



MOSAIC

Spring 2014



PRIME TIME

Family time with
eye on literacy

National Conference
Draws Crowd to
Alabama

Museum On Main Street
visits more communities

Southern Literary Trail:
Exhibiting Literature

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The Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF), founded in 1974,
is the state nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation **Enhancing Minds ... Enriching Lives**

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OLD VIEWS & NEW CHALLENGES

From Executive Director Armand DeKeyser

As we go to press with this edition of *Mosaic*, I have been torn in my thinking about Alabama's past while at the same time, looking forward to our future.

This past year saw AHF host a wonderful national conference in Birmingham themed *Lifting Us Up: Reflection, Reconciliation and Renewal*. The conference helped draw more than 300 people to Alabama's largest city to commemorate our nation's civil rights adversities and triumphs using the humanities as a basis for the introspection.

The Federation of State Humanities Councils' conference visitors traveled to such iconic sites as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and the Edmund Pettis

Bridge in Selma. It was a time of exploration of long-held perceptions and a deeper understanding of this tumultuous time in our nation's history. No greater testament to its power was the reaction from attendees themselves. "This tour was amazing and transformed the way I think about the civil rights movement," said one visitor.

That is a fascinating and interesting comment. Think about how we consider the routine activities that involve our daily lives around us every day. Wouldn't it be delightful to have that same feeling of amazement and transformation occasionally? Well, we can, but as the visitor implied, you can't begin to experience that feeling without giving yourself the opportunity to learn and grow like she did when she joined the group of fellow travelers.

The humanities can offer so many different



Humanities

experiences in so many different venues, but... BUT, you must be willing to go that extra mile, open yourself to consider old opinions or views, let yourself consider new and different challenges. Too often I see individuals who can't or won't let go of misconceptions or bad information. It is hard for us to allow ourselves the freedom to think originally or differently or dangerously. Yet, where would we be if Rosa Parks had not challenged the old ways or if Montgomery's Henrietta (Boggs) McGuire had not protested the way women were treated in newly democratized Costa Rica? What if the Chinese student in Tiananmen Square had stepped aside and let the tank pass by? Or former US Attorney Doug Jones simply let the memory of four little girls be just that — a tragic memory — instead of righting a terrible wrong by bringing their killers to justice?

Looking toward the future beckons us to review our past. The past is our guide, our turning points that shape the way forward.

As we approach AHF's 40th anniversary, we cannot help but look back at so many who have come before us in efforts to advance the classic humanities. Working with the various studies of humanities helps us understand who and what we are. We should continually question our fundamental assumptions and accustomed patterns, just as they did 40 years ago.

Experience the great world of learning and knowledge. Use Alabama Humanities Foundation to help lead the way to fresh ideas and to guide your creative inner self. Challenge the past; yet revere what we learned from it.

Now...go be amazed and transformed!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Armand".

AHF Executive Director

The mission of the Alabama Humanities Foundation is to create and foster opportunities to explore human values and meanings through the humanities.

MOSAIC



8



16



14



About the Cover: The Pena family of Florence is benefiting from Prime Time, a literacy program aimed at families reading together and discussing what they have read. Prime Time is a pilot program of AHF and is at Florence, Birmingham and Mobile.
Photo by Wallace Bromberg Jr.

Inside this issue of *Mosaic*

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Old Views, New Challenges | 3 | National Conference | 16 |
| New AHF Leadership | 5 | Exhibiting Literature | 20 |
| Grants | 6 | Alabama Writers' Forum | 22 |
| Grant Procedure Change | 7 | 2013 Annual Report | 24 |
| Museum on Main Street | 8 | AHF Donors Honor Roll | 25 |
| Museum on Main Street Schedule | 9 | Awards Nominations | 26 |
| Road Scholars: New Faces | 11 | | |
| SUPER Teacher Program 2014 | 12 | | |
| Prime Time Family Reading | 14 | | |

For more on the Alabama Humanities Foundation, go to our website www.alabamahumanities.org

New leadership takes board helm at AHF

Retired Clay County Circuit Judge John Rochester passed the gavel for chairmanship of Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors to Guin Robinson of Birmingham in January.

A native of Ashland, Robinson is director of Institutional Development at Jefferson State Community College, is former mayor of Pell City, and he serves on a number of state and regional boards. He just completed a one-year term as vice chair of AHF.

Robinson chaired his first meeting in Montgomery at the Alabama Department of Archives with emphasis on the future as well as the past.

"I am very honored to have been selected as chair of Alabama Humanities Foundation," Robinson said. "As we approach our 40th year, I'm reminded that our organization has been well served by an impressive group of dedicated Alabamians. These individuals understood the important role that the humanities play in the lives of their fellow citizens."

AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser welcomed Robinson, noting, "his vision for taking our organization to the next level will be of great benefit and service to the humanities throughout Alabama."

"The future of AHF is very bright as we work toward our goal of bringing programs and grants that promote the human experience to every corner of our great state," Robinson said.

Rochester has served AHF in multiple capacities. He served as interim executive director before DeKeyser was named to that post in 2012, and for the past year, he served as chair. Prior to that, he was a member of the board of directors and vice chairman.

"I am honored to have worked with the board and staff of Alabama Humanities Foundation for the past five years as we sought to improve the lives of all Alabamians through the many grants and programs offered by AHF and our partner organizations," Rochester said.

"Because of John's leadership, AHF has grown into a strong voice for the humanities in our state, helping support diverse programs that educate, enlighten and enrich the lives of Alabama's citizens," DeKeyser said. "We thank him for his service."

Rochester credited all involved in what has become an AHF success story. "The generosity of our donors and the enthusiasm of our grantees and program participants have been especially gratifying and much appreciated," he said. "I look forward to continuing to support the work of AHF under the capable leadership of Chairman Guin Robinson and the other dedicated and talented board members."

New board member named

Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors elected University of Montevallo Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Suzanne Ozment to the board, effective Jan. 1.

She has been extensively involved in community service, especially with humanities and arts organizations. She served eight years on the Board of the South Carolina



Guin Robinson and John Rochester



Suzan Ozment

Humanities Council and two years as Board Chair. She served on a half dozen NEH panels reviewing grants for public humanities programs.

She has been actively engaged in *Let's Talk About It*, a National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association reading and discussion series. In addition to presenting dozens of programs at libraries and civic centers across South Carolina, she was asked to create two theme-based LTAI

series for South Carolina and was commissioned by the American Library Association to create four national LTAI series.

"I have seen firsthand the powerful impact public humanities programs have on people and am honored to contribute to the important work of the Humanities Foundation in bringing such programs to Alabamians," Ozment said.

"We are honored to have someone of Dr. Ozment's caliber on our board, and her extensive work in the humanities is a perfect complement to our mission across Alabama," said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser.

Ozment earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from East Carolina University and her Ph. D. in 19th-century British literature from the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Her career in higher education began at a Lutheran college, Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina, where she taught English. From there, she went to The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. Following 15 years as an English professor, she became Dean of Undergraduate Studies. In 2002, she was named Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of South Carolina Aiken, which she held until her move to Alabama in 2012. ■

Humanities grants awarded across Alabama

In the latest round of major grant giving by Alabama Humanities Foundation, \$67,887 in awards were distributed throughout the state for deserving humanities projects. In 2013, total grants awarded for 48 projects were \$188,969.95. Major grant recipients in the final quarter were:

Alabama Folklife Association

The Heritage and Future of Alabama's Sacred Harp Traditions: Contributions to Sacred is an exhibition and public discussion program at Shelby County Arts Council in Columbiana. The program examines Alabama's past, present and future contributions to the Sacred Harp traditions nationally and internationally.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery

Theatre in the Mind: In the Limelight brings the humanities to Alabama's students and adults. The program will be recorded and posted to Alabama Shakespeare Festival's YouTube page. Teachers can incorporate the lectures into their curriculums before bringing their students to SchoolFest (a comprehensive, student-matinee program that introduces students from across the Southeast to the arts and literature by providing subsidized tickets to an ASF play). Over 40,000 Alabama students will benefit from these videos.

University of South Alabama in Mobile

Half the Sky is an exhibit inspired by the best-selling book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by New York Times journalist Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (Knopf, 2009). It addresses the oppression of women and girls worldwide, using extant research and personal stories, to show how women and girls are effecting change in their communities and beyond.

