15-30 minutes.

8:45 p.m. Shuttle service to hotels.

Ongoing events, Sunday afternoon:

- “Remembering Oxford Ohio Orientation,” photographs and participatory timeline. Drop in at the Peabody Hall Gallery to see photos and a timeline of events that took place in Oxford, Ohio, in June 1964, and share your memories. Facilitated by Western Interdisciplinary Studies students.
- “History Harvest.” Stop at the Peabody Hall Gallery to donate personal materials (documents, records, diaries, photographs, etc.) to the Freedom Summer Collection at the Western College Archives.
- “The Remarkable Stantons, Miami University and the ‘Magnificent Dwelling’ Exhibit.” Visit this exhibit 1-5 p.m. during the conference at McGuffey Museum, Spring and Oak streets on Miami’s campus. The work profiles four members of the Stanton family, including the renowned Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her brother-in-law Robert L. Stanton, President of Miami University, 1866-1871. The Stanton House, built 1868, was located opposite the McGuffey House on campus. The Stanton exhibit continues through Oct. 30.
- “Risking Everything, A Freedom Summer Exhibit for Students.” Visit the second floor of the Armstrong Student Center to see the Wisconsin Historical Society exhibit depicting various aspects of Freedom Summer, Mississippi, 1964.

“If you can’t fly, then run,
If you can’t run, then walk,
If you can’t walk, then crawl,
But whatever you do,
You have to keep moving forward.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.
Freedom Summer Conference

Monday, October 13, Conference
(All sessions will take place in the Marcum Center, unless otherwise noted.)

7:45 a.m. Shuttle service from area hotels begins. (Breakfast on own.)

9-10:30 a.m. “Understanding the Past, Building the Future” opening session, Marcum 180-186, with Raymond F. Gorman, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, introducing a conversation between contemporary civil rights activists about the role of the Civil Rights Movement, past and present.

• Moderator: Jerome Conley, Miami University Dean and University Librarian.

• Panelists: Charles Cobb, Brown University; Sylvia Golbin Goodman, The Andrew Goodman Foundation; David Goodman, The Andrew Goodman Foundation; Tom Dutton, Miami University; Gloria Wade Gayles, Spelman College; Rev. Clifton Kilpatrick, community organizer and pastor, Zanesville, Ohio; Hanan Sabea, The American University in Cairo.

10:30-10:45 a.m. Coffee break and book signing, Marcum lobby.

10:45 a.m.-noon Wil Haygood presents “Thurgood Marshall and His Dangerous Summers in the American South,” Marcum 180-186. Haygood, Miami ’76, and biographer, screenwriter, Washington Post journalist, and visiting faculty member in Miami’s Department of Media, Journalism & Film, will speak on his current work on former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, with introduction by Ron Scott, Miami Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity.

Noon-1:30 p.m. Chude Allen presents “Telling Our Stories for History and Healing,” Marcum 154-158. Allen, a Freedom Summer 1964 volunteer, will present a keynote speech at a lunch co-sponsored by the Oxford Institute for Learning in Retirement, with introduction by Edna Carter Southard, Curator of Collections Emerita, Miami University Art Museum and Oxford City Council Member. (Ticketed event.)

1:45-3 p.m Monday Conference Block 1 options include:

Session #1.1, Marcum 112:
“Rising Up, Transcending Oppression: The Unstoppable Run-Up to Freedom Summer in Oxford and the Region, Part 1.”

Drawing upon interviews and narratives of longtime residents of Oxford, Ohio, this panel engages in dialogue about the ways in which they and their families experienced,
navigated, and often transcended racially-oppressive aspects of the local environment. They discuss the nature and rising power of activism in the Oxford community from the 1930s to the late 1950s, as the Civil Rights Movement picked up steam, and the run-up to the 1960s and Freedom Summer.

