

PHILOSOPHY
LITERATURE
ETHICS-HISTORY
JURISPRUDENCE
HISTORY OF THE ARTS
LANGUAGES
**ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
FOUNDATION**

MOSAIC

Fall 2014

MAGAZINE

La Storia Exhibit

Italian
immigrants and
their influence
on Birmingham

AHF Awards
Luncheon
honors people
across Alabama

Continuing the legacy
of Jenice Riley

Expanding the scope
of Prime Time
Family Reading Program

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Foundation fosters
learning, understanding and
appreciation of our people,
communities and cultures.



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

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

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REAL-WORLD RELEVANCE OF THE HUMANITIES

From Executive Director Armand DeKeyser

As executive director, I have often observed within the humanities world a questioning of the humanities' relevance to day-to-day activities. Outsiders may have the feeling that we are too elitist, our heads are in the clouds, we're just a bunch of academics with no connection to what's really happening around us. But in truth, we see the powerful impact of what we do in everyday life, and as leaders, we must continue to strengthen that ideal as the perception of humanities.

With more regularity, through the enlightened leadership of many supporters, I see a direct impact on individuals and organizations because of what the humanities have been advocating or promoting.

In particular, I note the Literature and the Veteran Experience that is beginning this fall. This program, more fully discussed in this edition of *Mosaic*, is an outgrowth of a popular series held in the Veterans Administration hospitals around the state.

Having previously served in the United States Army for nearly 28 years on both active duty and as a Reserve officer, I have been pleasantly fascinated by the outpouring of support being solicited for our veterans leaving the service now — job fairs, counseling, acknowledgment of the value of service, etc. When I first entered the Army, the United States was just leaving Vietnam. As other veterans from that era will tell you, the public was often not very supportive of returning veterans. At times, people were disrespectful of the service and commitment those individuals had.

I contrast those actions of the past with those of today because of the veterans' programs we are now pursuing. With the Literature and Health Care series (see story on Page 26), Alabama Humanities Foundation is serving an area most needed to help our veterans — the quality of care in our VA facilities. This past year, we have been in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Tuskegee, where we are using humanities-based readings in scholars-led discussion groups with veteran healthcare providers, making them more knowledgeable and providing better care to some of America's neediest citizens, our veterans.

This fall on several of our Alabama college campuses, we will be offering a new outreach discussion program, Literature and the Veterans Experience. Many veterans find that their recent military experience is not understood by the general public. Considering that nearly 2 million individuals have served in the military since 2001, these veterans only represents about one percent of the U.S. population. But by using scholars who are veterans themselves and targeting recently returning veterans, our discussion groups enable a group of service members to share and become active, engaged students. They offer unique individual stories that may only be understandable to those who served.



I am proud I served and thankfully, treated with respect. I want to continue to honor my experience, and I find it personally rewarding to use my efforts to pay it forward to all soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen, each a future veteran I can thank in advance.

It is a question of cause and effect. Can the humanities make a difference in the lives of our veterans? The answer is seen in the veterans who become successful college students and attain career objectives. The answer, too, lies within a returning veteran who is able to connect with peers, build relationships, share experiences and reflect on what concerns them most.

In both instances, humanities are the cause. Their relevance to veterans' lives is the effect.

See, the humanities are relevant.

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

AHF Executive Director

MOSAIC



ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

About the Cover: The bust is of Father John B. Canepa, who founded three Italian parishes in Thomas, East Lake and Ensley. In 1940, he was bestowed the title of Knight of the Royal Crown for his efforts on behalf of Italians in Alabama. It is part of the La Storia exhibit at Vulcan Museum, highlighting Italian influence on Birmingham.

Photo by Michael Callahan

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

Understanding Brings A New Day

At the height of the Civil Rights Movement, four little girls lost their lives. Understanding that tragedy brought us all together.

The Humanities Difference...
Think.Learn.Understand.

HONDA

Honda was proud to partner with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in tribute.

Humanities grants awarded across Alabama

In the February and June grant rounds, AHF awarded \$84,248.75 in major grants and \$12,632.53 in mini grants to deserving humanities projects throughout the state.

