



SJSU Journalism School - Presidential Inauguration Trip 2009 Proposal

"44 Years to the 44th President - Connecting Our Civil Rights Past with America's Historic Future"

The goal of this timely and dynamic Journalism School project is to connect San Jose State University's diverse student body and local communities in Northern California, with their national roots in the American civil rights movement, and enable, through student reporting with new technology, a historic and national chronicle of the steps and moments in time which ultimately enabled the landmark election of America's first African-American president.

With technology and financial support from companies in the Silicon Valley and the university, we propose positioning SJSU, as one of the leading west coast academic institutions with an international reputation for top quality journalism education, in the forefront of national attention as America awaits the inauguration of Barack Obama.

We propose selecting and paying for a group of 6 to 8 students from a variety of ethnic cultures to embark on a ten day, cross-country information gathering journey. Under the supervision of two JMC faculty members, the following itinerary will provide a unique opportunity for all to learn from people and contacts in key areas of the civil rights movement. Using new technology, students will file timely news feature stories, video features and multimedia presentations for print, broadcast and posting online.

Winter Session Course: January 5 to January 20, 2009

Four students will register for **MCOM 180 – Independent Study, three units credit**, and will meet with faculty beginning Monday, January 5 to Friday, January 9 on campus for class instruction, becoming immersed in the politics and press coverage of the U.S. civil rights movement.

Required Text:

"The Race Beat - The Press, The Civil Rights Struggle and the Awakening of A Nation, by Gene Roberts and Hank Kilbanoff" (The authors won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize)

This ten day excursion will require overnight accommodations for faculty and students on the trip. All participants will be thoroughly briefed on location and its history, and arrangements will be made to help students connect and speak with key sources along the route. Strict deadlines and faculty copy editing will be imposed to insure quality daily postings of reports, photos and videos. At the end of the trip, a comprehensive portfolio of student efforts will be produced as a special historic supplement for public distribution.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications will work to publicize this unique fact-finding effort and develop local and national media interest and coverage.

Total budget based on airfare...Departing: San Jose to Memphis, Return: Washington, D.C. to San Jose (\$3,200 estimate), van rental with all insurances \$2,200 - Memphis to Washington, D.C., gas (\$400), hotel accommodations – 2 singles for faculty and 4 double rooms for students (\$12,000 x 10 nights) - and meal per diems for faculty (\$700/\$35 per day). The students will pay winter session tuition (\$5280), their incidentals and meals.

Including Insurance Expense (Requirement) – To be determined by the university.

Estimated minimum total cost / Need to fundraise: \$25,000



INAUGURATION 2009 TRAVEL - TENTATIVE SCHEDULE *(subject to changes)*

Saturday, January 10 - depart S.J. for Memphis, TN. Tour Beale Street. Overnight Memphis.

Sunday, January 11 - AM Church services; PM visit to the National Civil Rights Museum; Depart 3pm for Jackson, Mississippi. Drive through the destitute towns Tunica, Tutwiler, Marks and Clarksdale along the Mississippi Delta. We'll stop along the Tallahatchie River to reflect on Emmitt Till, who was killed by whites in August 1955. Arrive 10pm Jackson, MS. Overnight Jackson, MS. **Four hour drive.**

Monday, January 12 - Interview Ronnie Agnew, Executive Editor, Jackson Clarion Ledger. Agnew is the only African American editor at a major daily newspaper in Mississippi. Depart Jackson for Philadelphia, MS (Neshoba County) 87 miles (**two hour drive**) and view the area where the KKK killed the three civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who died registering black voters. **Drive three hours** to Selma, Alabama. Overnight Selma, AL.

Tuesday, January 13 - AM walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Meet and interview locals that were part of "Bloody Sunday" on March 7, 1965. Walk a portion of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights Trail. Visit the roadside memorial of Viola Liuzzo, a white housewife from Detroit, who had traveled to Alabama to fight for the rights of blacks to vote, and was shot and killed by the KKK on March 25, 1965. PM arrive in Montgomery and tour Southern Poverty Law Center and interview director Morris Dees, concerning the spike in Hate Crimes since the election. Evening **two hour drive** to Birmingham. Overnight Birmingham, AL.

Wednesday, January 14 - visit Birmingham Civil Rights District aka ground-zero for the Civil Rights Movement. The area includes the landmark 16th Street Baptist Church. The KKK bombed the church on Sunday morning, September 15, 1963 killing four girls. Interview with church pastor and members. Interview editors at Birmingham News. Overnight Birmingham, AL.

Thursday, January 15 - AM departure for Atlanta. **Three hour drive.** Early afternoon tour of Martin Luther Center. Interview Christine King Farris, sister of MLK, Jr. Meet with Morehouse (Dr. King's Alma Mater) and Spelman College students. Overnight Atlanta, GA.

Friday, January 16 - AM Tour CNN headquarters and interviews with Hank Kilbanoff, managing editor of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, and co-author of *Race Beat*, and Cynthia Tucker, editorial page editor. Ms. Tucker won the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for Commentary. PM departure for Greensboro, NC. **Five hour drive.** Overnight Greensboro, N.C.

Saturday, January 17 - AM tour of Historical Museum, site of Woolworth lunch counter sit-ins by four North Carolina A&T State University students. Interview with local newspaper editors and visit NCA&T campus. Overnight Greensboro, N.C.

Sunday, January 18 - Church services and afternoon departure for Washington, D.C. **Five hour drive.**
Overnight D.C/Virginia/Maryland area.

Monday, January 19 - tour Newseum and partake in pre-Inaugural activities. Conduct interviews. Overnight
D.C/Virginia/Maryland area.

Tuesday, January 20 - AM assemble on the Mall for the Inauguration of Barack Obama

Wednesday, January 21 - AIR departure to San Jose, CA or **late flight on January 20.**



**School of Journalism & Mass Communications
San Jose State University**

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