It asserts global oppression of women and girls is a pivotal present-day moral challenge and overcoming these inequities can be a large part of the solution to world issues of poverty, terrorism and child mortality. The exhibit will be part of Common Read Initiative at the University of South Alabama and the Mobile community, fueling a host of special days and programs. It focuses on the same selected themes as the Common Read Initiative: Education, Economy, Sex Trafficking and Slavery, and Maternal Health.

Foundation for New Media - Birmingham

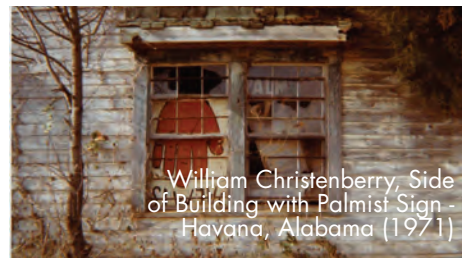
How They Got Over is a documentary film and web project exploring the story of African-American gospel quartets from the 1920s through the music's golden age in the 1960s. The quartets were inspired by the advent of phonograph records and radio to travel the roads singing to audiences to make a living. The documentary and web project explores how music enabled many blacks to escape poverty and how their music profoundly affected black and white audiences.

Friends of the Archives - Montgomery

ArchiTreats, a monthly lunchtime lecture series on the third Thursday of each month at Alabama Dept. of Archives and History, is a 40-minute presentation, followed by 15-20 minutes of questions, answers and audience discussion. Each is aimed at a general audience and usually includes visual illustrations. The 2014 series includes programs which complement the *Becoming Alabama* initiative to help commemorate and examine the legacy of the War of 1812/Creek War, the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement.

2014 Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery

The *2014 Alabama Book Festival* is April 19. Alabama Humanities is funding the non-fiction area that features 12-15 authors throughout the day. The authors will read from their book and take questions from the audience. It is at Old Alabama Town in Montgomery.



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Creator/Created: Jerry Siegal Portraits and Artists form the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Permanent Collection is an exhibition and program pairing works from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) permanent collection with photographer Jerry Siegel's portraits of their creators. It allows for fresh interpretations of the art works and new insight into their makers and is viewable March 8 through June 1.

Shelby County Arts Council in Columbiana

The *Eat, Drink, Read Writer Series* addresses themes of literature and history by involving authors of historical novels, middle school and high school fiction, and children's mystery books in readings and discussions. The events are in conjunction with Pelham Library and the Columbiana Library to include activities specific to each event.

Spark Media - Washington, D.C. and Montgomery

First Lady of the Revolution is a 60-minute documentary portrait of Henrietta Boggs McGuire, a born-and-bred Southern Belle, whose unconventional desire for social change at home led her into a whirlwind of revolutionary change abroad. As an eyewitness to tumultuous events that forever transformed Costa Rica and the region, her unique perspective offers a rare look at how the country's groundbreaking political reforms were shaped. After 10 years of marriage, she returned home to Alabama with her children. Rebuilding her life in Montgomery, she focused her energies on making a difference.

The Seasoned Performers - Birmingham

The Seasoned Performers, Alabama's only senior adult theatre company, will partner with Vulcan Park and Museum to present *Audacious Alabama Women: Politics and Petticoats*. It provides public discussion highlighting the lives of some of Alabama's most audacious women such as Julia Tutwiler, Kathryn Tucker Windham and Virginia Foster Durr. Pamela Sterne King, professor of Women's Studies at University of Alabama at Birmingham, will lead public discussions following theatrical performances based on the lives and accomplishments of these famous Alabama women.

U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville

Symphony of Science, a family-based concert and discussion program, will aim to instill an appreciation for classical music and the arts in young listeners, examine the historical and cultural importance of music and the arts to the Huntsville/Madison County community, and to explore the connections between science, the arts, and humanities subjects. The program will use hands-on activities facilitated by Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, performances of classical music by the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, and a program guide providing program information and copies of texts throughout the program.

Vulcan Park and Museum

Vulcan Keepsakes: Iron Man Memorabilia from the Birmingham Community is a temporary exhibition showcasing memorabilia and forms of art expression donated and loaned by Birmingham residents capturing the significance of Vulcan to the Birmingham region. Contributing artists and collectors represent a microcosm of Birmingham that transcends barriers that historically affected the region. Vulcan Park and Museum will assemble the donated items into an exhibition that speaks to this shared human value and the love that Birminghamians have for Vulcan for the past 110 years.

Mini-grants awarded

In the mini-grant round in November, \$9,815 in grants were awarded. Recipients are:



Florence-Lauderdale Public Library

The Grapes of Wrath at 75 is an interdisciplinary series of scholarly discussions, film series, theatrical performance and exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. The featured event will be a presentation and

discussion led by prominent Steinbeck scholar, Dr. Susan Shillinglaw. He will also lead a roundtable discussion for high school English teachers and college students. Historians will lead two presentations and discussions about the time period of the book, and another discussion program will feature undergraduate students from the University of North Alabama presenting their research from a course on Steinbeck. During this series, FLPL will display the exhibit, *The Dust Bowl*, which explores the economic and environmental struggles of the time period. Program will run March 27-April 30.

Troy University

Denny Abbott delivered *They Had No Voice* in correlation with his book, *They Had No Voice: My Fight for Alabama's Forgotten Children*. Lectures were in conjunction with Black History Month to inform students and general public of an important aspect of Alabama's history during the civil rights era and its aftermath. Programs took place at Troy University's Montgomery and Dothan campuses.

Birmingham-Southern College

Along the Border: Murder, Mayhem, and the Drug Cartels in Northern Mexico explores the U.S.-Mexico border region, one of the most dynamic, complex, and dangerous borders in the world. On the Mexican side, where a drug war has been raging, more than 65,000 people have been killed since 2006; another 25,000 people have gone missing. Few Americans comprehend how drug consumption, illegal gun sales and money laundering in the United States are integral to the violence in Mexico. The symposium aims to help more Americans understand how Mexicans cope with everyday violence and fear.

It is in conjunction with the 22nd Annual BSC Latin American Studies Symposium April 11-12.



Provided by Alabama Dept.
of Archives and History
Digital Collections

Historic Chattahoochee - Eufaula

Life on the Southside: Eufaula's Cowikee Mill Village investigates the role of Cowikee Mill and the mill village in the early 20th century cultural life of Eufaula. The mill, operated in Eufaula for more than 100 years, was for decades the city's largest employer. The self-contained mill village, locally known as "Southside," contained closely connected business and civic enclaves. This program will feature a presentation by historian Dr. David Alsobrook, a Eufaula native with a deep personal connection to the mill village. Dr. Alsobrook will lead a walking tour of historic sites and structures associated with the mill and the village after the lecture program. Dr. Mike Breedlove of the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History will provide a presentation on the Comer family and its important role in the Cowikee Mills

Grant deadlines, procedures change

AHF has announced its new grant deadlines and changed the application process.

Final grant deadlines are now: February 15, June 15 and September 15

Changes to Mini Grant Category and Procedures

Mini Grant Amount: Up to \$1,500 in Outright funds. Requires a 1:1 cost-share match, which may include in-kind.

Mini Grants are designed for flexibility and ease for smaller organizations, but all eligible organizations are welcome to apply. Mini Grants support a wide variety of public humanities projects from workshops and small exhibitions to reading/discussion series and lecture/discussion programs. Mini Grants are different from Major Grants in that they feature significantly reduced and simplified application requirements. Mini Grants are non-federal funds.

Mini Grant applications require the following:

- Project Narrative (two-page max)
- Summary Budget (two-page max)
- Project Director (abbreviated vita – one-page max)
- Humanities Advisor (abbreviated vita – one-page max)

AHF Major Grants

- **Public Discussion Programs** Up to \$8,500 in Outright funds. Requires a 1:1 cost-share match.
- **Exhibitions** Up to \$10,000 in Outright funds. Requires a 1:1 cost-share match.
- **Teacher Programs** Up to \$17,500 in Outright funds. Requires a 1:1 cost-share match.
- **Media Projects** Up to \$5,000 in Matching Funds for Research and Development Phase. Up to \$20,000 in Matching Funds for Production Phase. Requires 2:1 cash match of third-party funds.

Preliminary Grant Application Requirement

For a proposal to be considered for funding, a Preliminary Grant Application must be submitted via email to the Grants Director at least four weeks in advance of the application deadline.

The Preliminary Grant Application must consist of a two-page Summary Narrative outlining project goals, humanities focus and scholarship, intended audience, key project personnel, and publicity and marketing strategy, and a Summary Budget detailing proposed grant funds and proposed applicant cost-share, which may include in-kind. Applicants should contact the AHF Grants Director with any questions or concerns prior to submitting the Preliminary Grant Application and Final Grant Application.

story and the broader development of the mill industry in Alabama that will provide context. This program is May 2 at Parkview Baptist Church and Cowikee Mill Village sites.