Major grant recipients:

Wetumpka Chamber of Commerce, Wetumpka

Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery, in partnership with the Wetumpka Chamber of Commerce, City of Wetumpka, Elmore County Museum and Elmore County Art Guild presented *Yesterday and Today – Dixie Art Colony: A Look at its Lasting Legacy*, two satellite exhibits to complement the “Museum On Main Street” exhibit, which the city hosted this summer. The exhibits engaged the community by highlighting the legacy of the Dixie Art Colony, a bohemian retreat on Lake Jordan founded by local artist J. Kelly Fitzpatrick to instruct and assist several well-known southern artists of the 1930s and 40s. Some of those artists were commissioned to participate in the Public Works of Art Project to employ artists, as part of the New Deal, during the Great Depression.

Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project, Auburn University

Teaching Humanities Behind Bars is a series of literature classes offered to inmates at four correctional facilities in Alabama. The classes, *The Improbable Made Possible: Reading Science Fiction*; *What is (Good) Literature? A Look at Modern American Creative Non-Fiction*; and *Reading Alabama: Exploring 20th Century Alabama through Literature, Memory and History* teach students to understand the rich historical and cultural legacies through the study of literature and history.

Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Eufaula

The Creeks and Their Trail of Tears: Life and Legacy will bring to light some of the many local connections to the nationally-significant story of Creek Removal. A cultural and economic center of the historic Creek Nation, the lower Chattahoochee River Valley was at the heart of some of the momentous events in regional history. The public discussion program took place at Fort Mitchell Historical Park and the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center.

Red Mountain Writing Project, Birmingham

Red Mountain Writing Project Summer Teachers Institute is a four-week multi-layered professional learning experience designed by teachers to increase educators’ knowledge, confidence, and capacity to help students learn 21st-century literacy skills while mastering state standards. It was held on the campus of University of Alabama at Birmingham during June 2014.



Living in Limbo, Birmingham

A feature-length documentary, *State & Union: Lesbian Families in the Deep South* is an outgrowth of the nationally acclaimed photography exhibit “Living in Limbo” by Birmingham artist Carolyn Sherer. The film will follow the lives of a cross-cultural selection of lesbian families in Birmingham, Alabama, in the year after the landmark 2013 U.S. Supreme Court rulings on the Defense of Marriage Act and California’s Proposition 8. Coming on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement, the film will capture and reveal contemporary Southern life for these families who live in conflict between state and federal laws. The film and its public screenings followed by panel discussions will provide Alabamians an opportunity in which they can learn more about one of the biggest public policy transformations of our time through the experiences of a local community and their stories.

Alabama Public Television, Birmingham

Now in its second year, the *Journey Proud* documentary series will continue to document Alabama folk traditions in their cultural context by visiting locations where the folkways occur, filming the traditions being featured and interviewing folklorists, scholars and practitioners of the traditions. Practitioners and scholars filmed in the series provide a historical and cultural lens through which viewers examine Alabama’s culture, past and present. Oral histories along with the tools of the cultural traditions are the artifacts used for interpretation. *Journey Proud* will have nine 30-minute episodes with each episode airing three or more times within 12 months. The project will include online educational modules for K-12 classroom instruction.

Early Light Productions, Birmingham

Get in the Way: The Journey of John Lewis, a one-hour PBS documentary film currently completing production, is the story of one man’s journey to live according to an idea that is unconventional and in some cases, challenging to the mainstream culture in which he lives. This film is a personalized journey that probes the subtle, historically resonant aspects of the Civil Rights Movement from 1955, when

Lewis first heard the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the present. This film will show the continuum of Lewis’ singular commitment to a way of life - nonviolence - through multiple careers, within changing communities of people and in a wide variety of settings.

Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham

The Lonnie Holley Story is a documentary film about the life and work of one of Alabama’s most unique and accomplished creative artists. Produced and directed by Peabody-Award winning producer George King in association with the Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham, the 60-minute film is intended for television broadcast on outlets such as Alabama Public Television. A website will include additional online documentation of Holley’s work, resource guides, and commentaries from humanities scholars, including folklorists, sociologists, historians and art historians. Support from AHF will be used to produce and edit the film, drawn from an 18-year archive of video footage and interviews shot and gathered by the filmmakers.

