(Project Title)
"Sharing Stories of Civic Democracy"

(Sub-Contract Grantee Name/Authorized Signatory/Address/Phone)
(This is not the same person as the ATP faculty director.)

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(ATP project date)
February 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

(Date this document was submitted)
May 8, 2012

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Final Report Narrative

Grantee Name: Auburn University  Project Director: Mark Wilson

Description of Project: During the 2011 fall semester, as part of their coursework for CCEN 2000: Introduction to Community and Civic Engagement, ATP students partnered with the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center to record and transcribe oral history interviews related to the historic civil rights case Lee v. Macon County Board of Education. Macon County is one of four distressed counties in the ARC Alabama region, so the opportunity for students to assist with the work of the Tuskegee Center and learn about the history and current economic challenges of Macon County was a good fit for our work.

Activities: 1) Community event to announce the project (Aug 31); 2) Each of the six students audio-recorded oral history interviews and prepared transcriptions; 3) Partner visit to campus to discuss work of the Tuskegee Center; 4) Washington, D.C. ATP presentation; principal Tuskegee partner and others viewed live presentation online; 5) presentation to Tuskegee Center, participants, and elected officials/public invited (Feb 4); 6) poster presentation at Alabama Historical Association annual meeting (Apr 12-14)

Project Outcomes: In addition to the stated goals of procuring interviews, producing transcripts, and exploring ways to deliver the content to the interested persons, the project has begun a relationship that has proved long-term and promising for future students and citizens in Macon County. Two of the principal participants in the court case were identified through the project, and we have made arrangements to honor these men at this year’s high school graduation, since their own commencement ceremony was canceled in 1964 due to the circumstances of desegregation. Also as a result, two of the interviewees became participants in a high school field trip organized by project director Wilson, and they were able to tell stories to students regarding their experiences in the 1950s 1960s in Tuskegee. Additionally, because of our work through the ATP project, we were able to connect additional Auburn University journalism students to the area to write feature stories, which were published during black history month in the weekly Tuskegee News.

Problems Encountered: Scheduling interviews around student schedules was challenging. One interview took place in Newnan, GA, so we incurred extra costs associated with the project. We encountered some challenges with audio equipment, and we learned much related to interview conditions and audio capabilities.

Program Continuation and Sustainability: The oral history project begun by students continues, and we have since doubled the number of interviews received, with no end in sight. Collaborations with the Tuskegee Center and AU continue to develop. We will propose an extension of this project for the next ATP cycle.
Conclusions and Recommendations:
This ATP project was a valuable way to introduce students to community development in Macon County, Alabama. The project allowed the goals of the ATP, the Tuskegee Center, and the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University to align and students continue to talk about the experience as an important one in their intellectual and social development. Our next project needs to build on the work and connect these oral histories to audiences in elementary and secondary schools in the county. The Tuskegee Center is an important educational institution, and its ability to function is hampered by the current economic situation in Macon County. Our continued partnership, if we continue to develop goals cooperatively, should develop into a longstanding relationship where students can gain important knowledge from research and practice in the community.

Attachments:
Flyer
Newspaper article
Press release
Tuskegee Oral History Project
Collecting ~ Preserving ~ Sharing

In anticipation of the forthcoming 50th anniversary of *Lee v. Macon*, the court case that helped end a segregated school system in Macon County and the state of Alabama, the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center and students in Auburn University’s College of Liberal Arts Community and Civic Engagement Initiative invite citizens to record their memories related to this period so that history will be preserved and shared with the public and future generations.

Oral history interviews will be conducted at a time and place convenient for interviewees. Interviewees will receive copies of transcripts of the interviews, which will be property of the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center. Students will report on the project in Washington, D.C. in December 2011 at a symposium of the Appalachian Teaching Project, a program of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

To participate in the project, contact Dr. Mark Wilson, College of Liberal Arts, at mwilson@auburn.edu or 334-844-6198 or T. C. Coley, Executive Director, Tuskegee Human and Multicultural Center, at tc.coley@tuskegeecenter.org or 334-724-0800.
Oral History Project preserves historic Tuskegee events

By KEVIN MCDOUGALL

Black History Month

The Tuskegee Oral History Project is part of the Tuskegee University Student Union and was started, according to the University's Student Union program director, to preserve and share the stories of Tuskegee's past.

The project began in 2011 and has since grown to include interviews with Tuskegee alumni and faculty about their experiences at the university. The project is housed in a room in the Tuskegee University Student Union and is open to the public.

Each Oral History Project interview will be held on a different date and will be recorded and transcribed. The interviews will be archived for future use.

The oral history project is part of Tuskegee's commitment to preserving its history and providing a resource for future generations.

On February 12, 2012, Dr. Ronald Mc Dougall, a professor of History and African American Studies, presented an oral history program in the Tuskegee University Student Union.

The program featured interviews with Tuskegee alumni and faculty about their experiences at the university, as well as a screening of the documentary film "Tuskegee Airmen: History of a Legend."
Oral History Project Participants Show At Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights


Oral History Project Participants Show At Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights
Example of unexpected, positive outcome related to ATP project.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Class of ’64 Students Revisit Attempted Integration of Public Schools in Macon County

Anthony Lee and Willie Wyatt Jr., two of three seniors who attempted to integrate Macon County High School in Notasulga in 1964, will discuss their experiences related to the event on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center at 2:00 p.m.

Lee and Wyatt were among local students who filed the suit, Lee v. Macon County Board of Education, which desegregated Tuskegee High School in 1963. That event led to the closing of the school by then Governor George Wallace, the establishment of Macon County Academy, and eventually integrated all elementary and secondary schools in Alabama. That case also desegregated all of the institutions and facilities then under the supervision of the Alabama State Board of Education.

In February 1964, school officials divided the group to attend Shorter High School and Macon County High School in Notasulga. Some white students in Notasulga resisted integration and responded with violence, which was reported nationally. Only six students remained after the white students departed from Macon County High School - three of whom received diplomas without a graduation ceremony.

The Macon County Board of Education has invited Lee, Wyatt and a representative for the now-deceased third student Robert Judkins, to participate in the 2012 graduation ceremony at Notasulga High School.

The public is invited to attend the 2:00 p.m. event with Lee and Wyatt, who will recount their experience. Participants will also hear recently discovered audio recordings of ABC News correspondent and journalist Paul Good, which includes a first-hand account of the violence and an interview shortly thereafter with the mayor of Notasulga. The lawyer that represented the students in the lawsuit, Attorney Fred D. Gray, will also be in attendance at the event.

This event stems from a collaborative and ongoing project between the Community and Civic Engagement Initiative in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University and the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center to document and preserve citizen memories related to the desegregation of public schools in Macon County.

For more information, please contact:
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