Jefferson State Community College

Red Mountain Reading Series is a collaborative effort of Jefferson State Community College, Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society and the Shelby County Arts Council. The series involves public readings for adults, students and teachers in our communities in February, March and April 2014. Poet Raquel Rivera has held readings and writing workshops at the Shelby Campus. Fiction writer Dana Johnson will hold workshops at the Shelby Campus in March. Poet Robert Collins will hold workshops at the Carson Road Campus in April.

Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery

Another Step in Becoming Alabama: Creek-American War, 1813-14 is presented in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities. The program delved into the war, focusing on immediate events that further inflamed the

tensions in Creek-Creek relations as well as Creek-American involvements, the battles, personalities and the tragic results for the native people. Seen as a major step in Alabama's settlement and eventual statehood, a general knowledge of the cause and results and the war's significance, is relevant to understanding events such as the Second Creek War, Indian Removal and ongoing relations between today's Alabama Creeks and those in Oklahoma. The program was presented Feb. 8.

Alabama World Affairs Council

Achieving Peace in a Disoriented World was a presentation by Itonde A. Kakoma, assistant director of the Conflict Resolution Program at The Carter Center in Atlanta. The program kicked off the Alabama World Affairs Council's 2014-15 speaker series. It focused on challenges of achieving peace in environments with sectarian and ethnic differences and complicated by conflicts over resource allocation issues. It reexamined values as a nation and reflected on how they are best served in today's world. The program was presented at Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts on Feb. 25. ■

MUSEUM on MAIN STREET

Traveling exhibit visits Alabama communities



A woman looks at the display in Andalusia.

When the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, *The Way We Worked*, made its first stop in Alabama in September 2013 in the tiny town of Red Bay, there was no doubting its successful debut. Its audience was nearly triple the size of Red Bay's population.

It has since traveled to Ashland, Andalusia and Fairhope. In coming months, it will head to Northport and Wetumpka en route to a second year of the exhibit in six more Alabama communities.

Made possible through a partnership of the Smithsonian and Alabama Humanities Foundation and funded through Alabama Power Foundation, Norfolk Southern and the US Congress, this Museum on Main Street program is having a profound impact on understanding our nation's past and giving local communities an opportunity to showcase their own history.

It is the story of historical roots discovered and explored.

It is the story of communities coming together to provide an avenue for learning. And it is the story best told by the project leaders who helped make it happen:

Hop Aboard! By Rosalyn Fabianke

Six thousand seven hundred fifty-three visitors from 41 states and four foreign countries answered the call to "Hop Aboard," experiencing this historic exhibit from Washington, D.C. Red Bay, the selected site for the inaugural tour, was one of six Alabama towns chosen in partnership with the Smithsonian, National Archives and Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Greeting a family member at a train station defined the moment as this incredible exhibit rolled into town. The journey of several months of capturing the vision and



Rosalyn Fabianke
speaking to
program directors



pursuing the possibility became reality.

Great expectations were perceived as State Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow unveiled this tremendous opportunity for Red Bay, Franklin County and Northwest Alabama.

More than 100 highly motivated volunteers implemented the project objectives with a true love for this place called "home." Dedicated docents told *The Way We Worked* story at Community Spirit Bank's Weatherford Centre, The Red Bay Museum and Cypress Cove Farm. Devoted "Doodlebugs," so named for Red Bay's first passenger train and in honor of this rich heritage, were the traveling tour guides.

Ten local exhibits were identified with old-fashioned railroad crossing signs marked with names like "Quilt Works," "Art Works" and "Music Works." Color-coded train tracks on sidewalks connected venues and encouraged visitors to "Hop Aboard," explore, learn and enjoy.

Contagious enthusiasm spread throughout Red Bay as *The Way We Worked* theme was depicted with distinctive displays — Streetscapes, Windowscapes, banners and murals. Local and regional newspapers, billboards and television publicity enhanced momentum.

Specialized programs enlivened and expanded community culture and education. Oral History projects and AHF's Road Scholar Speakers Bureau opportunities provided exceptional experiences.

The local holiday season was welcomed by saluting *The Way We Worked* with the parade theme, "Christmas Works." Dr. John Kvach (AHF Lead Scholar), Docents, and Doodlebugs served as

The Way We Worked

Museum on Main Street, a partnership project of the Smithsonian Institution and the Alabama Humanities Foundation



Exhibition Tour Dates

Pell City

Pell City Center for Education and Performing Arts
July – August 2014

Athens

Limestone County Archives
September – November 2014

Valley

Valley Historic Preservation Commission
November 2014 – January 2015

Cullman

Cullman County History Museum
February – March 2015

Demopolis

Marengo County History and Archive Museum
March – May 2015

Dothan

Troy University Dothan Campus Library
May – June 2015

MUSEUM on MAIN STREET



Becky Boddie & Robbie Davis, Project Director of Museum on Main Street



Ribbon cutting in Andalusia

Grand Marshalls.

It has been Red Bay's distinct privilege to open its doors in the true spirit that is reflective of the town's founders. The memorable impact of the program propels the community with great anticipation for the future, grateful appreciation and the call to "Hop Aboard" Red Bay's Little Engine That Could, joyfully sounding, "I think I can, I know I can" – with much "Pride in our Past, Faith in our Future!"

Historic roots strengthened by exhibit

**By Becky Boddie
Ashland City Council**

In a city of about 2,000 people who hold a deep respect for history and the town's place in it, Ashland's historic town square became a gathering point once again as more than 3,100 visitors toured *The Way We Worked*.

It began as a vision in an old, vacant drugstore, owned by the father of Alabama's former First Lady Patsy Riley. Thanks to the Riley family, Adams family and volunteers, the drugstore was transformed into a museum to showcase the Smithsonian's *The Way We Worked* exhibit and Ashland's role in history with a photograph and artifact

exhibit of its own.

As a city councilwoman, a retired school system employee, a mother and a civic activist, I saw this on many levels as more than just an exhibit that had come to our community. It was an opportunity beyond measure for our children, for our citizens and for our town.

To see the look on the children's faces as they explored interactive exhibits, recognized a relative in Ashland's old photographs or listened intently to an oral history was so rewarding — recognizing that it was an experience they may never have had otherwise.

And it was one they will remember. As "souvenirs" of their visit, we gave all who toured a bag full of history. In it were dates to remember in Clay County's history, an album of historic photos and a storybook of Ashland's history with space for our children to write their own story. We even included a pencil engraved with the reminder, "Ashland, Home of the State's First Graphite Mine."

It truly was an incredibly positive experience for all of us who were involved. We are still getting letters and notes thanking us for bringing the exhibit to Ashland. Because Museum on Main Street came to Ashland, it will have a powerful impact on deepening our love and understanding of history for a long time to come.

A community success story

**By Barbara Tyler
Grants Coordinator
City of Andalusia**

The Way We Worked brought our community together for five weeks of social interactions.

Located inside the Andalusia Chamber of Commerce office which is part of the Alatex Memorial Park, the Smithsonian exhibit, *The Way We Worked*, drew more than 5,250 visitors. The majority of our visitors were from Andalusia or Covington County and surrounding areas plus a large number from the Florida panhandle.

We invited everyone to mark our "map" with a pin to show from where they traveled. We had visitors from as far away as Canada and Russia plus 28 other states and with more than 20 school field trips scheduled to visit the exhibit. Our fast-food and local restaurants benefited greatly from the influx of visitors.

More than 30 docent volunteers proved to be invaluable as they not only provided guidance through the various displays but used their good ole' southern hospitality and charm to entertain the visitors, adding personal stories of their own work experiences.

More than 150 volunteers helped with the development and running of the five weeks of programs and events.

Several businesses and organizations: PowerSouth, Southeast Alabama Gas District, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, Opp City Schools, Andalusia City Schools, Covington County Schools, the Andalusia Area Humane Society and the Lower Alabama Arts Coalition, played a large part in the creation of the local exhibits.

