

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Learning Center at Senior Citizens, Inc. to host lecture with David Blight

The Learning Center at Senior Citizens, Inc. will sponsor a lecture, "Steel and Velvet Mind and Heart": The Paradox of Lincoln's Legacies, on Thursday, May 21, at 6pm at the Congregation Mickve Israel on Bull and Gordon Streets at Monterey Square.

The Lecturer for this event will be David Blight.

David Blight is one of the nation's foremost authorities on Lincoln and the Civil War. Most recently, in his book, *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Own Narratives of Emancipation* (2007), Blight's creative sleuthing uncovered two previously unknown narratives, adding to the canon of writing by American slaves.



David Blight

Having won the Lincoln Prize, as well as the Bancroft and Douglass Prizes for his research and writing on the Civil War, Blight brings perspectives of special relevance in this bicentennial year.

Blight is a professor of history at Yale University and director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the

Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale.

Blight earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

Among his books are *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (2001) and *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Own Narratives of Emancipation* (2007).

There is no charge for admission. Funding is provided by the City of Savannah.

This project is supported by the Georgia Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.

President Obama Launches Office of Public Engagement: A New Name, Mission for White House

President Obama announced a new name and a new mission for the White House office charged with dealing most closely with the American people.

The Office of Public Liaison is now the Office of Public Engagement.

OPE, along with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, will serve as the front door to the White House through which ordinary Americans can participate and inform the work of the President.

The current leadership will remain to carry out the new mission and includes Valerie Jarrett, Senior Adviser to the President, Christina M. Tchen, Director of OPE; and Michael Strautmanis Chief of Staff to the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Engagement.

Additional staff and issue areas can be viewed at the OPE website at www.whitehouse.gov/ope.

In a video announcement about OPE, President Obama said, "This office will seek to engage as many Americans as possible in the difficult work of changing



President Barack Obama

this country, through meetings and conversations with groups and individuals held in Washington and across the country."

OPE will help build relationships with Americans by increasing their meaningful engagement with the federal government.

Serving as the front door to the White House, OPE will allow ordinary Americans to offer their stories and ideas regarding issues that concern them and share their views on important topics such as health care, energy and education.

In addition to its traditional White House operations, OPE will now also focus on getting information from the American people

outside the Washington beltway through special public events as well as activities on the web site.

The office will have a strong on-line presence, including blog postings from OPE staff and other interactive elements.

Since the beginning of the Administration, OPE has served a large role in developing White House outreach efforts whether it is a meeting with national innovators in the White House, a community health forum in Michigan or a town hall meeting in California.

The President also announced the release of the Citizens' Briefing Book — the culmination of a project begun during the transition, and an example of the innovative ways the office will execute its new mission.

In January, everyday Americans submitted their best ideas for dealing with some of the nation's toughest issues.

Visitors to the transition website ranked each idea and also had the opportunity to provide comments. The results can be viewed at www.whitehouse.gov/ope.

Public Notice

Anyone knowing the whereabouts or having any information pertaining to ESTHER RAY JEAN NIPPER, please contact JAMES E. FRANKLIN, III at 1460 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana or call (318) 424-4444.

Professional



Armstrong Atlantic State University is accepting applications for the following position(s)

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AA/EOE. No phone calls please.

All Copy Due By Friday, 4pm

AASU...continued from page 1

"Chancellor Davis and the Board of Regents made a very wise selection," said Jones.

Bleicken, a resident of Savannah since 1990, becomes the seventh AASU president and the first woman to lead the institution since the establishment of Armstrong Junior College in 1935.

As provost, chief academic officer and a member of the university's management faculty, Bleicken's service to Georgia Southern

University — an institution with 17,764 students and eight colleges — includes administrative appointments as: acting provost and vice president for academic affairs from July 2004 to January 2005; vice president for student affairs and enrollment management from 2001 to 2004; associate provost for enrollment management and information technology from 2000 to 2001; acting provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1998 to

2000; associate dean of the College of Business Administration from 1995 to 1998; and acting chair of the Department of Management from 1994 to 1995.

In addition, she has served the University System of Georgia as a member of its Health Professions Task Force (2006), Core Curriculum Committee (2007-2008), Graduation Rate Task Force (2004), Tuition Rate Task Force (2004) and the Task Force to Develop eCore®, the USG's electronic core curriculum (2000).

"We are delighted that Dr. Bleicken has been selected to be Armstrong Atlantic's next president," said Anne Thompson, chair of the AASU Presidential Search Committee. "She impressed our committee at every phase of the search process, and we are confident that the university will be in good hands."

Bleicken's faculty experience began in 1987 as instructor for the Department of Management at Georgia State University.

Three years later she joined Georgia Southern University as assistant professor of management.

Her administrative experience at Georgia Southern started in September 1994, when she was appointed acting chair of the Department of Management.

Her achievements at Georgia Southern include facilitating the establishment of the College of Public Health in January 2006.

She fostered the addition of three doctoral degrees— Doctor of Psychology, Doctor of Public Health and Doctor of Nursing Practice— between 2006 and 2008.

She helped to establish the Center for Online Learning and enhanced online graduate degree enrollment by 53 percent from fall 2007 to fall 2008; encouraged the growth of external grant awards from \$5.4 million in 2005 to \$6.7 million in 2008; worked to build a team that has increased first to second year retention from 76 percent to 81 percent between fall 2005 and fall 2008; and oversaw an increase of 280,000 square feet of academic space.

Bleicken's selection by the USG Board of Regents and her recommendation as a finalist by the AASU Presidential Search Committee resulted from an extensive and rigorous process that was launched in fall 2008.

The AASU search committee included representatives from various areas of the campus, including academia, human resources, the student body, the Alumni Association and the AASU Foundation.

THE SAVANNAH TRIBUNE

1805 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Savannah, Georgia 31401
Ph. (912) 233-6128 FAX (912) 233-6140
www.savannahtribune.com

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Tanya Milton

Vice President/Advertising Director
tanya@savannahtribune.com

Marius L. Davis

Managing Editor
sharon@savannahtribune.com

Horacio Allen

Graphic Designer

A. Camille James
Education Editor

Rachelle J. Gregory
Staff Writer

Zyon D. Smiley
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