Alabama Public Television, Birmingham

Part of a three-year initiative, *Project C: Lessons from the American Civil Rights Movement* is comprised of live, interactive field trips taking place during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary years of pivotal and iconic Civil Rights events in Alabama’s Black Belt, specifically the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March and the Voting Rights Act. *Project C* will teach students the roles and responsibilities of American citizenship; instill a sense of civic responsibility; and demonstrate the principle that ordinary people can create extraordinary change. APT’s Web-interactive field trips use past events to teach today’s students about the important roles of historic figures and events of the Civil Rights Movement and the practice of Civic Engagement. APT’s Web-interactive field trips level the playing field for Alabama’s and the nation’s school children and teachers, particularly those from homes, neighborhoods and schools where the traditional school field trips or family vacations to America’s historic and cultural sites are not feasible.

ArtsRevive, Selma

The exhibit, *Spider Martin Retrospective: Exploring the Role of Photojournalism*, will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March that changed history. ArtsRevive are working with Tracy Martin, daughter of photojournalist Spider Martin, and scholars of the Civil Rights Movement to develop an exhibit around Martin’s work during that period; Martin was on the ground at the Bridge and took some of the most iconic photographs of that time. The exhibit and accompanying panel discussions will focus on the role the still photo has had in influencing the conscience of a nation and looking at literature written with first-hand accounts of the impact of Bloody Sunday.



THE BRUNO BROTHERS

Each of the Bruno brothers ran a piece of their vast retail empire, which included Bruno's, Food World, Food Fair, and Food Max grocery stores and Big B Drugs. Pictured here, clockwise from front, are Joe, Lee, Sam, Anthony, and Angelo.

Vulcan Park and Museum, Birmingham

La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community exhibit tells the story of Birmingham's Italian community, encompassing immigration, home life, religious practices and other customs, economics and contributions to Birmingham. Original content comes through surveys and oral histories with members of the Italian American Heritage Society. Artifact collection comes through Vulcan's Share Your History Day program. Exhibit is part of the Birmingham Cultural Groups project, a series of exhibitions exploring the contributions of the city's ethnic and religious communities.



Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Auburn University

The museum's winter-spring FILM@JCSM (Fostering Interdisciplinary Learning through Movies) films series, *American Transport*, will look at our relationships with travel, road trips, and the American landscape. The film series will coincide with JCSM's exhibition featuring the work of Chicago artist, John Himmelfarb's TRUCKS, which has evolved out of the artist's decade-long focus on the truck as a conveyor of diverse materials as well as – in the case of his art – ideas. His work takes an American icon – the truck – and asks the viewer to consider its range and functionality in American culture – touching on such ideas as the truck as status symbol, as a utilitarian necessity, a key to

Grant deadlines & procedures

Grant deadlines are: February 15, June 15 and September 15

Mini Grant Category and Procedures

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

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

Mini Grant applications require the following:

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

AHF Major Grants

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

Preliminary Grant Application Requirement

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

The Preliminary Grant Application must consist of a two-page Summary Narrative outlining project goals, humanities focus and scholarship, intended audience, key project personnel, and publicity and marketing strategy, and a Summary Budget detailing proposed grant funds and proposed applicant cost-share, which may include in-kind.

Applicants should contact AHF Grants Director Thomas Bryant, tbryant@alabamahumanities.org, with any questions or concerns prior to submitting the Preliminary Grant Application and Final Grant Application.

current economics, and a reflection or symbol of identity. The five films thematically related to the exhibition will be followed by scholar-led discussions.

Samford University, Birmingham

The *Faces of Marion* exhibition and oral history project tells the history and modern day stories of Marion, Alabama residents through oral history interviews and portrait images. The project will examine the changing dynamics of Black Belt communities such as Marion and how these developments play out in each family. Venues will include Judson College, Samford Art Gallery and Davis Library.