With special recognition to the City of Andalusia and its employees, this project was most definitely a community success story. ■

ROAD SCHOLARS

New faces join AHF's Speaker Bureau

Representing all disciplines of the humanities, AHF's Road Scholars travel across the state each year, delivering informative and enlightening programs to organizations and groups throughout Alabama. Thirty three of Alabama's brightest scholars are involved in the Road Scholars program for 2014. AHF welcomes three new Road Scholars to its lineup:

Mollie Smith Waters, English/Speech/Theater Instructor, LBWCC Greenville Campus

Presentation: *Disobedient Women:*

Angelina Grimke, Virginia Durr, & the Pursuit of Equality

Two reformers for equality who are almost wholly unknown today are Angelina Grimke and Virginia Foster Durr. Southern born and bred, both Grimke and Durr denounced established protocol and became advocates in the causes that mattered most to them. In the 1800s, Grimke became an outspoken and controversial abolitionist bent on ending slavery. Ahead of her time, she even promoted women's rights as well. Almost a full 100 years later, Durr became a proponent for ending the poll tax in America. Although women could vote by Durr's time, not many were eligible due to the limitations the poll tax placed on poor whites, women and blacks. Not only did Durr help end the poll tax, she was also a supporter of the Civil Rights Movement and became close friends with Rosa Parks.



Rod Davis, former Dean of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University

Presentation: *The Determined Life of Dr. John Allan Wyeth*

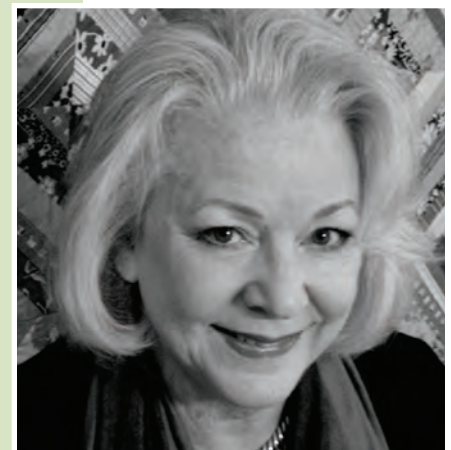
This is a biographical examination of the Alabama childhood, Confederate Army youth, concentration-camp survival, vocational unpreparedness, New York enlightenment, European education, Polyclinic founding, revolutionary effects and wide recognition of the contribution by the remarkable Dr. Wyeth. The topic is important for what it reveals regarding the effect of one man upon the history of the development of medical education in America, but it also deals with the effects upon a young soldier fighting in the Civil War, his near-death experience in a concentration camp, and his determination afterwards to be a healer with the best medical training. It led to his creation of the modern graduate school of medicine. It is an inspirational story that can be enjoyed from any viewpoint.



Sarah Bliss Wright, Curator and Lecturer for an exhibition of "Our Quilted Past" at Louisiana's Old State Capitol Museum in Baton Rouge (2014), Curator for "Our Quilted Past," an exhibit of Alabama feed sack quilts and Bemis Bro. Bag Company in Talladega, Alabama (2012)

Presentation: *Alabama Cotton and Bemis Bags: Pieced into Quilt History*

From 1929 until 1980, Bemis Bro. Bag Company operated a cotton mill and bag plant in the center of a mill village called Bemiston, near Talladega, Alabama. Bemis, at that time the largest cotton bag manufacturer in the United States, influenced the textile industry as a whole through innovative research, development and marketing. Few Alabamians are aware of the significant role that Alabama cotton played, through Bemis bags, in providing feed sacks for the nation in the second quarter of the 20th century. A stack of quilts purchased at a Bemiston estate sale in 2011 prompted my research into the Bemis Bro. Bag Company and the discovery that Alabama cotton and Bemis bags are pieced into quilts not only in Alabama, but all over the nation.



Visit www.alabamahumanities.org for a complete list of Road Scholars presentations. ■

Upcoming 2014 Institutes

For 23 years, AHF has taken a leading role in the advancement of Alabama education with the SUPER (School and University Partners for Educational Renewal) Teacher Program. Educators are enriched by graduate-level, content-rich, professional development of the highest quality.

This program is open to all 4th-12th grade public and private school teachers, school librarians and administrators who wish to expand and deepen their knowledge of a particular subject or theme within the humanities.

Participants in SUPER are afforded a rare and invaluable opportunity to join their peers and distinguished university professors in an intensive exploration of curriculum-relevant topics through directed pre-program readings, lectures, extensive analytical and critical discussions, film viewings, writing exercises, field trips and cultural experiences.

SUPER also provides a forum in which educators can interact, exchange ideas, gain fresh perspectives and learn new approaches to teaching.

The 2014 institutes offered at no cost to participants or their schools are:

American Slave Narratives: Their Impact on Fiction and Film *June 23-26, 2014*

The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)
Lead Scholar, Alan Brown, Ph.D., Professor
of Languages and Literature
Institutional Partners: University of West
Alabama

Slave narratives are one of the most riveting types of autobiographical writing ever produced in America. They range from the published slave narratives penned in the century by writers like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs to the less formal 19th slave narratives collected in the American South by the W.P.A. between 1936 and 1938. Although their validity has been questioned by historians for years, they put a face on slavery, thereby making these stories meaningful for today's students. The 20th century produced a number of novels and films that constitute fictional accounts of the slave experience in America. *American Slave Narratives* will study the autobiographical form of the American slave narrative and trace its evolution in American history to narrative forms in American cinema. *Residential institute; housing and meals provided; CEUs provided.*



Mockingbird Moments

July 14-17, 2014

Monroeville, AL

Lead Scholar: Nancy Grisham Anderson, Associate Professor of English, Auburn University at Montgomery

Institutional Partners: Monroe County Museum, AL Southern Community College and Auburn University in Montgomery

Harper Lee has described *To Kill a Mockingbird* as a “love story” of small-town life, a way of life now rapidly disappearing in our country. Mockingbird Moments provides teachers the opportunity to experience small-town life in the author’s hometown, Monroeville, Alabama. In the town that inspired the successful novel and subsequent movie, they will discuss the novel as literature, study the history of the 1930s and the 1960s, visit the museum and archives devoted to the novel and the town of its origin, meet residents who shared early years with the author, watch the film in the courtroom recreated in the film, and listen to music inspired by the novel. Teachers will gain a more in-depth understanding of the novel and film and their significance in our culture through their studies and their immersion in small-town life. *Residential institute; housing and meals provided; CEUs provided.*

Social Movements in Latin America: Exclusion, Popular Protests and Democratization

July 28-31, 2014

University of Montevallo

Lead Scholar: Leonor Vazquez-Gonzalez, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Spanish at University of Montevallo

Institutional Partners: University of Montevallo Language Immersion Institute – Spanish

Social and substantive citizenship in Latin America has traditionally been a highly exclusionary status; this situation has worsened as a result of the negative dimensions of current globalization, in particular, economic crises, political corruption and transnational organized crime. However, from a positive vantage point, globalization has opened novel political spaces in which patterns of relations between state and civil society are glimpsed. This institute examines a series of contemporary social movements in Latin America whose common denominator is the attempt to break down old and new systems of domination in order to create a more inclusionary and empowered society. Participants will explore the origins, ideas, successes and failures of a variety of popular movements such as urban, labor, indigenous, gender and environmental movements. *Residential institute; housing and meals provided; CEUs provided.*

Battle of Mobile Bay

July 8, 2014

History Museum of Mobile.

Lead scholar: Lonnie Burnett, Ph.D., Professor of History at University of Mobile.

This one-day workshop will engage teachers in the history and commemoration of the Battle of Mobile Bay. Teachers will receive resources, and implementation strategies to integrate this vital piece of Alabama history into their social science curriculum. *One-day, non-residential workshop; CEUs provided.*



The History, Literature and Music of WWI

Date TBA

Lead Scholar: Marty Olliff, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History & Archivist, Troy University's Dothan campus

Institutional Partners: Alabama Department of Archives and History and Troy University

Four, one-day workshops will introduce the history, literature and music of World War I. It will provide teachers with historical and cultural resources, curriculum integration strategies and techniques, digital media resources, and valuable literature to share with their students across the disciplines. *One-day, non-residential workshops; breakfast snacks and lunch provided; CEUs provided.*

French Immersion

Date TBA

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Lead Scholar: Catherine Danielou, Ph.D., Associate Professor of French and Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, UAB College of Arts and Sciences

Institutional Partners: UAB College of Arts and Sciences

This workshop will feature instruction, literature, history and culture of a francophone country. It will integrate digital resources and media, language immersion instruction, and resources that can be used in the classroom. *Non-residential, one-day workshop; breakfast snacks and lunch provided; CEUs provided.*

Digital Humanities

Date TBA

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Lead Scholar: Rosie O'Beirne, Director of Digital Media and Learning at UAB

Institutional Partners: UAB College of Arts and Sciences; UAB Digital Media and Learning

This institute will engage teachers across the humanities by providing them with a number of resources and techniques that will allow them to integrate multimedia and digital technologies with student learning and instruction. Teachers will collaborate in a state of the art media classroom, equipped with Apple products that are loaded with the latest media applications and collaborative learning stations. *One-day, non-residential workshops; housing and meals provided; CEUs provided.*

Visit www.alabamahumanities.org to learn more and apply for a program. Applications are due May 4, 2014. ■

PRIME TIME

An eye on literacy and family



Seventeen families make their way into the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library on a rainy evening in February. It is opening night for Prime Time Family Reading, and its audience is a melting pot of cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds.

