

Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Task Force
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Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Task Force Hosts Esteemed Author for Inaugural Event

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuscaloosa, AL – The Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Task Force will present “Tuscaloosa & The Alabama Civil Rights Trail: An Evening with Frye Gaillard, taking place at The Alberta School for the Performing Arts Auditorium, on Friday, January 27, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend this event and it is open to the public. This marks the inaugural event for the group, which was recognized on October 18, 2016, by the Tuscaloosa City Council with an official proclamation by Mayor Walter Maddox. A panel--which will include Albany State President Dr. Art Dunning, a student in 1966-1970, and one of five African-American students who "walked on" the football team in 1967--will discuss the integration of The University of Alabama's football team and the role Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and his team had in integrating the university as a whole.

Dr. Frye Gaillard, a writer-in-residence at the University of South Alabama, is considered to be one of the most respected historian-journalists working in the Southeast today. He is the author of more than 20 books and is one of New South Books most in-demand speakers. Dr. Gaillard was recently awarded the prestigious Eugene Current-Garcia Distinguished Scholar Award at the 2016 Annual Alabama Writers Symposium in Monroeville, AL. His previous honors include the Lillian Smith Award for non-fiction, the Clarence Cason Award for non-fiction, and the Alabama Library Association Book of the Year Award.

His works include a number of books about race relations in the South, most notably The Alabama Civil Rights Trail, an Illustrated Guide to the Cradle of Freedom and most recently his book for middle school-age students Go South to Freedom.

The Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Task Force group seeks to tell the story of Tuscaloosa's important role in the Civil Rights Movement through their mission: “Tuscaloosa will become an important tourist destination for Civil Rights history through the implementation of a Civil Rights trail, museum, and other resources recognizing historical honesty as a vital companion to economic, moral and intellectual prosperity.”

<http://civilrightstuscaloosa.org/>
<http://fryegaillard.blogspot.com/>