- Moderator: Janet Smith Dickerson, Western College for Women ’65, retired Vice President for Campus Life, Princeton University.
- Participants: William R. Miller, Oxford resident; Bessie Suel Miller, Oxford resident; William R. Miller Jr., Miami ’67; Ronald M. Miller, Miami 1960s; Paula Smith, Miami ’63; Langford Hargraves, Miami 1960s; Peter Knox, Miami ’61; Darla Jackson Knox, Miami ’63; Sibyl Harris Miller, Miami ’66; Ali Vincent, Miami ’15; Myka Lipscomb, Miami ’16.

Session #1.2, Marcum 110:

“Learning to Protest: Student Activism and Freedom Schooling.”

This panel examines past and present student activism by examining the Freedom Schools, alternative schools for African-Americans founded in the South during the Civil Rights Movement, which were based on a pedagogy that students should be educated as agents of social change. This session focuses on the history of Freedom Schools and how contemporary classrooms can learn about civil rights through studying the Freedom School movement of the past and present. The second presentation examines the 1965 North Shore Summer Project in which 100 black and white students canvassed Chicago’s exclusive North Shore suburbs to challenge discriminatory housing practices.

- Moderators: Staughton Lynd and Mark Levy.
- Presentation 1: “Learning to Protest: The Historical and Contemporary Implications of the Mississippi Freedom Schools,” with Jon Hale, College of Charleston; Dave Strausbaugh, Worthington Kilbourne High School, Columbus, Ohio; and Aramis Malachi-Ture Sundiata, The Ohio Student Association.
- Presentation 2: “The 1965 North Shore Summer Project” with Mary Barr, Clemson University.

Session #1.3, Marcum 186:

“Music and Art in Representations of Civil Rights.”

This panel explores the representation of the Civil Rights Movement through the work of Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol, multimedia, and fiction. Participants may want to view in advance a four-minute film, “Old Jolly Farm,” (available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cMc9hwqILQ) with music by the late Oxford native Rob Morsberger, in collaboration with filmmaker Dave Davidson, and Rob’s father, the artist Philip
Morsberger, about the murders of Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman.

- Moderator: Peg Faimon, Miami University.
- Presentation 1: “Crisis on Canvas: Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol,” with Jennifer Yamashiro, Miami University.
- Presentation 3: “Old Jolly Farm, Rob Morsberger’s Song and Music,” with Mark T. Gilmore, Oxford, Ohio; artist Philip Morsberger; and David Davidson, City University of New York.

Session #1.4, Marcum 180-184:
“Freedom Summer in the News: Journalism and Civil Rights.”
This panel explores the role of journalism in telling and keeping alive the Freedom Summer story and other important moments in the struggle for civil rights, including how the media cover contemporary race issues.

- Moderator: Kathleen Woodruff Wickham, University of Mississippi.
- Panelists: Kathy Conkwright, Miami University; Patricia Gallagher Newberry, Miami University; and Miami students from “Journalism of Freedom Summer” course of spring 2014 and “Documenting Freedom Summer” classes of fall 2013 and spring 2014.

3-3:15 p.m. Coffee break and book signing, Marcum lobby.
3:15-4:30 p.m. Monday Conference Block 2 options include:

Session #2.1, Marcum 112:
“Rising Up, Transcending Oppression: The Unstoppable Run-Up to Freedom Summer in Oxford and the Region, Part 2.”
This panel continues the discussion of the earlier session, with participants sharing their experiences of campus life and the growing civil rights and black power activism at Miami and in Oxford, preceding, during, and following Freedom Summer. They explore ways in which they and others pushed back at injustice, helping to create the unstoppable movement for freedom from oppression. They discuss how these experiences can inform contemporary struggles for social justice in the 21st Century.

- Moderator: Janet Smith Dickerson, Western College for Women ’65, and retired Vice President for Campus Life, Princeton University.
• Panelists: Barbara Cox, Miami ’64; Karen DeWitt, Miami ’66; Sibyl Harris Miller, Miami ’66; Fr. Richard Tolliver, Miami ’67; Deloris Rome Hudson, Miami ’71; Ali Vincent, Miami ’15; and Myka Lipscomb, Miami ’16.