But the focus is singular. It is all about reading as a family.

Children of all ages, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers — even cousins and friends — line the colorful seating stretched across an entire window wall of the library. From their front row vantage point, they listen intently as storyteller Jessica Hill shares a Jane Yolen poem called *Read to Me*.

“Why is it important to read to kids?,” she asks at the conclusion.

“It makes us smarter,” one youngster replies.

“What are your favorite books?,” she inquires of the group as a follow-up question. Hands immediately spring into the air. Replies come back one on top of the other, seemingly from all points in the room. “Nature!” “Leggo!” “Space!” “Dinosaurs!”

“My sister likes to read about Dora!,” another youngster says.

Now, it’s time for an adult to answer about the importance of children reading. “It helps them explore things they may not see on a day-to-day basis,” a mother says. “They open a book, and it opens up their vocabulary. It’s a great way to communicate.”

“It helps me to ask questions,” a child says, underscoring the parent’s sentiments.

February’s session was the second time for the library to open its doors to this six-week pilot program, a whole family approach to literacy. And officials have already seen the success stories in action.

They see it not only in the faces of the children whose families voluntarily come there once a week for two hours of reading, discussion, a meal and fellowship. They see it in the end result — families actually reading and discussing what they have read — together.

“The families love it,” said Program Coordinator Chris Ferguson. “Most have never come into the library regularly.” Now, they do. Even after the program ends, the parents are staying in touch with one another on Facebook and other social media. “They want to stay connected.”

For the children, it improves their reading skills and their desire to read. At an awards program at a school where the library partnered in the fall, “most of our children won reader awards,” Ferguson said.

“The key is bringing families in and hearing each other discuss stories,” he said. “With the age difference, they think differently. When a child reads a story, they might see it one way. When an adult reads it, they might see it another way because of the age difference.”

And that makes for some interesting discussions.

“What is self esteem?,” scholar Amanda Green asks of the group.

“Knowing you’re good,” comes the reply from a child.

“A person can do anything you want to do,” adds a parent.

Next, a book is read to the group about self esteem — *I’m Gonna Like Me* by Jamie Lee Curtis.

As Green reads an excerpt, “Just like bananas, friends come in a bunch,” a youngster interrupts with a sudden chuckle. “Oh, I get it,” he says.

Green continues the reading, “I’m going to smile even when I get socks...”

“I like socks!,” another child exclaims.

The discussion continues on good self esteem and bad self esteem. One child talks about how making good grades makes



him feel. “I made straight A’s,” he tells the group. “I felt really proud of myself.”

Give an example of too much self esteem, Green says. The answer this time comes from a parent. “Johnny Manziel,” the Texas A & M quarterback who bragged about his ability. “It’s very unhealthy,” says another parent.

Another discussion ensues with a fill in the blank. “I like myself when I...”

Again, the answers come in rapid succession from the children:

“Do a back flip!”

“Play games!”

“Help out with chores!”

“Get A’s!”

“Stand up for other people!”

The conversation is their reading comprehension — what the story means to them.

“It helps the children open their minds,” said Esteban Pena, through a translator. Pena was there with two school-age sons, an infant and his wife. “It helps parents motivate them to learn to read more,” he said. “We are united with the stories, and they ask us to read to them. It is a bonding experience.” ■

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Humanities Conference draws crowd to Birmingham



Conference participants gather outside of the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma

By Dionne Clark

More than 300 humanities professionals came to Birmingham from as far away as Alaska and New York to participate in the 2013 National Humanities Conference. The objective was simple: to explore and discuss the varied perspectives and work of humanities councils across the nation. By the time they departed, there was no mistaking their experience was anything but simple.

The conference theme, “Lifting Us Up: Reflection, Reconciliation and Renewal,” urged councils to not only experience Birmingham’s historical role in Civil Rights Movement history, but reflect on the how that experience could be conveyed through programming in their own councils.

“We chose Birmingham as the site for the 2013 National Humanities Conference because it seemed unthinkable, in this very important anniversary year, to be anywhere else,” said Esther Mackintosh, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

“Fifty years ago, events in Birmingham forever changed the course of civil rights in the United States. It is a privilege to be able to gather in this city at this time to reflect on those events and on how we can draw on the humanities to help

share a future of equality and mutual responsibility,” she said.

The conference began Thursday with a historical, eye-opening Civil Rights Experience Tour. Led by Birmingham Civil Rights Institute’s Educational Director, Ahmad Ward, attendees visited key civil rights landmarks throughout the state. The tour included sites such as the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Montgomery’s Rosa Parks Museum and the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge. The experience of the movement came to life through the words and moments shared by local participants of this historical period.

“Life changing experience. You can read all kinds of accounts; but pictures, live stories and the physical tour put me in their footsteps,” remarked an attendee. “Outstanding speakers and tour, all in one day.”

The evening concluded with an opening reception at Birmingham’s new Region’s Field.

The next day, participants were moved by the words and personal experiences of those who witnessed the Civil Rights Movement first-hand. The Opening Plenary Session was held at the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Panelists included U.W. Clemon, Alabama’s first African American federal judge; Doug Jones, former US Attorney and lead prosecutor of the 1963 Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing; Judge Helen Shores Lee, author and attorney; and

Diane McWhorter, Pulitzer Prize winning author. Odessa Woolfolk, educator, civic activist and civil rights pioneer, moderated the panel and laid the foundation for a discussion attendees would never forget.

"I am so impressed with how the theme of the conference flowed through nearly everything," said a participant. "With each talk or tour, I felt that the foundation was being built."

The Capps Lecture, at the Birmingham Museum of Art, continued to embody reflection, reconciliation and renewal. Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, a child-leader during the Civil Rights Movement and president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, recounted his experience during the Movement and how those trials and lessons shaped his work and personal philosophy on humanities and education.

After attending dozens of humanities-based sessions on development and fundraising, programming and communication, participants were left with closing words by award-winning poet, educator and activist Nikki Giovanni.

"Having the conference in Birmingham when so many sessions explored Civil Rights issues was a stroke of brilliance," an attendee noted. "I was moved and impressed by how many speakers evoked the power of the place in more than superficial ways, in ways that allowed us to genuinely connect our experiences and questions to the struggles of those who went before us. It's good to be reminded of the power of belonging to a national humanities community, and this conference conveyed that beautifully. Thank you."

AHF would like to thank Ogletree Deakins, Regions Bank and The University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences for sponsoring the conference.



Opening plenary session at the 16th Street Baptist Church



Participants pause at the memorial statues across the street from the famous church.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Humanities Conference changes historic view

By Carol Pappas

Photos by Graham Hadley

In the prism reflection of stained glass windows, in pews in which they probably never pictured themselves, humanities delegates from all over the country sat quietly, almost reverently.

Understandably so. For it was from those church pews they could imagine the tragedy that exploded 50 years before, just a floor below. And it was from those pews, they would come to understand it.

There was no more fitting place, no better tribute than to hold the opening session of the National Humanities Conference at Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

It was in the basement of that historic church that four little girls lost their lives in a bomb explosion purposely set. It was September 1963. No doubt the perpetrators thought there would be no retribution. After all, this was Birmingham at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Marches, mayhem and even murder had become commonplace.

But when four innocent little girls lost their lives as they were dressing for a church program that September Sunday morning, the world seemed to stop and take notice and finally say, 'no more.'

On this October morning, 50 years later, key players in understanding what happened — former US Attorney Doug Jones, Judge Helen Shores Lee, former US District Judge U.W. Clemon and author Diane McWhorter — set the stage for the delegates, giving firsthand accounts of life in segregated Alabama.

They gave light to the complexities of race and social upheaval that defined the state in those times. Odessa Woolfolk, civil rights activist and moderator of the panel, talked of two Alabamas — then and now. "What happened in Birmingham didn't stay in Birmingham, and that's a good thing," she said. And when those four little girls lost their lives, "it was a moment etched forever in memory."

