



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SUNO curator and archivist to speak at Louisiana Rural Life Museum

NEW ORLEANS, LA – Linda Hill, the Curator and Archivist for the Center for African and African-American Studies for Southern University At New Orleans (SUNO), will be a guest speaker at “What Are We Saying: Discovering How People of African Descent Are Interpreted at Louisiana Plantation Sites”. The symposium will be held on May 2nd and 3rd at the Rural Life Museum on the campus of Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge. The event is free and open to the public.

Hill will join a diverse group of national scholars on African and African-American history and heritage. The symposium will be moderated by Dr. Stephen Small, professor of African-American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Also on hand will be speakers from George Washington University, the University of Houston and LSU. Hill’s presentation will take place on Saturday, May 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

A passionate critic of mainstream America’s interpretation of the African-American experience Hill says, “My progression in the Museum Studies program at Southern University at New Orleans allowed the pursuit of a lifelong interest concerning the representation and interpretation of African Americans in America.”

Part of Hill’s presentation will be about her encounter with genealogist, Antoinette Harrell. Harrell has produced a documentary called “The Untold Story of Slavery in the 20th Century”. Earlier in the year Hill and the Center for African and African-American Studies hosted a presentation at SUNO where Harrell introduced an audience to Mae Miller, a woman who claims to have been enslaved in Mississippi as late as the 1960’s.

Hill spearheaded an effort with other SUNO staff members to rescue an estimated \$1 million African and African-American art collection from the mold-infested buildings which were compromised by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from SUNO in U.S. History and Museum Studies, respectively.

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SUNO's collection represents a diversity of works from the African Diaspora. Some works come from ethnic groups such as Kuba, Yaka, Pende, Luba, Salampasu, Tshokwe, Kongo, Lega, and Mubuti. As a result of Hill's work to rescue artifacts post-Katrina, The Getty Foundation awarded the Center for African and African-American Studies a \$100,000 grant for conservation treatment of the collection.

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