

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



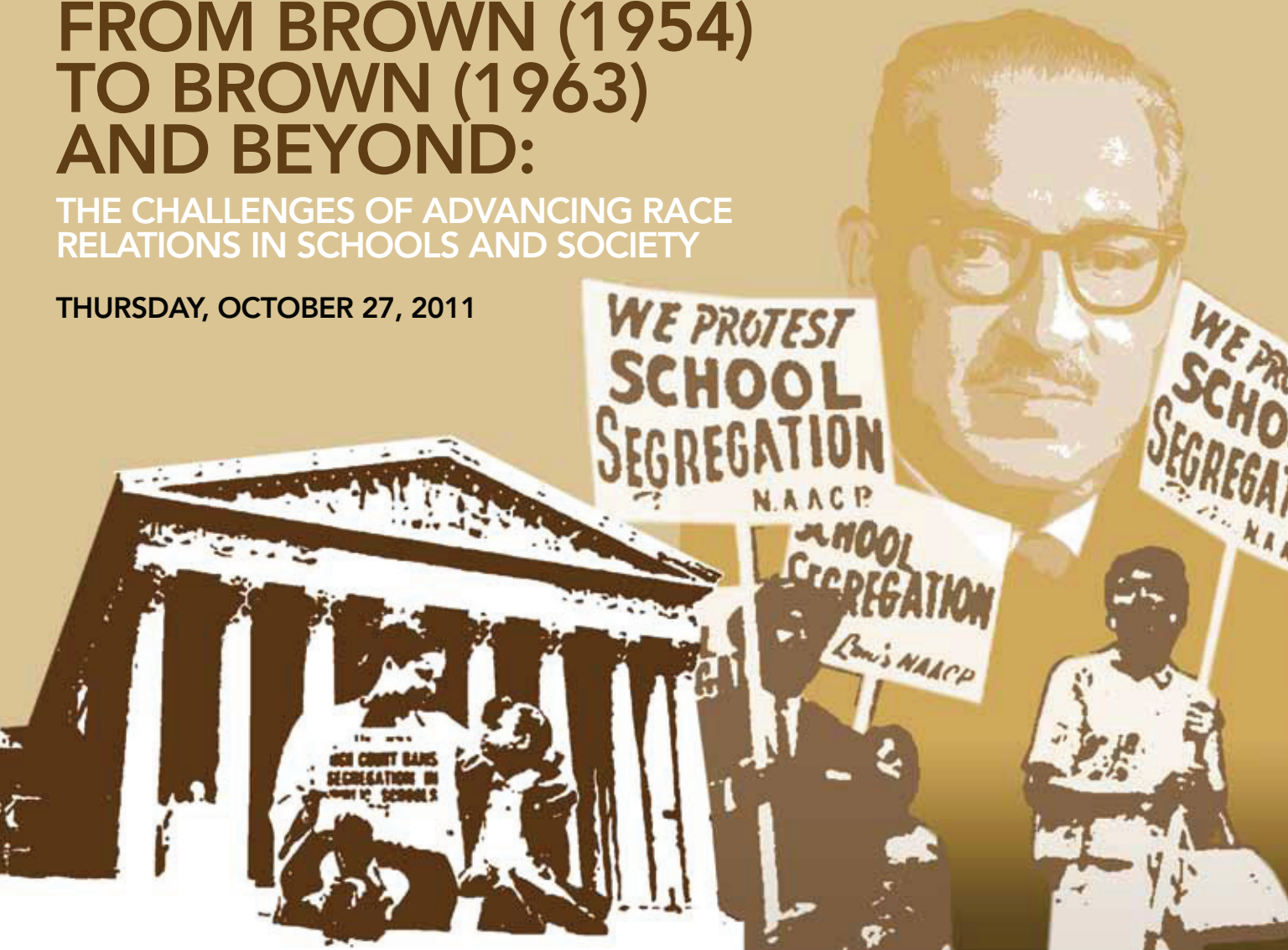
HOFSTRA  
UNIVERSITY.

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 Pearse**, 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  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library

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](http://hofstra.edu/cce).**

# FROM BROWN (1954) TO BROWN (1963) AND BEYOND: THE CHALLENGES OF ADVANCING RACE RELATIONS IN SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY

## 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](http://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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