Clemon proclaimed himself the "product of a segregated society — the most thoroughly segregated, bigoted city in the nation." But he rose to become Alabama's



Each member of the panel spoke about how the civil rights movement in Birmingham personally touched their lives.

first African American federal judge.

Lee called the times “turbulent.” Her father, attorney Arthur Shores, had been handling civil rights cases long before the term, civil rights, was coined, she said. It was a time of “colored only” water fountains and a place called “Dynamite Hill,” where 50 to 60 bombings of black people’s homes were never solved.

McWhorter, Pulitzer Prize winning author for *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama, the Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*, enlightened the group from a much different vantage point — a background of affluence. She spoke of growing up white in the suburbs of Birmingham and trying to make sense years later of the city’s dichotomy of the 1960s. What she discovered was that the perception at the time was not one of good and evil, but one of “good and normal.”

She wanted to write a book to understand “my own ignorance and the values of my community.” She wanted to explore why the church bombing and death of four little girls did not register in her and her peers’ consciousness at the time, but they all could remember where they were when they learned President Kennedy was assassinated just two months later.

For Jones, his moment of understanding came in 1977 as he watched then Attorney General Bill Baxley prosecute Robert Chambliss in connection with the bombing. His opportunity at justice came 24 years later as he prosecuted Tommy Blanton and Bobby Cherry for the death of those four little girls — Addie Mae Collins, age 14; Denise McNair, 11; Carole Robertson, 14; and Cynthia Wesley, 14.

Jones recreated his questioning of Sarah, Addie Mae’s younger sister, who was the lone survivor that morning. She told of hearing a comment about a dress and turned back toward the girls when the explosion happened. Buried in rubble and unable to see, Sarah told the jury the first thing she did was call out for help from the darkness: “Addie, Addie, Addie.”

And just like Jones’ gripping and powerful message, each story from the panel offered the light of understanding to delegates from all corners of the nation. It is a story that came to life for them in that church 50 years later, and it is history they said they will never view in the same way again. ■

Humanities key to understanding

By Guin Robinson

Editor’s note: Following is an op-ed piece that appeared on the editorial pages of major newspapers and their websites across the state.

As we look back on 2013, we cannot help but pause for reflection on the 50th anniversary year of historic moments of the Civil Rights Movement and the role Birmingham played in them.

For Alabama Humanities Foundation, the anniversary took on added meaning as we hosted the National Humanities Conference in Birmingham.

More than 300 delegates from around the country, Puerto Rico and Guam made the trek to Alabama because Birmingham and the state are so closely identified with so many of those moments that changed a nation and a world view.

At our opening session in the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, delegates heard from a powerfully moving panel who gave firsthand accounts from their own perspectives of what happened during that tumultuous time in our history.

It was our opportunity to take these delegates from all corners of our country on a journey of understanding — to not just abhor what happened in the very church in which they were seated, but to understand how it did happen. And how we learned from it.

One by one — former US Attorney Doug Jones, Pulitzer Prize winning author Diane McWhorter, US District Judge U.W. Clemmon and Judge Helen Shores Lee — told their story. And as I looked around the church, I could see the audience’s disbelief turn to anger then to grief and eventually to understanding.

In an instant, it defined what the humanities are all about — understanding the world around us, no matter how complex, how strong the emotion. It doesn’t mean we accept or condone those terrible acts that came to symbolize the Civil Rights Movement. It means we can finally grasp the meaning, the impact and how we go forward from here.

That same understanding was evident throughout our statewide tour as we walked in the footprints of history at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and came face-to-face with the realization at the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery that one determined woman on the right side of history could make a difference. It was almost as if Dr. King’s powerful words echoed once again as we visited the historic Dexter Avenue King Baptist Church. And together, we came to terms with the injustice of this period in our nation’s history through what we learned at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

What was particularly moving about this whole event was that the delegates from around the country, many of whom had never had a firsthand look at the Civil Rights Movement — only what they had read or seen in vintage black and white footage — gained understanding of what those turbulent times meant and how they came to be.

There is no stronger endorsement of just how powerful that moment of understanding is than the assessment of National Federation of Humanities Councils president Esther Mackintosh: “Everybody said they will never really look at that history in the same way again.”

She is right. It is like a light shining into the darkness, showing us the path forward. And that is the humanities: Teaching and inspiring us by making us think, learn and understand.

Guin Robinson is director of Institutional Development at Jefferson State Community College and is incoming chair of Alabama Humanities Foundation. He chaired the National Humanities Conference planning committee in Birmingham. He can be reached at grobinson@jeffstateonline.com.



Southern Literary Trail

EXHIBITING LITERATURE

Story by William Gantt
Director of The Southern
Literary Trail

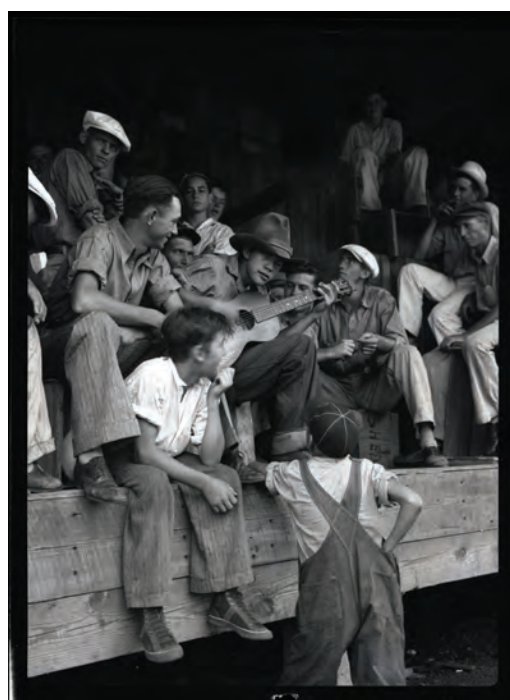
Eudora Welty said her photographs of Mississippians and their landscapes during the Great Depression formed her understanding of the state she called home. Welty took photographs, which she called “snapshots,” during her travels as a junior publicity agent for the Works Progress Administration several years before her first book of stories, including *A Curtain of Green* (1941), appeared on the national literary scene.

Welty added in a 1989 interview: “I’ve always been a visual-minded person. Most of us are.” Welty’s poignant images of the South mixed with excerpts from her literary depictions of its people became the theme of *Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections*, an exhibit developed by the Museum of Mobile in partnership with the Southern Literary Trail and funded by the Alabama Humanities Foundation. As curated by the museum’s Jacob Laurence, the exhibit encased a major theme of the tri-state Trail: to celebrate the places in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi that influenced classic works of Southern fiction.

Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections debuted at the Museum of Mobile on Sept. 2, 2010. During a highly successful tour, the exhibit opened at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center in Decatur on July 5, 2011. In Decatur, *Exposures and Reflections* inspired Carol Puckett, an Alabama director for the Southern Literary Trail, toward the achievement of an important goal. Carol was well aware that the Morgan County Archives retained 127 negatives to photos of the 1933 Decatur trial of Haywood Patterson, one of “Scottsboro Boys,” within its permanent collection. Most of the photos of the defendant, his lawyers, his supporters and accusers had never been seen by the public.

Exposures and Reflections provided a template to the presentation of unforgettable images and themes from a trial that commanded the world’s press attention in 1933. At a board meeting of all the Southern Literary Trail’s directors in July 2012, Carol presented a preview of the Morgan County photographs taken by Fred Hiroshige, born in Hawaii in 1905. The support by the board for the proposed Scottsboro exhibit was immediate and enthusiastic.

After months of careful preparation by Carol and Morgan County Archivist John Allison, the exhibit of Hiroshige’s trial photographs, titled *The Scottsboro Boys, Outside the Protective Circle of Humanity*, officially opened at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013. The exhibit’s opening was a cornerstone event for the 2013 version of Trailfest, a biennial festival planned by Southern Literary Trail participants.



Eudora Welty LLC and the
Mississippi Department of
Archives and History



Scottsboro Boys trial photos,
The Morgan County Archives

With grant support from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, Dan T. Carter of the University of South Carolina and the author of *Scottsboro, A Tragedy of the American South*, delivered the evening's keynote address to a packed audience in Decatur's First Baptist Church near the Carnegie Center. Carol worked with Dr. Carter to develop the histories to accompany each picture, and one of his comments to her — describing the Scottsboro Boys to be “outside the protective circle of humanity” — became the exhibit's title.