Historic Bethel Baptist Church Community Restoration Fund, Birmingham

On Saturday, November 22, 2014, *It Began at Bethel: Bethel's Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement*, a public discussion and accompanying exhibition of rare photos and documents will highlight the leadership role of

Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth and the Collegeville community in organizing and mobilizing a series of non-violent protests aimed at securing political, social, economic, cultural and judicial equity for African Americans. The discussion will also allow participants to examine art, literary works, and music reflective of the hopes, determination, and frustrations of the era. Dr. Glenn Eskew will deliver a lecture based on his national best seller, *But for Birmingham*. Mrs. Ruby Shuttlesworth Bester, Rev. Shuttlesworth's daughter, will also deliver a lecture about her first-hand account, which will help participants understand what it was like to be the daughter of a man who was revered, feared, loved and hated. Designed by Marjorie White of the Birmingham Historical Society, the exhibit will remain on display until March 1, 2015, allowing visitors to this National Historic Landmark an opportunity to learn about the pivotal role of Shuttlesworth, Bethel Baptist Church, and Birmingham in the Civil Rights Movement.

GRANTS

University of Alabama Center for Public Television and Radio, Tuscaloosa

The Way We Worked: Stories from the Box is comprised of a converted photo booth which is traveling to the six host sites of the Museum on Main Street exhibition tour of "Way We Worked" to videotape Alabamians from diverse backgrounds as they tell their stories and share memories about work. The final product will be made available to the local and state archives.

The University of Alabama Museums, Tuscaloosa

Moundville Archaeological Park 75th Anniversary Symposium is a series of lectures in commemoration of the opening of Jones Museum at Moundville Archaeological Park. The series will provide a public forum for summarizing the contributions that scholars and Native Americans have made regarding our understanding of the Moundville site; increase the public's knowledge of the prehistory, history, archaeology and the continued and prevailing cultural significance of Moundville Archaeological Park; and increase awareness about the importance of preserving Moundville from several different perspectives. One of the events will feature presentations by Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from three federally recognized tribes followed by a moderated panel discussion addressing perspectives about Moundville and how the site is an integral part of their individual tribal stories.

Mini grant recipients:

Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, Birmingham

The Children of Willesden Lane is an interdisciplinary program that explores one child's personal experience during the Holocaust. The story is told through the book, *The Children of Willesden Lane*, by award winning pianist Mona Golabek, and attending her musical performances that tell the story through classical music and prose. The story centers on Golabek's mother, a Holocaust survivor, and her experience as a child during the Nazi occupation of Vienna before fleeing with her family to London in the Kindertransport. AHF funds enabled students in four school systems in the Jefferson County to study this book and learn its lessons.

Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, Auburn University

Auburn University, in partnership with the Tuskegee History Center, present the *Macon County History and Culture Series*, a public humanities series on the history and culture of Macon County. Speakers included historian Dr. Richard Bailey, novelist Linda Kenney Miller, archaeologist and historian Robert Pasquill, children's author Robin Banks, and Tuskegee University archivist Dana Chandler. Topics for the series include the black church in the 19th century; the life of Dr. John A. Kenney, personal physician of Booker T. Washington and George

Washington Carver; the history and ecology of the Tuskegee National Forest; the life and character of Booker T. Washington and extant historical documents related to his life.

Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham

AHF provided funds for the statewide *15th Annual Young Writers' Literary Award*, one of Alabama's most comprehensive student literary awards competitions. Prizes for poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction in three divisions: grades 5-7; grades 8-9; and grades 10-12. Twenty-seven writers are selected from across the state. ASFA students take part in the project in the form of evaluators.

Friends of Hoover Public Library, Hoover

Hoover Public Library ESL (English as Second Language) provides free English instruction to help facilitate the integration of local immigrants. This instruction includes professionally taught classes emphasizing listening, reading, writing and speaking as well as informal follow-up practice sessions. Funds support 72 hours of free, open-enrollment classroom instruction. Twenty-four 1.5-hour classes of Basic English and 24 1.5-hour classes of Intermediate level English divided into a 12-week fall session and a 12-week spring session.

