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**THE JUNE LEARNING LUNCH PROGRAM AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE WILL
FEATURE DR. GEORGE B. ELLENBERG, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND PROVOST
EMERITUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**

The History Museum of Mobile's next Learning Lunch Program is on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 12pm and will feature Dr. George B. Ellenberg, Professor of History and Provost Emeritus at the University of West Florida. The topic of his presentation is ***Mules, Machines, and the Cotton South, 1850-1950.***

Dr. George B. Ellenberg, Professor of History and Provost Emeritus at the University of West Florida, conducts research and teaches courses history of the Old and New South, and agrarianism in American history. After over twenty years in administrative roles, including more than five years as Provost and Senior Vice President, Professor Ellenberg returned in January 2024 to the Department of History and Philosophy.

Growing up in the South, Ellenberg gained an appreciation for his agricultural roots, and this background guided his scholarly interest in the history of the region's agriculture. He has published numerous book reviews, articles, and encyclopedia entries on various aspects of agricultural mechanization and modernization in the context of the American South. Two of those articles, "Debating Farm Power: Draft Animals, Tractors, and the United States Department of Agriculture," and "African Americans, Mules, and the Southern Mindscape, 1850-1950," were published in *Agricultural History*, the journal of the Agricultural History Society. The latter article was also presented as a paper at a meeting of the Agricultural History Society held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ellenberg's book, *From Mule South to Tractor South: Mules, Machines and the Transformation of the Cotton South*, describes the adoption of the mule as the preeminent draft animal in the American South and its ultimate displacement by the tractor. The book also focuses on subsequent cultural and economic shifts in the cotton South. His book received the University of Alabama Press Faculty Editorial Board's Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize, as the manuscript "most deserving in Alabama or Southern history or culture."

A faculty member since 1994, Ellenberg has been recognized by students and his peers for his dedication to teaching excellence. He has received UWF's Distinguished Teaching Award, as well as a State University System of Florida Teaching Incentive Program Award.

In his administrative role, Ellenberg attended the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education seminar at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2015. In 2007, he was named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow. During the 2007-2008 academic year, he worked with executive leadership at Georgia State College and University. Ellenberg was a member of the 2000-2001 UWF Leadership Enhancement and Development Program. He was also selected as a participant in the Summer Seminar in Military History West Point, New York. In addition, he teaches on a regular basis a graduate-level course in strategy and warfare for the Naval War College as part of its distance education program in Pensacola.

Professor Ellenberg received his B.A. and M.A. from Clemson University and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky. He is married to Karen Thomson Ellenberg, and they are proud parents of three sons.

The History Museum of Mobile invites the public to attend the **free Learning Lunch lecture series**. Guests are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy a presentation on an historical or cultural topic. For more information on Learning Lunch, contact Jennifer Theeck, Curator of Education, at (251) 301-0270 or by email at theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com.

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE: The History Museum of Mobile is where Mobile's story begins. Over 117,000 objects weave together the rich, diverse, and often turbulent histories of Mobile and the surrounding area, from the prehistoric past to the present. Located in the heart of downtown, the History Museum is in the Old City Hall - Southern Market building at 111 South Royal Street. For more information, please visit: www.historymuseumofmobile.com

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