



*Freedom March* by Stuart Hamilton

# THE LONG ROAD TO CIVIL RIGHTS: FROM OPPRESSION TO OPPORTUNITY

**August 9, 2011** Younts Conference Center  
Part three in a summer series presented by  
The Riley Institute and Osher Lifelong  
Learning Institute at Furman University

# THE LONG ROAD TO CIVIL RIGHTS: FROM OPPRESSION TO OPPORTUNITY

- 6:30 **Welcome**  
A.V. Huff, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history, Furman University
- 6:35 **Challenging Separate but Equal**  
Ophelia De Laine Gona, Ph.D., author of  
*Dawn of Desegregation: J. A. De Laine and Briggs v. Elliott*
- 7:20 Break and Refreshments
- 7:40 **Connections**  
A.V. Huff
- 7:45 **Traveling on the Road to Civil Rights**  
Moderator:  
Steve O'Neill, Ph.D., professor of history, Furman University  
  
Panelists:  
Cleveland Sellers, D. Ed., president, Voorhees College  
Jack Bass, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history, College of Charleston  
Honorable James Clyburn, United States Representative,  
Sixth District of South Carolina

**The program cover** image is from a painting by Stuart Hamilton, M.D., founder and CEO of Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center and medical director of Select Health of South Carolina. Hamilton is a graduate of the Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative and a longtime civil rights activist. He has opened ten health centers throughout the Midlands of South Carolina and was one of the first to respond to the emerging health needs of Columbia's underserved population.

## WHO'S WHO

**A.V. Huff, Jr.**, is a retired professor of history and vice president of academic affairs and dean at Furman. He joined the Furman faculty in 1968. Before becoming chief academic officer in 1995, he served as William Montgomery Burnett Professor of History and chair of the department. Huff holds an A.B. degree with high honors in history from Wofford College, a B.D. degree from Yale University, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Duke University.



A specialist on the history of the American South and of South Carolina, he has written and edited a number of books, including *The History of South Carolina in the Building of the Nation* and *Greenville: The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont*. He has served as chair of the South Carolina Commission on Archives and History, and has been a member of the editorial board of the *South Carolina Historical Magazine* and the advisory board of *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*. He is a United Methodist minister and has been historian of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

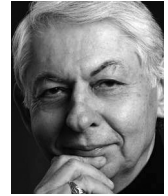
**Ophelia De Laine Gona** is a retired professor and research scientist at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey: New Jersey Medical School. Previously, she taught in New York City high schools and in Ghana as a Peace Corps volunteer. While at UMDNJ, she developed, directed, and obtained funding for a comprehensive, pre-college health sciences pipeline program. Known as SMART, the program encourages disadvantaged youth to enter health-oriented careers.



Her recent book, *Dawn of Desegregation: J. A. De Laine and Briggs v. Elliott*, was published by the University of South Carolina Press (2011). In addition to this memoir, she has written several articles about her father and the Briggs lawsuit.

Educated in South Carolina's segregated schools, De Laine Gona received a B.S. from Johnson C. Smith, master's degrees from Yeshiva University and City College of New York, and a Ph.D. in biology from City University of New York. She currently serves as an advisor for the Briggs-De Laine-Pearson Foundation, a volunteer organization making positive community changes in Clarendon County, South Carolina.

**Jack Bass**, a historian and former journalist, is author or co-author of eight nonfiction books about the American South. His works have focused on Southern politics, race relations, and the role of law in shaping the civil rights era. The most recent is the 2009 book, *The Palmetto State: The Making of Modern South Carolina*. Other books by Bass include *Taming the Storm*, a biography of Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. that won the 1994 Robert Kennedy Book Award; two biographies of Strom Thurmond: *STROM: The Complicated Personal and Political Life of Strom Thurmond* and *Ol' Strom; The Orangeburg Massacre*; and *The Transformation of Southern Politics*.



Now professor emeritus of humanities and social sciences at the College of Charleston, Bass was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and received A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of South Carolina and a Ph.D. from Emory University. He is currently writing *Justice Abandoned*, a book about the United States Supreme Court in the final decades of the 19th century that combines legal history and Southern history.

**Steve O'Neill** is associate professor of history at Furman University and director of the Huff Center, which is dedicated to promoting a broader and deeper appreciation of the rich local history of Greenville and the Piedmont Region of the South. He has taught at Furman since 1987.