News of *Protective Circle's* powerful impact spread rapidly through the Trail's tri-state community. The Museum of Mobile booked the second showing of the exhibit. After Mobile, the Hiroshige photographs attracted large crowds through December 2013 to the galleries of the Margaret Walker Alexander Center in Jackson, Mississippi. The exhibit was presented by the Center in partnership with the Goldring/Waldenburg Institute of Southern Jewish Life and with grant funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council. *The Scottsboro Boys, Outside the Protective Circle of Humanity* was on view at the University of Alabama in its Paul R. Jones Gallery on the Tuscaloosa campus until Feb. 20, 2014. More Alabama locations will follow.

Of all the writers celebrated along the Southern Literary Trail, Ralph Ellison was the most personally affected by the Decatur trial. Against the wishes of his mother, Ellison decided to hobo on a train from his native Oklahoma to Tuskegee Institute, where he had been accepted during the summer of 1933. He was painfully aware of the Scottsboro Boys, black youths who had been hauled off trains in Alabama and falsely accused of raping two white women. Fulfilling a mother's premonitions, Ellison's train was stopped after sundown in Decatur, where guards ran him and some white hoboes off a boxcar.

The future author of an American masterpiece, *Invisible Man*, spent the night in hiding under a shed by a railroad loading dock. Given the atmosphere created by the trial, Ellison later said that he waited for dawn with a fear that, “I, too, might well become a sacrificial scapegoat simply because I was of the same race as the accused young men then being prepared for death.” The fears invoked by a trial's injustices, impacting a young man crouched under a loading dock shed to outraged onlookers around the world, are dramatically preserved within the photos by Fred Hiroshige of Decatur.

In *Ralph Ellison, A Biography*, its author, Arnold Rampersad, observes the following about his subject's train ride to Tuskegee: “In a few perilous days he had learned more about himself, humanity, and America, of action, independence, and manhood, than he had ever known before. No wonder, then, four years later, when he wrote his first short story, Ralph turned for his raw material to these few dangerous but exhilarating days riding the train.”

Thanks to the generosity of the Alabama Humanities Foundation and its counterparts in Georgia and Mississippi, the Southern Literary Trail's organizers can continue to reveal the places and the events that weave the fabric of America's best literature. Often the underlying history may be hard to bear, but the courage of the writers and the artists is exhilarating. The organizers and board of the Southern Literary Trail are honored that their collaborative pathways have enabled two important exhibits to reach contemporary audiences. With Trailfest 2015 on the horizon, explorations into the next chapter of revelations have already begun. ■

Sources:

Ralph Ellison, A Biography, by Arnold Rampersad
Eudora Welty Photographs, University Press of Mississippi/Jackson
 For a history of the Southern Literary Trail, visit its entry on *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* or visit www.southernliterarytrail.org.

For booking information and details regarding *The Scottsboro Boys, Outside the Protective Circle of Humanity*, call John Allison at the Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama, 256-351-4726.

Collaborative Magic:

The Arts and Humanities, a Personal Point of View

By Jeanie Thompson, executive director of the Alabama Writers' Forum



On the set of Alerion Films' *The Cracker Man*, summer 1998, author Helen Norris (center), is flanked by actors and film crew. Front row, L-R Actor John Dossett, Norris, actress Ashley Crowe. Back row, L-R: director Rudy Gaines, producer John DiJulio, actor Patrick Cranshaw, and producer Bruce Kierten. Credit: Katie Lamar Jackson

I'm the daughter of a mechanical engineer, with a brother whom I remember from childhood as an inveterate disassembler of any device he could "take apart to see how it works." He has since designed computer chips for cell phones and CT Scan machines. Usually, he can't tell me about his latest project because of intellectual property right restrictions.

So growing up amidst all this science prowess, what did I choose for my career path, my life passion? I make poems, I organize literary events, I envision programs for youth, I advocate for creative industry funds, I connect people. I hope I'm an engineer of the soulful side of life. But I could do none of this work as a writer and arts administrator if I didn't collaborate with peers in the humanities. Of all the lessons I've learned in my years with the Alabama Writers' Forum, this is one of the most profound.

A few cases in point – when the Forum was in its infancy and I was being mentored by Jay Lamar at the Auburn University Center for Arts and Humanities on how to mount public programs for the reading public, we collaboratively launched *Alabama Voices: Conversations with Writers and Scholars*. This series of events at public libraries across the state featured contemporary Alabama writers and active Alabama literary scholars. The first two Alabama Voices rounds each featured 10 writers and 10 scholars. The series was funded for the first two years by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, with assistance from both Auburn University and Alabama Writers' Forum. The format was simple but effective – the scholar introduced the writer, the writer read from his or her work and took some questions. The scholar facilitated the public discussion, much like a friendly classroom or book group. Those who attended were afforded the opportunity to meet and interact with an Alabama author, and even get a book signed. I also remember great programs featuring author Helen Norris and Montevallo professor Dr. Elaine Hughes at the Eufaula Carnegie Library and poet Gerald Barrax with scholar Dr. Alma Freeman at the Gadsden-Etowah Public Library. Each of these events was a literary junket that allowed me (again, I was new at this job) to meet librarians and patrons in towns urban and rural, like Greenville, Hoover, Dothan and Selma.

A few years later, when the Alabama Writers Symposium was in development at Alabama Southern Community College under the direction of then President Dr. John Johnson, two awards were proposed – one honoring a writer and one honoring a scholar. Thus the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer of the Year and the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Literary Scholarship were born – twin awards honoring the collaborative process of literary writing and literary scholarship. In 2014, we will award the 18th winners of these honors on April 25.

As the Forum evolved, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, our supporting partner, provided funds for Alabama Voices so that we could continue the program. Later, we took some of the writers into adult prisons and youth detention facilities, and thus Alabama Voices reached those underserved populations. Today, there are strong writing and literature programs in both the Alabama Department of Youth Services (Writing Our Stories) and the Alabama Department of Corrections (The Alabama Prison Arts+Education Project). Arts and humanities collaboration helped bring these important programs to life.

One of my favorite memories of an innovative arts and humanities collaboration occurred during the filming of *The Cracker Man*, a short story adaptation project funded by AHF in late 1990s. When Helen Norris, the story's author, passed away last fall, I recalled the day I took her to see her story being filmed. This is one of my favorite memories of Helen. Alerion Film producers Bruce Kertain and John DeJulio



Credit: Katie Lamar Jackson

adapted her classic Southern short story of the same name and set it in East Alabama locations, including LaFayette and rural Lee County.

That day I picked up Helen in Montgomery, we headed east, and then drove up Wire Road toward Auburn and the house where the film was in production. On the way, Helen had protested mightily that filmmakers are never interested in "the writer," and she didn't expect this to be any different. However, from the moment we arrived, she was treated like a queen, with the lead actress and one of the lead actors coming off set to greet her and thank her for writing the story. Back inside the house where the scene was being shot, Helen was installed in a director's chair, given headphones and invited to watch in the small viewing screen that the director was using. Later we photographed the whole crew around Helen, seated in a tree swing, grinning from ear to ear. That's how I will remember her – alive in her story, surrounded by adoring actors who recognized her genius – the genius they were bringing to life in film.

As we enter the 2014 Alabama literary season this spring, literary scholars and writers collaborate at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival where a Theatre in the Mind talk by Frye Gaillard helped theatre-goers better appreciate the adaptation of Faulkner's novella, *An Old Man*, to a new play titled *Twenty-Seven*. In April, scholars and writers will join forces at both the Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery's Old Alabama Town on April 19 and the Alabama Writers Symposium in Monroeville to bring alive the best of contemporary nonfiction, fiction and poetry for the reading public of all ages.

