

CREST Residential Fellowship Application Cover Sheet  
Academic Year 2012-2013

Name Mark Ledbetter  
Rank Associate Prof.  
Department Philosophy & Religious Studies  
Campus address PO Box 2546 ; office 458 Western Ave #13  
Campus phone X3943 Home phone 518 439 1829  
Email address ledbettm@strose.edu  
Previous CREST Residential Fellow? NO If yes, give year \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Research Project "Ledbetter's Quarters"

Application materials:

- One copy of proposal narrative of roughly 1,500 words with cover sheet attached. Proposals should describe the project clearly and concisely for a multidisciplinary evaluation panel and address its relevance to current directions of research in the field. Please double-space proposals and use a 12-point type.
- One copy of bibliography not to exceed one page.
- One copy of *curriculum vitae*

Note to department heads:

- Residential Fellows will be released from one course during the fellowship year.
- This semester will tentatively be Fall 2012 or Spring 2013 (please circle one)

Department Head signature Laura Weed

Printed Laura Weed

If appointed in two departments:

Additional Department Head signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant [Signature]

Applications must be received by Friday, February 17, 2012

Please mail to:

Dr. John Williams-Searle, Director  
Center for Citizenship, Race, and Ethnicity Studies (CREST)  
The College of Saint Rose  
432 Western Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203-1490

To: Dr. John Williams-Searle, Director, The Center for Citizenship, Race, and Ethnicity Studies

From: Mark Ledbetter, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Re: Crest Residential Fellowship Proposal: "Ledbetter's Quarters"

**Scholarly Context:**

My proposed work addresses issues of race and racial divides in the context of poor, working class black and white people in rural Alabama during the 1960s and 70s. While historians and sociologists have produced extensive and substantive scholarly work in this area, much of it provides a divided picture, focusing either on race struggles and racial divides, or on the lives of working class whites, or the lives of African Americans. There is very little that shows the full complexity and tensions of integrated and interdependent lives, black and white, during a time of segregation. This is the contribution my work will make.

**Research Design I: The Story to Be Told** (an entry point and writing sample)

In the early 1950s my father bought 7 acres of land in the small town of Carrville, Alabama and began building houses there. Daddy had grown up in the area in a sharecropper family. Having just returned from WW II, he started a taxi business with three cars and two school buses.

Carrville had its own mayor, city council, police force (2), and volunteer fire department, though the town numbered only about 450 people. The town was adjacent to a larger "cotton mill town," Tallassee, with a population of about 5000. Two towns with this size community could support my daddy's businesses: taxi and school buses, a bit of whiskey running, and now he was