

Submission for AALAC Workshop, Summer 2018
“The 14th at 150: Slavery & Justice in the Liberal Arts”
Hosted by Furman University
In Conjunction with Faculty from Williams and Rhodes Colleges

Public state colleges in the southeastern region regularly make the news as they swing wildly between conservative alumni and progressive student activists aggrieved by campus racial climate. Ivies in the Northeast take a leading role in addressing their connections with slavery, but can use substantial resources to tackle particular tragedies like a campus building or slave sale. Liberal arts colleges are facing a slightly different set of propositions: some sit in the south with the legacy of its pervasive slave economy. Others across the nation have few slave legacies on campus, and only a few faculty members with relevant expertise to make it academically salient.

A group of AALAC faculty would like to host a workshop at Furman University. The workshop would be timed with Furman’s Report by the Task Force on Slavery and Justice, as well as the 150th anniversary of the 14th Amendment’s adoption. It will address the ways that liberal arts colleges can be proactive, doing this work without waiting on student activism, being comprehensive in assessing slavery’s impact, and responding to the constraints of liberal arts colleges working with limited faculty and undergraduate students. Organizers will discuss the curriculum, committee work, and high-impact learning practices as resources. Faculty with expertise from across the nation will discuss archival research best practices, public memory in campus spaces, and rituals and programs that are capable of delivering reconstructive justice.

During the experience, July 24-29 (Tuesday through Sunday), Furman will host sessions on the topics of slaveholders genealogy (Tuesday morning session), slave and freedmen genealogy (Tuesday afternoon session), founders’ beliefs and advocacy (Wednesday morning session), calculating slavery’s economic value through slave sales and institutional fundraising (Wednesday afternoon session), campus visual representations such as monuments, plaques, and signs (Thursday morning session), and campus names (Thursday afternoon session). After covering Furman campus sites, the program will also include an overnight trip to Clemson, Columbia, and Charleston, to see the sites of campus slavery, concluding with a wreath laying at the Charleston Slave Market (Friday-Sunday).

We expect this workshop to make significant impact. Press releases will notify the press of our efforts and allow local and national coverage of the symbolic wreath laying on the 14th Amendment anniversary as a commitment by faculty to continue tackling this issue at their campuses, as a spur to action and marking the unfinished reconstruction left in higher education. Faculty who attend will become resident experts for their home campuses on their own process, turning whatever scholarly interest brought them to the workshop into a broad view of practices and outcomes. By inviting faculty from across the nation to the liberal arts college in the state most

associated with slavery and secession, and the sites most associated with its past, we think we can really move the climate for the AALAC consortium on this issue.

Designated Liaison:

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Workshop Leaders and Faculty Assisting:

Brandon Inabinet, Communication Studies, Furman University
Claire Whitlinger, Sociology, Furman University
Lloyd Benson, History, Furman University
Charles Dew, History, Williams College
Cristina Simko, Sociology, Williams College
Tim Hoebner, History, Rhodes College

We will limit each institution to one designated attendee before admitting more, excepting organizers.

Budget includes 20 initial organizers and guests, with additional funding requested from attendees' home institution. Acceptance means to and travel from ACS Member Institutions (\$400 max), accommodation for up to 7 nights (two per room), travel to Columbia and Charleston, and information packet. Furman University will provide on-campus breakfast and lunch for the conference and attendees will need to cover their dinners (with transport provided to downtown business areas with 100s of dining options).

After the workshop: A survey evaluation form will be sent out immediately following the conference. Along with the wreath laying, faculty will make formal commitments to take back to their university to attempt to implement, including a letter to their Dean, Provost, or President sharing the experience.