

Hofstra Cultural Center
The Harry H. Wachtel Distinguished Teaching Professorship
and the
New Opportunities at Hofstra (NOAH) Program
in cooperation with
Claflin University
present

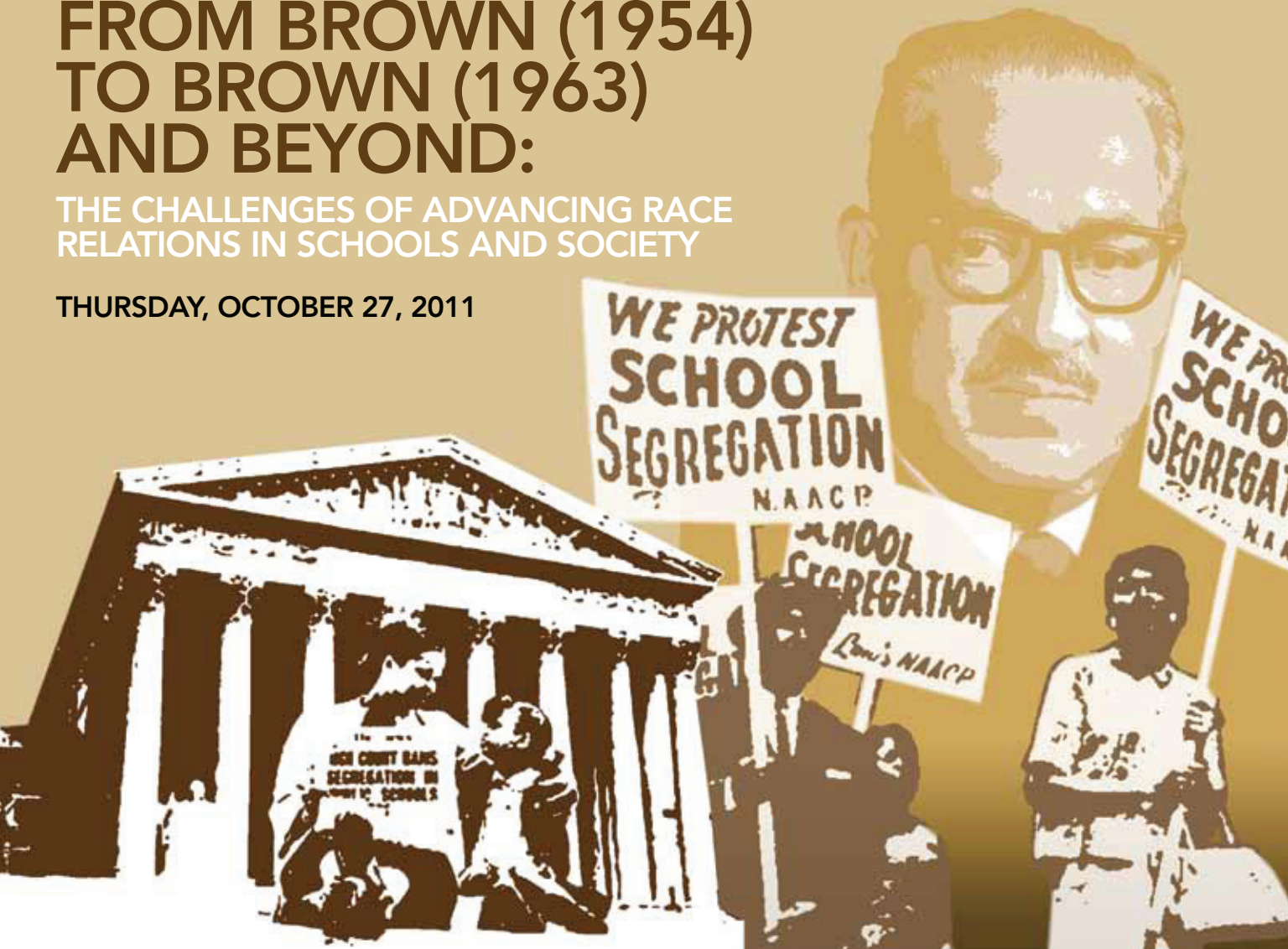


A Symposium

FROM BROWN (1954) TO BROWN (1963) AND BEYOND:

THE CHALLENGES OF ADVANCING RACE
RELATIONS IN SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011



FROM BROWN (1954) TO BROWN (1963) AND BEYOND:

THE CHALLENGES OF ADVANCING RACE RELATIONS IN SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY

The symposium examines the continuing significance of the 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown vs. Board of Education*; the impact of the “First Children” to break school race barriers, including Dr. Millicent E. Brown, South Carolina (*Millicent E. Brown et al. vs. School Board District 20*), and the current implications of race, education and diversity for Long Island and our nation.

