

Healing History's Wounds

By Laura Milcarzyk | Owl Staff

Reader Reactions

"This book reflects HCC mission and value statements to embrace differences with respect. I hope people will have open hearts, open minds and keep dialoguing until it is resolved."

—Sharoll Love
Student Diversity Specialist

"I learned a lot. In history class, they skim over slavery. For instance, I did not know that 95% of slave trading was between the islands. This was a stimulating conversation."

—Brittany Martin
Psychology Major

"There is a huge disconnect with young people today. Young people don't realize the effects of the trauma or that everyone is still dealing with it. It trickles down to us young people from grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles and it does affect us. It would be good to have conversations like this in our high schools."

—Ozioma Onyekwere
General Studies Major



Authors Sharon Morgan (left) and Thomas DeWolf (right).

Thomas Norman DeWolf is a descendant of the richest slave trading family in America. Sharon Leslie Morgan has lived with racism most of her life. Together, they co-authored the book *Gather at the Table*, chronicling a journey that brings healing from wounds left by generations of slavery and racism.

For three years they immersed themselves in each other's worlds, traveling through 27 states and overseas, visiting historical sites and relatives'

At the discussion, Morgan and DeWolf share tidbits from their book. DeWolf is honest about his lack of understanding as a white man, concerning the struggles of African Americans. "I still don't feel what Sharon does," says DeWolf. "I can't. I have no idea what it is like to be black. Her history, her experience, her inheritance, her anguish... are foreign to me."

After growing up hearing and seeing the violent racial conflicts towards her entire family and even experiencing it

"My greatest hope is that my descendants... will inherit a better world than mine."

homes. Throughout their journey, they discuss, argue, laugh, and listen, but most importantly, they communicate. In the end, they find healing by overcoming racial divides and developing friendship.

In a visit to HCC, DeWolf and Morgan shared their experiences, hoping to create a dialogue that will start the healing process. Sharoll Love, who coordinated the event, says, "Ready or not, we need it. People may come timidly, but they will come. Some may not want to talk about it and that is okay. But some are ready to take it on."

herself, Morgan admits to carrying a gun when she is on the road. "I've been told point-blank to be very careful when wandering about the South on my own."

The authors realize there is a tremendous need in America for healing of racial wounds born out of slavery. Morgan says, "My greatest hope is that my descendants, my one son and two grandchildren, will inherit a better world than mine... As I walk this road with Tom DeWolf, I sincerely hope I am building a legacy of hope, justice, mercy and peace."