

Program Summary (15 March 2012)

At 8:00 p.m., President Alexander alerted the membership that the evening's presentation would begin shortly. Visitors were introduced.

At 8:10 p.m., Fields introduced the evening's speaker **Dr. Alex Byrd**. Dr. Byrd is Associate Professor of History at Rice University. Dr. Byrd is the recipient of numerous teaching awards and currently serves as Master of Weiss College. Dr. Byrd is author of *Captives and Voyagers (2008)*, reflecting his research interest in the transatlantic slave trade. The title of his talk was *School Desegregation in the Urban South: Was it Worth It (and is it still)?* The membership warmly welcomed Professor Byrd.



Dr. Byrd began his talk with a short personal history explaining his new research interest in education. He attended Vanguard schools in HISD and studied at Rice University intending to become a teacher himself. Instead he earned his PhD in history from Duke University. Now on the faculty at Rice, his two children are students in HISD.

Dr. Byrd's research plan is to compare the histories of Jack Yeats and Sharpstown High Schools. The role of various court cases, beginning with *Brown vs. Board of Education*, was intertwined with observations about the positive aspects of desegregation and perhaps unanticipated costs. As the research is ongoing and in its early stages, a number of hypotheses and possible results was explored while leaving a definitive answer to the future. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period where a number of

opinions were expressed and factors discussed. The audience warmly thanked Professor Byrd at the conclusion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

David W. Scott
Recording Secretary