Natchez Trace Parkway Association

Southeast American Indians in the War of 1812 is a public discussion program where members of the Chickasaw, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Poarch Creeks, and Piqua Shawnees interpret the historic perspectives of their nations in the decisions to support or oppose Americans and each other during the war. Education stations will engage public school students in the discussion. The program encourages interest in Native American history and initiates an important discussion of how the War of 1812 transformed nations and cultures in what became the American South.

H. Grady Bradshaw Chambers County Library and Cobb Memorial Archives, Valley

World War I: Remembering the Forgotten War was a month-long series of humanities programs centered on World War I and commemorating the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I in Europe. Aiming to make the public more aware of the history and the impact of this war, a series of monthly Lunch N Learn programs will feature scholar speakers focusing on art, history, literature, gardening and language. Program was held September-October 2014.

Northeast Alabama Community College, Rainsville

Bringing It Home: Utilizing Local History in the K-12 Classroom is a humanities workshop for K-12 social studies and history teachers provided by the NACC Learning Resources Center. The project is a pilot effort of NACC to become a resource for K-12 teachers in the

region, which include both Jackson County and DeKalb County. Program will connect local people, places and events to the topics they already teach; build a model for future workshops that will focus on humanities topics concerning Jackson and DeKalb counties and the surrounding area.

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center, Camden

People and Place in History and Song is a public discussion program conducted by scholar Dr. Wayne Flynt and composer-singer Kate Campbell, that will engage participants in narrative, song, and discussion about the history, culture, and mores of the South. Presentations will demonstrate how people and place are interconnected through history, culture, politics, and traditions. The day-long experience will include a presentation in the public school for all Wilcox Co. students in grades 9-12; an evening event for the general public in the multi-purpose space of Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center.



Troy University, Dothan

The *2014 Wiregrass Blues Fest* in Houston County will provide an educational tribute to the significance of blues music and to Clarence Pine Top Smith, the originator of boogie-woogie piano player who was from the Wiregrass region. Featuring two public discussions and educational performances on the first two days, it also features an exhibit of text panels about Alabama blues musicians on loan from the Alabama Blues Project displayed at the Wiregrass Museum of Art.



La Storia

AN EXHIBIT TO BE SAVORED

By Carol Pappas

Step inside Vulcan Museum's newest exhibition, and it is like turning the pages of a history book on Birmingham and how Italian immigrants helped mold The Magic City.

La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community is filled with old photographs, artifacts and stories of Italian immigrants who came to America looking for a better life and found it in Birmingham.

The exhibit is on display now through Sept. 18, 2015.

"We at Vulcan were thrilled by the huge turnout for the opening reception. It was especially rewarding to see so many members of Birmingham's Italian community there," said Phillip Ratliff, director of education at Vulcan Park and Museum. "They were the people who had helped create the exhibition by sharing their family stories and cherished keepsakes. Simply put, without their hard work and sacrifice, there would be no *La Storia*. The reception was a fitting way to honor their gifts to the city their families helped build."

Students from his UAB honors class, Creating a Museum Exhibit, gathered and transcribed oral histories and conducted much of the research for the exhibit. They even helped design some of *La Storia's* interpretive strategies. "Many of those students said they were happy to see their semester of hard work woven into the final product. All in all, the reception encapsulates what it means to mount an exhibition like *La Storia* and, more generally, what it means to work at Vulcan Park and Museum. It's all about building community through our shared history."

Displays tell the story of the immigrants' journey, how they worked and how they lived. People like the Bruno brothers, who built a nationally known grocery store chain are featured. So is Nina Miglianico, a pioneer in women's rights and the first female member of the Birmingham City Council.

There are others on the Hall of Fame, like Joe Sacco, who was among the battalion that liberated the survivors of Dacau concentration camp during the Holocaust.

The entire exhibit, designed with assistance from Huntsville's John Kelton, Kelton Design, is a behind-the-scenes look at a proud culture whose contributions to community are many and varied.