Session #2.2, Marcum 110:
“(Dis)Ability Civil Rights: No More But No Less.”
This panel explores the links between (dis)ability social activism and the Civil Rights Movement. Beginning with a short history of the struggle for civil rights, the panel explores contemporary aspects of disability civil rights activism.

• Moderator: Gloria Wade Gayles, Spelman College.

• Panelists: Kate Rousmaniere, Miami University; Jacqueline Rioja Velarde, Miami University; Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, Miami University Emerita; and Lisa Guliano, Superintendent, Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Session #2.3, Marcum 184:
“Games and Social Justice: A Freedom Summer Location-Based Game.”
This session will include small break-out groups to discuss the potential of games to engage social justice themes. We specifically invite you to playtest the game “Orientation for Freedom Summer: An Interactive Quest for Social Justice,” a location-based game available on the Western campus, and come to share your experience. This project is sponsored by the NEH’s Digital Humanities Start-Up Program. Discussion groups will be facilitated by students and humanities and games consultants Charles Cobb, Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Richard Cooper, Jacqueline Dace, Stephanie Aerni, Nishani Frazier, Katie Steedly, and Eric Hodgson.

• Moderators: Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, Elias Tzoc, and Bob De Schutter, Miami University.

Session #2.4, Marcum 186:
“Vote Everywhere and Always.”
This panel explores campus-based citizen engagement. Through civic participation and education, “Vote Everywhere” develops a national community of campus leaders, called Ambassadors, who engage, educate, and mobilize their communities to take collective action using their votes, voices, and networks. The cornerstone of the Vote Everywhere initiative is the Vote Everywhere Ambassador Program, a yearlong paid internship with The Andrew Goodman Foundation on the Ambassador’s college campus. This session is co-sponsored by the Andrew Goodman Foundation and the Miami University Family Fund.

• Moderator: Mike Curme, Miami University Associate Vice President and Dean of Students.
Panelists: David Goodman, President and Chief Executive, The Andrew Goodman Foundation; Sylvia Golbin Goodman, Executive Director, The Andrew Goodman Foundation; Nadia Hussein, The Andrew Goodman Foundation; Makkah Beasley and Danielle Linowes, Miami University Andrew Goodman Ambassadors; Amanda Watson, Graduate Adviser, Miami Office of Community Engagement and Service, Social Action Center; and Monica Ways, Director, Miami Office of Community Engagement and Service.

Monday, October 13, other events

1:30-4:30 p.m. “Remembering Oxford Ohio Orientation,” photographs and participatory timeline, Marcum 124-126. See photos and a timeline of events that took place in Oxford, Ohio, in June 1964, and share your memories. Facilitated by Western Program Interdisciplinary Studies students.

1:30-4:30 p.m. History Harvest, Marcum 124-126. Share personal materials for Miami University’s Freedom Summer Collection.

3:30-4:30 p.m. “Walk With Me: Freedom Summer Interactive History Tour.” Meet in the Marcum Center lobby for shuttle service to Western Campus to participate in the “Walk With Me” experience.

5:15-6:30 p.m. Dinner with keynote address, Marcum 154-158, by Cleveland Sellers, President of Voorhees College, with introduction by Phyllis Callahan, Dean of the Miami University College of Arts & Science. (Ticketed event.)

6:45 p.m. Shuttle transportation from Marcum Center to Hall Auditorium.

7:30-9 p.m. “People Get Ready: Meditation on Freedom Summer,” Hall Auditorium, with performances by the Miami University Gospel Singers, Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and more. The Performing Arts Series presents this special evening of dramatic readings, interpretations, and music of the early ’60s. Directed by Miami music Professor Tammy Kernodle and Miami theatre Professor Paul Jackson, with introduction by Miami University College of Creative Arts Dean Elizabeth Reitz Mullenix, the program will highlight a variety of genres, including folk music, solo piano, and classical and jazz stylings, performed by faculty and students and reflecting arts of the past 50 years. This special event is sponsored by the Center for American & World Cultures and the Western College Alumnae Association. (Ticketed event. Free tickets, with limit of two, are available from the Miami University box office at Shriver Center for patrons not registered for the conference.)

