



Featured Panels and Events

Panel 8: More than Just the Facts

Thursday, March 10, 2011

10:00-11:15, Conference C (Sam Rayburn Student Center)

Tim Dawson, Shannon Deep, and Adam Howard,
Program for a Deliberative Democracy, Carnegie Mellon University

More than Just the Facts: The Art of Developing Background Materials for Generative Public Deliberation

Educational, background or briefing materials are a key element of most models for public deliberation. As Lorraine Higgins, Elenore Long and Linda Flower (*Community Literacy*, 2006) reveal, the process of developing these materials offers an important opportunity for local rhetorical action. The panel discusses the range of interdisciplinary practices through which the Program for Deliberative Democracy develops background materials for citizen deliberations. A university-community partnership housed in the Philosophy department at Carnegie Mellon University, the Program engages rhetoricians, theater artists, and designers to develop its background materials. These artists in turn engage the expertise of local residents, community leaders, elected officials, policy experts, and academics from across the academy in a process of research and review that fosters relationships of trust and commitment while it insures that the resulting background materials will be particularly meaningful and relevant to the local residents who come together to deliberate.

Panelists:

Tim Dawson, the Program's lead document developer will discuss the community-based document-development process that proved central to bringing together residents from nine distinct and historically segregated neighborhoods to determine goals for a shared community-development plan.

Shannon Deep, a playwright and director, will discuss the process of developing Deliberative Theater, a uniquely powerful means for humanizing complex issues and concisely representing the various ways that beliefs, situated knowledge, and expert information can come together to inform people's actions and perspectives.

Adam Howard, the Program's document designer, will discuss his process of "designing for democracy."

<http://hss.cmu.edu/pdd/index.html>

Panel 23: Writing for (a) Change

Friday, March 11, 2011

10:00-11:15, Sam Rayburn Student Center

Facilitator: Shannon Carter, with Jim Conrad, Texas A&M-Commerce

Former Students: Allan Hallmark (Grants Pass, Oregon), MacArthur Evans (Tyler, Texas), and Larry Mathis (Aurora, Colorado)

Citizens: Opal Pannell, Billy Reed, and Harry Turner (Commerce, Texas)

The Norris Community Club (established in 1973) provides us with a model for enacting significant local change, especially through texts generated in true university-community partnerships. A group founded by long-time residents of Commerce's historically segregated neighborhood (the Norris Community) in partnership with university students, NCC provided "a direct line of communication" between the city officials and local African American citizens" (Billy Reed, NCC President).

At the time of the group's formation, the needs of the Norris Community were many. Commerce had integrated only a few years before (1964), and the Jim Crow laws and customs that limited city services and support for local minority populations continued to choke progress and oppress its citizens residing in an area of town generally referred to as "the hole": unpaved streets, inadequate street lamps, sewage systems either inadequate or non-existent. The list continues. In a few short years, however, the Norris Community streets were well lit and newly paved, sewage systems had been vastly improved, and Ivory Moore, a founding member of Norris Community Club and leader on campus and in the community, had been elected Commerce's first African American mayor. He would go on to serve many terms on the Commerce City Council and bring in millions of dollars in grant monies to improve the infrastructure in Norris Community and opportunities for minorities and first-generation students by establishing programs like Upward Bound, Trio Services, and other support. Conditions and opportunities for minorities across the city continued to improve as a result of this productive partnership, which included grant writing, press releases, promotional materials, consciousness raising events, letter writing campaigns, and dozens of other local rhetorical actions to promote change.

Our panel brings together founding members from NCC, both former students and long-time residents, to discuss group's origins, goals, and key accomplishments.

Panelists:

Shannon Carter and Jim Conrad will frame the conversation by foregrounding the ways in which the Norris Community Club wrote for change in this particular context at this particular time. Carter's current book project investigates historical agency enacted through text use and production at local levels, especially through community-university partnerships. She has written extensively about NCC, and served as project lead for a recent documentary on the subject. For the past two years, Carter has worked with Conrad to collect local history associated with this project. Conrad is an archivist and historian who has been credited with building the most significant repository of oral histories and other materials on Northeast Texas.

Allan Hallmark, Dr. Larry Mathis, and McArthur Evans will discuss their involvement with the Norris Community Club as students. Hallmark came to Commerce in 1973 to join the graduate program in Journalism after Vietnam and becoming heavily involved in anti-war demonstrations elsewhere. Evans and Mathis arrived in Commerce in the early 1970s as well, Evans by way of Chicago and Mathis by way of Colorado—both majored in Criminal Justice. A few short years later, these former students left Commerce to take positions in other parts of the country.

Opal Pannell and Billy Reed will discuss the shape and purpose of the Norris Community Club, as well as the group's impact over time. **Harry Turner** will describe the activist role of other, related and overlapping institutions in the Norris Community, including the Norris School (the segregated school in Commerce) and Mt. Moriah Temple Baptist Church (the oldest African American church in city).

Norris Community: *Additional Events*

Friday, March 11, 2011

10:00-11:15	Panel Discussion	Conference Room, SRSC
5:15-7:00	Award Ceremony	Traditions
	Screening, Documentary (CLiC)	

Saturday, March 12, 2011

4:00-?	Open House	Norris Community Center
	Banquet	Fellowship Hall, Mt. Moriah Temple Baptist Church

Award Ceremony

Honoring Ivory Moore, a model for civic engagement through university-community partnerships.

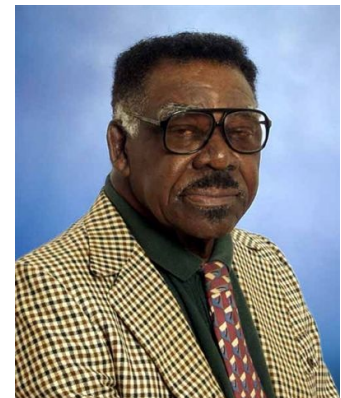
First African-American Administrator East Texas State University (now Texas A&M-Commerce)

First African-American Mayor of Commerce, Texas

Secured millions of dollars in grants in support of Commerce's citizens and students

Established Upward Bound and Trio Services

Join us at our end-of-conference reception where we will honor Ivory Moore with the Writing Democracy Award for University-Community Partnerships. Wine and light refreshments will be served.



Screening, Documentary

Following Award Ceremony, we will screen CLiC's first documentary, "The Other Side of the Tracks," a 25-minute journey into Commerce's Norris Community with local leaders serving as guide. Please see press release for more.

Open House and Banquet

Norris Community leadership invites everyone to an Open House at the Norris Community Center followed by a "three-course meal" and presentation at the Fellowship Hall of Mt. Moriah. Both events held in the Norris Community and open to the public.