"Vulcan Park and Museum's mission is to preserve Vulcan as a symbol of the people of Birmingham," Ratliff said. "We know how important the Italian community has been to the city's story. In the city's first few decades, Italian immigrants worked hard in the industry that built this city, often taking the most menial and lowest paying jobs. But they were able to rise above the harsh conditions and discrimination they experienced, to establish churches, build businesses and schools, enter into professions, and contribute greatly to the cultural life of Birmingham."

One of Ratliff's favorite *La Storia* stories concerns Vulcan himself. "When it was time to move Vulcan to Red Mountain in the 1930s, it was Italian immigrant stonemasons who built Vulcan his beautiful sandstone pedestal. Their legacy stands today and really should be experienced by everyone in this city."

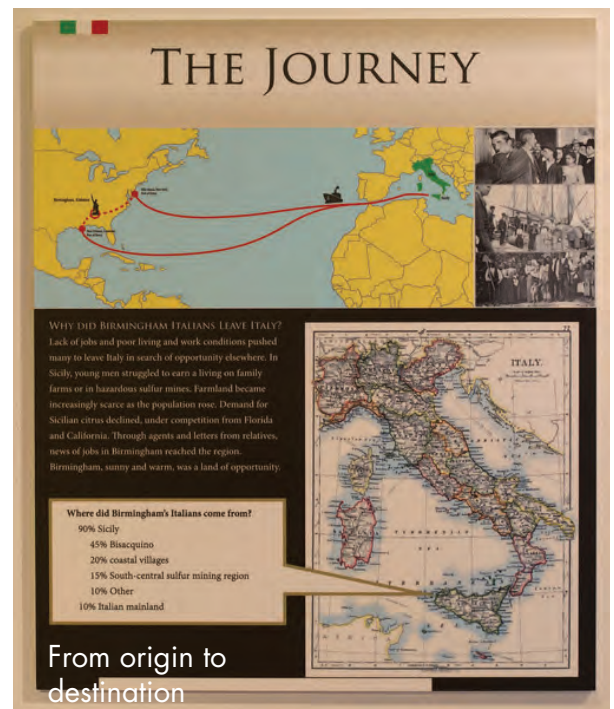
"Beyond the craftsmanship of their work, there's something poetic about the stonemasons providing a showcase for the work of a great Italian genius, Vulcan sculptor Giuseppe Moretti."

The irony, he said, is that Moretti, born and trained in Sienna, built the symbol of Birmingham at a time that Italian foundry workers would have faced workplace discrimination.

"When the stonemasons built Moretti's Vulcan his sandstone tower some 30 years later," Ratliff said, "it's as if the community had finally laid claim to their part of the symbolism created by their fellow Italian." ■



Bust of beloved priest who founded three Italian parishes



AHF Board welcomes two new members

A museum director and a prominent attorney are the two newest members elected to Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. John Hall, director of the Black Belt Museum at the University of West Alabama, and Huntsville attorney Julian D. Butler were unanimously elected to a three-year term at the board's quarterly meeting in May.

Since 2004, Dr. Hall has served as Black Belt Museum director and is organizing a regional museum at the University of West Alabama relating to the arts, culture and natural history of the Black Belt. He is a former director of natural history for University of Alabama Museum of Natural History and served as executive director of the Alabama Museums Association. A featured speaker and lecturer, Dr. Hall has written numerous papers and books. He is very active in community work and serves on the board of directors for Alabama Archaeological Association, Alabama Historical Association and Bartram Trail Conference as well as being member of a number of state historical and natural history organizations.

"I am proud to join the board of directors of Alabama Humanities Foundation," Dr. Hall said. "Its work around the state in exploring, discovering and promoting the humanities is impressive."

Julian Butler is a senior partner in the Huntsville office of the southeast law firm of Sirote and Permutt and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and Alabama Super Lawyers in commercial litigation. He served as county attorney for Madison County, a position held for 35 years. He is former president of the National Association of County Civil Attorneys, board member of National Association of Counties, represented America's Counties on the Board of the State and Local Legal Center in Washington, D.C. He was founder and sole county attorney on the Advisory Committee of the National Association of Counties' Financial Services Center.