9 p.m. Shuttle service to Marcum Center and area hotels.
Tuesday, October 14, Conference
(All sessions will take place in the Marcum Center, unless otherwise noted.)

7:45 a.m. Shuttle service from hotels begin. (Breakfast on own.)

9 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Tuesday Conference Block 3 options include:

Session #3.1, Marcum 186:

“Standing on My Sisters’ Shoulders,” an award-winning film that centers on the role of women in the Civil Rights Movement.

Moderator: Keith Parker, Florida Atlantic University.

Session #3.2, Marcum 110:

“The Struggle Continues! The Legacy of Freedom Summer Activism on Gay and Lesbian and Latino Civil Rights Movements.” This session connects the civil rights activism of the past with contemporary civil rights struggles, exploring the politics of identity and shifting coalitions of struggle over social justice, housing, and economic opportunity in the Latino and gay and lesbian Civil Rights Movements since the 1960s.

- Moderator: Janet Mallen, Miami University.

Session #3.3, Marcum 184:

“Middle Eastern Protest Movements and the Heritage of Civil Rights.” Relationships and inheritances were forged between African-American and Middle-Eastern activists during the 1950s and 1960s, when people such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Malcolm X came together with Frantz Fanon, Gamal Abdel Nasser, and Kwame Nkrumah in a spirit of
solidarity. Today, elements of these historical ties remain strong in contemporary Middle Eastern activism. In this panel, scholars and activists reflect on the last four years in Arab countries — the so-called “Arab Spring” — and consider the extent to which social activists in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and other places have been inspired and motivated by the spark of Freedom Summer.

- Moderator: John Schaefer, Miami University.

- Presentation 1: “Arab Spring Overview, History, and Connections,” with Mark Peterson, Miami University.


- Presentation 3: “The Fiscal Politics of Revolt and Rebellion in the Arab World,” with Pete Moore, Case Western Reserve University.


**Session #3.4, Marcum 180:**

“Preserving the Past to Change the Future: Civil Rights Archives and Museums.” This panel addresses the important work of libraries, archives, and museums in collecting and interpreting Civil Rights manuscripts and the significance and use of oral history, images, and other primary resources in Civil Rights history work.

- Moderator: Helen Sheumaker, Miami University.

- Presentation 1: “Collecting Civil Rights Manuscripts at the Wisconsin Historical Society During the 1960s (and Sharing Them Today),” with Jonathan D. Cooper, Wisconsin Historical Society.

- Presentation 2: “The Freedom Summer Collection at Western College Archives,” with Jacqueline Johnson, Miami University.

- Presentation 3: “Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Mississippi Department of Archives and History,” with Jacqueline Dace, Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.


10:15-10:30 a.m. Coffee break and book signing, Marcum Center lobby.

10:30-11:45 a.m. Tuesday Conference Block 4 options include:
Session #4.1, Marcum 112:

“Walking in the Footsteps of History: Student Trips to Civil Rights Sites.” This panel explores students’ experiences on civil rights trips to the South, including a trip for high school students completed this past summer, a winter 2014 trip for Miami University undergraduate students, and the work of the Sojourn to the Past organization that leads high school students in a transformative, life-changing, immersion program to the civil rights sites in the South.

• Moderator: Hollis Watkins, Southern Echo Inc.


• Presentation 2: “Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past,” with Penny Wells and Youngstown, Ohio, high school students.

• Presentation 3: “Miami University Civil Rights Trip,” with Stephen Quaye, Miami University.

Session #4.2, Marcum 180:

“Personal Narratives: Speaking Truth to Power.” This panel offers voices of longtime civil rights activists. Susan Eacker relates her lifetime experiences as an activist in higher education, drawing on the words of Michael Parenti, political scientist and activist, who once admonished his colleagues in the 1960s, “virulent forces are interrupting your academic musings.” Mary Beth Tinker, plaintiff in the Supreme Court’s 1969 landmark students’ rights case Tinker v Des Moines, was 11 when her parents took part in Freedom Summer. She had no idea that Mississippi high school students wearing “One Man One Vote SNCC” buttons would change her life, the Supreme Court, and the rights of students today. James Kates is co-director of a non-profit publishing house that focuses on the 50th anniversary’s publication of “Letters from Mississippi.”

• Moderator: Gerald Yearwood, Miami University.

• Presentation 1: “Carry It On: Thirty Years of Student/Scholar Activism at Miami University, 1984-2014,” Susan A. Eacker, Miami University.

• Presentation 2: “Storytelling, Freedom Songs, and Student Rights,” with Mary Beth Tinker, Director, “The Tinker Tour.”

Session #4.3, Marcum 184:

“Little Known Heroes.” This panel explores the lives, activism, and impacts of civil rights leaders whose stories are not always fully told. Presenters introduce us to the life and work of James L. Farmer Jr., co-founder of the Committee of Racial Equality, which later became the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). The second presentation introduces Mendy Samstein (1939-2007), a full-time organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The third presentation draws on photographic inquiry to analyze places and people from Mississippi’s civil rights history. The fourth presentation relates how local chapters of the National Organization for Women in Butler County challenged the exclusion of women by drawing on strategies for civil right activism.

- Moderator: Adrian Gaskins, Miami University.


- Presentation 3: “Visual Abandonment: Mississippi’s Disappearing Social History,” with Susan Jans-Thomas, University of West Florida.

- Presentation 4: “Feminism and Civil Rights,” with Margaret Dotts, Joshua Kiger, Kaitlin Moore, and Lauren Kraus, Miami students; Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, Miami Emerita; and Joanne McQueen, Oxford, Ohio, community organizer.

Session #4.4, Marcum 186:

“The Moral Monday — Forward Together Movement and the Legacy of Freedom Summer.” This session highlights the dynamic connection between civil rights activism of the past and present with presentations by leading figures in the Moral Monday-Forward Together Movement. Session participants are Rev. Dr. William Barber II, architect of North Carolina’s Moral Monday-Forward Together Movement, and President of the North Carolina NAACP; Adam O’Neal, Republican Mayor of the small town of Belhaven, N.C., who completed a 273-mile walk to Washington, D.C., this past July to draw attention to the health care crisis threatening his rural coastal community following the closure of the area’s only hospital; Dr. John Robert Zellner, civil rights and labor activist who is involved in the Moral Monday Movement and co-author of “The Wrong Side of Murder Creek: A White Southerner in the Freedom Movement;” and James P. Marshall, civil rights activist who is involved in the Moral Monday Movement and author of the 2013 book “Student Activism and Civil Rights in Mississippi: Protest Politics and the Struggle for Racial Justice, 1960-1965.”

Panelists: Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Moral Monday-Forward Together Movement creator; Adam O’Neal, mayor of Belhaven, N.C.; Dr. John Robert Zellner, civil rights and labor organizer in the South since 1961; James P. Marshall, civil rights activist/publicist.

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Keith Beauchamp presents “Understanding from Whence We Came,” Marcum 154-158. Beauchamp, film and TV producer and director, will present a keynote speech at a lunch co-sponsored by the Department of Media, Journalism & Film, with introduction by Patricia Gallagher Newberry, Miami University Journalism Program. His talk title is inspired by James Baldwin’s quote, “Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.” (Ticketed event.)

1:45-2:30 p.m.

The Algebra Project with Bob Moses, Marcum 180-186. Civil rights activist and Freedom Summer 1964 project leader Bob Moses will lead a discussion about The Algebra Project, a non-profit, community-based educational organization he created in 1982, the motto of which is “math literacy is the key to 21st Century Citizenship.”

