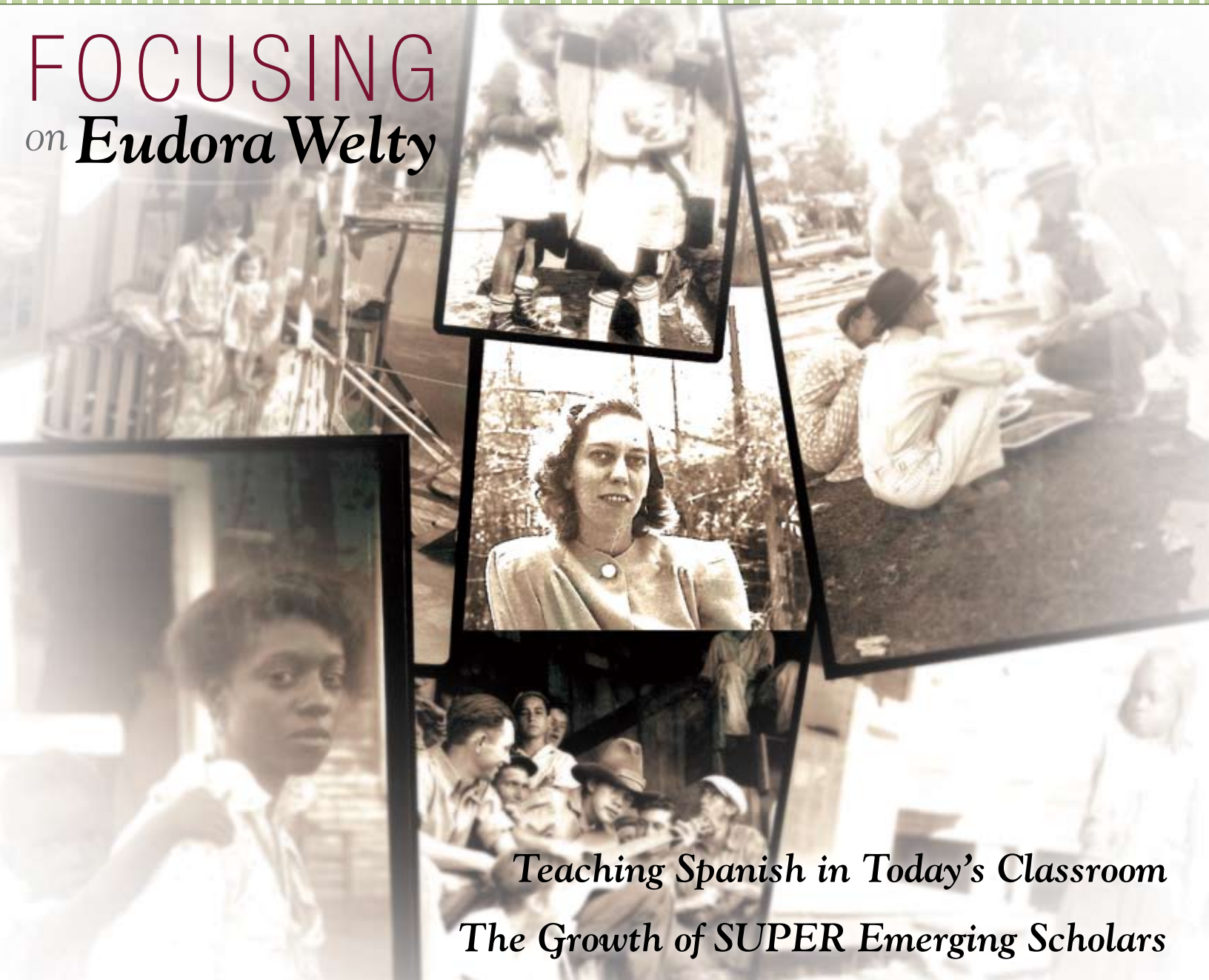


Summer / Fall 2010

MOSAIC

The magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation

FOCUSING on *Eudora Welty*



Teaching Spanish in Today's Classroom
The Growth of SUPER Emerging Scholars

Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors

Bob Whetstone*, Chair, Birmingham

Jim Noles, Vice Chair, Birmingham

Danny Patterson, Secretary, Mobile

John Rochester, Treasurer, Ashland

Lynne Berry*, Huntsville

Calvin Brown*, Decatur

Marthanne Brown*, Jasper

Malik Browne, Eutaw

Rick Cook, Auburn

Cathy Crenshaw, Birmingham

David Donaldson, Birmingham

Kathleen Dotts, Huntsville

Reggie Hamner, Montgomery

Janice Hawkins*, Troy

Kay Kimbrough, Mobile

John Knapp, Birmingham

Lisa Narrell-Mead, Birmingham

Robert Olin, Tuscaloosa

Carolyn Reed, Birmingham

Guin Robinson, Birmingham

Nancy Sanford, Sheffield

Lee Sentell*, Montgomery

Dafina Ward, Birmingham

Wyatt Wells, Montgomery

Billie Jean Young, Marion

*denotes governor's appointee



archaeology



art history



classics



film studies



history



jurisprudence



languages



literature



philosophy & ethics



theatre history

Our kudzu philosophy:

At AHF, we think we have a lot to learn from kudzu, or at least its concept.

Like it or hate it, kudzu is truly a ubiquitous feature of Alabama as well as our Southern neighbors. No matter who you are, where you're from or how deeply you're rooted in the humanities, if you know Alabama, you know kudzu. Pesky as it may be, the plant is common to everyone. Kudzu spreads and grows, links and connects. And much like the rich humanities in our state, kudzu can be found, well, everywhere.

Alabama Humanities Foundation Staff

Bob Stewart, Executive Director

Alma Anthony, Administrative Assistant

Thomas Bryant, Director of Programs and SUPER Manager

Michael Chambers II, Programs Coordinator

Jennifer Dome, Public Relations and Publications Manager

Paul Lawson, OFRE, Director of Development and Public Relations

Cynthia Martin, Programs and Development Assistant

Susan Perry, Grants Director

Patricia Williams, Financial Officer

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.

1100 Ireland Way, Suite 101 ☘ Birmingham, AL 35205

Phone: (205) 558-3980 ☘ Fax: (205) 558-3981

E-mail: ahf@ahf.net ☘ Website: ahf.net ☘ Blog: ahf.net/blog

Behind Mosaic

Designer: Kari Whitaker

In-kind copy editors: Béverly Bashor, Heather D. Humann and Laura Navratil Thrasher

Please direct all Mosaic comments, questions or concerns to Jennifer Dome at (205) 558-3991 or jdome@ahf.net.

Humanities Highlight

*A look at AHF's past, present and future concerning the humanities disciplines of **history, literature and language.***



Reflections Past Grants and Programs

Frances Robb



Road Scholars Speakers Bureau

With the recent oil spill in the Gulf region on top of the current recession, Mobile residents are certainly thinking about how to do more with less. One may ponder, "How did people make it through the Great Depression?" Well, a recent Road Scholars Speakers Bureau presentation at the Mobile Museum of Art by Frances Robb on "**The Great Depression in Alabama Photographs**" offered a glimpse of the challenges that Alabamians were faced with during that era. The Depression era easily parallels the current economic climate, making this program one of interest to more than 30 attendees. It is only hoped that today's photographers are documenting life in the Gulf region, which may be instructive for future generations.



Nancy Anderson



Literature in Progress Present Grants and Programs

Road Scholars Speakers Bureau

Scottsboro will mark the 50th Anniversary celebration of *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a scholarly review by Nancy Anderson. The Scottsboro Public Library will host Anderson as she continues to move about the state to share her timely and popular presentation, "**To Kill a Mockingbird: Successes and Myths.**" This Road Scholars Speakers Bureau presentation will take place August 26, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please feel free to call Ann Chambless or Nancy Gregory at (256) 574-4335.



Looking Ahead Future Grants and Programs

"W.I.L.D.—Weekend Immersed in Language Development,"

sponsored by the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers (AAFLT), is the only AHF grant project focused on the study of foreign languages. In its seventh year, W.I.L.D. offers students and teachers the opportunity for a language immersion experience in Spanish, French and German. The purpose of the residential program is to put the students in a setting where they will use the language they are acquiring in a non-threatening, relaxed atmosphere with the

main objective of communication. The activities include daily living experiences, as well as cultural and academic learning experiences.



Students at the 2009 W.I.L.D. program take an oath to speak only in their target language.
Courtesy of Lisa Loyd

The Alabama Department of Education requires a minimum of two years of foreign language study for all students in secondary school. More than teaching only a language, these courses teach world cultures and civilizations, literature and art appreciation. In addition to expounding on the state course of study, W.I.L.D. affirms the role that foreign language teachers play in global awareness, knowledge and understanding of international issues. This fall, W.I.L.D. will be held December 3-5 at the YMCA Hargis Retreat.

Summer / Fall 2010

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

MOSAIC



24



On the Cover: Learn more about the traveling exhibition "Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections," on page 6. – Photos courtesy of Eudora Welty LLC and Mississippi Department of Archives and History

In Every Issue

Humanities Highlight	3
Empowering Communities	6
What's on the Web?	10
Giving and Receiving	11–16
Readily Giving	11
Grateful to Receive	14
Around Alabama	22

Special Section

Telling Our Story	24
-------------------	----

Feature

Teaching Spanish in Today's Classroom	17
---------------------------------------	----

Teachers and students are finding Spanish skills more and more necessary in preparing for today's workforce. But more than that, learning another language is opening their minds and hearts.