A former chairman of Leadership Huntsville-Madison County and a graduate of Leadership Alabama, Butler has played leadership roles in civic activities across the state.

He served as president of the Arts Council, vice president of the General Joe Wheeler Home Foundation, president of Huntsville/Madison County Chapter of The University of Alabama Alumni Association and twice as chairman of the Creek District of Boy Scouts of America.

He is a trustee of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation, trustee of the Eleventh Circuit Historical Society, advisory board member



Dr. John Hall



Julian D. Butler

of Village of Promise and trustee of Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform.

"The innovative programs of the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the grants and scholarships it awards enrich the lives of a broad spectrum of Alabamians," Butler said. "I am honored to have the opportunity to participate in the activities of the Foundation as a board member."

"We are extremely pleased with the selection of our newest board members," said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser. "They bring much experience and expertise to the table and will complement our active board in promoting the humanities throughout Alabama." ■

Board Nominations:

Any resident of the state of Alabama may submit nominations for Alabama Humanities Foundation's Board of Directors.

If you are interested in joining AHF's Board of Directors, email your resumé and contact information to the Nominations Committee chair at nominationscommittee@ahf.net.

To nominate someone you know, email a letter of recommendation to the Nominations Committee chair at nominationscommittee@ahf.net.

Inside the new AHF logo

By Claire Brown

New logo

From first glance, it is hard to mistake the meaning behind Alabama Humanities Foundation's new logo. The disciplines of the humanities make up the outline of the state of Alabama, proclaiming AHF's mission to spread its message from one end of the state to the other and all points in between.

In celebration of the 40 years of fostering the humanities in Alabama, AHF decided to redesign its logo. Troy University graphic design students, under the direction of Professor Ed Noriega, competed to design it.

Emerging with the winning design was Jiahua Li, which was selected by AHF's Board of Directors in May.

"We thank Troy University for its generous commitment of time, resources and talent to this project," said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser. "We also thank Board of Directors member Janice Hawkins who helped coordinate the project."

"As we move forward in spreading our message across this state, we knew we needed a logo that kept pace with the aggressive approach we now take in fulfilling our mission," added AHF Board Chair Guin Robinson. "The new, bold colors and the disciplines forming the shape of the state are an innovative way to illustrate the idea of how our message is spreading throughout Alabama."

About the Designer

Jiahua Li is a native of Nanjing, China, who graduated from Troy University in May 2014.

"I decided to become a graphic designer because I enjoy creating something tangible from an idea inside the mind," Li said.

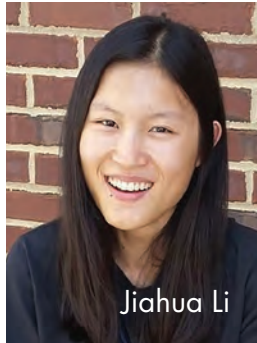
To design the logo, she imposed the humanities disciplines — philosophy, literature, ethics, history, jurisprudence, languages and history of the arts — artistically within the shape of the state of Alabama.

"I think the logo conveys the mission of AHF, which is to foster learning, understanding and appreciation of our people, communities and cultures," she said.

About the Color Scheme and Design

Li used a color scheme of black and red because they are both powerful colors that embody strength and stability. "Red is the color of courage and determination. Black is the color of resolve and a steady foundation."

Li designed the logo with different variations to fit multiple uses, including the celebration of AHF's 40th anniversary. ■



PHILOSOPHY
LITERATURE
ETHICS • HISTORY
JURISPRUDENCE
HISTORY OF THE ARTS
LANGUAGES
**ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
FOUNDATION**

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LANGUAGES
**ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
FOUNDATION** **40th**
ANNIVERSARY

An inside look at SUPER

From residential institutes to traveling workshops, teachers across Alabama are taking advantage of these free opportunities through SUPER Teacher program to enhance their teaching and their students' learning. What better way to experience SUPER's impact than through the eyes of the teachers themselves? Following are their stories in their own words.

