

**NUTRITION AND HEALTH DISPARITIES**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Join us for our next seminar, with special guest

**Tom Laffay**

Tierra Unida Films

**Examining Food Access through Community Film Making**Friday, September 30, **1:00 PM – 2:00 PM (note the different time)**

Public Health Research Center, Room 107

921 Assembly Street

**Activist Filmmaking:** The philosophy that drives making films about social or political issues in order to bring about positive social or political change. It goes on to expect that positive change can be made in the filmmaking process, by demanding that films be made *with* the communities that they are focusing on. By providing marginalized and/or oppressed communities the opportunity to partake in the production process of a creative work such as a documentary film, Tierra Unida Films believes that the positive outcomes from that experience would be immeasurable.

**Tom Laffay** is a graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC where he majored in Political Science and Latin American & Caribbean Studies and minored in Spanish. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Tom has consistently moved further south, with his future destination of Nicaragua. There, he plans to establish an "activist filmmaking" center in Leon, Nicaragua. Tom has studied in Havana, Cuba, and traveled in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Nicaragua. He has also worked on an organic vegetable farm outside of Boone, NC with migrant and local workers alike. A reoccurring theme he has witnessed are the social injustices throughout our Americas wrought by the dominant social and economic system that we are all a part of. To him, documentary film is the best way to address these issues and make positive change.

**America Street Film:** America Street, one of the oldest and most historied streets in Charleston, SC, is now the heart of a typically impoverished American neighborhood. Over the past seven months, Unida Films has been filming a documentary on the lack of access to fresh, locally produced food and what affect that has had on the America St. community: loss of health, political power, traditional knowledge, and a general sense of community. Their mission is to empower the people by assisting them in telling their story. By working on film production out of a community center in the neighborhood, they are attempting to truly give voice to the people. The end goal is to distribute the film to community centers nationwide, so it can serve as a tool for starting discussion on these issues.

**This is a free seminar and all faculty, staff, students & community members are welcome to attend.**

For directions or more information on this seminar contact Sarah Epting at [srgause@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:srgause@mailbox.sc.edu), or 803-777-6363. Visit us at: <http://nutritioncenter.sph.sc.edu/>