Letter from the Executive Director

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publishing of *To Kill a Mockingbird* (TKAM), AHF conceived and produced “TKAM 2010: *To Kill a Mockingbird*—Awakening America’s Conscience.” The project included a series of programs and events to honor the lasting significance of Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel on the state, country and world. The multi-city, multi-format celebration and humanities programs during spring 2010 included:

- A traveling exhibition and fundraising auction of art that was inspired by the book. Thirty-five local, state and national artists donated paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures and photographs, which were exhibited in Birmingham and Montgomery. The works were sold at a May 22 reception and auction at Wynfield Estates in Montgomery, the home of the late philanthropists Red and Carolyn Blount.
- Panel discussion at the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. The discussion focused on the book’s widespread and profound influence in the areas of law, civil rights, literature and education.
- Sneak-preview screening of excerpts from the documentary film, “Our Mockingbird.” Independent filmmaker Sandy Jaffe has produced the film using several AHF grants.
- Screening of the 1962 film starring Gregory Peck at Montgomery’s historic Capri Theatre.
- Website content and blog postings that remain available for continuing impact.

The AHF Board of Directors chose to launch this initiative for more reasons than celebrations and programs. A very active steering committee, co-chaired by board members Jim Noles and Lisa Mead, provided the energy and leadership for the entire initiative’s success. Other board members and numerous community volunteers and artists lent their support, which will pay dividends through increased board involvement in future programs and activities.

As a result of the board’s imagination and commitment, AHF raised more than \$70,000 in net income through sponsorships, ticket sales and registrations, and auctions of the art and related materials. Additionally, the extensive coverage for our TKAM activities by newspapers, magazines and television stations—along with a variety of social media—increased awareness of AHF and its programs among new audiences.

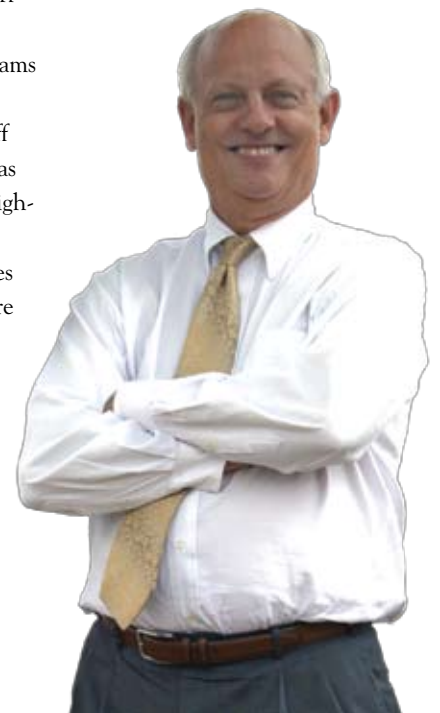
With the TKAM commemoration and fundraising campaign behind us, the AHF Board and staff are now turning their attention enthusiastically to our ongoing grants, programs and partnerships—as well as our upcoming Alabama Humanities awards luncheon on September 13. Many of these are highlighted in this issue of *Mosaic*. We also look forward to planning even more exciting new initiatives for 2011—whether they are designed to raise additional funds, raise AHF’s visibility, or raise up issues and ideas in the humanities for the public. There may only be one *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but there are infinite opportunities in the humanities. 🌱

Bob

Bob Stewart, AHF Executive Director



AHF Executive Director Bob Stewart listens to “*To Kill a Mockingbird at 50: Perspectives on One Book’s Influence*” panel discussion at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church with board members (from left) John Knapp and Lynne Berry, and former board member and chair Nancy Anderson.



Empowering Communities

Featuring statewide AHF programs and projects supported by AHF grants.

Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections



As part of the tri-state Southern Literary Trail, the Museum of Mobile has organized a traveling exhibition that highlights the photographs of Eudora Welty with her own words. At each host venue, scholars and participants will explore views of Southern culture, as seen through the eyes of Welty, while revealing aspects of the person she became in the literary realm. In partnership with The Welty Foundation, Eudora Welty House and Eudora Welty scholars, Jacob Laurence, curator at the Museum of Mobile, selected Welty photographs that capture life during the 1930s and the Great Depression in the South.

In the early 1930s Eudora Welty traveled around Mississippi as a junior publicity agent for the WPA (Works Progress Administration). On these



Eudora Welty in February 1941.

Photos courtesy of Eudora Welty LLC and Mississippi Department of Archives and History

trips, Welty photographed people from many diverse racial and economic backgrounds. Welty's short story, "Death of a Traveling Salesman," was published in 1936 and received high acclaim that catapulted Welty into the American spotlight as one of

the century's great Southern literary voices. Welty claimed that her photography did not directly affect her writing, but narrative is present in both creative expressions.

In the exhibit's wall text, Jacob Laurence states, "The two art forms become a detailed record of the region and iconic images of the South, along the way leading people through a winding story from the mind and experiences of one storyteller." Welty explained herself in her autobiographical *One Writer's Beginnings*:

"My instinct—the dramatic instinct—was to lead me, eventually, on the right track for a storyteller: the scene was full of hints, pointers, suggestions and promises of things to find out and know about human beings."



As editor and contributor of *Eudora Welty as Photographer* and winner of the 2009 Eudora Welty Award, Pearl McHaney, associate professor of English at Georgia State University, notes that Welty's photographs reflect her "recording of the Great Depression South without an agenda other than her own curiosity and artistic eye." McHaney claims that Welty pursued photography and writing with equal interest.

The exhibition will travel from Mobile to the Troy University Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery; Atlanta History Center in Georgia; Carnegie Visual Arts Center in Decatur, Alabama; and Mississippi University for Women Art Gallery in Columbus. According to Georgette Norman, "Troy University Rosa Parks Museum is excited about giving context to the Southern experience through the photography and prose of Welty in a series of lectures and discussions by eminent scholars, university and high school students." William Gantt, founder of the Southern Literary Trail, concludes, "An exhibit of Welty's photographs attracted thousands to The Museum for The City of New York. Now, through the power and magic of a tri-state collaboration, the Trail is bringing Welty's collection home so Southerners can also see the historic images of our region that captivated Manhattan." 🌿

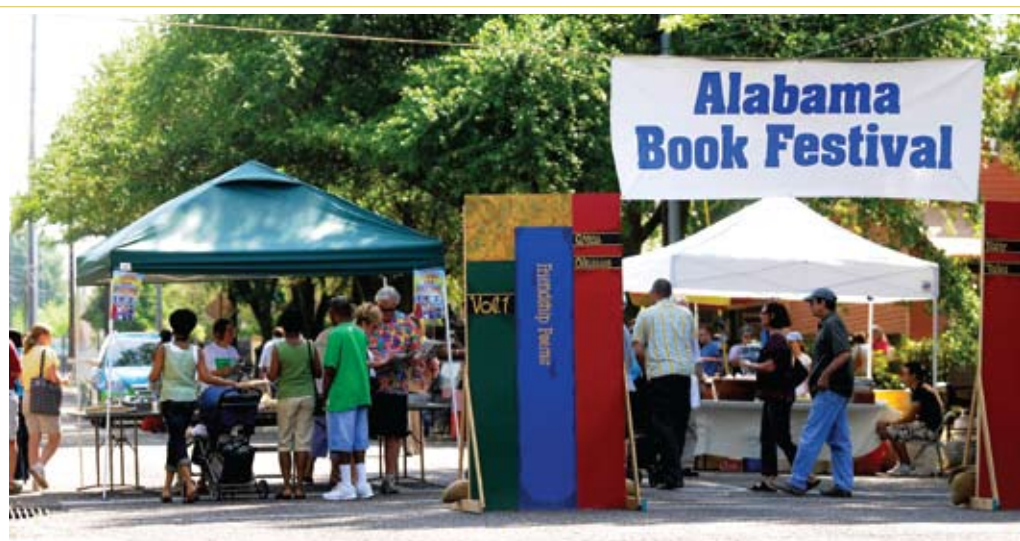


The Smithsonian is coming!

Journey stories—tales of how we and our ancestors came to America—are a central element of our personal heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens, everyone has a story to tell. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything—families and possessions—to begin a new life in another state, across the continent or even across an ocean. Our transportation history is more than boats, buses, cars, wagons and trucks. The development of transportation technology was largely inspired by the human drive for freedom.

The Museum on Main Street exhibition **Journey Stories** will examine the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move. The story is diverse and focused on immigration, migration, innovation and freedom. **Journey Stories** will use engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society.

Journey Stories will tour Alabama from **June 25, 2011 to April 8, 2012**. Six host sites have been selected: **Alexander City, Arab, Eufaula, Jasper, Marion and Mobile**. Each community will develop a local exhibition and public programs to tell its own journey stories. The Alabama Humanities Foundation is planning a statewide initiative, **Alabama on the Move**, with a traveling panel exhibition, Web-based digital media, public programs and educational initiatives for teachers and students. **Journey Stories** is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institute and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. 🌿



Courtesy of Old Alabama Town and the Alabama Book Festival

The fifth annual **Alabama Book Festival** attracted over 4,500 people on April 17 to Old Alabama Town in historic downtown Montgomery. More than 50 authors, storytellers, poets, illustrators and performers gathered to celebrate reading, writing and literature. At the festival, AHF staff presented young writers the state awards for the Letters About Literature national essay contest, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. 🌿

Empowering Communities *(continued)*



by artist Jason Guynes in Bell Conference Center, UWA

Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek 180th Anniversary

On October 6, the University of West Alabama will commemorate the 180th anniversary of the **Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek**. This 1830 document ceded to the United States the last major portion of Choctaw lands east of the Mississippi River. West Alabama citizens recognize this event as an integral part of their history. Dr. James T. Carson, ethno-historian and scholar of Choctaw Indians, will deliver a lecture on the treaty, the historical figures involved and its significance for regional and national history. A representative member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will make opening remarks and participate in a closing panel discussion. This grant project contributes to the "Becoming Alabama" recognition of significant historic anniversaries. 🌱

"New Discoveries in Alabama Quilts at Belle Mont Mansion"



Quilters record traditions and their family's history with handcrafted quilts, which exist today as a testament to their past lives. Homemade quilts not only provided families with basic warmth, they also expressed the individual artistry of each maker. Author Mary Elizabeth Johnson Huff will discuss **"New Discoveries in Alabama Quilts at Belle Mont Mansion"** in Tuscumbia on **October 3** at **2:00 p.m.** Characteristic of the Palladian or "Jeffersonian Style," Belle Mont is one of early Alabama's architectural achievements. The long-term, phased restoration by the Alabama Historical Commission is underway to preserve Belle Mont's history, beauty and architecture. 🌱

Grants Awarded

AHF awarded grants totaling \$58,731.09 to date in fiscal year 2010.