Brown vs. Board of Education declared segregated schools unconstitutional and remains one of the most significant legal decisions of both the past and current century. Recognized as an impetus for more than a decade of civil rights protest against separate and unequal voting rights opportunities, housing, public accommodations and other determinants of first-class citizenship, *Brown* has received considerable attention by notable scholars.

Much of the emphasis has highlighted the national scope and importance of the decision, focusing on the roles of a few influential attorneys, white liberals and moderates, government figures and organizations. Much less attention has yet to be paid to efforts to actually implement the decision at both local and state levels. Neither events and experiences directly related to those who experienced *Brown* by being the “First Children” to break through racial barriers, nor multiple subsequent lawsuits and maneuverings to either fulfill or thwart *Brown*’s lofty goals, have been fully documented.

Michael D’Innocenzo

Professor of History and the
Harry H. Wachtel Distinguished
Teaching Professor for the Study
of Nonviolent Social Change
Hofstra University
Symposium Co-Director

Millicent E. Brown

Senior Research Fellow
Associate Professor of History
and Sociology
Claflin University
Symposium Co-Director

Athelene A. Collins

Senior Associate Director
Hofstra Cultural Center
Symposium Coordinator

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011

STUDENT CENTER THEATER
SONDRA AND DAVID S. MACK STUDENT CENTER, NORTH CAMPUS

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

REGISTRATION and COFFEE

Lobby, Student Center Theater

10 a.m.-Noon

SESSION I: An examination of the context of the *Brown* (1954) decision, legal challenges and entanglements that emerged, and the extent to which efforts toward educational equity (including busing, residential patterns, racial quotas, redistribution of resources, and citizens initiatives) have or have not succeeded since the 1954 Supreme Court decision.

Participants:

Millicent E. Brown, Claflin University

Eric M. Freedman and **John DeWitt Gregory**, Maurice A. Deane School of Law,
Hofstra University

Noon-1 p.m.

LUNCH (on your own)

1-3 p.m.

SESSION II: Testimonies and discussion with school desegregation pioneers from varying geographic regions. Long Island and New York/New Jersey area participants join with those from outside the region to offer insights into the processes and challenges (positive and negative) they experienced as youths.

Participants:

Millicent E. Brown, Claflin University

Benétta M. Standly, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida

Deborah Wright, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston

Françoise N. Hamlin, Brown University

3:30-6:30 p.m.

FILM/DOCUMENTARY VIEWINGS

The Intolerable Burden (60 min.), produced by Constance Curry

Introduced by Constance Curry

In the autumn of 1965, black sharecroppers Mae Bertha and Matthew Carter enrolled eight of their children in previously white public schools in Drew, Mississippi. They were responding to a "freedom of choice" plan submitted by the Drew School Board to the federal government in order to receive federal funding. Given the prevailing attitudes, blacks were not expected to choose white schools, but the Carters did so. *The Intolerable Burden* shows the Carters' commitment to obtaining a quality education by examining segregation prior to 1965, the hardships the family faced during desegregation, and the massive white resistance, which has led to resegregation. The film poses the dilemma of "education vs. incarceration," a particular threat to youth of color. These patterns are increasingly apparent throughout public education systems in the United States.

A Tale of Two Schools: Race and Racism on Long Island (30 min.), produced by ERASE Racism,

Introduced by Elaine Gross

This documentary follows David and Owen, two African American teenagers, during their senior year of high school. Even though the students have a lot in common, they go to very different schools. *A Tale of Two Schools* spotlights these differences and the results of educational disparities. The film also focuses on the benefits that diversity provides for all students.

Tavis Smiley Reports: Too Important to Fail (60 min.), produced by PBS

This documentary takes a clear-eyed look at the challenges facing African American teenage boys as they navigate their way to adulthood. With the high school dropout rate among black boys approaching 50 percent, this film examines the obstacles these boys confront and puts a very human face on the statistics. An inspiring story of hope and accomplishment, *Too Important to Fail* provides a roadmap for what can be done to provide all teens with the tools they need to succeed.

The Memphis 13 produced by Daniel Kiel and Jane Folk

First grade can be a very scary thing, even without the burden of making history. On October 3, 1961, the burden of historic change would ride on the shoulders of 13 black children specifically chosen to integrate four all-white schools. As Kiel says, the selection of first-grade children, who would become the “torch-bearers” of integration at Gordon, Rozelle, Bruce and Springfield elementary schools, was at the core of the non-court ordered action.

See registration form for fees.

**7 p.m.
FREE**

TOWN HALL: Community and educational policy activists share insights into the ongoing attempts to achieve **educational equity**, as envisioned by *Brown*. Examples will be shared of those efforts and policies deemed both “successful” and “unsuccessful” to close longstanding achievement gaps based on racial, ethnic, income and geographical differences. Model programs such as the NOAH initiative (Hofstra’s Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program) will be explored in contrast to other preparatory and support projects in addressing whether the most important questions are being considered in relation to equity, and where educational policy can still be improved to address the growing educational crisis confronting the nation as a whole.

