Call for Papers

Remnant Trust Conference: Shaping of the American Character

Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne
Walb Union at IPFW

Conference date: January 31, 2009
Proposals due: November 7, 2008

In honor of the Remnant Trust collection of rare books and documents on display at IPFW in the spring of 2009, this conference seeks to bring together academic and community members of all ages from across northeastern Indiana to discuss influential social, economic, cultural, and historic factors in the shaping of American identity.

Many of the Remnant Trust documents on display have directly influenced the development of American politics, culture, economy, and society—in short, American identity. In the spirit of these historically important and sometimes controversial texts, papers should explore what it means, or has meant, to be an American.

While most presentations will be based on scholarly papers, teachers and education majors may present innovative lesson plans that explore the ways conference themes can be integrated into the classroom. Presentations should be no more than 20 minutes in length.

Participants might want to address one or more of the following:

- How have major events influenced what it is to be an American?
- What role have historical authors such as Frederick Douglass, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, and others played in shaping American identity?
- How has immigration shaped the nation?
- What is an American “patriot”?
- How have Americans balanced politics and religious traditions?
- How has business and commerce influenced what it is to be American?
- What has been the role of the government?

A full list of Remnant Trust documents can be found online at www.ipfw.edu/celt/grants/PDFs/RemnantList.pdf. More information concerning the Remnant Trust exhibit at IPFW can be found at http://remnanttrust.ipfw.edu/. Though conference participants are encouraged to discuss documents IPFW will have on display, this by no means will be a requirement for acceptance.

Paper proposals of not more than 500 words are due November 7, 2008. We encourage submissions from university students and faculty, interested community members, and school teachers. Those accepted for presentations are expected to submit a draft of their papers by January 12, 2009. The conference itself will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2009 in the Walb Union on the IPFW campus. Please email proposals (and paper drafts) to Kim Wagner at amerchar@ipfw.edu. For more information, contact David Schuster at schusted@ipfw.edu or (260) 481-6697.