Rick Bragg: Stories of an Alabama Family
Wallace Community College
\$1,700 outright

The book discussions of Rick Bragg's "family trilogy" culminate with a keynote lecture by the author.

Digging Up Roots: Using Your Family Tree, Genealogy, and History to Tell Your Story
Macon County/Tuskegee Library
\$1,600 outright

The interactive workshops encourage the participants to write about their family history.

Open Secret
Greater Birmingham Ministries
\$1,700 outright

The civic discussions of the film re-enactment of the 1901 Alabama Constitutional Convention include presentations by scholars for a balanced view of the topic.

Pride and Passion
Birmingham Public Library
\$2,000 outright

The library offered public programs to complement the exhibition "Pride and Passion: The African American Baseball Experience."

Reviving the Past: Jones Archaeological Museum Opening Celebration, Moundville Archaeological Park
UA Museums—Moundville Archaeological Park
\$2,000 outright

The opening celebration for the renovated Jones Archaeological Museum in Moundville featured presentations and demonstrations of traditional Southeastern Indian lifeways.

Coming of Age in the Small Town: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Tennessee Valley Art Association
\$2,000 outright

In conjunction with NEA's "The Big Read," there were pre-performance lectures on *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* at the historic Ritz Theatre in Sheffield.

Ann Rosenheck: A Witness to the Holocaust
Troy University-Dothan
\$1,700 outright

At Troy University's three campuses, Ann Rosenheck shared her personal story as one of the last surviving witnesses of the Holocaust.

AIEA Summer Institute
Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts
\$1,000 outright

The teacher institute incorporated art across the curriculum on the theme: "Story connects us to other people and other places."

Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections
Museum of Mobile
\$10,000 outright

Museum of Mobile will develop a traveling exhibition of Eudora Welty's photographs.

W.I.L.D.—Weekend Immersed in Language Development
Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers
\$6,400 outright

This program offers high school students and teachers a foreign language immersion experience in Spanish, French and German.

Humanities in Alabama Prisons
Auburn University
\$7,000 outright

Auburn University offers a series of history and literature classes in Alabama prisons.

Our Mockingbird
Birmingham Pledge
\$2,500 matching

The film documents the impact of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Alabama high school students in a joint school production and interviews with scholars on international significance of the book.

Sloss: Industry to Art
Alabama Public Television
\$7,000 matching

The film documents the historic and contemporary contributions of the Sloss Furnaces to industrialization as an educational and cultural venue and in the modern cast iron art movement.

"Ota Benga," a Documentary
University of Alabama at Birmingham
\$1,779 matching

The film researches the tragic story of Ota Benga.

Digging into Alabama's History: Native People, Places and Plants
Aldridge Gardens
\$1,996.25 outright

The focus of the scholars' presentations and demonstrations at this event will be Southeastern Native American traditions, folkways, cultural practices and contributions to Alabama's cultural heritage.

New Discoveries in Alabama Quilts at Belle Mont Mansion
Alabama Historical Commission
\$1,168 outright

Mary Elizabeth Johnson Huff will talk about historical Alabama quilts at Belle Mont Mansion.

Murals, Murals on the Wall, 1929-1939—Our Story Through Art in Public Places
Birmingham Historical Society
\$2,000 outright

The exhibition and programs highlight historical murals created from 1929 to 1939 in Birmingham public buildings.

Commemorative Lecture for 180th Anniversary of The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek
University of West Alabama
\$1,814 outright

James Carson discusses the 1830 treaty that ceded to the United States the last major portion of Choctaw lands east of the Mississippi River.

Alabama's Rick Bragg—"Out of the Dirt"
Colbert County Tourism & Convention & Bureau
\$1,999.44 outright

The film tells the story of Rick Bragg as journalist/writer and his Alabama roots.

Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections
Troy University Rosa Parks Museum
\$1,374.40 outright

To complement the traveling exhibition, scholars explore views of Southern culture as seen through the photographs by Eudora Welty.



"Digging Into Alabama's History: Native People, Places and Plants"

Discover Alabama's history through plants at **Aldridge Botanical Gardens**. On **October 24**, the community event will include demonstrations and discussions with scholars about Southeastern Indian traditions, cultural practices and their contributions to Alabama's cultural heritage. This is the first program with a Native American focus for Aldridge Botanical Gardens and the first partnership with Moundville Archaeological Park. The natural outdoor setting of Aldridge Botanical Gardens is the perfect place to explore Native American folkways and their relationship to the land. 🌿

Strengthen your connection to humanities in Alabama by going online.



ahf.net/blog

Our blog is proving to be a popular page on the AHF website, but we want ideas from you! Perhaps you are a scholar in the humanities and there's a topic you would like others to know more about. Or maybe there's an organization promoting an event supported by AHF and our blog can help spread the word. If you would like to submit an article on a humanities discipline, or you have an idea for one of our bloggers to write about, please send your ideas to Jennifer Dome, public relations and publications manager, at jdome@ahf.net. Maybe you will see one of your articles or ideas in a future blog post! 🐦

Get to know your state humanities council!

Schedule an AHF Humanities Happening talk for your next luncheon, meeting or seminar.

Talks include:

- Overview of the humanities disciplines and their importance
- Discussion on the AHF mission, its purpose and goals
- Presentation of the Foundation's beneficial public programs
- Highlighting of AHF-funded statewide grant projects
- Introduction to available humanities resources, including a look at the AHF regional calendar of events and Alabama's comprehensive web-based reference guide, the *Encyclopedia of Alabama*

Humanities Happening talks are provided at **no cost** to nonprofit groups and are led by AHF Board and staff members. Talks are separate from AHF's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau presentations.

To book a talk, contact Jennifer Dome, public relations and publications manager, at (205) 558-3991 or jdome@ahf.net. 🐦

Web Speak

For those involved in the area of humanities, it is easy to be torn between two sides of an ongoing debate: are Internet networking outlets—such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs, to name a few—tainting our culture?

Luckily for AHF, we have found ways to advance humanities education by utilizing these tools. In fact, we've noticed a lot of nonprofits in our state doing the same. While we recognize it's not essential to jump on board the social media bandwagon, we're excited about the success we've seen so far.

Twitter

What is it? A free service that allows users to send and read other users' updates, which are text-based posts of up to 140 characters in length.

How is AHF using it? Twitter is used to drive traffic to ahf.net, send links to humanities information and alert followers of upcoming events.

How do I get involved? Follow AHF on Twitter by going to twitter.com/ahf. Sign up and receive daily AHF updates.

Facebook

What is it? A free-access website in which users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, region and interest to connect and interact with other people who share their same interests.

How is AHF using it? Facebook is primarily used to promote the Foundation's mission, statewide programs and projects, and to serve Alabamians who have specific interests in the humanities.

How do I get involved? Visit facebook.com/alabamahumanities. To become fully involved, join Facebook and connect to us by becoming our Facebook friend.

Flickr

What is it? A free image- and video-hosting site that allows visitors to view, print and download photos of all sizes.

How is AHF using it? Photos from AHF programs, grant projects and other humanities events are uploaded to and featured on Flickr.

How do I get involved? Check Flickr frequently for AHF images by visiting flickr.com/photos/alahumanities. Images are arranged by category on the right side of the page.

Be Heard

How can we improve the content on our blog? What types of articles would you like to see posted on the blog?

Let us hear from you! Send your name, location and response to jdome@ahf.net. All responses will be featured on the AHF blog.

Giving and Receiving: Readily Giving

Highlights of Alabama Humanities council-conducted and donor-supported programs.

Educating Alabama's Youths



Pictured left to right are Edgar Welden, chairman of the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship; Bob Stewart, executive director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation; Gigi Hankins; Janet Leffard; Maryanne McGriff; and Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., Troy University chancellor.
Courtesy of Troy University

Three teachers presented their Jenice Riley Scholarship projects at the AHF Board reception generously hosted by Troy University, Montgomery, in April 2010. Janet Leffard, a fourth-grade teacher at Dodge Elementary, shared the “Schools for Our Ship” (SOS) civic leadership project to support the USS Alabama Battleship in Mobile. Gigi Hankins talked about the Alabama History Play by fourth-grade students at Wetumpka Intermediate School. Marianne Moore McGriff, fourth-grade teacher and 2006 finalist, continues history and civic projects at Bluff Park Elementary in Hoover.

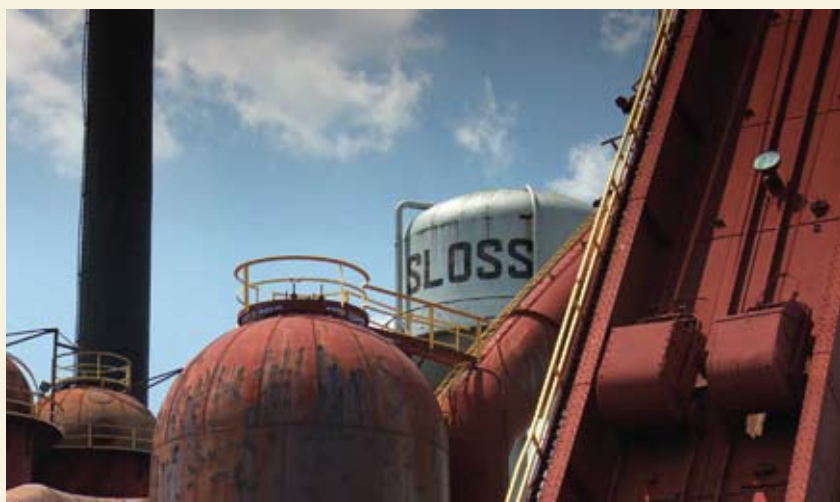
The **Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship** is a professional development opportunity for teachers to enhance their teaching about Alabama/American History and citizenship and to encourage civic involvement by students in their community. This scholarship will be awarded to teachers who exhibit Jenice Riley's philosophy of love, passion for teaching and commitment to civic and public service. 🌱

“Sloss: Industry to Art,” presented by Alabama Public Television

Alabama Public Television's newest documentary,

“Sloss: Industry to Art,” has roots deep in Birmingham's history. The film, funded in part by AHF's media grant, explores the transition of Birmingham's Sloss Furnaces from its industrial role that helped build Alabama's largest city to its current place in the modern Cast Iron Art movement.