Facilitators:

Millicent E. Brown, Claflin University
Christopher C. Catching and **Michael D’Innocenzo**, Hofstra University

SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS:

Millicent E. Brown, Senior Research Fellow, Associate Professor of History and Sociology, Claflin University;
Director, Somebody Had To Do It Project

Christopher C. Catching, Assistant Provost and Executive Director of the NOAH Program, Hofstra University

Constance Curry, Author and Activist; Fellow, Institute for Women's Studies, Emory University

Michael D'Innocenzo, Professor of History and the Harry H. Wachtel Distinguished Teaching Professor
for the Study of Nonviolent Social Change, Hofstra University

Eric M. Freedman, Maurice A. Deane Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law, Maurice A. Deane School of Law,
Hofstra University

Dorothy Goosby, Hempstead Town Councilwoman

John DeWitt Gregory, Sidney and Walter Siben Distinguished Professor of Family Law, Maurice A. Deane School of Law,
Hofstra University

Elaine Gross, President, ERASE Racism

Françoise N. Hamlin, Hans Rothfels Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies, Brown University

Jonathan Lightfoot, Assistant Professor of Teaching, Literacy and Leadership, Hofstra University

Charmaine McKissick-Melton, Associate Professor of English and Mass Communications,
North Carolina Central University

Karen Meadows, Supervisor of K-8 Counseling, Guilford County Schools, North Carolina

Julius and Joysetta Pearce, Co-Founders, African Atlantic Genealogical Society

Donald Shaffer, Attorney, New York Civil Liberties Union

Alan Singer, Professor of Teaching, Literacy and Leadership, Hofstra University

Benétta M. Standly, Director, Northeast Region, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida

Bernard Stein, Associate Director, Hofstra University Public Policy Institute

Deborah Wright, Reference Archivist, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, South Carolina

THE SYMPOSIUM CO-DIRECTORS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF MANY SCHOOLS, PROGRAMS, OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS OF HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY:

African Studies Program
Center for Civic Engagement (CCE)
Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence
Department of Anthropology
Department of Political Science
Division of Student Affairs – Office of Multicultural
& International Student Programs
Harry H. Wachtel Distinguished Teaching
Professorship for the Study of Nonviolent
Social Change
Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Hofstra University Honors College
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Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program
Maurice A. Deane School of Law
NAACP-Hofstra University Chapter
National Center for Suburban Studies
at Hofstra University®
New Opportunities at Hofstra (NOAH),
The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity
Program
Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs
School of Education, Health and Human Services

RELATED EVENTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011

SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM: EDUCATIONAL EQUITY AND RACE: VIEWS FROM MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS *(by invitation only)*

Contemporary school children's views and experiences surrounding **the importance of race in their school experiences and interpersonal relationships.** Do today's middle and high school youth understand or support the attempts toward creating integrated school environments? To what extent do they experience educational equity as they negotiate their education? Are *Brown's* goals relevant to their lives? Guided small group discussions by qualified educators will provide a forum for youth to explore their varied feelings about the role of racial and ethnic identification to their individual and collective lives.

Participants:

Millicent E. Brown, Claflin University

Michael D'Innocenzo, Hofstra University

Karen Meadows, Guilford County Schools, NC

Charmaine McKissick-Melton, North Carolina Central University

Jonathan Lightfoot, **Alan Singer** and

Bernard Stein, Hofstra University

Kayla B. Rivara, CCE intern, and civic engagement students

Participating Schools: **Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School, Hempstead; Levittown Public Schools; Uniondale Public Schools; Garden City High School; Malverne High School; and Huntington High School**
(in formation)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011

9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Hofstra University Center for Civic Engagement
and the

Hofstra University Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

present

DAY OF DIALOGUE IX: POWER, RESISTANCE AND DEMOCRACY*

A day devoted to dialogue, debate and discussion of the issues that face our nation and world, with panel discussions, workshops and performances.

This event is free and open to the public.

*For more information on this event, please contact **Professor Mario A. Murillo** at **516-463-6062** or visit hofstra.edu/cce.

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Registration Form

Mail or fax to:

From Brown to Brown and Beyond

Hofstra Cultural Center

113 Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY 11549-1130

Phone: 516-463-5669

Fax: 516-463-4793

Register online at:

hofstra.edu/browntobrown

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Affiliation _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Symposium Fees

		No. of Persons	Amount
Symposium Fee - Regular (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)	\$10	_____	_____
Matriculated non-Hofstra student (must include copy of current student ID)	\$5	_____	_____
PEIR member	\$5	_____	_____
Town Hall: Community Forum (7 p.m.)	FREE	_____	FREE

Total Enclosed: \$_____

Hofstra University is 100-percent program accessible to persons with disabilities.

All events are FREE to Hofstra students, faculty and staff upon presentation of a current HofstraCard.



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