Of course, there are times when writers appear solo and scholars ply their craft for each other at symposia. But for the general public, I believe the magic collaboration of writer and scholar makes an even more creative presentation and leads to the best of both the arts and humanities. On behalf of the Alabama Writers' Forum, now a healthy 20-year-old, I'd like to say *thank you* to all the Alabama humanities scholars who have partnered with us to present Alabama's vibrant and growing literary community to readers from Tusculumbia to Bay Minette, from Demopolis to Valley, and points in between. May this magic flourish! ■

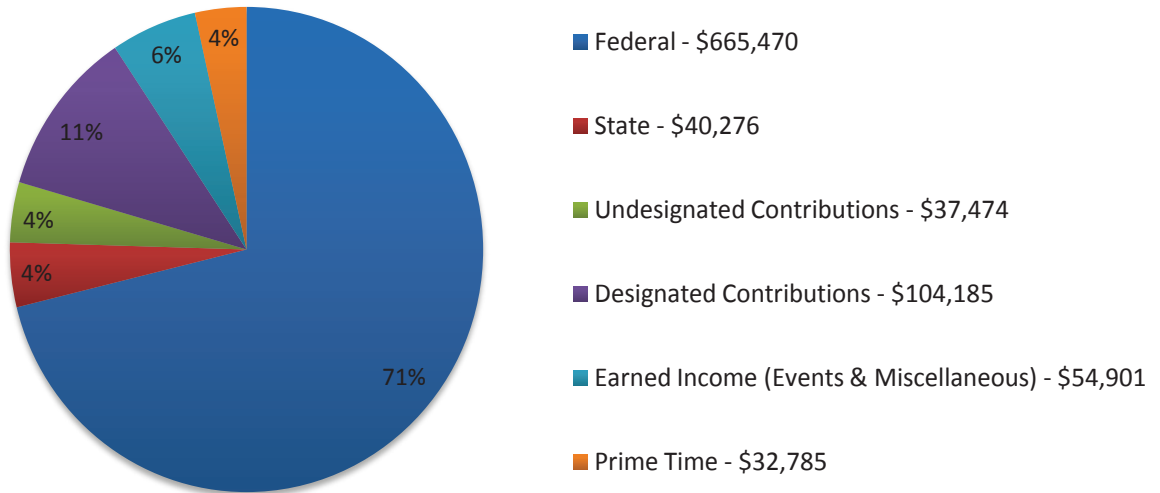
Jeanie Thompson is founding executive director of the Alabama Writers' Forum, a poetry faculty member at the Spalding University brief-residency MFA Writing Program, and author of four collections of poetry, the most recent of which is The Seasons Bear Us.

Learn more at www.writersforum.org

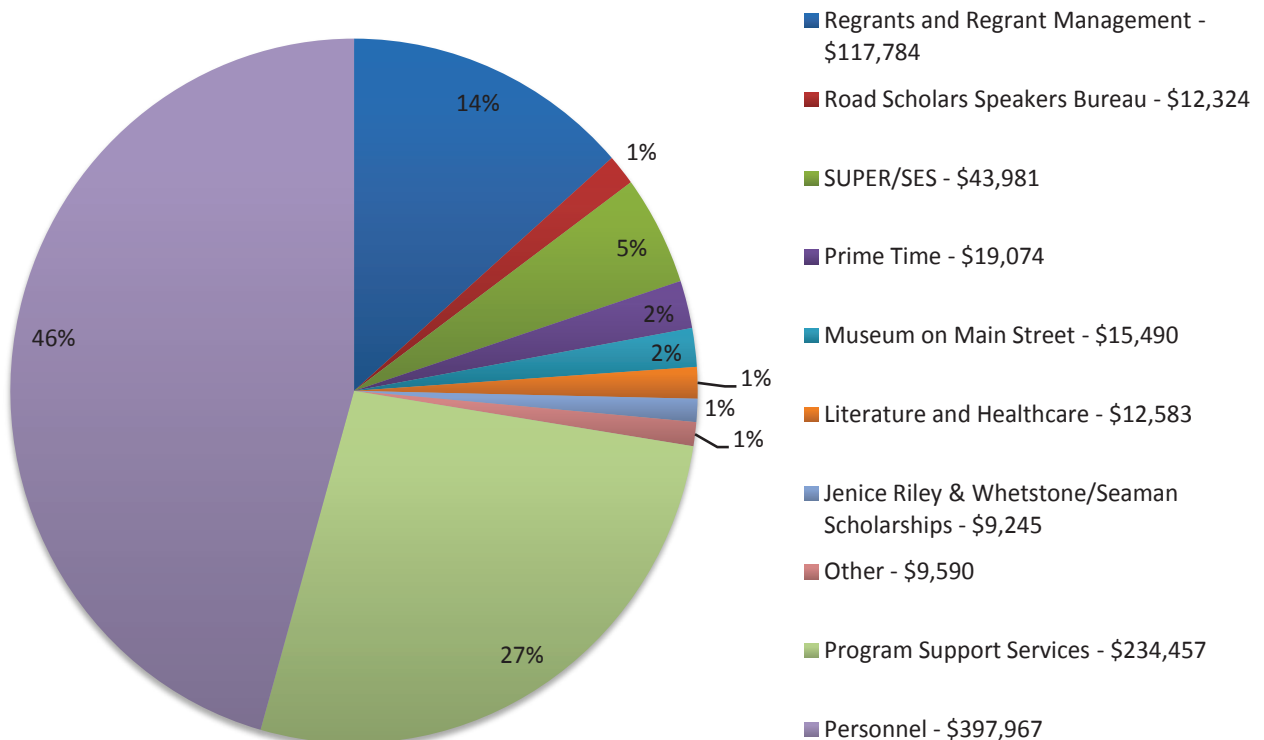
Alabama Humanities Foundation

2013 Annual Report

Income - \$935,091



Expenses - \$872,495



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The Alabama Humanities Foundation gratefully recognizes the following people and organizations whose generosity made a tremendous difference in furthering our mission. Our Honor Roll acknowledges the contributions, memorials and honorariums received by the Alabama Humanities Foundation in 2013. On behalf of the officers and directors of the Foundation, we express our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity.

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AHF accepting nominations for prestigious awards

Alabama Humanities Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Alabama Humanities and Charitable Organization in the Humanities awards.

Alabama Humanities Award

This prestigious award is given annually to an individual in Alabama who has made an exemplary contribution to the public understanding and appreciation of the humanities.

The award is presented at the Alabama Humanities Awards luncheon normally held in the fall. The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2014.

Native Alabamians or Alabama residents who have made substantial contributions to the humanities—or other living persons who have made substantial contributions specifically to the humanities in Alabama—are eligible nominees.

These efforts might include leadership on behalf of a cultural or educational institution, significant scholarly achievement, outstanding teaching of

the humanities or public advocacy that embodies the values and perspectives of the humanities.

Current members of the AHF board and staff are ineligible.

Previous winners include:

1989 Winton M. Blount
1990 Dr. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton
1991 Dr. Wayne Flynt

1992 Judge C.J. Coley
1993 Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins
1994 Philip Morris
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2002 Harper Lee
2003 Dr. Harry Philpott
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2006 Dr. Bert Hitchcock
2007 Jack Warner
2008 Senator Richard Shelby
2009 Dr. Bill Carter
2010 Edgar Welden
2011 Dr. Elaine Hughes
2012 Dr. E.O. Wilson
2013 Bobby Horton

Individuals, groups, or organizations may submit a letter of nomination. The letter should not be longer than three pages and should describe the contributions of the person nominated. A vita should be included. Nominations remain active for one year.

Charitable Organization in the Humanities Award

This award is given at the discretion of the board of directors at no set interval but if given, it is awarded at the annual luncheon to honor a member of the corporate/foundation community who has been a valuable contributor to furthering the mission and goals of Alabama Humanities Foundation.

The award can be based on a single year or multiple years of support. The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2014.

Previous award winners include:

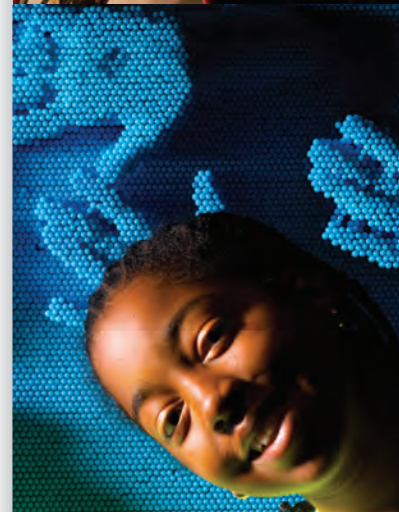
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Visit www.alabamahumanities.org for more information or to submit a nomination.

Board member nominations can be made by any resident of the state of Alabama. To submit a nomination, send a letter of recommendation to: Alabama Humanities Foundation ATTN: Board Nomination, 1100 Ireland Way South, Suite 202, Birmingham, AL 35205 or email Armand Dekeyser at <mailto:adekeyser@alabamahumanities.org>.

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Mosaic is the magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation and is printed in the Fall and the Spring. The publication's purpose is to educate on humanities topics, provide resources and information about humanities events, and instill pride and excitement in all Alabamians concerning the rich humanities in our state. *Mosaic* is free of charge and is available for online reading at alabamahumanities.org.



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