

2008 Fall Forums in Georgia

Volume 1, Issue 2
February 4, 2008

Survey for Selecting Forum Issues

Memo

To: Civic-Minded Friends

From: Margaret Holt

Subject: Issues for Forums
in September and October

people in Georgia and
around the country to help
make this happen.

you please check **two is-
sues** from the list below
you would recommend for
two of the forums and
email your choices back to
me? agkefalas@charter.net
Many thanks!



*University of Georgia's Dr.
Pam Kleiber with students at the
Carter Library Public Policy
Institute.*

In September and October,
the Presidential Libraries,
Russell Library at UGA, a
yet-to-be selected site in
the Tifton-Albany area and
other places around the
U.S. will host non-partisan
National Issues Forums
around the dates of the
three Presidential and one
Vice-Presidential Debates.
The debates are set for Sep-
tember 26, October 2, 7,
and 15. I'm working with

I would like to ask you to
help in the decision-making
about the forum topics.
Healthcare is already se-
lected for all sites. Would

Choose Two Issues from this List

**The \$9 Trillion Debt:
Breaking the Habit of Defi-
cit Spending**

The bad habit of deficit
spending is more appar-
ent than ever, and pres-
sures on the federal

budget will soon get
worse. It is not enough
to support deficit reduc-
tion in principle. The
challenge is to see what
changes most Ameri-
cans are willing to ac-

cept as the best way
out of a difficult situa-
tion.

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Jill Severn (Russell Library UGA) and Melissa Shivers (Student Affairs) moderating forum on Ethnic and Racial Tensions, January 22nd during MLK Campus Events

Choose Two Issues from this List (continued)

□ **What is the 21st Century Mission for Our Public Schools?**

From the very start, Americans have held widely divergent views on issues related to public schools. Many of these have to do with the methods by which we achieve an educated society. How do we ensure that our schools are accessible to all children? By what means do we hold students accountable for learning

presents three perspectives on the question of what can be done to ease the financial problems that plague both the working poor and many middle-class families.

□ **The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future**

America's way of life seems threatened by unstable sources of energy, while many see growing evidence of environmental damage. As demands for energy escalate, both in this country and in rapidly developing nations, we may soon reach a point of no return. It is time to face

and schools accountable for teaching them? What is the role of families in the education of their children? What is the responsibility of schools in addressing social issues that affect their students? What is the most efficient and fair way to fund public education?

the difficult choices that must be made to ensure a sustainable future.

□ **The New Challenges of American Immigration**

The U.S. has traditionally defined itself as a land of opportunity, a refuge from persecution, and a nation of immigrants. Today, more people than ever are trying to enter this country. While most Americans believe that, historically, immigration has strengthened the U.S., many people now question whether immigration is good for America. Is it time, once again, to

□ **Making Ends Meet: Is There a Way to Help Working Americans**

Today, millions of Americans are struggling to stay economically afloat. Many of them are working full-time, but they cannot make their paychecks stretch to pay the bills for basic necessities. What has come of the American Dream that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will prosper? This issue book

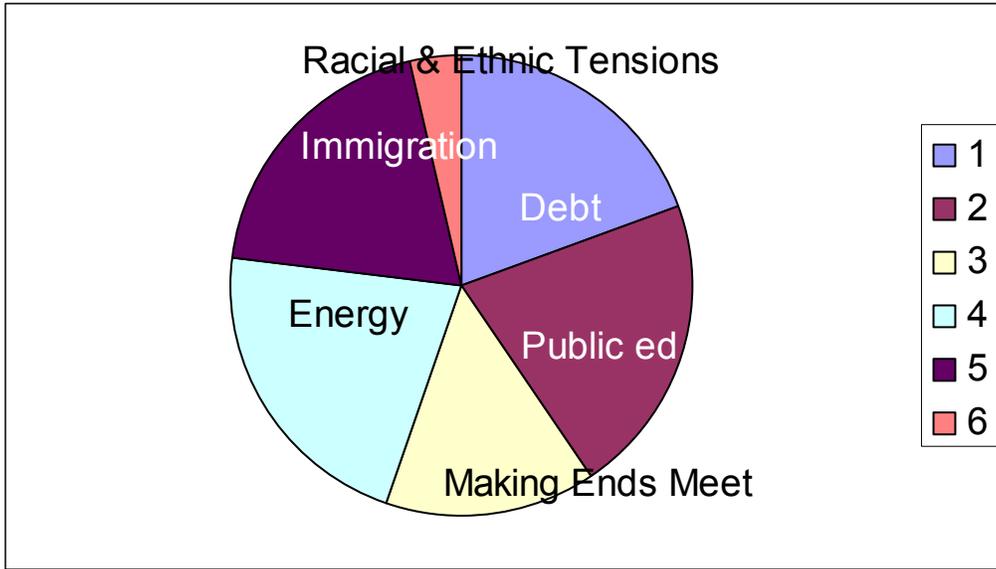
change our immigration policies? If so, how?

