



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

The Mississippi Humanities Council, the Margaret Walker Center, and Jackson State University to host *Celebrating the Legacy of the Black Press*, part of a national, year-long commemoration of Pulitzer Prize at 100.

On Tuesday, October 18, 2016, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Margaret Walker Center, and Jackson State University will host *Celebrating the Legacy of the Black Press*, a free and open-to-the-public symposium exploring the historical and contemporary role of black newspapers in the South. The symposium is part of a national, year-long commemoration of the centennial of the Pulitzer Prize, featuring public programs across the country focusing on journalism and the humanities, to inspire new generations to consider the values represented by Pulitzer Prize-winning work.

Celebrating the Legacy of the Black Press will include two public panel presentations: one from 2-4 p.m. in the Jackson State University Student Center Theater, 1400 John R. Lynch Street, discussing the historical role of African American newspapers both as sources of life-sustaining information not easily accessible to blacks in mainstream media and as a voice for the African American perspective on political and social issues; and a second from 6-8 p.m. in the Percy W. Watson Lobby at the JSU Downtown Campus, 101 W. Capitol Street, addressing contemporary challenges and trends in black media and the ongoing need for a black press.

The afternoon panel will be keynoteed by Dr. LaShonda Katrice Barnett, a literature and history scholar who has taught at Columbia University and Northwestern University and published a well-received novel last year, *Jam on the Vine*, which chronicles the rise of African American activism in the early 20th century through the life of a poor Texas girl who creates a groundbreaking career in journalism. A panel discussion will follow, featuring Dr. Elayne H. Anthony, dean of the JSU School of Journalism and Media Studies, Dr. Will Norton, dean of the Meek School of Journalism and New Media at the University of Mississippi, and Deirdre Glover, a student in the JSU School of Journalism and Media Studies.

The evening panel will be keynoteed by Kathy Times, immediate past president of the National Association of Black Journalists, and Rip Daniels, owner of WJZD radio in Gulfport. A panel discussion will follow, featuring Jackie Hamilton, founder, publisher and editor of the *Mississippi Link*; Donna Ladd, co-founder and editor of the *Jackson Free Press*; Alice Tisdale, co-founder and publisher of the *Jackson Advocate*; and Ronnie Agnew, executive director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting and former executive editor of *The Clarion-Ledger*.

A public reception will precede the evening program, from 5-6 p.m. in the art gallery at the JSU Downtown Campus. Parking for the reception and program will be available on the street and in the JSU parking lot across the street from the downtown facility.

Further details about *Celebrating the Legacy of the Black Press* may be found at http://www.mshumanities.com/index.php/event/celebrating_the_legacy_of_the_black_press/ and on Facebook at [facebook.com/mississippi.humanities](https://www.facebook.com/mississippi.humanities).