The film, says APT executive producer Chris Holmes, provides a look at the historic importance of Sloss Furnaces as a working furnace that gave rise to the city of Birmingham, the successful grassroots effort to preserve Sloss from destruction, and its current role as a national historic landmark functioning as an art-education facility gaining recognition on a global level. It features contemporary footage shot at Sloss with interviews with former Sloss workers, a recognized historian/industrial archaeologist, cast iron artists and students, as well as individuals involved in the preservation of the site.



In addition to the documentary, related educational resources being developed by APT include nine online learning modules for classroom use through its APTPLUS™ service aptplus.org. To view a trailer for “Sloss: Industry to Art,” which aired statewide on APT in late July, and for more information about the film, visit aptv.org/sloss. 🌱

Giving and Receiving: Readily Giving *(continued)*

Partnering to Help SUPER Emerging Scholars Grow

While many nonprofit organizations have been forced to make cuts to their program offerings, AHF was able to grow and expand one of its newest programs. Building upon the successful launch of the SUPER Emerging Scholars (SES) pilot in 2009 was a goal for AHF. However, in March of 2009 the bottom fell out and the economy tanked. Fortunately, the launch of the pilot SES in 2009 would go forth as funding had already been secured the prior year. With the new and uncertain financial climate, the challenge became “How do you grow and expand a successful program in just a year, in a down economy?”

Seeking opportunities to partner was the answer and under the direction of programs coordinator Michael L. Chambers II, AHF partnered with the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences and Alabama State University. Securing these partnerships was the key to ensuring that SES expanded and increased the number of youths that the program serves. Between the two institute sites, SES served 26 students from various regions of Alabama.



SES students at ASU (left to right): (kneeling) Cara Golden, Janis Adams, D'Quan Lee, La'Tracyenne Kennie, Janet Langford, Janelle Wesley, Jade Johnson and Jeordon Dudley; (standing) Tara Martin, Ashlee Green, Ke'Aundria Gresham, Naderrica Smith, Alexis Hawkins and Chaquanta Bonner.

A Look at 2010's Institutes

This year's first SES institute took place June 6–12 on the campus of the University of Alabama (UA) in Tuscaloosa and was led by scholars Karen Gardiner, Ph.D., and Yolanda Manora, Ph.D., both faculty members in the English department. This institute directed participants in a close study of literature, specifically coming-of-age stories like William Faulkner's “Barn Burning.” Using these stories as a context for improving writing and critical thinking skills allows students to draw an immediate parallel to their own personal coming-of-age narrative. In turn, this gives them a greater base of understanding that is introspective, equipping them with the ability to empathize with others.

Jasmine Pettaway, an SES participant at UA, says, “Reading the different coming-of-age stories lead me to internalize and reflect on my own personal growth. At the core of studying the humanities and other people's lives, one gains a greater appreciation and understanding of the diverse cultures and traditions that are present in our nation.”

The second SES institute of 2010 took place June 20–26 on the campus of Alabama State University (ASU) in Montgomery and was led by lead scholar Bertis English, Ph.D., an associate professor of history at the school. This institute was focused on history during the slavery and reconstruction periods. “Although countless individuals consider racial slavery a tragic and shameful part of the country's past, the important lessons taught and learned about human understanding through the institution are still relevant as some obvious and many more not-so-obvious parallels remain,” avows English.



Bertis English, Ph.D., lead scholar at SES at ASU, works one on one with participant Alexis Hawkins.



Co-Lead Scholars Yolanda Manora, Ph.D., and Karen Gardiner, Ph.D., at SES at UA.



Michael Chambers II speaks with Jasmine Pettaway, Marquesha Ford and Hannah Zahedi during the SES program at UA.



SES students at UA: (first row) Premiese Cunningham, Quadrea Turner, Ranisha Gardner, Hannah Zahedi, Jasmine Pettaway, Derrick Spencer, James Kemp; (second row) Michael Chambers, Jalen Spraggins, Laurell Carter, Earl Johnson, Marquesha Ford, Jonathan Harrell

Bertis English said about the 2010 SES institute: "The 14 emerging scholars who attended the week-long institution at ASU were exposed to collegiate-style lectures. This opportunity, of which they took full advantage, will prove critical to their scholarly and cultural development. Having to read and, moreover, learn, talk and write about relatively large bodies of information about slavery and its impact worldwide—past and present—each day of the institute helped the emerging scholars better understand what they will be required to do at the college or university they decide to attend. Many of them said they developed a greater appreciation for the humanities. It is hoped that their collective experiences at ASU will be a central part of their overall growth, as they become productive contributors to the global society." 🌱

Updates From 2010's SUPER Institutes and Workshops

This summer, June 9-11, 25 teachers participated in the SUPER institute "The Last Good War: Teaching WWII Through Literature, Art and Music," led by Alan Brown, professor of English, at The University of West Alabama. The institute, which took place in Birmingham, approached WWII from a cultural perspective. The focus of the institute was the writers, artists and composers who have attempted to make sense of this large-scale conflict by personalizing it. The novels, paintings, songs and films featured in the institute dramatized the war's impact on the individuals who fought in it. The institute also emphasized the educational value of the experiences of veterans of World War II. Texts read by teachers prior to the institute included Pierre Boulle's *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*, Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, John Hersey's *A Bell for Adano*, James Jones' *The Thin Red Line*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Elie Wiesel's *Night*, and Herman Wouk's *The Caine Mutiny*. A highlight of the institute was WWII veteran Nathan Glick's presentation of his experiences and the artwork he produced as a documentary artist

for the United States military. Institute participants for the non-residential program came from Autauga, Blount, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Madison, Morgan and Tuscaloosa counties.

The winter 2010 issue of *Mosaic* will take a look at the July SUPER teacher programs, including a one-day workshop for foreign language teachers and two weeklong, residential institutes. "Language Immersion for Spanish: Exploring Indigenous Latin American Literature" was led by associate professor of Spanish Leonor Vázquez-González of University of Montevallo on July 20 in Montevallo. "The Freedom Movement in Alabama from the 13th Amendment through the Voting Rights Act of 1965" was led by Clarence L. Mohr, a professor of history at University of South Alabama on July 11-16 in Mobile. And finally, "Humanities and Human Rights," led by Nancy Grisham Anderson, an associate professor of English at Auburn University Montgomery (AUM), was presented July 18-23 in Montgomery and co-sponsored by AUM. 🌱

"Murals, Murals On the Wall, 1929-1939—Our Story Through Art in Public Places"

This exhibition documents the historical murals from the period 1929 to 1939 created for public buildings. From November 7 to December 31 at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery, the Birmingham Historical Society will exhibit 10 murals funded by the Works Progress Association for the 1939 Alabama State Fair in Birmingham and photographs of murals in libraries, post offices, the courthouse and other public buildings. These murals tell the stories of world literary and storybook figures, the exploration and settlement of America and Jefferson County, and the New Deal dreams for education and agriculture. The exhibition and public programs will showcase Birmingham's rich heritage of large-scale murals and raise awareness of the need for conservation. 🌱

Giving and Receiving: Grateful to Receive

A focus on our generous givers.

Many Thanks

The humanities are a vital part of our culture. In Alabama we are blessed with a wonderful combination of a meaningful history, a rich literary past and a multitude of cultural backgrounds. These treasures reward us today with imagination, perspective and critical thinking. Simply put, the humanities enrich lives and build communities.

To effectively extend our programs to every level of society in Alabama, we must rely on community and private support. Gifts from all corners of Alabama allow us

to capitalize on local strengths and respond to local needs. Our programs and services make a positive difference in virtually every county around the state.

Since 1974, the Alabama Humanities Foundation has been working to ensure that our programs are available and accessible to as many Alabamians as possible. As you read about the many and varied programs of AHF, think about how you can help. By joining the list of donors listed on page 16, you have an opportunity to be a part of many new, imaginative programs that promise to reach even more citizens of our state. 🌱

*Written by Paul Lawson, CFRE
AHF Director of Development and
Public Relations*



One of You: Judge Tim Russell

Give until it hurts? According to Baldwin County Probate Judge Tim Russell, you “give until you feel good.”

That philosophy is a perfect fit for Judge Russell as he has provided key annual support to the Alabama Humanities Foundation for a long string of consecutive years.

Judge Russell has worn many hats in his successful business and public service career. His strong work ethic has been valuable as he has served the citizens of Alabama. Judge Russell served as Foley’s mayor for three terms, from 1996-2006. In 2008, Alabama Gov. Bob Riley appointed him to be the commissioner of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

He also served as a captain in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, and was awarded the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.

“Private gifts, like those from Judge Russell, are important for us to fulfill our mission,” says Bob Stewart, AHF executive director. “His many years of giving have helped us truly enrich the lives of others.”

Before his appointment to the Department of Revenue, Judge Russell had been the president of the Baldwin Mutual Insurance Company. He also was past president of many community organizations including South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, South Baldwin United Way, Foley Rotary Club and Foley Library Board. 🌱

Leaving Its Mark: The Robert R. Meyer Foundation

For 68 years, the Robert R. Meyer Foundation has helped provide support to many charitable organizations in central Alabama, including the Alabama Humanities Foundation. The Meyer Foundation is currently worth \$34 million and, since its inception, has given away more than \$54 million to 350 different charitable organizations. AHF has received funding from the Meyer Foundation for 20 years to help ensure the present and future success of the organization.

“The Robert R. Meyer Foundation has a long history of supporting a variety of humanities programs conducted by AHF,” says AHF Executive Director Robert Stewart. “Its grants have helped underwrite the *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, SUPER (School and University Partners for Education Renewal), and SUPER Emerging Scholars. The foundation also supported a former AHF program, the Motherhead family literacy program. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and commitment the foundation has shown us over the years.”

What is now Regions Bank, formerly First National Bank of Birmingham, helped Mr. Meyer establish his foundation in 1942. The foundation was funded primarily with assets from Mr. Meyer’s estate several years later, following his death in 1947. He was a Birmingham resident and owned his first hotel, The Metropolitan, in Birmingham before 1920. He also owned hotels in Jacksonville, Fla.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Baltimore, Md.; Nashville, Tenn.; and Raleigh, N.C. Mr. Meyer was on the boards of the Waldorf Astoria and Governor Clinton Hotels in New York City. He also served on numerous boards in his hometown, including DeBardeleben Coal and Woodward Iron. He owned one of the first homes in the Robert Jemison and Hill Ferguson development of Valley View, which is today known as Altamont Road. He completely renovated the home in 1917, which featured the first pool in Birmingham.

Distributions made by the Robert R. Meyer Foundation are made for charitable purposes “to aid or promote charitable relief or assistance, improvement and betterment to the inhabitants of the City of Birmingham, Alabama and vicinity...” Among the educational and cultural organizations benefiting from the generosity of the Meyer Foundation are: The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Advent Episcopal Day School, Alabama Ballet, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham Botanical Society, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham Zoo, Highlands Day School, Indian Springs School, McWane Center, Metropolitan Arts Council, Miles College, Samford University, United Way of Central Alabama, United Negro College Fund, and Vulcan Park Foundation, among many others. 🌱



Besides AHF, the Birmingham Zoo is another organization that benefits from the support of the Robert R. Meyer Foundation.

Give to AHF

The Foundation appreciates your interest in and support of the humanities in Alabama. To keep you informed of where your gifts are going, AHF regularly updates its website, ahf.net, with photos and information, and online forms and applications, that deal with our many programs, events and grant projects.

You will be pleased to know that giving to humanities is just as easy as learning about them. Our giving site, ahf.net/give, provides you with an easy opportunity to give at the click of a button.

Please consider giving online today—and while you’re at our site, browse around. You may learn something you didn’t know about the state and its rich humanities.

ahf.net/give

Giving and Receiving: Grateful to Receive *(continued)*

Donor Listing: January–June 2010

Founders (\$10,000+)

Jere and Sara Beasley
University of Alabama—College of
Arts & Sciences
Vulcan Materials Company

Director's Circle (\$5,000+)

Alabama River Pulp Co. Inc.
Circuit Court for Coosa County
Parsons and Whittemore
Enterprises Corp.

Sustainers (\$1,000+)

Richard and Nancy Anderson
Balch & Bingham LLP
Balch & Bingham,
LLP—Montgomery
Beasley Allen LLC
City of Birmingham
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama
Bingham Edwards
Ann Florie
Reginald and Anne Hamner
Hyundai Motor Manufacturing
Alabama LLC
John A. and Laurie Johnson
Michael and Pat Levine
Artis J. McCampbell
Charles T. and Catherine
McLemore
Merrill Lynch & Co
Morgan Keegan & Company Inc.
James and Elizabeth Noles
David and Leigh Perry
Carolyn Reed
Regions Bank
Samford University—Brock School
of Business
Roderick Scott
Gloria L. Sellman
Stephens Foundation
The Thompson Foundation

Benefactors (\$500+)

Carolyn Hansen
Lucy Hicks
Kay and William Kimbrough
Mountain Brook City Schools
PTO Inc.
Lisa Narrell-Mead
Mike and Susan Perry
Jane Puskas
Renee K. Rotan
Janet W. Seaman
Larry Thompson
Dorman Walker
Kendal and Penny Weaver
Edgar and Louise Welden
Bob and Janelle Whetstone

Patrons (\$250+)

Elizabeth Acker
Governor Albert P. Brewer
Beverly Broach
Capri Community Film Society
City of Daphne
Dora Going
Harrison Regional Library
Elaine and Bobby Hughes

Mike and Joan Krawcheck
Kerry Mallory
Samuel Mitchell
Donald G. Nobles
John and Linda Rochester
Garland Smith
Steiner Foundation
Robert and Lida Stewart

Friends (\$100+)

Penelope Bashore
Lisa P. and Gary Beers
Keven and Katrina Belt
Lynne Berry
Duncan B. and Marie Blair
Loretta Brown
Carmen Burkhalter
Peggy Burnett
Richard and Barbara Casey
Charles Cleveland
Brooke and Daniel Coleman
Jimmy W. Davis
Linda Dean
Marvin Engel
Frank and Judy Franz
Lowell Friedman
Peggy Galis
Wayne and Sarah Greenhaw
April Guin
Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton
William H. Hardie
Albert Head
Kristin K. Henson
Nall
J. Gorman and Martha Houston
Huntingdon College—Office of the
President
Chervis and Martha Isom
Patricia E. Ivie
Jacqueline Jackson
Jackson Lewis LLP
Kenneth Johnson
Marilyn Kurata and Robert Bradley
W. Joseph and Tammy McCorkle
Carolyn McCormick
James H. McLemore
Julian McPhillips
Leon and Lucy McVay
Jane Mullins
Alfred J. and Carolyn Newman
Grady Nunn
Robert Olin
Virginia Patterson
Lawrence Pijaux
Sanford B. and Jean Pinkerton
Claire and Holland Powell
Frances and David Robb
Guin Robinson
David and Sarah Ann Ross
Calame Sammons
Ray Scott
Bob and Libby Shaw
Linda H. and Robert Smith
Oliver Smyth
Carol Sommers
Daniel and Esta Spector
Gloria Spruill
Mary Stewart
Todd and Linda Strange

Andre M. Toffel
Thomas and Cheryl Upchurch
George and Mildred Wakefield
Keith and Teresa Watkins
J. Thomas Wheeler
Alice McSpadden Williams

Associates (\$35+)

American Association of University
Women—Montevallo
Autauga Genealogical Society
Autauga-Prattville Public Library
B. B. Comer Memorial Library
James and Jane Barganier
Theodore M. Benditt
Hanna Berger
Crystal Berryhill
James P. Berta
Neal and Anne Berte
Bevill State Community College—
Summit Campus
Burritt on the Mountain
Greg and Annie Butrus
Dorothy Cameron
Nathan Carter
Mildred Caudle
Childersburg Ladies Book Club
Choctaw County Public Library
City of Mobile
City of Pelham
Georgine and Jack Clarke
Colonial Dames 17th Century,
George Maris Chapter
Cathy and Larry Crenshaw
Imogene Dillon
Priscilla B. Duncan
Frances S. Durr
Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship
Foley Public Library
William Gantt
Alex M. Goldsmith
George B. and Jean Gordon
H. Grady Bradshaw—Chambers
County Library
Caroline C. Haberer
Judith Hand
Elizabeth A. Hefflin
Marianne Hitchcock
Horizons Unlimited
Sara Hudson
Hueytown Hobby Club
JSU Foundation Inc.
Kennedy Douglas Craft Guild
Murray Kidd
Paul and Connie Lawson
Sally S. and Will Legg
Jeff and Ellie Lienau
The Lighthouse Group Inc.
Walter and Carol Lowe
Marengo County Historical Society
Philip and Elizabeth McGrath
Mobile Genealogical Society
Albert A. and Patricia Nettles
Carolyn Neyman
Joan Nist
Keith B. Norman
Cheryl H. Oswalt
Ozark-Dale County Public Library
Joseph A. Panza

Patty Pilkerton
Frances K. Quick
Carol J. Reese
Tim and Sandy Russell
Leah Scalise
Romaine S. and Sally Scott
Edward Smith Jr.
Will Hill Tankersley
James and Sandra Taylor
Robert Terry
Mary Louise Tucker
Joe and Martha Turner
The UAB Educational Foundation
Unitarian Universalist Church
Vestavia Hills Public Library
Caroline Walker
Betty R. Watts
Wyatt and Barbara Wells
Frank White
White Smith Memorial Library
Karen Wilksman
Kathryn Tucker Windham
Jimmy Wiygul
Nancy Worley

Supporters

J. Michael Burger
Barbara Evans
Monroe County Public Library
Samuel J. Tumminello III

In-kind supporters

Random House Inc.
Douglas Baulos
Barb Bondy
Rick Bragg
Jerry Brown
Annie Butrus
Catherine Cabaniss
William Christenberry
Clayton Colvin
Chip Cooper
Jane Timberlake Cooper
Derek Cracco
Brian Edmonds
Beverly B. Erdreich
Barbara Evans
Frank Fleming
Forstall Art Supply
Randy Gachet
Carolyn Goldsmith
Karen Graffeo
Wayne Greenhaw
Jennifer Harwell
Headway Promotional Products
Inc.
Wesley Higgins
Bethanne Hill
Darius Hill
Lonnie Holley
Mary Elizabeth Kimbrough
Janice Kluge
Bruce Larsen
Sally Legg
Charlie Lucas
Jane Marshall
Nall
Nicolosi
Caleb O'Connor

Susan Perry
Amy Pleasant
Larry Thompson
Department of Art—Samford
University
Marilyn Wilson
Headway Promotional Products
Inc.
Sirote & Permutt

Tributes

In Memory of Dorothy "Dot"
Williams Welden
Lynne Berry

In Memory of Dorothy "Dot"
Williams Welden
Paul Lawson

In Memory of Dr. Penelope Prewitt
Cunningham
Gloria Spruill

In Memory of Elizabeth W. Stewart
Barbara Evans

In Memory of Elizabeth W. Stewart
Mike Krawcheck

In Memory of Elizabeth W. Stewart
Romaine S. Scott

In Memory of Elizabeth W. Stewart
Robert C. Stewart

In Memory of Elizabeth W. Stewart
J. Thomas Wheeler

In Memory of Leah Elsas
Michael J. Levine

In Honor of AHF Staff
Joan S. Nist

In Honor of Robert Stewart
Frances O. Robb

In Honor of Dr. Elaine Hughes
Loretta G. Brown

In Honor of Judy and Calvin Brown
Bob Shaw

In Honor of Mary Ward Brown
Peggy H. Galis

In Honor of Robert C. Stewart
Mike Krawcheck

In Honor of Susan Perry
Judith H. Hand



Teaching **SPANISH** in **Today's Classroom**

Teachers and students are finding Spanish skills more and more necessary in preparing for today's workforce. But more than that, learning another language is opening their minds and hearts.

By Jennifer Dome



Leonor Vázquez-González (far right) with students on a trip to Fort Campeche in Mexico.
Courtesy of Leonor Vázquez-González

“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.”

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe—German playwright, poet, novelist and dramatist

When I think of the hours I have spent toiling over the Spanish language, trying to make sense of various verb conjugations and finally (finally!) understanding what “pluscuamperfecto” means, sometimes I honestly want to give up.

But something pulls me back in. Maybe it’s the way a double “r” sounds rolling off my tongue, or maybe it’s the way my body wants to sway every time I hear a song by Alejandro Sanz. There is something about the Spanish language that is intoxicating. No matter how complicated learning another language may be, I can’t help but want to try.

This is what foreign language teachers do across our state. They introduce students to something new, something exciting. They pull the students in, giving them at first a basic vocabulary, and over time, an understanding of another culture, another history and a connection with other people throughout the world. “Learning a language is not just grammar, it opens eyes,” says University of Montevallo associate professor Leonor Vázquez-González.



A church in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.
Courtesy of Leonor Vázquez-González

Speaking Spanish in the 22nd State

While Hispanics make up only 2.9% of our state's population, according to 2008 Census data, it's a growing population here in Alabama. Lourdes Sánchez-López, an associate professor at the University of Alabama Birmingham, thinks Hispanics will play a large role in determining what the future of our state looks like. After seven years of living here, Lourdes says she's seen the growth with her own eyes. "Right now we have Spanish speakers at all levels, from many different countries," she says. "We have many children who speak Spanish and speak Spanish only, and they're here and learning English in our school system." Because of this, Alabama's foreign language teachers are often called on to play a dual role. Not only do they have to teach Spanish in their classes, but they may also have to act as a translator between teachers and students or parents who only speak Spanish. "Our teachers know the critical role they play in the school system," Lourdes says.

Another role they play is in helping students to understand the new cultures that are taking root around them. Linda Paragone, a teacher at Columbia High School in Huntsville and executive director for the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers, says she hopes that when students leave her class, they've gained not only knowledge of the Spanish language, but also a better understanding of our new neighbors. She says that learning another language, and about the history, art, literature and music of other cultures, can help students feel more compassion for foreigners who move to the United States and have to learn English. As they sit through classes and attempt to conjugate the verb "ser" into past tense, they may come to understand that learning another language, whether English or Spanish, is not as easy as it may seem. "I want students to leave my room with a better understanding of another culture," Linda says, "and to accept differences without judging them."

"Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow."

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, American physician, professor and author



Lourdes Sánchez-López at the Parque Guell in Barcelona, Spain.
Courtesy of Lourdes Sánchez-López

Spanish as a Necessary Skill

One way we, as ambassadors of our state, can connect with newcomers here is through language. But beyond that, learning another language can be an invaluable tool in a student's future. Knowing how to speak Spanish, especially, can open a lot of doors when it comes to employment. "The world is smaller and smaller nowadays and one language only isn't going to cut it anymore, professionally speaking," says Lourdes. "It's extremely important that we train our citizens and give them the tools that they're going to need for their future career." Lourdes says it's all about being competitive in the job market—there will be lawyers, doctors or other professionals who know another language, and our students will be competing with them for job positions. "A foreign language will certainly help them to get there," she says.

Learning Spanish also gives us a greater knowledge of the world beyond our state's borders. Leonor says she encourages students to leave the United States. Traveling abroad, and immersing yourself in another culture, is an incomparable experience. "When you are living that experience, you learn about yourself in a different way," Leonor says. "A book can give it to you, but not like living it." Lourdes agrees that learning another language can open you up to more than you'd ever imagined: "People who know a little bit about other languages, they're more tolerant, open-minded and independent. Those are qualities that employers are going to be looking for."

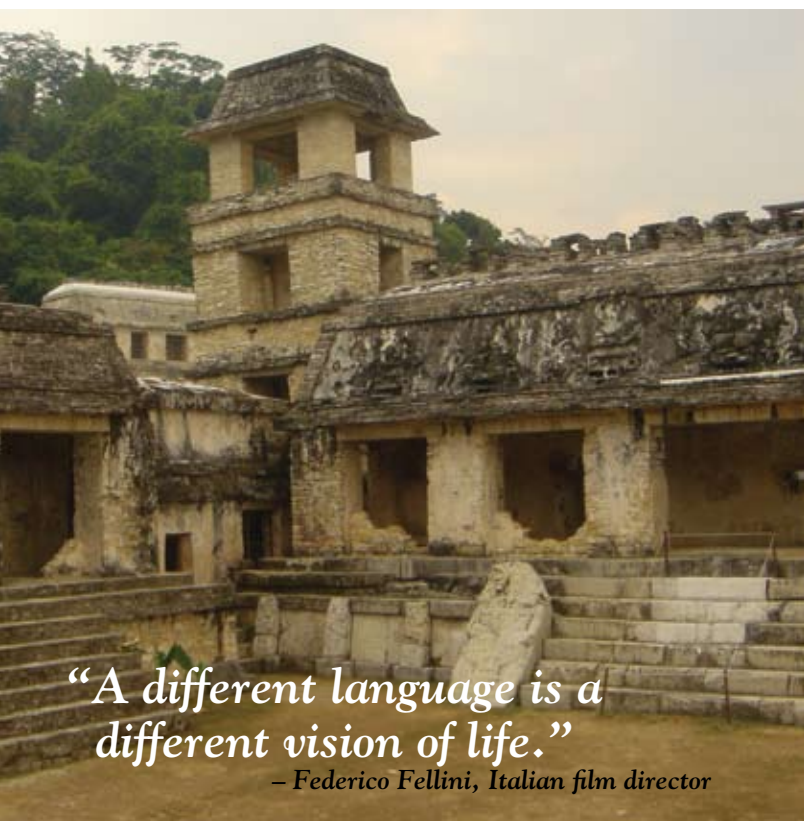
All three professionals agree that the new law, requiring all Alabama students to take two years of a foreign language whether going for the regular diploma or the advanced diploma, is necessary in order to prepare students to succeed in today's workforce.

AHF Helps Expand Language Education

The Alabama Humanities Foundation has assisted teachers and students in their quest to learn other languages for years, specifically through the SUPER program for teachers, and the W.I.L.D. (Weekend Immersed in Language Development) program for students.

SUPER holds a yearly immersion program for the state's teachers, allowing them to dive into their language, and the cultures of that language, for one-day workshops or weeklong institutes. Leonor lead this year's workshop, "Exploring Indigenous Latin-American Literature: Language Immersion for Spanish Teachers," on July 20.

Leonor believes workshops like SUPER are beneficial to teachers on a personal and academic level. Many foreign language teachers are the only foreign language teacher



"A different language is a different vision of life."

– Federico Fellini, Italian film director



Ruins in the National Park of Palenque, Mexico.
Courtesy of Leonor Vázquez-González

Recommended Reading

If you'd like to get a taste of the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries, all you have to do is pick up one (or more!) of the following books, recommended by Linda, Lourdes and Leonor.

Dreaming in Cuban by Cristina García

Gringa Latina: A Woman of Two Worlds by Gabriella de Ferrari

Lost City Radio by Daniel Alarcón

War by Candlelight by Daniel Alarcón

The House on Mango Street or *Caramelo* by Sandra Cisneros

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

Inés of My Soul by Isabel Allende

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel García Márquez

in their school, or even their district, the professionals say. Coming together during the SUPER workshops or institutes allows them to connect with other foreign language teachers and exchange ideas that they can bring back to the classroom. But they can also practice their language in a setting where they are being challenged. "They don't have an opportunity to practice their language in their own setting," Lourdes says. Linda says she has seen the self-confidence of foreign language teachers grow because of SUPER. "It has also been extremely stimulating for me to meet colleagues from around the state and sit in workshops with professors," Linda says.

Lourdes has attended SUPER workshops and institutes as a scholar and sees them as necessary for teachers hoping to further their own education and bring those lessons back to the classroom. "Going abroad would be ideal, to immerse yourself in the culture and language," Lourdes says. "But these programs give you the opportunity to become immersed in the language, the culture, the history and give you the ability to grow as a professional and network with other teachers and professors in the state."

What SUPER does for teachers, W.I.L.D. does for students. "We were so motivated by that program [SUPER] that we felt there were students who could benefit from being in an immersion environment," Linda says. Linda co-founded W.I.L.D. with Mirella Hodges, another regular participant in AHF's SUPER institutes. The students apply to attend the weekend program and swear an oath that they will speak only in their target language from Friday evening until they leave Sunday afternoon. Different activities include art, learning dances from other cultures, putting together a play in the target language, and cooking meals from other countries. "It builds their confidence," Linda says. "In the classroom, they only have an hour or an hour and a half and that's not enough. Also, they're only talking about academic matters, and may get only a smattering of the culture." Linda says it's remarkable to see the shift in the students' confidence; they begin to feel much more comfortable speaking in their chosen language. "We want the advanced students to overcome some shyness that they may have and know that they do have a lot of skills they can share with others," she says.

Professional development is extremely important for our state's teachers. Linda says many schools concentrate development in areas like math and science. But thanks to AHF's SUPER programs, foreign language teachers now have a place to learn more about the language they teach, as well as the culture. "I think the university professors, along with Tom Bryant, have picked wonderful topics. Every one has carried over to the classroom," Linda says. "They have provided what foreign language teachers never get in their preparation at schools." 🌱

AHF Plays a Role

A Tool for Learning

Over the years, AHF has continued to provide grants and programs that promote the learning of languages and other cultures. Here is a sampling of the programs we've offered.

- **SUPER program:** Exploring Brittany: Language Immersion for French Teachers
- **SUPER program:** Spanish Language, Hispanics and the Alabama Workforce
- **SUPER program:** Hispanics in the U.S. and Alabama
- **SUPER program:** various Spanish Immersion workshops
- **SUPER program:** Language through Culture
- **SUPER program:** History and Culture of Latin America
- **SUPER program:** Global Pathways of Language
- **SUPER program:** Language History and Environment
- **Road Scholars program**—Food in the Age of Exploration and Discovery, by Mindy Nancarrow
- **Road Scholars program**—The Road to Santiago: Pilgrimage to Spain and Beyond, by John Moore
- **Road Scholars program**—Islam: A World Religion, by Daniel Spector
- **Road Scholars program**—Luck, Wealth, Longevity and Happiness: Symbolism in Chinese Art, by Catherine Pagani
- **Road Scholars program**—The Way of Tea: Zen Art and Aesthetics, by Catherine Pagani

Around Alabama

Humanities news and events from across the state.

Coming Right Up

AHF Prepares for the 2010 Fall Luncheon

Circle Monday, September 13, 2010, on your calendar. You do not want to miss the annual Alabama Humanities Foundation awards luncheon.

Last year more than 450 attended the luncheon at the Wynfrey Hotel, which will once again serve as host. As in years past, another outstanding keynote speaker has been secured for the luncheon. **Jan Crawford**, an Alabama native, a University of Alabama graduate, chief legal correspondent for CBS News and the best-selling author of 2007's *Supreme Conflict* will speak. Jan joins a long list of outstanding speakers who have appeared at the event, including Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, Pulitzer Prize-winning writers Rick Bragg and Cynthia Tucker, journalist Charles Kuralt, historian Douglas Brinkley, best-selling authors Sena Naslund and Warren St. John, U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin and Lynne Cheney.

About Jan Crawford

Jan Crawford is the chief legal correspondent for CBS News and a recognized authority on the Supreme Court. Her 2007 book, *Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Struggle for the Control of the United States Supreme Court*, gained critical acclaim and became an instant New York Times Best Seller.

Jan Crawford began her journalism career at the Chicago Tribune in 1987, joining the legal affairs beat in 1993 after graduating from the University of Chicago Law School. The newspaper awarded her its highest award in 2001 for her role on a team of reporters covering the presidential election of 2000 and the legal battles over the White House. She won

the same prize for her 13-part series on the post-civil rights South, a project that brought her back to her native Alabama.

Crawford graduated from the University of Alabama in 1987. She frequently speaks about the court to universities, law schools, legal organizations and civic groups across the country. She is a member of the New York Bar. She and her family live in Washington, D.C.



Jan Crawford

Honoring

In addition to the speaker, another highlight of this year's luncheon will be the awards presentation. The 2010 Alabama Humanities Award will be presented to **Edgar Welden**. Mr. Welden is well-known throughout the state and much deserving of this award. He is the current chair of the Alabama Sports Hall Of Fame and Museum and president of the Bryant-Jordan Student Athlete Foundation, which provides more than 100 scholarships annually to Alabama high school seniors. He is founder and president of the Birmingham Athletic Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Birmingham public schools' athletic departments and related organizations. The list of organizations he has helped is endless and his charitable deeds are countless. Past honorees at the luncheon have included U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, Red Blount, Harper Lee, U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin, Emory Cunningham and Jack Warner.

AHF will also honor the **Robert R. Meyer Foundation** as the winner of the Charitable Organization in the Humanities Award. This award is presented at the discretion of the board of directors to a corporation/

foundation that has provided vital support to further the AHF mission. Previous winners include Alabama Power Company, The Daniel Foundation of Alabama and Jim Wilson & Associates.

A resolution honoring **The Rev. Fred Lee Shuttlesworth** will be presented during the luncheon as well. This tribute will pay homage to him for his exemplary record of public advocacy that embodies the values and perspectives of the humanities.

Also presented during the luncheon will be six scholarships in memory of Jenice Riley, the late daughter of Gov. Bob and Patsy Riley. This year's finalists are: Takisha Durm, a sixth-grade teacher at PACE Alternative Education in Huntsville; Cheryl Evans Hall, a third-grade teacher at Lacey's Spring School; Diane Henderson, a fourth-grade teacher at East Lawrence Middle School in Trinity; Mary Elizabeth Lee, a sixth-grade teacher at New Market Elementary School; Gerri McDonald, gifted programs at Perdido Elementary/Middle School; and Beverly Robinson, a

fourth-grade teacher at Crossville Elementary School. The \$1,000 awards are given to teachers to enhance their teaching abilities by purchasing classroom materials for a special project, offering a class field trip or attending a seminar or institute in the subject areas of history and civics.

A member of the Riley family will personally present the scholarships.

Tickets are \$50 for lunch only, and \$150 for patron tickets, which include a pre-lunch reception and patron gifts. Tickets may be purchased by calling (205) 558-3992. Ticket order forms can be emailed or faxed upon request. 🌿



Edgar Welden

Tidbits



1

1. AHF Board member Jim Noles and his wife, Elizabeth, purchased "Camellia from Courthouse" by Annie Butrus at an auction during the *To Kill a Mockingbird* celebration at Wynfield Estates.



2



3

2. AHF Board member Lisa Mead and her husband, David, at the 50th anniversary celebration at Wynfield Estates in Montgomery.



4

3. AHF Board member Reggie Hamner speaks at the *To Kill a Mockingbird* art exhibit at Stonehenge Gallery in Montgomery.

4. Artist Nicolosi and Mary Badham, who played Scout in the film adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, pose with Nicolosi's work "To Kill a Mockingbird 50th Anniversary Commemorative Portrait."

Alabama's Black Belt

Black Belt Treasures in Camden was the host on

February 20 for a one-day SUPER teacher workshop, co-sponsored by Auburn University Montgomery (AUM). The workshop provided an introduction to the geography, history and culture of Alabama's Black Belt to 30 teachers from Wilcox, Dallas, Monroe and neighboring counties. The workshop was led by Nancy Grisham Anderson, associate professor of English at AUM; Foster Dickson, an English teacher at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School in Montgomery; and Sharon Andress, an English teacher formerly with Dallas Academy. 🐦

Exploring Brittany: Language Immersion for French Teachers

On June 17, a dozen French language teachers from

Calhoun, Jefferson, Montgomery, St. Clair, Shelby and Tuscaloosa counties spent a day at AHF speaking only French and exploring the history and unique cultural characters of the northwest province of Brittany. The workshop was led by Brittany native and associate professor of French Catherine Danielou, of The University of Alabama at Birmingham. 🐦

Telling Our Story

An overview of the Encyclopedia of Alabama and a showcasing of its content.

William Bartram

The fame of naturalist, nurseryman, artist and author William Bartram (1739-1823) rests primarily on his one book, *Travels through North and South Carolina, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the Extensive Territories of the Muscolgules, or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws* [sic] (1791). This literary and scientific classic describes his journey through southeastern North America during the Revolutionary War era. It is an essential resource on the flora and fauna of the Southeast and includes detailed descriptions of his visits among the Indian peoples of the region, including what is now Alabama. Bartram's imagery inspired such poets as Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth, and *Travels* is recognized as the first classic of environmental literature written and published in the United States.

Bartram departed for Charleston in March 1773, thus beginning what would become his famous travels. His path ranged through the Georgia and South Carolina Piedmont to the Atlantic barrier islands off Georgia to the upper waters of the St. Johns River and across the Florida peninsula. In late 1774, Bartram journeyed through Cherokee territory and then southwest through the Creek and Choctaw territories to the Mississippi River. During the 1775–76 leg of his journey, along what later became the Federal Road, Bartram passed through Alabama's present-day Russell and Macon counties to the future site of Montgomery



Courtesy of Auburn University Libraries

and then turned southwest through what are now Lowndes, Butler, Conecuh, Escambia, and Baldwin counties. Bartram reached Mobile in July 1775 and sailed up the Tensaw and Tombigbee rivers on a route now called the Bartram Canoe Trail. At the Mobile Delta, Bartram saw his first evening primrose (*Oenothera grandiflora*), which he sketched and described as “the most brilliant shew [show] of any yet known to exist.” 🌿

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Thomas Hallock, University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Philip Henry Gosse



Courtesy of Auburn University Libraries

Philip Henry Gosse (1810-1888) was an English-born zoologist, naturalist and scientific illustrator. As a young man he came to Alabama in 1838, where he taught the children of plantation owners near present-day Pleasant Hill, in the cotton-growing region of Dallas County. Although he lived in Alabama for only eight months, he captured, through his writings, sketches, and paintings, a vivid picture of the natural history and early plantation life in the Black Belt region just 20 years after Alabama became a state. Gosse's most significant contribution to Alabama history and culture is his book, *Letters from Alabama* (1859), in which he describes his experiences. He also left an

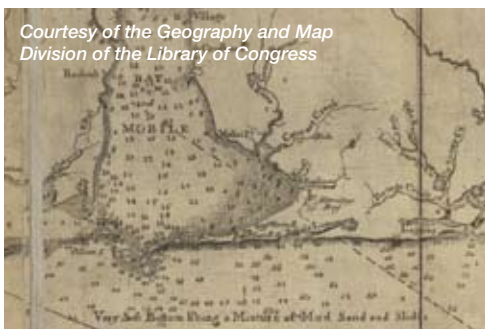
unpublished sketchbook of watercolor paintings of Alabama insects and wildflowers, titled *Entomologia Alabamensis*, now in the British Library in London.

Gosse was born at Worcester, England, on April 6, 1810, the second of four children of Thomas Gosse (1765-1844) and Hannah Best (1780-1860). The family moved to Poole, Dorset, on the southern coast of England when Philip Henry was six months old. His father earned a meager living as a painter of miniature portraits, and it was from him that Philip Henry and his older brother William learned the art of miniature painting at an early age. During his boyhood in Poole, Philip Henry became fascinated with the diversity of marine life in the tidal pools bordering

Bernard Romans

Surveyor, artist, naturalist, and author Bernard Romans (ca. 1720-ca. 1783) recorded Alabama's coastline and Mobile Bay, among other areas, in his maps and composed one of the most significant 18th-century works on what would become *Alabama, A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida* (1775). He was also an experienced ship's captain and a highly regarded participant in the American Revolution who actively worked for American independence.

Romans was born around 1720 in the Netherlands and educated there. In 1757, he arrived in the Americas and was engaged by the British as a merchant seaman and sailed under the British flag as a privateer during the Seven Years' War. He continued as a merchant after the war, and his extensive travels took him to ports of call from the Caribbean to Canada. When he lost his ship (and fortune) to the treacherous reefs along the Florida cape, Romans retired from the sea



and took a position as deputy surveyor of Georgia, where he assisted in the survey of the newly negotiated boundary line between the Creek Nation and Georgia.

He was appointed by the British Crown in 1768 as the principal deputy surveyor for what was known as the Southern District, which included most of the colonial territory south of Virginia. Romans worked out of East Florida (the Florida peninsula) and made some of the first coastal surveys of the Florida peninsula as well as large land grants made by King George III in East Florida. In 1771, he headed to British West Florida (which included what are now the Florida panhandle and the lower thirds of both present-day Alabama and Mississippi) and assisted John Stuart, superintendent of Indian affairs for the Southern District, in completing a comprehensive map of the southern Indian nations. Romans was assigned to the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations, and fellow surveyor David Taitt undertook the survey of Creek territory. During Romans' West Florida sojourn, he completed coastal surveys of the area. His work for Stuart was incorporated into a comprehensive map of the South drawn by Joseph Purcell and titled "A map of West Florida part of Et [East] Florida, Georgia and part of So [South] Carolina . . .," which is today generally known as the Stuart-Gage map (for John Stuart and Thomas Gage, the British military commander to whom it was presented). The exceptionally detailed and accurate map stands as one of the signal achievements of British cartography from the period and ranks as one of the great early maps of the South and certainly one of the most accurate in regard to the location of Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw towns. 🐾

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Kathryn E. Holland Braund, Auburn University

the harbor. He also developed an interest in insects. By the time he came to Alabama many years later, insects had captivated his attention more than any other type of animal. It was the combination of his love of nature, especially invertebrates, and his artistic talent, that led to Gosse becoming one of the best known zoologists in Europe in the nineteenth century.

In May 1838, Gosse arrived by schooner at the Port of Mobile. While onboard the steamboat *Farmer*, making his way up the Alabama River to Claiborne, he met Judge Reuben Saffold, former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. Saffold owned a plantation farther upriver near King's Landing, at Pleasant Hill in Dallas County. Saffold

offered Gosse a one-year contract to teach at a log schoolhouse that he and neighboring planters were in the process of building. Gosse accepted the position and taught there until the end of December. However, disillusioned by frontier violence, the treatment of enslaved workers, and at times in fear for his own safety, he left Alabama after only eight months to return to England, departing from Mobile on December 31, 1838.

During his stay at Pleasant Hill, Gosse carefully recorded his observations of animal and plant life, the surrounding forests, plantation life, and common events in the everyday lives of the people. He published his experiences as a series of articles, or letters, in the English magazine *The Home Friend* in 1855,



and later in book form as *Letters from Alabama* in 1859. They were illustrated with engravings made from sketches and watercolors that he produced while in Dallas County. He continued through the rest of his life to reveal the splendor of nature through his writing and art. 🐾

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Gary R. Mullen, Auburn University

Telling Our Story *(continued)*

Blanche Evans Dean

Blanche Evans Dean (1892-1974) was a teacher, author and conservationist. She was an early advocate of the value and protection of Alabama's natural resources, and she spent most of her adult life persuading other Alabamians of that need. She published widely on the flora of Alabama, and many of her field guides remain the standard today.

During the 1940s, she and botanist Herbert McCullough of Howard College (now Samford University) petitioned the federal government to have Clear Creek Falls near Jasper declared a national park. The area, threatened by dam construction, was rich in mountain laurel, contained a rare species of white azalea, and even supported a stand of Canadian hemlock. Although Dean avoided open conflict, she spent hours pleading her case. Business interests won out, however, and the falls are now under Lewis Smith Lake.

Environmental losses such as these drove Dean to begin a grass-roots organizing effort. In the 1950s, she helped establish the Alabama Ornithological Society and founded the Birmingham Audubon Society's Wildlife Film Series, which brought nature programs to communities long before they were available on television. She became active in the Alabama Academy of Science and the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Frustrated during her teaching years by the lack of reference books on Alabama flora and fauna, Dean wrote and privately published *Let's*

Blanche Evans Dean, 1924
W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library,
The University of Alabama



Learn the Birds of Alabama (later reprinted in a revised and expanded version as *Birds*) after retiring from Woodlawn High School in 1957. Four years later, she published *Trees and Shrubs in the Heart of Dixie* (later revised as *Trees and Shrubs of the Southeast*). For it, she collected 500 specimens, with at least one from every county in the state. Although Dean was a self-taught botanist, her book is still considered an essential reference for field botanists in Alabama. In 1964, she published *Let's Learn the Ferns of Alabama* (later reprinted as *Ferns of Alabama*), for which she again collected from every county.

In 1967, Dean urged friend and fellow conservationist Mary Ivy Burks to undertake the task of forming the Alabama Conservancy (now the Alabama Environmental Council). She helped in the Conservancy's efforts to have the Sipsey area in the Bankhead National Forest declared Alabama's first statutory wilderness. The efforts were successful, and the site is now designated as the Sipsey River Wilderness Area. That same year, the National Audubon Society presented Dean with an award for distinguished service in the field of conservation education. She was the first Alabamian to be so honored. 🌿

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Alice S. Christenson, Birmingham, Alabama

Mary Ivy Burks

Mary Ivy Burks (1920-2007) was a leading force behind the founding of the Alabama Conservancy (now the Alabama Environmental Council), the state's first independent environmental organization.

The new group formally incorporated in 1969 and immediately tackled several difficult environmental issues, notably air and water pollution control. The preservation of the wilderness

flanking the West Fork Sipsey River in Bankhead National Forest became the defining focus of the Alabama Conservancy, however.

That attention was urgently needed. Unlike national parks, national forests are by law open to commercial timbering. Historically, most logging followed the selective-cutting method, by which individual mature trees were removed only periodically. As a result, many areas had experienced no significant logging for decades, and thus sections of national forests in many areas of the nation had recovered enough to be considered "de facto" wilderness, in which past human activity had become generally unnoticeable. The unique watershed of the West Fork Sipsey River was such a place. In 1964, however, at the urging of the nation's timber industry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture decided

to increase dramatically the level of commercial timber production permitted in the national forests. To meet production goals, it directed the U.S. Forest Service, a sub-agency, to authorize the use of clear-cutting, which entailed the removal of all trees in areas selected for logging.

Burks relentlessly lobbied members of Congress on important committees and became such an expert on forestry practices that her advice was sought by both government and industry. Finally, after 13 different attempts at legislation, Congress passed the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1975, designating 12,700 acres along the West Fork Sipsey River as Alabama's first national wilderness area. 🌿

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by John N. Randolph, Birmingham, Alabama



Photograph by Wesley Thomas

Who knew?

Alabama has more than 250,000 acres blanketed with kudzu. American gardeners were introduced to the plant at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876 in a Japanese garden display. By the late 19th century, kudzu had become popular as an ornamental vine in southern gardens and was widely available through mail-order catalogues. Kudzu began its real takeover of the southern landscape in the 1930s when more than 85 million kudzu seedlings were distributed to southern land-owners as a way to control erosion, with the government offering monetary incentives to farmers who agreed to plant kudzu.



On the Web, In the Know

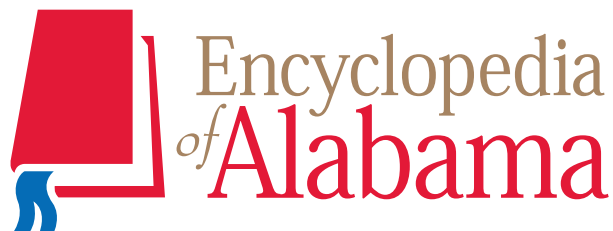
Stats as of June 2010:

- **More than 2,000,000 page views and 1,000,000 visitors**
- **Visitors came from more than 220 Alabama communities, and 200 countries and territories**
- **A total of 1,000 articles have now been posted, with more than 15 new entries being added each month**

About EOA

The **Encyclopedia of Alabama (EOA)** is a comprehensive, online reference tool that tells the story of the state. For more information and a complete list of EOA sponsors, visit **EncyclopediaOfAlabama.org**.

Get a daily dose of Alabama through its Facebook page, and follow EOA on Twitter **twitter.com/allaboutalabama**.





1100 Ireland Way, Suite 101
Birmingham, AL 35205
phone: (205) 558-3980
fax: (205) 558-3981
e-mail: ahf@ahf.net
website: ahf.net
blog: ahf.net/blog

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 3379
Birmingham, AL

Mosaic is the magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation and is printed in August and January. 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 ahf.net.



Corporate sponsorship of this issue of Mosaic made possible by Vulcan Materials Company.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation.
Enhancing Minds. Enriching Lives.