



## Press Release

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**For Immediate Release:**

Margaret Walker Center partners with the Mississippi Humanities Council and others on a new discussion series to explore American Muslim Stories.

**Jackson, MS, August 21, 2013**—The Mississippi Humanities Council received a \$4,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to host two five-part reading and discussion series titled “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys.”

The Council is one of 125 libraries and state humanities councils across the country selected to participate in the project, which seeks to familiarize public audiences in the United States with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

Dr. Robert Lockett, Margaret Walker Center Director, says that “the Center is pleased to be one of the partners with the Mississippi Humanities Council on the Muslim Journeys theme of ‘American Stories.’ We’re proud to host this program in Jackson and on the Jackson State campus.”

Books to be discussed in the local series include *Prince Among Slaves: The True Story of an African Prince Sold into Slavery in the American South* by Terry Alford; *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States* by Edward E. Curtis IV, editor; *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation* by Eboo Patel; *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil’s Resurgence, from the Middle East to America* by Leila Ahmed; and *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson.

While the large presence of Muslims in the United States dates to the 1960s, Muslims have been a part of the history of America since colonial times. American Muslims’ stories draw attention to the ways in which people of varying religious, cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds interact to shape both their communities’ identities and our collective past.



The first discussion series will run from September 2013 to March 2014. Participation is free and open to all.

**Discussions will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Margaret Walker Center, located in historic Ayer Hall on the campus of Jackson State University (1400 John R. Lynch Street), and, on September 12, it will include an open house and reception beginning at 4 p.m. in Ayer Hall.**

The schedule for the first discussion series includes:

Sept. 12, 2013	<i>Prince Among Slaves</i> Dr. Robert Luckett, scholar Dr. Berthron Mock-Muhammad, facilitator
Oct. 10, 2013	<i>Acts of Faith</i> Dr. Loye Ashton, scholar Dr. Robert Luckett, facilitator
Nov. 14, 2013	<i>The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States</i> Imam Plemon T. El-Amin, scholar Dr. Don Fortenberry, facilitator
Feb. 13, 2014	<i>A Quiet Revolution</i> Dr. Loye Ashton, scholar
March 6, 2014	<i>The Butterfly Mosque</i> Dr. Loye Ashton, scholar

For more information, contact the Margaret Walker Center at 601-979-2055 or the Mississippi Humanities Council at 601-432-6752.

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