

“THE CIVIL RIGHTS SOUTH” TRACES THE CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY *with* JULIAN BOND



Read the history of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and you can understand the courage, the tenacity, and the clarity of purpose that participants brought to the struggle. But when you visit the places where this struggle unfolded, walk the streets where they marched, and talk to the veterans of the movement, your imaginative experience gains a visceral edge, and you can appreciate the immensity of their achievement—and their contribution to American life—with a powerful immediacy that cannot be duplicated otherwise.

Next spring, the SCPS Travel and Learn Program will give participants just such an opportunity under the leadership of Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP and professor of history at the University of Virginia. Entitled “The Civil Rights South,” the program will be offered from March 1 – 8, 2008.

The course was originally developed by Kelli Palmer, a special assistant to President John T. Casteen III, for the Virginia Voyages program, an initiative for alumni, parents, and friends of the University. Moving the program to SCPS gives the University the opportunity to make this

experience available to a national audience. Joan Gore, director of travel programs for SCPS, went on the seminar last year and oversaw its transition to SCPS. “The seminar was one of the most moving experiences I ever had,” she says. “Everything I knew about the Civil Rights Movement came alive.”

Highlights of the program will include visits to the Martin Luther King Center and Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta as well as the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Site and George Washington Carver Museum in Tuskegee. Participants will cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, and sit in pews in the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

While an itinerary that traces the Civil Rights Movement is itself unusual, it is the presence of people whose lives were formed by this struggle, beginning with Julian Bond, that makes this seminar truly exceptional. Bond was a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and was the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. He and his wife, Pamela Horowitz, once an attorney at the Center, will lead the seminar, giving lectures and traveling on the bus with participants.

“Years ago, I had read about one of the Jefferson in Paris travel seminars, and I thought it could easily be done with emphasis on the South, civil rights, Southern naïve art, and Southern food,” Bond says. “These are all my interests, and I wanted others to be exposed to them.”



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Barrie Moorman, past participant

In Birmingham's Kelly Ingram Park, a statue of Martin Luther King Jr. faces the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of a 1963 bombing that killed four young girls.



March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 28, 1963, Washington, DC
National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the U.S. Information Agency

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Julian Bond

Because Bond is so well-connected and highly regarded, he has access to dozens of participants in the movement. Although the Virginia Voyages program included meetings with such leaders as Congressman John R Lewis and Morris Dees, cofounder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Bond particularly emphasizes the courage of everyday people. “I want participants to come away with some sense that most of the movement’s participants weren’t the famous; they were the nameless—ordinary people who in extraordinary times did extraordinary things.”

The opportunity to walk the ground and meet the participants takes the Civil Rights Movement out of the realm of history, notes Gore, a feeling that is seconded by other participants in the Virginia Voyages program. “Being able to walk through history with a guide who was part of it was an incredible experience,” says Charmaine Phillips, a 1990 graduate of the University. “As a Black-American, it gave me both a sense of closure and understanding.”

For people who were alive at the time, “The Civil Rights South” is an opportunity to gain insight into the events that shaped their past. Jim Turpin, who describes himself as a recovering federal lobbyist, notes that the Civil Rights Movement was an essential part of the history of my generation. “You experienced it, but it takes the passage of time and a program like this to really appreciate it.”

“The Civil Rights South” also provides an opportunity for young and old to recommit to principles of equality that are as important today as they were forty years ago. As Barrie Moorman, a 2005 U.Va. graduate and teacher in DC, says, “The seminar left me with a sense of optimism and opportunity. If people today pick up where people left off in the 1960s, we could make a real difference.”



THE CIVIL RIGHTS SOUTH: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MOVEMENT WITH JULIAN BOND

U.Va. Professor of History and NAACP Chairman

March 1 - 8, 2008 • Georgia and Alabama

Visit www.virginia.edu/travelandlearn for more information.



Julian Bond at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama