



# MOSAIC

Fall-Winter 2012

## Song of the Mockingbird

Artist brings  
documentary  
to Samford

## 2012 Awards Luncheon

Scientist & author  
E.O. Wilson





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### *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.*



*archaeology*



*art history*



*classics*



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*jurisprudence*



*languages*



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

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Paul Lawson at [plawson@ahf.net](mailto:plawson@ahf.net) or (205) 558-3992.

Transitions are times of excitement, new opportunities and new experiences. Such has been the case at the Alabama Humanities Foundation these past few months.

As your new executive director, I am thrilled that the changeover process continues to improve our mission of helping others discover and share the meaning of life through the humanities.

AHF's long, successful past as one of the leaders in Alabama's cultural history has given us the ability to stay focused on the important issues in our rapidly changing environment. While major personnel changes are often unsettling, the support from the board, the staff and our many followers has made this transition easier.

I have been graciously welcomed and moved almost seamlessly into this leadership role. The help from John Rochester, who served as Interim Executive Director for nearly five months is one of the main reasons this transition has been relatively painless. John's selfless efforts allowed me to have a gentle entry after he managed the day-to-day operations



during a stressful time for AHF. John, by volunteering his time and management experience, served your AHF well. We all owe him a sincere THANK YOU!

Transition is also coming to some of our communications. Our website has a new format and a new address — [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org). Our old address will remain part of the cyber-

world, but in our new communications, we hope the [alabamahumanities.org](http://alabamahumanities.org) site will spread like the proverbial kudzu.

We are adding features, like an electronic newsletter and our own YouTube channel. With this *Mosaic*, we are encompassing some new techniques and methods to make our semi-annual publication more enjoyable and a better resource for our supporters. While not available as of this *Mosaic* printing, we will be updating our various print media and handouts to reflect a reinvigorated dedication to programs that have been so popular in the past.

We have hosted our annual luncheon with this year's featured speaker and native Alabamian, Dr. E.O. Wilson.

Regarded by many as the world's greatest living scientist, Dr. Wilson delivered a fascinating and enlightening talk to our gathered crowd. You will find the photos and accompanying reporting of the luncheon a great example of a hard-working and dedicated team coming together to host one of Alabama Humanities' showcase events.

As with any transition, there will be mistakes and errors, but the staff and I want you to always know that we are here to make the Alabama Humanities Foundation the best among our peers! Our doors are always open, and we remain available to talk to you anytime.

Armand DeKeyser  
AHF Executive Director



Awards luncheon  
draws 500.



AHF's new electronic newsletter



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

# MOSAIC



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14



8



**About the Cover:** Chicago pop artist Nicolosi continues his love affair with Alabama with a United States Postal Service commemorative stamp depicting the Monroeville Courthouse, fictional scene of *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

## Inside this issue of *Mosaic*

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For more on the Alabama Humanities Foundation, go to our website [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org)

# MUSEUM on MAIN STREET

## Smithsonian exhibit headed to Alabama's small towns

Plans are being finalized as Andalusia, Ashland, Fairhope, Northport, Red Bay and Wetumpka get ready for a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit coming their way in 2013-14.

Museum on Main Street is the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service's key initiative that directly engages small town audiences and brings revitalized attention to underserved rural communities through their own Main Street museums, historical societies and other cultural venues.

These exhibitions are a powerful catalyst – opening doors to a community's own history, its culture, its people and to an enhanced pride of place. Since 1997, AHF has partnered with the Smithsonian to bring six exhibition tours to small towns across the state. Most recently, the 2011-2012 *Journey Stories* tour saw more than 10,000 visitors.

For small communities (with an average population of 8,000) the opportunity to host the Smithsonian provides much more than a quality educational experience. Through highly targeted community programs and creative activities, Museum on Main Street exhibitions become a hub for storytelling and local pride. Residents enthusiastically engage with exhibition content, as diverse community members come together to share and celebrate their heritage.

*The Way We Worked* will be coordinated by the AHF and local partner organizations in the towns where it will travel. These towns were selected by the AHF Board of Directors as target communities for AHF outreach in the various, unique regions of the State of Alabama.

### The Way We Worked

With their hands and minds hard at work and sweat on their brows, American workers perform a diverse array of jobs to power our society. Whether we work for professional satisfaction and personal growth or to ensure the well-being of ourselves and our families, work is a part of nearly every American's life. Office workers, factory workers, homemakers, truckers, soldiers and the millions more who keep the nation going through their work make great contributions not only to industry, but also to American culture.

The exhibition focuses on why we work and the needs that our jobs fulfill. Our work takes place everywhere – on the land, on the streets of our communities, in offices and factories, in our homes and even in space. An exploration of the tools and technologies that enabled and assisted workers also reveals how workers sometimes found themselves with better tools, but also with faster, more complex and often more stressful work environments.

The diversity of the American workforce is one of its strengths, providing an opportunity to explore how people of all races and ethnicities identified commonalities and worked to knock down barriers in the professional world. And, finally, the exhibition shows how we identify with work – as individuals and as communities. Whether you live in “Steel Town, USA” or wear a uniform each day, work assigns cultural meanings and puts us and our communities in a larger context.

***The Way We Worked*** will tour Alabama  
September 14, 2013 to June 29, 2014

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



Switchboard operators direct overseas calls, December 1943  
National Archives, Records of the Women's Bureau



Young women delivering ice, 1918  
National Archives, Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs

The exhibition will offer multiple interpretive opportunities for visitors through large graphics, along with relevant objects and work clothing. Through audio components, hear from workers their own stories about changes in their industries and confronting workplace challenges.

Follow workers into their workplaces through films of various industries. Interactive components will introduce visitors to the experiences of multiple generations of families involved in the same work. A companion website hosted by the Smithsonian will invite host communities to create online exhibitions on their local work history and for visitors to share their own work experiences.

*AHF's Museum on Main Street exhibition tours have been made possible by the generous support of the Alabama Power Company Foundation and Norfolk-Southern Railroad. ■*



# GRANTS

## AHF grants raising cultural consciousness across Alabama

Perhaps it was a conference of musicians, writers, artists and performers to celebrate Southern literature. Or maybe it was a quilt exhibit depicting life in Alabama in the 1930s and 1940s. It could have been art, photography, films and lectures delving into the stories of Holocaust survivors.

Crisscrossing the state, in small towns and large cities alike, Alabama Humanities Foundation grants have helped thousands of Alabamians discover the essence of the humanities -- programs that may not have otherwise been able to come to fruition in their communities.

To date in fiscal year 2012, AHF awarded grants totaling \$56,621.08. Following is a listing of what AHF grants made possible:

### 2012 Montevallo Literary Festival

Montevallo Literary Festival  
\$745.50 Outright

Alabama celebration of literary arts hosted by the University of Montevallo featuring poetry and prose readings by award-winning writers from the region and beyond.

### Troy University Lecture Series Presents: "My Anniston" and "A Conversation with Rachel Hawkins"

Troy University Dothan  
\$1,150 Outright

Lecture series chronicling Mr. Edward Wood's memories of Anniston, and Alabama's gradual transformation from a segregated society to an integrated one.

### ArchiTreats 2012

Friends of the Alabama Department of Archives and History  
\$1,000 Outright

Popular monthly public discussion series at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

### The Power and the Glory: the Beauty and the Influence of the King James Bible

Florence-Lauderdale Public Library  
\$1,650 Outright

Programming series celebrating and exploring 400 years of the King James Version. Scholars discussed its importance from multiple perspectives related to humanities, including history, literature, pop culture and language.

### Selma and Dallas County Public Library Reading Discussion Program

Selma-Dallas County Public Library  
\$1,000 Outright

Monthly reading-discussion program.

### Steps to Becoming Alabama

Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery  
\$1,500 Outright

Program of speakers and tours at the State Archives focusing on its newly opened exhibits and other planned exhibitions for the Archives State Museum.

### The Unlikely Survival of the Art of Bill Traylor (1854-1949)

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts  
\$2,000 Outright; \$2,000 Matching

Symposium centered around an exhibition of 1930s self-taught, black artist Bill Traylor and his near legendary drawings on cast-off cardboard.

### Wiregrass Blues Fest

Troy University Dothan  
\$1,200 Outright

Blues workshop and public discussion for first-annual Wiregrass Blues Fest in Dothan.

### Alabama Rosenwald School Traveling Exhibit

Alabama Historical Commission  
\$2,000 Outright

Exhibition interprets the history of the Rosenwald Schools, their place in African-American education in the rural South, their innovative design, and the schools' current condition and potential for adaptive reuse.

### Southern Voices 2012:

20th Anniversary  
Hoover Public Library  
\$1,000 Outright

Conference bringing together writers, artists, musicians and performers in celebration of Southern writers.

### Theatre in the Mind

Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
\$5,000 Matching

Theatre in the Mind is a series of entertaining and thought-provoking lectures focused on ASF plays and delivered by theatre and history scholars.

### Our Quilted Past

Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Hall Museum  
\$2,000 Outright

Exhibition and accompanying lecture/discussion of a collection of 20 traditional folk art quilts made in the 1930s and 40s by a Randolph County, Alabama woman, Leola Heard (1872-1963), and her daughter, Elizabeth Heard Bean (1891-1979).

### An Evening with George Wallace Jr.

Troy University  
\$1,525.58 Outright

Public lecture/discussion of George Wallace Jr.'s personal biography of his father, Governor George Wallace: *The Man You Never Knew by the Man Who Knew Him Best*.

### UNA Writers' Series; Readings by Ishmael Reed and Tennessee Reed

University of North Alabama  
Writers Series  
\$2,000 Outright

Writers' Series featuring fiction writer, poet, essayist, playwright and commentator Ishmael Reed, and poet and memoirist, Tennessee Reed.

### Yo Solo: Performances & Public Discussions for K-12 School Groups at Saenger Theatre Mobile

Centre for the Living Arts  
\$7,600 Outright

Matinee performance and panel discussion of New York-based Chaz Mena's *Yo Solo...I Alone* for K-12 school groups at the Saenger Theatre in downtown Mobile. The story of Bernardo de Galvez, an 18th century Spanish military leader who aided the cause of American independence by fighting against the British in the Battle of Pensacola. Offered as part of The Memory Project, the CLA's nine-month series of visual and performing arts programming around the topic of individual and collective memory.

### Both Sides of the Lens: Photographs by the Shackelford Family, Fayette, Alabama (1910-1935)

Birmingham Public Library  
\$9,700 Outright

Exhibit featuring 40 photographs from a collection of glass plate negatives rich for their visual record of life in rural Alabama and remarkable because of the story behind them. Taken by a family of African-American photographers who lived in Covin, Alabama, the images reveal the lives of the photographers as well as those being photographed.

### Weekend Immersion in Language Development (W.I.L.D.)

Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers  
\$3,215 Outright

A weekend-long, residential language-immersion program for foreign language teachers and students. Art, film, history, theatre and literature are the humanities disciplines used along with the teaching and speaking of foreign languages.

### 100 Years of Pride, Progress and Preservation – National Rosenwald Schools Conference at Tuskegee University.

National Trust for Historic Preservation  
\$8,500 Outright

National conference that will provide public awareness about the importance of Rosenwald Schools as an integral part of Alabama's history and Alabama's African American heritage.

# HELPING SEE ALABAMA HISTORY, CULTURE FROM 'BOTH SIDES OF THE LENS'

It's a glimpse of Alabama history that might have been lost had it not been for the generosity of a family to share it and the Alabama Humanities Foundation partnership with Birmingham Public Library to exhibit it.

Made possible by an AHF grant, a collection of photographs from the early 1900s in Fayette County has been on display at the library, drawing patrons in to delve deeper into early life in Alabama. ***Both Sides of the Lens: Photographs by the Shackelford Family, Fayette County, Alabama (1910-1935)*** is from the collection of the Birmingham Public Library Archives.

Consisting of 40, early 20<sup>th</sup> century glass plate negatives, the photographs—rich for their visual record of everyday life in rural Alabama—are also remarkable because of the story behind them.

Taken by a family of African-American photographers living in Covin, they reveal the lives of the photographers and those being photographed. They feature African-Americans and whites who lived in or traveled through the county, illuminating the photographic experience in the early 20th century, exposing places, events and possessions valued by people in the community.

Many are outdoor portraits depicting an individual or a group in a particular setting -- a family at home, students at school or singers at a church. Subjects often display an object—a book, a car, a pocket watch, a gun or a musical instrument.

The photos were produced by one or more members of the Mitchell and Geneva Shackelford family of Fayette County. Born to former slaves in 1862, Mitchell was adopted at a young age by John and Dicey Shackelford, a white couple who raised him along with their biological children in Lamar County.

In 1889, Mitchell married Geneva Bobo, and in 1908, the couple bought 120 acres of land in Covin and built a two-story, wood frame house. As large landholders who owned a general store, the Shackelfords were well known in the county and were prominent members of Covin's African-American community.

The couple was instrumental in forming a school and Baptist church. After Mitchell's death in 1919, Geneva and her four adult sons continued to farm and accumulate land, eventually owning more

than 500 acres among them.

"The Shackelford brothers," as they were called, also owned and operated a saw mill and syrup mill.

Known to many as "the big house," the Shackelford home played a central role in the community. It stood on the road between Birmingham and Columbus, Miss., and served as a rest stop and boarding house with Geneva cooking for African American and white travelers who often spent the night.

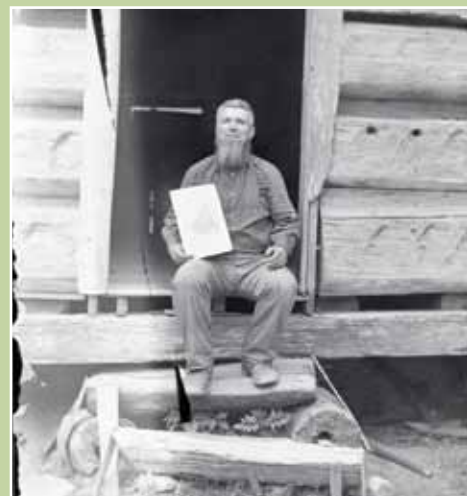
Since many Shackelfords were musicians, they would host dances and parties for local residents and those visiting from neighboring Lamar County and the region.

Because they owned a large format camera, the family built a darkroom in the attic and produced portraits of local residents and visiting travelers that comprise this collection. Some were developed as "real picture postcards," providing those photographed with portable images.

The photographs are significant in their portrayal of African Americans. In the first decades of the 20th century, racist and stereotypical representations of African Americans were mass-produced and circulated throughout the US on advertisements, postcards and other illustrated documents. The Shackelford photos tell a different story, showing how members of a particular African-American community portrayed themselves—emphasizing community, family and education.

According to living descendants of the Shackelford family, any number of family members could have taken the images. Though we may never know which took them, as a visual record of rural life in the early 20th century South, the collection has the potential to enhance understanding of African American, southern and American history.

***The scholars involved with this project, in addition to Birmingham Public Library Archivist James L. Baggett and Assistant Archivist Kelsey Scouten Bates are: Andrew Nelson, Ph.D., candidate at the University of Maryland, and Dr. Psyche Williams-Forsen, an Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland.*** ■



Images provided by the Birmingham Public Library Department of Archives

## ***The Best of Humanity in To Kill A Mockingbird***

**Harrison Regional Library  
\$1,880 Outright**

Reading and discussion program aimed at the senior citizens at Shelby County Senior Centers and focusing on *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Nelle Harper Lee.

## ***Darkness Into Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art***

**Troy University Montgomery  
\$1,955 Outright**

Exhibit at the Troy, Montgomery and Dothan campuses and program of lectures by Holocaust survivors depicted in the exhibit and a series of films centered on the Holocaust. The contemporary photographs

of the survivors, coupled with the paintings of the survivors' memories serve to chronicle the lives of 20 of Alabama's Holocaust survivors.

## **How to Apply**

The AHF awards grants solely to support public humanities projects. Active public participation, involvement of humanities scholars and strong humanities content are the three essential ingredients of AHF-funded projects.

The grants program accommodates the broadest possible range of topics and formats for imaginative proposals. Applicants are encouraged to develop projects for a wide variety of audiences, including: library and

museum patrons, teachers and scholars, youth, elderly, hospital patients, prisoners, public housing and nursing home residents and the hearing and sight impaired. (AHF provides fees for signers for the hearing impaired.)

Proposals must meet the following deadlines:

**Major Grants (\$2,000 and up) -- September 1 and March 1.**

**Mini Grants (\$2,000 or less) -- February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1.**

For AHF Grant Guidelines and for more information, visit us at [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org) or contact Thomas Bryant, Grants Director, at [tbryant@alabamahumanities.org](mailto:tbryant@alabamahumanities.org) / 205.558.3997



## Exposing a new generation to the humanities

The SUPER (School and University Partners for Educational Renewal) Emerging Scholars program was created for students like Samone Thompson. As a student transitioning to her senior year at Anniston High School, she searched for opportunities to expose her to varied approaches to the humanities.

In her application essay, she expressed hope that the SES experience would allow her to observe diversity in fellow students and be able to share her own experiences. Of the two institutes offered, Samone chose to experience the humanities through “Identity: Aspiration and Vocation” at The University of Alabama.

Samone, an honor roll student, joined students from diverse communities across the state, and she explored The Paul Jones Collection of Art and texts that encouraged discussions of self-identity, diversity and personal narratives.

“I see this program as a learning experience that will prepare me for the ‘real world.’ When I leave, I want to be able to go back and explain why the humanities are imperative to the development of our education.”

By the end of the week, Samone was eager to tell her story. “I have learned many new things. I have learned that despite differences we have as individuals, we must respect each other’s identities. I have also learned the importance of our aspirations and vocations. Some of these things I would have never even considered if it wasn’t for SUPER Emerging Scholars.

“Throughout this week, I have been enlightened by the humanities and I have also been inspired to write more (which was something I hated). I just want to thank you for allowing me to experience college life. I came in a high school student, but I will leave a poet, an artist and an advocate for the arts and humanities.”

### *Evolution of Emerging Scholars*

Since its inception in 2008, the (SES) SUPER Emerging Scholars program has directly fostered opportunities for youth to examine the significance of their own cultural values through in-depth studies of literature, history and the arts. By equipping participants, called Emerging Scholars, with necessary critical thinking and writing skills in the humanities, they are inspired to explore human values and meanings through academic scholarship.

It began simply as an idea to reach an audience that AHF could not seem to penetrate – Alabama’s youth. AHF programs provided educational opportunities for educators and adult members of the state, but we wanted to extend our resources to directly impact Alabama’s student body. It then became our primary goal to create an academic program for students that sought to create an awareness of the humanities, provide cultural and social development, and enlightening academic instruction.

In 2009, the pilot program for SES proved a successful endeavor that united a diverse group of students, and university professors and educators. Students walked away with a unique approach to the collegiate experience, dynamic relationships with students from diverse cultural and social backgrounds, and critical reading, writing and thinking skills.

Now finishing its fourth year, the SES program has engaged 103 students and facilitated eight institutes that promote the humanities in exciting ways. Students have integrated the core educational tenants of reading, writing and critical thinking with literature, art history, visual arts, diaspora history and culture, composition and technology. We have graciously received university support from across the state, including the University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama, Auburn University, Alabama State University and University of South Alabama. This has truly been a remarkable journey!



Students at The University of Alabama, Identity and Vocation program



Students conduct research at The Paul Jones Collection Archives



The Paul Jones Collection exhibit



## About the Program

The SES Institutes are week-long residential workshops that offer specialized academic enrichment in the humanities. Institutes assist upper-level high-school students in the development of skills necessary for success in secondary and postsecondary education.

University professors engage students in college-level, academic exercises and assignments that produce true scholarship. Participants are challenged and encouraged to critically think and reflect, through research, the writing of essays and engagement in thought-provoking discussions. The exercises allow students to reveal how various cultural expressions have helped to shape their understanding not only of themselves, but of other cultures and ethnic groups as well.

SES Institutes comprise three major components: academic and collegiate enrichments, technology in academia and college mentorship and guidance. The academic enrichment component will expose students to researching and writing for the higher-education environment. Technology in academia component will prepare students with the technology skills used in the humanities. The third component of college mentorship and guidance give SES participants the opportunity to interact with current undergraduate and graduate students and recent alumni who offer guidance on how to successfully navigate and negotiate the college landscape.

## 2012 Institutes

### First stop: University of Alabama

SES kicked off its summer institutes with the theme, “Identity: Aspiration and Vocation” at the University of Alabama. It proved an appropriate topic of study, as SES students are at the age when they are dealing with the questions of “Who am I?” “What are my hopes and dreams for my life?” “How can I achieve them?” “How do I become the person I want to be?”

Using works from The Paul R. Jones Collection, students not only explored art history as a discipline, but also used pieces of art from the Jones Collection as visual texts for an exploration of such questions as, “What do we leave behind us as individuals and as a society?” and “What do these artifacts say about us as individuals or as a society?”

Participants read college-level texts to foster their critical thinking, not only about art and about the issue of identity or vocation, but also about how art and self-expression can help them answer their own personal questions about identity or vocation. Students integrated visual texts, essays and their experiences to produce a visual representation of their personal narratives of identity.

This institute was done in partnership with the faculty and staff of The University Of Alabama College Of Arts and Sciences and The Paul R. Jones Collection of Art. Karen H. Gardiner, Ph.D., Director of the First-Year Writing Program at the university, served as the institute’s lead scholar. Katie McCalister, Director of The Paul R. Jones Collection of Art, served as the institute’s co-lead scholar.

### Next stop: Auburn University

The 2012 SES program culminated with the institute at Auburn University, “An Education for the 21st Century.” Students critically examined the kind of education necessary for productive citizens of the 20th century.

Kevin Roozen, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Writing Studies in the English Department at Auburn University, led students through a week-long series of lectures, activities and events that challenged them to address questions such as: What is the role of the arts in a 21st century education? What kinds of communicative abilities will best serve citizens of the 21st century? What



Students at Auburn University,  
Education for the 21st Century program



A student works on artistic project

kind of education can best prepare persons to act effectively in global contexts? What kinds of technical skills should education provide? What skills and abilities do employers demand of high school and college graduates? How is technology transforming learning and schooling?

Students grappled with these questions and even visited the Goodwill Career Center in nearby Opelika to identify real-world occupational expectations. Participants worked collaboratively to develop both electronic and print publications based on their work and ideas.

This institute was done in partnership with Auburn University’s Outreach Office and College of Liberal Arts. ■



## Educators sharing success stories



*Vietnam, Vietnamese-Americans, and Vietnam at War Institute at Troy University*

Imagine a conference to study Argentina and its culture and for an entire week, the only language allowed is Spanish. Picture yourself walking on the same land, exploring it, just like the Creek Indians of long ago. Or discover the story behind the story in one of America's greatest novels with roots deep in Alabama soil.

That's what teachers across the state experience when they get involved in the Alabama Humanities Foundation's SUPER (School and University Partners for Education Renewal) Teacher Institute. It is an immersion so deep and so comprehensive into subject matter that it has few rivals.

"The AHF provides the best continuing education that I know of," said Jeanne Ellen Stroh, AP and IB English teacher at Austin High School in Decatur.

She attended the "Creek Indians in Alabama" institute this summer along with LeeDell Cook, 10<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History Teacher at Fairview High School in Cullman County, giving them both renewed vigor to share the lessons learned with their classrooms back home. "I am very excited to be able to bring the knowledge I have gained to my students this upcoming school year," Cook said. "It is very important for educators to have the opportunity to gain fresh knowledge from the experts and to work with colleagues in their respective fields of study."

Since 1991, AHF has taken a leading role in the advancement of Alabama education with the SUPER teacher program. This program provides graduate-level, content-rich, professional development of the highest quality to outstanding 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.

"Participating in 'Mockingbird Moments' with Professor Nancy Anderson was one of the most rewarding professional development experiences of

my teaching career," said Amanda Beason who teaches English at Leeds High School in Leeds. "There is no doubt that my students will benefit directly from the training I received.... Thank you for investing in the children of Alabama by funding opportunities for Alabama teachers."

SUPER is provided to Alabama educators entirely free of charge, and its impact is evident. In its 21-year history, SUPER has served more than 4,000 teachers of the humanities, social sciences and arts, and reached more than 500,000 students.

The aim of SUPER is to increase participants' subject knowledge and, in turn, their confidence, enthusiasm and effectiveness as educators. The content in these programs directly addresses the Courses of Study as mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education. Through SUPER, the AHF seeks to foster long-lasting relationships between Alabama's institutions of higher education, public and private elementary and secondary schools and the state's many important historical and cultural organizations.

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. Participants develop a multidisciplinary approach to the humanities and enjoy many significant benefits -- all at no cost to them or their schools.

Few know the value better than Susan Scales, a Spanish teacher at Auburn Junior High School in Auburn. "It [the 'Exploring Argentina' institute] was without doubt the best conference for Spanish teachers



that I have ever attended. The immersion experience was invaluable to me and the opportunity to learn from enthusiastic and knowledgeable professors and colleagues was energizing.

"I am looking forward to putting into practice the methods and ideas I learned in the coming school year."

And that act of taking teaching to the next level is exactly what SUPER is all about. ■



Mockingbird Moments

## About the institutes

Seventy-three teachers attended the four 2012 summer SUPER Teacher Institutes:

***Vietnam, Vietnamese-Americans, and Vietnam at War.*** June 17-22 in Troy at Troy University. *Lead scholar:* Noel Harold Kaylor, Jr., Ph.D., Professor of English, Troy University.

***The Creek Indians in Alabama, 1813-1838.*** July 22-27, in Montgomery at Auburn University Montgomery and the Alabama Department of Archives and History. *Lead scholar:* Christopher D. Haveman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, University of West Alabama. Co-sponsored by the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

***Exploring Argentina: History, Literature and Popular Culture. Spanish Immersion.*** July 8-13, in Birmingham at Birmingham-Southern College. *Lead scholar:* Barbara Domcekova, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Spanish, Birmingham-Southern College.

***Mockingbird Moments: A Study of the Novel and the Film.*** June 24-27 in Monroeville at Alabama Southern Community College and the Monroe County Museum. *Lead scholar:* Nancy Grisham Anderson, Associate Professor of English, Auburn University Montgomery. Sponsored by Auburn University Montgomery. Co-sponsored by: Alabama Humanities Foundation, Alabama Southern Community College, Alabama Center for the Literary Arts and Monroe County Heritage Museum.

*Major financial support for SUPER comes from Alabama Commission on Higher Education, and the generosity of Regions Bank, Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust, Vulcan Materials Foundation, Protective Life Corporation, Alabama Power Company and Wachovia Bank.*



Bayou LaBatre  
photographed by  
SUPER teacher  
Michelle Martin

A teacher's view:

## Creativity brings history to life through the AHF

By Michelle Martin

Whether taking a trip down the bayou or listening to river flow around Horseshoe Bend, Alabama's rich history is brought to life through the carefully planned endeavors of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. What would seem like a week of summer lost to professional learning is actually a trip which submerges the teachers into an environment of historical exploration and creativity that is well worth every second spent on the journey.

As a teacher not native to Alabama, I felt at a disadvantage being unaware of the rich culture and history that exists where I now teach. In 2011, I was privileged to attend my first SUPER institute in Mobile, led by Frye Gaillard, University of South Alabama. Being a history teacher and photographic educator, I was not sure of my place within the institute. Not only did the many riveting guest speakers and books for the institute directly address the content I teach, but I was also able to utilize my artistic photographic skills to bring historical locations to life.

This past summer, Lead Scholar Dr. Christopher Haveman took teachers into a time of Indian tribal culture, colonial invasion on Native lands, prideful uprisings and the ultimate sacrifice of Alabama's Native American tribe. From the widespread regions that were once called "Creek lands" to the sorrowful cries left in the winds at Horseshoe Bend, the sorrow and triumphs of this tribe on the very land we teach upon will no longer be ignored.

Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees from the Poarch Creek Native American Tribe located in Atmore spoke with great enthusiasm and emotion giving myself and the other teachers a realistic view of the current struggles that Alabama's only nationally recognized Native American tribe still face today.

As a proud Alabama teacher, I have strengthened my historical knowledge of the state's great, triumphant past. As a photographer, the development of my artwork and skill level has exceeded all expectations. ■

# Nicolosi & Mockingbird

## Pop artist commemorates piece of Alabama history



By Carol Pappas

Like the one word moniker he goes by, Nicolosi is nothing short of special. Some may say it is his art, which perfectly captures on canvas subjects as varied as Hollywood's elite to a storied courthouse in Monroeville, Alabama.

Others would say it is his uncanny ability to see straight through to the heart of a small Southern town from his unlikely vantage point in big city Chicago.

And they both would be right.

The internationally known artist talks about the roots of his kinship with Alabama as easily and colorfully as one might imagine a yarn spun years ago on the front porch of any Southern-born storyteller. Storytelling is an art form in its truest sense, and a series of events over the past several years eventually put artist and storyteller together to bring the world what he calls a love letter to Harper Lee.

Nicolosi produced the documentary, *Song of the Mockingbird: Monroeville Memories*, as an encore to his commemorative envelope and cancellation stamp that he was commissioned to design for the United States Postal Service for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. But more than a simple encore performance, it is a standing ovation to the author's work that stands as a classic in American literature.

He belies the notion that it is simply a novel of civil rights and segregation. "It couldn't still be alive and thriving 50 years later if it were just that," he said. "It's bigger than that. The book did not have a single theme. You see, the mockingbird sings several songs, and the reader takes away from it that song which suits him or her best — and it is that song which sets one's moral compass. That's genius."

The road to meeting that genius took many a turn with seemingly unrelated introductions that began with his close friend, Kitty Carlisle in New York. It eventually led to a call from Lisa Narrell-Mead, Executive Vice President, Head of Corporate Services and Deputy Human Resources Director of Cadence Bank and Secretary of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors.

She knew he was friends with Mary Badham, who played Scout in the movie, and she asked if he would do the artwork commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. "I created the portrait," and it was auctioned in a fundraiser for AHF, fetching \$15,000 from Montgomery lawyer Jere Beasley, who bought it for his daughter.

Lee saw a story about it in *National Geographic* and through a liaison, worked with the Humanities Foundation to get in touch with him about doing a print for her. When the news reached him, the answer was simple: "It would be my honor." When he learned she wanted to meet him, too, his reply could not disguise his excitement. "You have got to be kidding me. Her work has so deeply enriched my life beyond my wildest imagination. She is such a lovely lady and a super human being that happened to write this really cool book."

He traveled to the tiny southwest Alabama town, coming face to face with the historic courthouse that was the fictional centerpiece of the book and movie. "I fell in love with that little town," he said. From feasting on fried green tomatoes at Radley's — "it's an addiction" -- to meeting the iconic Lee, Nicolosi's Alabama experiences have turned him into an "ambassador at large" for the state.

The Monroeville museum was struggling at the time, and Nicolosi offered his help with autographed prints to sell as a fundraiser.

When he told "Miss Nelle," the name she goes by with close





Nicolosi with Mockingbird's Scout, Mary Badham

friends, about it, she was unsurprisingly gracious to him. "Do you need me to sign anything?"

When you speak with her, "You know you're in the presence of greatness," he said. "And she has a wicked sense of humor. I really love that."

When he left that day, she asked when he was coming back. "Next time you come over, come earlier and stay longer," he quotes her with the pride of a first impression that unmistakably made a lasting one.

As their conversations progressed, he asked if she would allow him to do a documentary on the book and film. "People come from all over the world," he said, referencing the annual production of *Mockingbird* at the Monroeville Courthouse and visitors to the museum. "There's something here," he said. "Your book was a love letter to the world. I want to produce a film that will be a love letter from the world back to you, Miss Nelle."

She said yes. Her sister, Alice, still a practicing attorney at 100 years old, had no problem with it either. And the story behind this historic era in a small southern town is now the documentary. Filmed exclusively inside the iconic *Mockingbird* courthouse with interviews from those who know Lee best, some had never spoken of her or the book in such a public way.

Featured in Nicolosi's film are: U.S. Senator Maryon Allen, Dr. Wayne Flynt, Mary Louise Tucker, George Thomas Jones, Kathryn Taylor, Nancy Grisham Anderson, Sam Therrell and Dr. Thomas Butts.

A particularly poignant moment in his film is a 1960s *Birmingham News* reporter's recollection of the Civil Rights Movement, which sums up the era for Nicolosi. The reporter told the filmmaker, "We all knew it was wrong, but we had to live with our neighbors."

"You see, you can't blame Alabama because it happened there," Nicolosi said. "The tumult and the angst of that era was the very fodder that fueled the creative genius indigenous to the South, that rage that underscored the collective sentiment, 'This is not right.'"

"We want to get the message right for the next generation to do the right thing even when it's not popular." That's why scholar

Nancy Grisham Anderson, historian Wayne Flynt and Nicolosi are collaborating on an Alabama Humanities Foundation series called, "Lessons on Mockingbird," facilitating a conversation on the culture depicted in the book and what it means to everyday life a half century later.

A screening of the documentary at its birthplace in Monroeville was in April. An Alabama tour lies ahead with an opening at Brock Recital Hall at Samford University at 7 p.m. on Oct. 20 with Anderson and Nicolosi conducting a "talk back" with the audience on *Mockingbird's* lessons. That morning, the USPS will be hosting the unveiling of the *Mockingbird* Commemorative Stamp designed by Nicolosi.

Continuing his close kinship to Alabama, Nicolosi is set to present another of his works. The US Postal Service has approved another Nicolosi original — a stamp commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing, which will be unveiled at a later date as a gift to the City of Birmingham, Nicolosi said.

While the bombing was indeed tragic, there was a "redemptive silver lining," Nicolosi said. It marked the turning point of the Civil Rights Movement that galvanized all of America, after which people finally stood up and said, "Enough is enough."

It's a lesson he wants shared with young people through *Lessons on Mockingbird*. "Maybe you walk differently, maybe you talk differently, you may even dress differently. Just remember, you are the exact size, shape, color and socioeconomic strata that you were meant to be, and everyone can make a difference."

With the film screening and the stamp unveiling, it promises to be a day of great celebration and remembrance. "It's my gift — a spotlight on Alabama and its great, rich heritage to our culture."

For him personally, it adds another special moment in what he describes as his Renaissance Life. "You have a rich life if you can use your talent to the glory of your creator. There was a plaque in my mother's kitchen during my entire childhood, which still hangs in the same spot today. My mother used its message to set the moral compass of each of her five sons. It reads, 'Who you are when you are born is God's gift to you. What you do with your life is your gift to God.'" ■

# 2012 AWARDS LUNCHEON

## E.O. Wilson delivers keynote luncheon speech

By Carol Pappas

World renowned scientist and author E.O. Wilson met an impressive welcome home when 500 patrons and supporters of the Alabama Humanities Foundation gathered for its annual awards luncheon September 10.

Held at The Club in Birmingham, it was an ideal setting for AHF's signature event, and it showcased Wilson's work and an awards ceremony that honored him, Regions Bank and Judge John Rochester for their contributions to the humanities.

Wilson is winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, named one of the top 25 most influential Americans by Time Magazine and one of the world's 100 leading intellectuals by Foreign Policy Magazine. He has earned more than 100 awards for his research and writings.

He once said, "We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity." And his dedication to that principle is illustrated in a lifetime of work.

Known as the world's foremost authority on ants, his studies on the behavior of ants have been used to "illuminate the human circumstance, including human origins, human nature and human interaction," according to the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation in Chapel Hill, NC.

Addressing the Birmingham audience, he talked of the meaning of human existence, noting that he discovered the first colony of fire ants in the world while he was in high school in Mobile. From there, it spread across the Gulf and northward.

It was those early lessons and a natural, intellectual curiosity that guided him to become one of the world's leading experts on evolution and species diversity.

In trying to define the meaning of human existence, three questions are asked, he said. "Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?"

He talked of religion and its definition of creation, and he spoke of science and how it tells the story from "multiple disciplines." To uncover the meaning of human existence, it will take a partnership of natural sciences, social studies and the humanities.

When it is understood, it will be "a great story to tell," he said. "I believe it is going to be the most transformative event in human history."

The Harvard professor emeritus is the author of 28 books, fiction and non-fiction, and his latest work, *Why We are Here: Mobile and the Spirit of a Southern City*, is soon to be released. ■



AHF staffer Dionne Clark and E.O. Wilson



Head table at luncheon



Wilson delivers keynote speech



Alabama School of Fine Arts performs



# Award Recipients

## **E.O. Wilson 2012 recipient of Humanities Award**

E.O. Wilson played a dual role at the annual AHF Awards Luncheon — one receiving and one giving. In addition to delivering the keynote address to the 500-member audience, he received the 2012 Alabama Humanities Award.

Dr. Bob Olin, dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Alabama and an AHF board member, called him a “scholar and a humanitarian.”

Since his early days in Mobile, studying insects and discovering the first colony of fire ants in the world, Wilson’s impact and influence have been seen globally. Presently, he serves as Pelligrino University Research Professor Emeritus, Honorary Curator in Entomology, Harvard University.

The awards from all over the world for this Alabama native son in science, literature and conservation top the 100-mark. He has more than 400 technical papers to his credit as well.

A biodiversity center in Chapel Hill, NC, bears his name because of what its founders call his pioneering efforts in influencing and shaping today’s conservation ethic. The E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Center has as its mission to “promote worldwide understanding of the importance of biodiversity and of the preservation of our biological heritage.”

Armand DeKeyser, the executive director of AHF, said that Wilson’s uncanny ability to convey the interconnectedness of so many different fields of study embodies the lasting value of the humanities in our life and our culture. “Dr. Wilson has given readers so much pleasure by immersing himself in these various disciplines and articulating—clearly and beautifully — how they connect and why that matters.”



E.O. Wilson, Jim Noles

## **Rochester earns Wayne Greenhaw Service Award**

While the Alabama Humanities Foundation conducted a nationwide search for a new executive director to lead the organization, a leader stepped in to help guide the day-to-day operation during the five-month transition period.

Retired Circuit Judge John E. Rochester, who serves as vice chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors, volunteered to be interim director. Commuting daily to Birmingham from his home in Ashland, he made sure the foundation ran smoothly.

When the foundation created the Wayne Greenhaw Service Award this year, it should have come as no surprise that Rochester would be the very first recipient for his selfless effort. Named in memory of Wayne Greenhaw, a former board member, Rochester talked of Greenhaw in his acceptance, saying, “I admired him so much, and I am so honored.” Of his own contributions, he said it was his honor to serve, and he credited board members and staff for keeping the foundation moving forward during that time.

AHF Board Member Reginald Hamner, who made the presentation to Rochester, also talked of Greenhaw’s contributions to the foundation and to the state. Author of 22 books, Clarence Cason Award winner, Harper Lee Award winner, Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and tourism director during the Gov. Jim Folsom Jr. administration, Greenhaw made contributions that were many, varied and far-reaching.



Sally Greenhaw, John Rochester

## **Regions honored as Charitable Organization in the Humanities**

To have the “funds and the means to carry out a mission” of good works, it takes a good corporate citizen, said AHF Board Member Guin Robinson in presenting the 2012 Charitable Organization in the Humanities Award. It is the kind of corporate citizen the Alabama Humanities Foundation discovered in Regions Financial Corporation. Robinson noted that in the area of giving, Regions has “few peers.”

And without its support, “we could not do the work we do,” he said.

AHF is not the only organization to have benefited from Regions’ commitment to community. Through its Charitable Giving Program, Regions has been improving the quality of life in the communities it serves through support in economic development, education, health and human services, arts and culture and the environment.

Some of the organizations representing those areas, in addition to AHF, are: A+ Education Partnership, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham Education Foundation, Centre for the Living Arts, Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Literacy Council of Central Alabama, McWane Science Center and Red Mountain Theatre Company.

Accepting the award for Regions was Rick Swagler, Executive Vice President, Head of External Affairs at Regions.



Guin Robinson, Rick Swagler

# 2012 AWARDS LUNCHEON

## Jenice Riley Scholarships provide innovations in study



By Carol Pappas

Patsy Riley, Alabama's former first lady, looked around the reception room at The Club for the annual awarding of \$1,000 teacher scholarships that bear her late daughter's name.

The tears came quickly. "This is a special day, but it's a sad day. I see Jenice in each teacher's eyes," she said.

Reciting a poem, she underscored the meaning of the occasion — "What's important is the way you lived your life and the effect you had on children. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. You can affect this generation and the next generation."

The audience included four teachers from across Alabama who won the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship, given each year to teachers who make a difference in their classrooms and schools through innovative projects.

Jenice Riley was an elementary school teacher who died of cancer in 2001. "She loved teaching kids," her brother, Rob, said. "She thought she could change the world." Turning his attention to the winning teachers, he recounted the influence his own teachers had on the man he would become. "You really can make a difference."

Her sister Minda said she was "as devoted to children as I've ever seen. If Jenice were here, she would love all of your ideas. You would find a kindred spirit."

The Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship is funded by Edgar Weldon, who had worked closely with Jenice, and after her death

he sought to honor her memory through this scholarship program. "Edgar, you will always be my family's hero," Patsy Riley said.

Janice Carden, a teacher at Vernon Intermediate School in Vernon, will use her scholarship for her students to produce an oral history of Lamar County by interviewing the county's elder population in a program called Project Pine Cone Torch. They will also visit a museum to see Alabama's impact on history.

For Shea Thompson at Forest Hills Elementary School in Florence, the scholarship has two purposes. It will provide different levels of Social Science and History readers for her kindergarten class and it will fund a character education program for the entire school called, "Be at your Best."

"The whole school will get to go to the program," she said. "We wouldn't have been able to have the program or purchase the books without this grant opportunity. I am so excited to provide this opportunity for so many children that will promote character education in their lives. More than 800 kids will actually benefit."

At Ogletree Elementary in Auburn, teacher Fredna Grimmert will address voter apathy through in-depth study on the presidential election, hoping to "inspire life-long voters."

And at Mobile County's Saraland Elementary, teacher Regina Everett will concentrate studies on history through innovative methods, like sifting for gem stones, dressing in Native American costume and bringing in Civil War reenactors.

Her class will also visit historic Mobile sites, like Ft. Morgan and Magnolia Center. ■





Front row: Fredna Grimmert,  
Patsy Riley, Shea Thompson,  
Regina Everett, Janice Carden  
Back row: Edgar Welden,  
Rob Riley, Minda Riley Campbell

## About the Scholarship

The Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of the late Jenice Riley for her extraordinary commitment to enhancing the quality of education in Alabama.

The daughter of former Alabama Governor Bob Riley and his wife Patsy, Jenice Riley had a passion for teaching kindergarten and infused her students with creativity and a desire to learn. She encouraged parents to get involved in their children's education and actively promoted better educational programs and disciplines within her community.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation awards the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships to Alabama teachers (K-6th) looking to further their professional development. This \$1,000 award helps them attend a seminar or institute, purchase classroom materials, or create a program that enhances their students' understanding of history and civics.

Recipients are chosen from a pool of applicants based on their proposed spending of the scholarship money to improve their teaching abilities and create a more effective classroom environment. The recipients of this scholarship are honored each year at the AHF's annual Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon.

The application for the 2013 Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship will be available in mid-2013.

Former first lady  
Patsy Riley  
addresses  
reception



# Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award encourages a new generation of scholars



Janelle Whetstone, Dr. Bob Whetstone, Janet Seaman

By Paul Lawson

“The plurality of attitudes within each of us resembles the plurality of perspectives in our society.”

Those words, written by Nicholas Jones, assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, highlight the reason for and importance of celebrating the great cultural diversity we enjoy in our state and nation.

For his 2010 essay, “Civility, Sincerity, and Ambiguity,” Jones won the Alabama Humanities Foundation’s inaugural Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award, a biennial competition open to all non-tenured humanities scholars who hold full-time positions in accredited Alabama colleges and universities.

Jones received \$3,000 for his winning essay, which was published in the AHF’s online journal, *Alabama Humanities Review*, in 2011.

As a result of people reading his essay, Jones has spoken with several community groups, including the local interfaith group ONE Huntsville and the North Alabama Humanists.

“I had always hoped to find a way to engage intellectually with members of community other than students and winning the Whetstone-Seaman award has made that possible,” Jones said. “The question-and-answer sessions at these speaking events have been a wonderful opportunity to introduce ideas to others and stay in touch with people’s lived experiences.”

Jones also submitted the theme for the 2012 competition, “Overcoming Polarization toward Building a Common Future.”

Submissions, due in October, are required to be original and unpublished essays and be no more than 5,000 words long. The author of the most outstanding paper will receive a \$3,000 scholar development grant and be invited to present his/her essay at a public symposium. The runner-up will receive \$1,500.

Winners will be announced in early 2013, said AHF board member Dr. Bob Whetstone, who, with his sister, former board

member Janet Seaman, funds the award. Whetstone spent 38 years teaching at Birmingham-Southern College and, upon his retirement, created a faculty development award to reward excellent teaching there.

The purpose of the Whetstone-Seaman award, he said, is to engage emerging scholars in the state and to involve more of them in the work AHF does around the state. “As an organization, we decided that not enough of the state’s upcoming humanities scholars knew about the AHF and what it does,” Whetstone said. “And if you are attracting just older, established scholars, then you are likely to overlook some new ideas.”

Jones, who has served on an AHF grant review committee since winning the first Whetstone-Seaman award, was a good example.

“The work I’ve done with AHF has impressed upon me the organization’s dedication to keeping Alabama citizens included in Alabama’s intellectual life,” Jones said.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation ([alabamahumanities.org](http://alabamahumanities.org)) is accepting essays until October 5 for the second bi-annual Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award competition.

The Whetstone-Seaman competition is open to all non-tenured humanities scholars who hold full-time positions at accredited Alabama colleges and universities. Whetstone spent 38 years teaching at Birmingham-Southern College and, upon his retirement, created a faculty development award to reward excellent teaching there.

The top six essays will be selected by a jury of humanities scholars to be published in the *Alabama Humanities Review* and circulated to libraries and other scholarly venues, Whetstone said. Authors of all six top papers will be invited to participate in AHF’s Road Scholars Speakers Bureau outreach program.

The 2012 Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award winners will be announced in early 2013 and officially recognized at a ceremony in 2013. ■



## New website, new design new functionality for AHF in cyberspace

By Chip Brantley

If you have clicked to the foundation website lately, you will have noticed AHF's new home on the Internet. Sure, the new address ([www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org)) is a little longer than the old one ([www.ahf.net](http://www.ahf.net)), but it also announces what the organization is about in a way that the old address obscured.

But it is not just a new address. The new site is also easier to navigate and has a more dynamic look and feel, one that truly reflects the amazing programs AHF offers, enables and supports across Alabama.

With easy audio and video capability and integrated social media, the site does not act simply as a brochure for AHF by telling visitors about the richness of the humanities in the state. It can show that richness and provide more of an experience of the humanities in Alabama.

The site design is also flexible enough to accommodate special project pages (such as AHF's Literature and Health Care program) and program mini-sites (for example, for future SUPER and SES institutes).

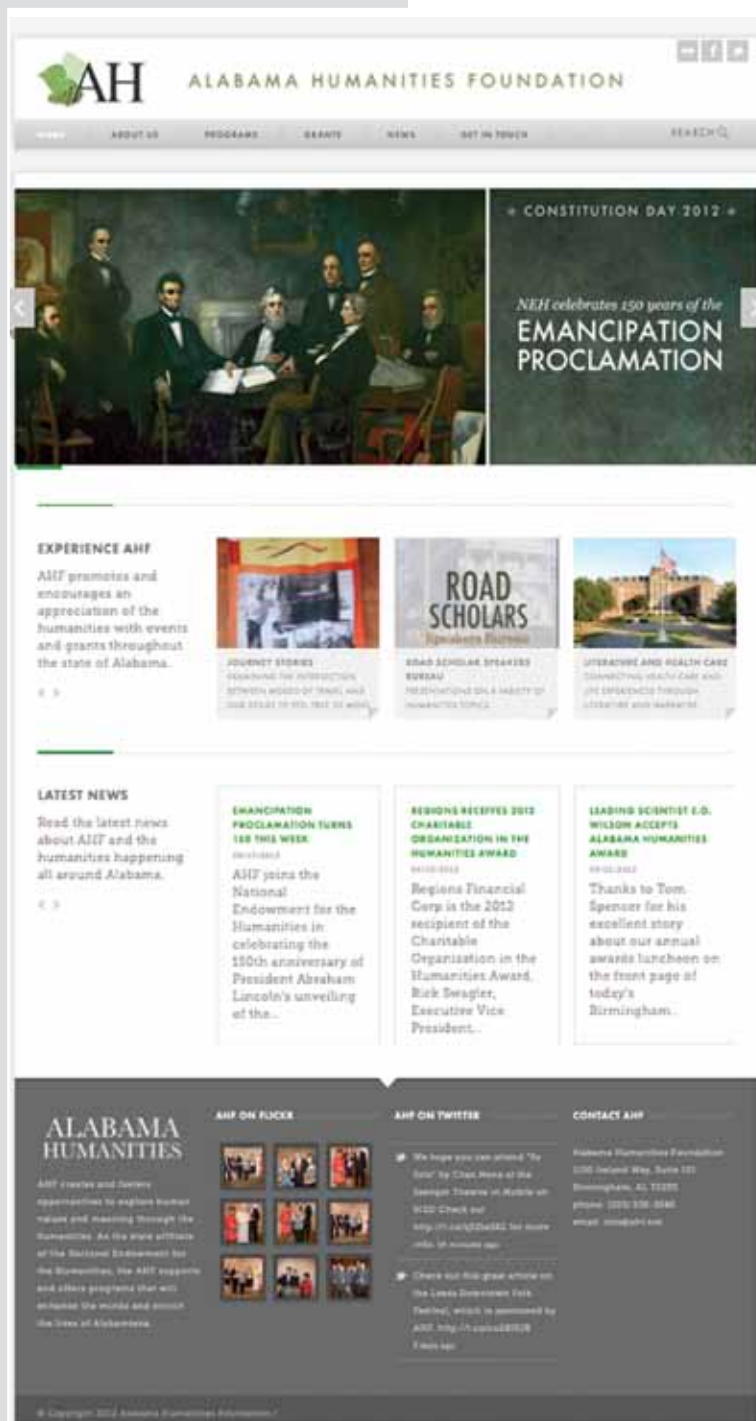
And in keeping with AHF's recent recommitment to offer and support programming in every county in the state, the staff and directors also wanted to ensure that people around the state could access and easily navigate the website regardless of which device they were using to surf the Internet.

So the new website is responsive to each user. If you are searching the AHF site archives on a Samsung Galaxy in Brundidge, you will see a smartphone-ready version of the site. If you are reading this latest issue of Mosaic on an iPad in Muscle Shoals, you will see a tablet-optimized version of the site. And if you are looking for grant application forms on the Dell in your classroom at Woodlawn High School, then you will find them all right there on the website, easy to read and easy to submit.

Speaking of submitting grant forms online, that was another goal: to save time, money and paper by making the site a useful hub for AHF's audiences and grantees, with online forms and functionality for all of AHF's programs and grants, including application submission and processing, event registration and payment and program evaluation.

The final goal of the site was to make it easier for AHF staff to manage and maintain its online presence. So the new site is built in WordPress, a free, flexible and user-friendly content management system that staff and others can access from anywhere and on any device – smartphone, tablet, laptop, PC – that has a browser and an Internet connection.

So whether AHF staff members are recording a Road Scholar presentation on Mark Twain or taking pictures of a SUPER institute in Monroeville, the new website will make it easier for AHF to help Alabamians discover and share the meanings of life found through the humanities. ■



Home of new website  
[www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org)

# AHF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Where we have been

### August 30

#### *The Rise and Fall of Atticus Finch*

Speaker: Christopher Metress, PhD

Pelham Senior Center (Pelham)

10:30 a.m.

Road Scholars

### September 8

#### *The Hernando de Soto Expedition: Exploration and Tragedy in 16<sup>th</sup> Century Alabama and the Southeast*

Speaker: Ronald Fritze, PhD

Dekalb County Library (Fort Payne)

10 a.m.

Road Scholars



Edgar Welden, Minda Riley Campbell and John Rochester at luncheon

### September 10

#### *AHF Awards Luncheon*

The Club (Birmingham), 10:30 a.m. Patrons and Jenice Riley

Scholarship Reception, 11:30 a.m. Luncheon

Speaker: Dr. E.O. Wilson

### September 11

#### *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*

Reading Series led by Tom Franklin

Selma Dallas County Public Library (Selma)

4:00 p.m.

Grants project

### September 20

#### *"Sloths, Mammoths, and Saber-toothed Cats:*

#### *The Ice Age Mammals of Alabama"*

Jun Ebersole

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought

Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery)

12:00 noon

Grants project

### September 22

#### *"Yo Solo"*

New York-based Mena

Ticketed performance and panel discussion

Saenger Theatre (Mobile)

7 p.m.

Grants project

### September 27

#### *"The Iron Finger of Love": The Journey of Clifton Taulbert from Mississippi's Black Belt*

Speaker: Nancy Anderson, PhD

Vestavia Methodist Church (Vestavia)

12:00 noon

Road Scholars



Images provided by the Birmingham Public Library Department of Archives

### July 22 – September 14, 2012

#### *"Both Sides of the Lens: Photographs by the Shackelford Family, Fayette County, Alabama (1910-1935)"*

Exhibition – Photographs taken by a family of African-American photographers who lived in Covin, Alabama, the images reveal the lives of the photographers as well as those being photographed.

Birmingham Public Library (Birmingham)

Grants project

### August 1 – September 15, 2012

#### *"Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place"*

Traveling exhibit featuring the traditional arts of five regions in the state with contextual information.

River Canyon Center (Fort Payne)

Grants project

## Where we are going

### October 4

#### *School Spirits: Ghost Stories from Alabama's College Campuses*

Speaker: Alan Brown, PhD

Homewood Public Library (Homewood)

6:30 p.m.

Road Scholars

### October 5

#### *Whetstone/Seaman Faculty Development Award Deadline*

Contact: Dionne Clark 205-558-3999

### October 9

#### *Let the World Spin*

Reading Series led by Collum McCann

Selma Dallas County Public Library (Selma)

4:00 p.m.

Grants project



## October 18

### *"The Space Race in Alabama in the 1950's and 1960's"*

Andrew J. Dunar  
ArchiTreats: Food for Thought  
Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery)  
12:00 noon  
*Grants project*

## October 22

### *Alabama's Own Nat King Cole*

Speaker: Daphne Simpkins  
Alex City Board of Education (Alexander City)  
1:30 p.m.  
*Road Scholars*

## October 25-26

### *AHF Board of Directors Board Meeting*

The Marriott Shoals Hotel (Florence)

## November 11

### *The Art of War: Posters, Photographs and Postcards of World War I*

Speaker: Marty Olliff, PhD  
Tennessee Valley Museum of Art (Tuscumbia)  
1:00 p.m.  
*Road Scholars*

## November 13

### *The Namesake*

Reading Series led by Jhumpa Lahiri  
Selma Dallas County Public Library (Selma)  
4:00 p.m.  
*Grants project*

## November 15

### *"Lord Remember Me: Archiving Alabama's Folklife"*

Kevin Nutt  
ArchiTreats: Food for Thought  
Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery)  
12:00 noon  
*Grants project*

## December 11

### *Selected Readings*

Reading Series led by Nancy G. Anderson  
Selma Dallas County Public Library (Selma)  
4:00 p.m.  
*Grants project*

## December 20

### *"Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Alabama in the Civil War"*

Ben H. Severance  
ArchiTreats: Food for Thought  
Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery)  
12:00 noon  
*Grants project*

# Ongoing Events

## October 1 – November 15, 2012

### *"Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place"*

Traveling exhibit featuring the traditional arts of five regions in the state with contextual information.  
Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities (Auburn)  
*Grants project*

## December 1, 2012 – January 15, 2013

### *"Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place"*

Traveling exhibit featuring the traditional arts of five regions in the state with contextual information.  
Landmarks Park (Dothan)  
*Grants project*

## February 1 – March 15, 2013

### *"Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place"*

Traveling exhibit featuring the traditional arts of five regions in the state with contextual information.  
Location to Be Determined (University of South Alabama, Mobile)  
*Grants project*

## April 1 – May 15, 2013

### *"Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place"*

Traveling exhibit featuring the traditional arts of five regions in the state with contextual information.  
Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum (Thomasville)  
*Grants project*



# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

## Breathing new life into AHF



Danielle Hines,  
T. Marie King,  
Ebony Jordan, and  
Conrhonda Baker.

By Dafina M. Ward,  
AHF Board Member

AHF has long-recognized the need to expand its reach to a new generation of supporters.

In 2011, the AHF Young Professionals (YP) Board was created to give voice to young adults from throughout the state who share a passion for the humanities. This diverse group now includes college professors, attorneys and corporate and non-profit leaders with a shared vision of supporting AHF as a way to encourage community dialogue and civic involvement.

This diversity is appealing to those involved, according to YP Board Member Ruby Brown of Alabama Power. "I am excited to be involved with the AHF YP Board because I realize the value that the organization adds to our community. The humanities serve many purposes, but I most admire how AHF uses them to bridge gaps across race, age and geographic location."

Through the Young Professionals Board, AHF has been able to bring its mission to new audiences. AHF Board Chair Jim Noles has seen the value of the group firsthand. "Our Young Professionals Board has not only brought a sense of energy, vibrancy and enthusiasm to the AHF, but has also shined light on constituencies, causes and opportunities that the board or staff might have otherwise overlooked."

The inaugural event hosted by the YP Board is an example of how this group is shining light on the work of AHF in new

and innovative ways. On May 3, the group sponsored *Tres de Mayo: Celebrating the Influence of Hispanic Culture on Alabama*. This event, co-sponsored by the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA) and held at Avondale Brewery, was an opportunity to educate the general public about the history of Cinco de Mayo in a festive environment. The after-work event was free to the public and included live entertainment and dance lessons for attendees.

*Tres de Mayo* was just an example of the Young Professional Board's creative approach to sharing the humanities. In addition to hosting its own events, the group also supports AHF programs and events. AHF Executive Director Armand Dekeyser appreciates the infectious energy the group brings. "Working with the YP Board has been great. Their youthful enthusiasm and can-do attitude is something I wish I could bottle and sell. On several occasions, they have been a lifesaver for AHF staff."

While the Young Professionals Board is making an impact, at the same time, it is learning a great deal about the work of AHF. YP Board member Marie King is focused on community empowerment through her work with the YWCA, and sees her efforts with AHF as another opportunity to give back. "I have always loved the way that the humanities can be used for self-expression and to encourage learning. It is a rare opportunity to find an organization that is so in line with my passion. AHF touches so many lives through its grants and programs, and I get to touch the lives of others by being a part

of this great organization."

YP Board Staff Liaison Dionne Clark echoes the sentiment. "The Young Professionals Board of the Alabama Humanities Foundation is a direct link to the constituency of our community that represents our present and future community leaders, advocates, educators, and professionals," she said. "Their presence not only broadens the Foundation's ability to garner community support, but more importantly, allows us to create a reciprocal relationship of communication that greatly affects our programming. The ideas that stem from that communication are inspiring and innovative. Their role to the Foundation is invaluable!"

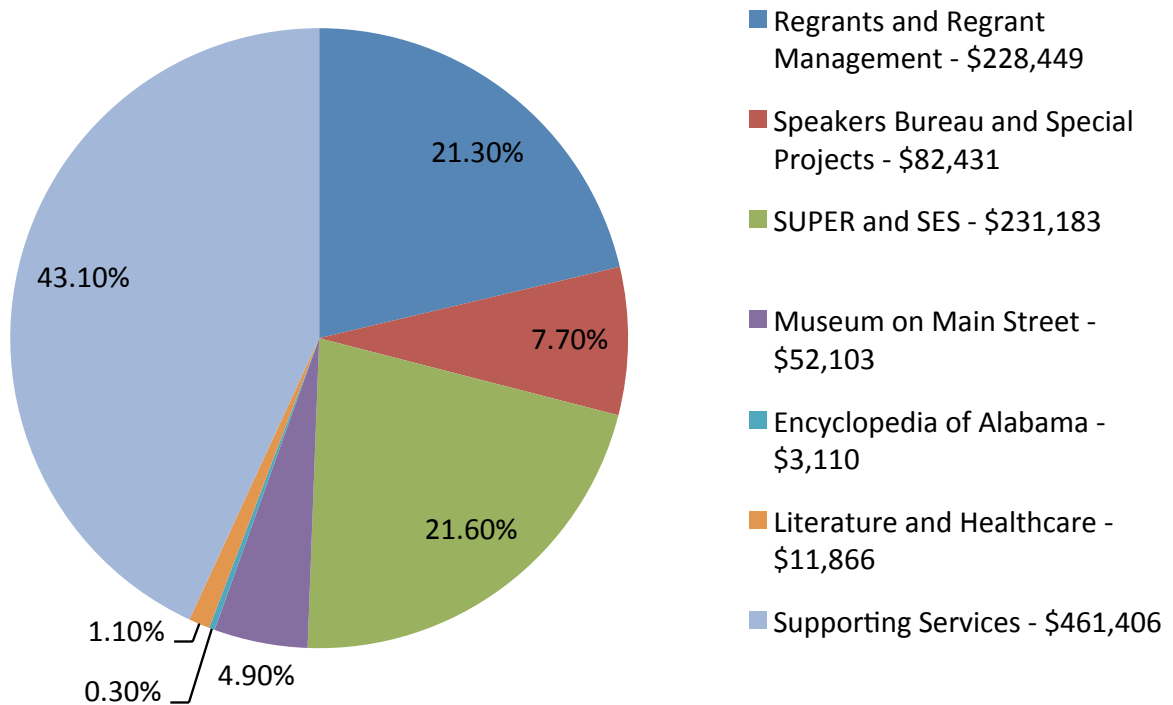
Danielle Hines, chair of the YP Board agrees. "The development of the YP board has been very exciting. It has proven to be a great spring board for events and programs that are relevant to the humanities and the mission of AHF.

"One of the biggest goals of the YP board is to foster and gain support from a younger demographic that might not ordinarily be involved with the humanities. If one of our events or programs gains support or piques the interest of a single participant, then we have done our job."

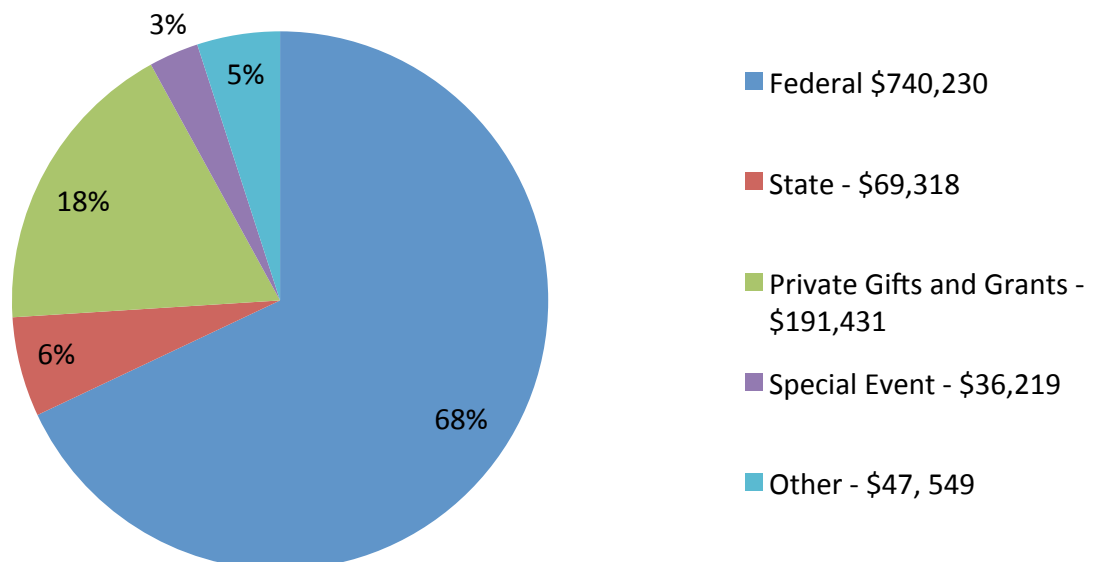
The Young Professionals Board is still accepting applications from individuals throughout the state of Alabama. For an application and additional information, please contact YP Board Staff Liaison Dionne Clark via email at [dclark@alabamahumanities.org](mailto:dclark@alabamahumanities.org) ■



## Expenses \$1,070,548



## Income \$1,084,747





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