□ **Racial and Ethnic Tensions**

We have come a long way in the United States, but lingering racial and ethnic discrimination continues to strain the bonds that hold us together. It is time we set our minds to achieving Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of true equality. How can we best do this?



Kettering Foundation Associate, **Diane Eisenberg**, is working to encourage forums at all of our Presidential Libraries.



Kettering Foundation's Bob Daley chats with UGA student about the challenges of journalism in contemporary society.

N=75

As you know I'm trying to get some input on what topics people would be most interested "deliberating" in our Fall forums. So far I've only heard from 74 people. The pie chart above reflects the "voting" so far. Although people were asked to choose two, one chose three, and three not on the list were recommended.* All 75 people live in Georgia. They all know that Healthcare is definitely one of three forums to be held. If you have places you can circulate the list to get more input, just let me know and I'll email the "ballot" to you. Best, MHolt

*America's Role in the World

*An Issue dealing with world population

*An issue dealing with transparency in government

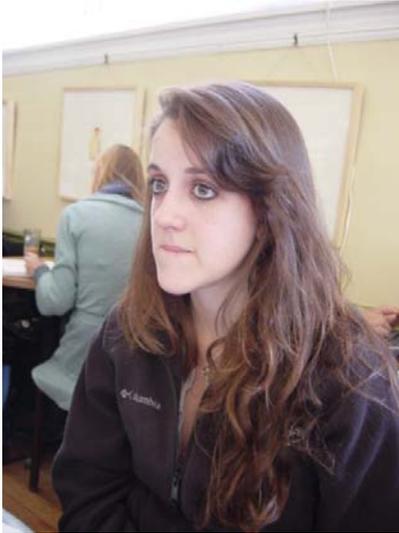
*An issue dealing with foreign policy

*The war in Iraq--for me this is a priority over any and all--relationship to education???certainly some kind of GI bill for returning vets--it's certainly tied into understanding (education?) people very different from ourselves.

Choices for issues for Fall Forums are Roughly Equally Divided so far with the Exception of the Issue Racial and Ethnic Tensions which has been Less Frequently Selected.



UGA/Athens Group at Moore College before boarding van to the Carter Library for Public Voice Energy Program



Red and Black's Carolyn Crist to offer media guidance.

University of Georgia Roosevelt Fellows and Honors Students are on board to help with the Fall Forums. Several have indicated they would like to moderate at all three sites. January 30, **Pam Kleiber** called a meeting at the Espresso Royale Coffee Shop on Broad Street, Athens, Georgia, where **Jill Severn** and I met with her and the following students:

Carolyn Crist (Associate News Editor for the campus paper, *The Red and Black*), **Susan Guo** (Honors Student from Tifton, Georgia who will help us develop the program in that area) and Roosevelt Fellows, **Tyler Pratt**, and **Kevin Chang**.

Jill has also encouraged us to seek the involvement of **Christine Tibbetts**. You'll know why when you read about her at this url:

<http://www.library.gsu.edu/spcoll/pages/pages.asp?ldID=105&guideID=534&ID=3419>

Georgia in the News

The University of Georgia, the Carter Library in Atlanta, and Albany State University have a long and rich history with National Issues Forums. Honors Students, Roosevelt Fellows, The Richard B. Russell Library, Leadership UGA and many others have used National Issues Forums in their programs and classrooms. If you would like more information about these programs, visit the National Issues Forum website at www.nifi.org

Read about Dr. Jay Hakes, Director of Carter Center Presidential Library

http://www.reinhardt.edu/YOME/YOME_hakes.htm

Meeting with Russell Library Planners

Jill Severn will lead a meeting Wednesday, February 6th to further discuss plans for Fall Forums at the Richard B. Russell Library on campus, as well as ideas of the Tifton-Albany Area. Sharon Gibson, who was the recorder in the recent MLK Forum on Racial and Ethnic Tensions will help coordinate the planning for this area.



Sharon Gibson, Recording at recent MLK event forum on Racial and Ethnic Tensions at UGA, will help organize forums in Tifton-Albany area. Sharon is a Public Service Associate in the Extension's Consumer and Family Science Division. She is a tremendous supporter of the NIF deliberative forums process.