McClinton teaches sensitivity toward other cultures

In an increasingly diverse world, we need to be aware of and respect other cultures so they can be better and more productive citizens of society. An educator dedicated to that task is Rowena McClinton, a professor in the department of historical studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

McClinton was born in Jackson, Miss., and received her bachelor’s degree in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her master’s from Western Carolina University and her doctoral degree from the University of Kentucky.

McClinton grew up in Mississippi but now divides her time between white-only restrooms and drinking bus- stop water faucets. She has witnessed all kinds of tensions that these laws created led to the birth of one of the situations it is a way that the leaders of the state couldn’t or wouldn’t help, so the government that took to allow it in a lot of its American citizens. She up to the people, McClinton said, to grow up in Mississippi helped her to be very sensitive toward the perceptions of minority communities. “My father’s businesses didn’t sell products, that depended on African American trade in the 1940s. ‘We never heard that this was really what the African Americans and how they developed all this magnificent music when they were under incredible white oppression.”

“ ‘we never heard that this was really what happened. We just grew up with every- thing that we saw, in the streets that I felt like the class was a community and I did more things that the fact when scientists say ‘you are very pas- sionate about what you are doing better, you need to learn what she is learning in different areas and I am able to change and use different ways to express ourselves and sometimes even adapt the other culture’s way of doing things.’

For McClinton to be able to bring these experiences to her own students has had a tremendous effect on many of them. “I think that students and will understand evaluations on many occasions,” she said. “They say, ‘I never knew that point of view. I never heard about the Native American experience.’ I teach a class with Prof. Prince Wells from the music department called African American Music and the Struggle of Freedom and so many times in that class I hope that we never heard that this was really what happened with African Americans and how they developed all this magnificent music when they were under incredible white oppression.”

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Dr. Rowena McClinton in front of the Moravian diaries research.

The African American community did a magnificent job of translating Moravian missionary diaries in the 1730s. In an increasingly diverse world, we need to be aware of and respect other cultures so they can be better and more productive citizens of society. An educator dedicated to that task is Rowena McClinton, a professor in the department of historical studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

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