A native of Charleston, Dr. O'Neill holds an undergraduate degree from Furman and a doctorate from the University of Virginia, where he received a Governor's Fellowship. In addition to his work at Furman, where he received the Faculty Invitation Award for Teaching in 1992, he has taught at the Governor's School at the College of Charleston.

His academic specialties are the American South and South Carolina history.

**Cleveland Sellers** became president of Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina, in 2008. Before coming to Voorhees, Sellers was director of the African-American Studies Program at the University of South Carolina. He also taught in the Department of History and the African-American Studies Program.



Sellers became active in the civil rights movement during the 1960s, helping organize a student protest at a Denmark lunch counter in support of the Woolworth's sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina. On February 8, 1968, Sellers was arrested on rioting charges as a result of the Orangeburg Massacre at South Carolina State University. He served seven months in prison. Twenty-five years later he was issued an official pardon.

Sellers earned his B.A. from Shaw University, M.Ed. from Harvard University and D.Ed. from University of North Carolina-Greensboro. A lifelong educator, Sellers has served as a speaker, presenter and panelist at numerous conferences around the country.

**James Clyburn** is assistant Democratic leader in the 112th Congress and number three Democrat in the House. He is the leadership liaison to the Appropriations Committee and one of the Democratic Caucus' primary liaisons to the White House. Working with the internal caucuses, he plays a prominent role in messaging and outreach.



When Clyburn came to Congress in 1993, he was elected co-president of his freshman class, and in 1999, he was elected chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. In 2005 he was elected chair of the Democratic Caucus and, when Democrats regained the House majority in 2006, Congressman Clyburn was elevated by his colleagues to House Majority Whip.

As a national leader he has worked to respond to the needs of America's diverse communities. He has championed rural communities, supported higher education, and encouraged economic development in areas of poverty. Clyburn was instrumental in advancing into law measures to resolve historic discrimination issues, significantly reducing the statutory disparity in cocaine sentencing and compensating African and Native American farmers who suffered racial discrimination under the USDA loan program.

While attending South Carolina State College, Clyburn helped organize many civil rights marches and demonstrations.

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**THE RILEY INSTITUTE AT FURMAN** is a non-partisan organization affiliated with the Department of Political Science at Furman. Named for former Governor of South Carolina and U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, the institute engages students and citizens across South Carolina in the arenas of politics, public policy, and leadership.

Since its inauguration in 1999, the Riley Institute has developed a broad array of community leadership programs, symposia, and conferences designed to promote discussion and analysis of public policy issues. The institute also conducts research on education and other areas of public policy in South Carolina and nationally.

Through its promotion of engaged learning for students, leadership development, policy research, and conferences featuring internationally recognized speakers, the Riley Institute has established itself as an innovator in policy and public leadership. Learn more at [rileyinstitute.org](http://rileyinstitute.org).

**FURMAN UNIVERSITY** is a top-ranked independent, coeducational liberal arts college of 2,700 students. Furman takes great pride in its impressive 750-acre campus, its gifted student body, its distinguished and active faculty, and in the many notable accomplishments of its alumni. The university emphasizes engaged learning, a hands-on, problem-solving and collaborative educational philosophy that integrates research, internships, study away, service learning and sustainability into a liberal arts curriculum. Committed to the education of the whole person, Furman provides a distinctive undergraduate education encompassing the humanities, fine arts, social sciences, mathematics and the natural sciences, and selected professional disciplines. Learn more online at [www.furman.edu](http://www.furman.edu).

# THE LEGACY OF THE CIVIL WAR AND THE LONG ROAD TO CIVIL RIGHTS

A summer series presented by The Riley Institute  
and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman

**FINAL SUMMER SERIES PROGRAM AUGUST 16**

## **Toward a New Paradigm: Equality of Justice and Opportunity**

### **The Evolving Meaning of “Civil Rights” in Contemporary America**

Rod Smolla, president, Furman University

### **Moving Forward on the Path to Equality in South Carolina**

Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author  
of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's  
Great Migration*

Steve Morrison, past president, Lawyers for Civil Justice; co-lead  
counsel, *Abbeville School District v. State of South Carolina*

Mark Quinn, director of public and member relations, the Electric  
Cooperatives of South Carolina

(Reception for attendees following program)