- Introduction: Marek Dollar, Dean of the Miami University College of Engineering and Computing.
- Participants: Bob Moses, Algebra Project; Albert Sykes, director of the Young People’s Project (YPP), the high school/college chapter of the Algebra Project; Amanda Clawson, Mansfield, Ohio, school district; Lee McEwan, Ohio State University-Mansfield; and Mansfield Senior High School students involved in YPP.

Tuesday, October 14, other events

1:30-4:30 p.m. “Remembering Oxford Ohio Orientation,” photographs and participatory timeline, Marcum 124-126. See photos and a timeline of events that took place in Oxford, Ohio, in June 1964, and share your memories. Facilitated by Western Program Interdisciplinary Studies students.


2:30-5 p.m. “Understanding the Past, Building the Future,” Marcum 154-158. This post-conference workshop and class led by Nishani Frazier, Miami University, with conference presenters Chude Allen, Rev. John Frazier, Gloria Wade Gayles, Dave Dennis, Cleveland Sellers, Sonia Lee, Jared Leighton, and Keith Parker.
3-5 p.m. “Orientation to Freedom Summer: An Interactive Quest for Social Justice: National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start-Up Project,” Marcum lobby. In this location-based game, players will use an iOS device and a free “app” to experience the training for Freedom Summer. Student facilitators, along with creator and organizer Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, Miami University Theatre Department, will have devices available for use and will serve as guides in the test of this prototype. (Transportation will be provided from Marcum to Western Campus for this event.)

5-7 p.m. Reception and unveiling of Bob Moses portrait, Marcum 180-186. Artist Rob Shetterly created a portrait of Moses as part of his series “Americans Who Tell the Truth: Models of Courageous Citizenship.” Co-sponsored by Miami University College of Education, Health & Society, with introduction by Kevin Bush, EHS Associate Dean for Partnerships.

For additional information about Freedom Summer, and the role of Oxford, Ohio, and Miami University in Freedom Summer events over time, visit the following sites:

- Freedom Summer 2014 conference site: www.miamioh.edu/freedomsummer2014
- Celebrating Freedom site: http://miamioh.edu/celebratingfreedom/
- Western College Memorial Archives: http://westernarchives.lib.miamioh.edu
- Freedom Summer digital archives: http://digital.lib.miamioh.edu/fs/
- Freedom Summer Havighurst Special Collection exhibit: http://spec.lib.miamioh.edu/home/
- Journalism of Freedom Summer class project: http://journalismoffreedomsummer.wordpress.com
- “Orientation to Freedom Summer: An Interactive Quest for Social Justice” site: http://fsgame.lib.miamioh.edu

To donate materials to the Western College Memorial Archives, contact Jacqueline Johnson, University Archivist, at johnsoj@miamioh.edu or (513) 529-2069.
50 Years After Freedom Summer Sponsors and Organizers

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The ENTIRE REUNION and CONFERENCE was supported by:

- American Studies program
- Armstrong Center for Interactive Media Studies
- CELTUA (Center for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching, and University Assessment)
- Center for American and World Cultures
- Center for Community Engagement in Over-the-Rhine
- College of Arts & Science
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- Presidential Academic Enrichment Award-Sheriff Fund
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- Western College for Women Alumnae Association
- Western Program
- Women’s Center
- Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies program
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- College of Engineering and Computing
- College of Health, Education, & Society
- Department of Accounting
- Department of Math
- Department of Statistics
- Department of Teacher Education
- Office of the President

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- Ohio Farmer’s Union
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- Oxford Community Arts Center
- Robert E. Strippel Memorial Continuing Dialogue on Justice and Human Rights
ORIENTATION TO FREEDOM SUMMER: AN INTERACTIVE QUEST FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

was supported by a grant from The National Endowment for Humanities.

The FREEDOM SUMMER 2014 PLANNING COMMITTEE included:

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• Sibyl Harris Miller, Community Outreach Sub-Committee Chair
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