



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Dean Colson, Chair, Florida Board of Governors
FROM: Andy McLeod, Coordinator, Viva Florida 500, Florida Humanities Council
RE: Florida Quincentenary (1513-2013)
DATE: January 8, 2013

The purpose of this memo is to provide brief background for the pending request of the Florida Humanities Council to present before the Board of Governors on the great educational importance of the Florida Quincentenary (1513-2013). It is our hope to appear before the Board at its meeting at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee March 27-28.

FHC's purposes in proposing this presentation include to:

- Explain and emphasize the educational potential of this extraordinary, rare "teachable moment" for Florida.
- Make visible the connections between the quincentenary and the ongoing work of scholars and programs at many State University system campuses,
- Outline the complementary work of FHC in mobilizing scholars to convey the important history of Florida and its place in the Americas and to assist public school teachers of Florida and US history and culture.

Examples of the extensive involvement of State University faculty and programmatic involvement in the quincentenary include:

University of Florida: UF manages some of the most important historic properties in St. Augustine (a central location for the commemoration of 1513), ensuring their long-term preservation and interpretation and training in historic preservation, archaeology, and related fields. Dr. Michael Gannon (Ph.D., UF), Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History at UF, is a state and national treasure whose scholarship has heightened and expanded the understanding of Florida's history in major ways. He keynoted the FHC-sponsored conference on "Culturally La Florida: Spain's New World Legacy" by Flagler College last year. (Please see below).

University of South Florida: The "Florida's Hispanic Heritage" conference, sponsored by the USF Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean with many community partners, was funded by FHC and held in October 2012. The USF Florida Studies Program, including its Director, Dr. Michael Francis, Hough Family Endowed Chair, and Dr. Gary Mormino, Senior Scholar and former Frank E. Duckwall Professor of History, is a foremost intellectual resource on the 500th and all of Florida history and culture. Dr. John Belohlavek, USF Professor of History, co-authored the January 1 op-ed in the Tampa Bay Times that began the quincentennial year (attached).

University of West Florida: A division of the UWF Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, the Archaeology Institute has been coordinating Pensacola's VIVA 500 programming in cooperation with UWF's West Florida Historic Preservation Inc. and many partnering entities in northwest Florida. Other UWF

departments (History, Anthropology, and Florida Public Archaeology Network) are planning events and activities for the 500th and promoting heritage preservation and tourism through research and community engagement.

Florida State University: Among the FSU entities involved in the quincentenary are the History Department, including Dr. Andrew Frank (Ph.D., UF), Allen Morris Associate Professor of History, and the nationally ranked Division of Spanish and Portuguese.

University Press of Florida: The 500th is a top priority for UPF. For two years, 2012-13, the Press is featuring books that address elements of the quincentennial.

The current programs and initiatives of the **Florida Humanities Council** that highlight the quincentenary include:

- **New On-line History Curriculum:** The Council has developed a major, new web-based curriculum for Florida educators. TeachingFlorida.org is a learning resource, designed by teachers, for teachers, but also of great use to the general public.
- **Teacher Training:** Every year the Humanities Council brings hundreds of Florida elementary and secondary educators to St. Augustine for training specifically on the teaching of the history of Florida.
- **Audio and Video “History Moments”:** In conjunction with WPBT-TV in Miami and public radio stations statewide, the Humanities Council is producing “Florida History Moments” for radio (more than 100), television (30), and the Internet.
- **Statewide Conferences:** As noted above, FHC funded three, major statewide conferences on the 500th last year in anticipation of 2013. In addition to the USF conference on “Florida’s Hispanic Heritage,” the University of Miami’s Center for the Humanities produced “Florida at the Crossroads” in January 2012, and Flagler College produced “Culturally La Florida: Spain’s New World Legacy” in May 2012. Free to the public and scholars alike, and several days in length, all of these conferences explored in depth aspects of Florida’s past and deep culture.
- **FORUM Magazine:** FHC’s award-winning magazine has been dedicated to the 500th for the two past issues.

The Members of the Board of Directors of the **Florida Humanities Council** include:

- **Dr. John Belohlavek**, Professor of History, USF.
- **Dr. David Colburn**, Executive Director of the UF Reubin O'D. Askew Institute on Politics and Society, former Chair of the History Department, Provost, Senior Vice President, and Vice Provost and Dean of the International Center, UF.
- **Dr. Norma Goonen**, Provost for Academic and Student Affairs, Miami Dade College.
- **Dr. Darryl Paulson** (Ph.D., FSU), Professor Emeritus of Political Science, USF
- **Margo Stringfield**, Research Associate, Archaeology Institute, UWF.
- **Dr. Robert Taylor** (Ph.D., FSU), Professor Humanities and Communication, Florida Institute of Technology.

Thank you very much.

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Commemorating, learning, and teaching Florida's Quincentenary (1513-2013)