Symposium: The Role of Montgomery in Alabama’s Black Struggle for Voting Rights

The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture is sponsoring a day-long symposium on October 27, 2013, in the Banquet Room of the Dunn Oliver Acadome on the campus of Alabama State University.

The Symposium is also made possible through a Mini Grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

This symposium is the first program sponsored by Alabama State University in a series of events leading to the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights campaign in 2015.

The daylong symposium will include morning and afternoon sessions. ASU faculty in cooperation with noted scholars will explore the historic context for the 1965 voting rights campaign.

The morning session, 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., will explore the deep background for Black voting rights in Alabama between, 1865 to 1965. The afternoon session, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., will focus on Black voting rights in Montgomery, and will examine the organizations, events, and campaigns involved in the demand for the right to vote.

Symposium schedule
October 17, 2013
Morning Session, 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
“Montgomery and the Voting Rights Struggle, 1865 - 1930”
  • Moderator – Joseph Caver, Historian and Author, Instructor, Alabama State University History and Political Science Department
  • Discussant – Alecia D. Hoffman, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Alabama State University
Panelist
  • Voting Rights during the Reconstruction Era – Dr. Berts English, Professor of History/ Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Alabama State University
  • The Challenge to African American Voting Rights during the Era of Disfranchisement – Dr. Byrdie Larkin, Professor of Political Science, Alabama State University
  • African American Voting Rights in the Early Twentieth Century, 1900 – 1930 – Dr. Robert J. Norrell, Professor of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Afternoon Session, 1:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
“Montgomery and the Voting Rights Struggle, 1930 - 1965”
  • Moderator – Dr. D. Linell Finley, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Alabama State University
• Discussant – Dr. Clyde Roberson, Professor of History, Department of History, Tuskegee University

Panelist

• The Montgomery NAACP and Voting Rights, 1930 – 1965 – Dr. Dorothy Autrey, Professor of History/ Chair of the Department of History and Political Science, Alabama State University

• Montgomery Voting Rights in World War II and the Post War Era – Charles Varner, Researcher and Consultant with the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture, Alabama State University

• Montgomery Improvement Association and the Voting Rights Struggle – Dr. Howard Robinson, Archivist and Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Alabama State University

• Alabama Democratic Conference and Voting Rights - Rolundus Rice, Doctoral student in American History, Auburn University