By Marcus Harris
Spanish teacher at
Oxford High School

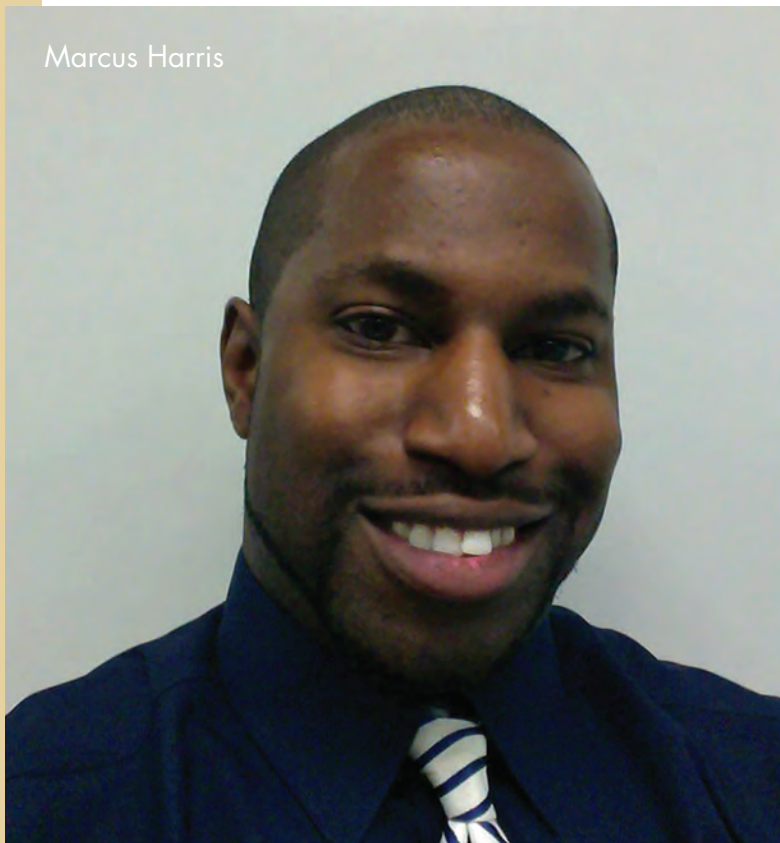
The SUPER experience was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. This is not only in relation to professional development in my content area, but ever! I looked forward to this full-immersion experience all summer, and somehow it even exceeded these high expectations.

This summer, I participated in the *Social Movements in Latin America: Exclusion, Popular Protests and Democratization* institute led by Dr. Leonor Vazquez-Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Montevallo. This four-day institute was a Spanish-immersion program, which means participants only spoke Spanish throughout the program.

On day one, the immersion began, and as we met each other, I could already tell this would be a fun challenge. To see so many diverse teachers from all over the world unified by a language that was not English gave my job meaning. This was much more than just an educational experience. We were able to bond as teachers while enjoying delicious food, socializing in the lobby and late evening walks. We even had "mini fiestas" during breaks where we sang karaoke and showed off our various Latin dancing skills!

I constantly think back to a person or a memory that happened while there. I did not realize that five days could impact my life so much. There were so many benefits provided to me by attending SUPER. Not only did I feel more comfortable in my ability to speak the language, but I also learned so much that I will apply to my class. The other teachers all had great ideas for effective teaching, and our institute instructors taught us so much pertaining to the topic of human rights and strategies for effectively teaching this topic. The lessons I will teach pertaining to this are sure to open my students' minds. Our instructors' passion on the topics motivated me to learn more about these issues going on in the world.

Marcus Harris



Elizabeth Pipkin





An institute workshop on World War I is a new concept for SUPER. It is traveling the state to teachers' regions rather than teachers traveling to a residential institute.

As the school year progresses, I am using these lessons in my classroom. I have at least two weeks, if not months, worth of lessons for my classes.

I will cherish this experience for the rest of my life and certainly apply my experience to my classroom in many ways. I cannot thank the Alabama Humanities Foundation and their supporters enough for this experience.

By Elizabeth Pipkin
Special Education teacher
at Homewood High School

As an Alabama teacher in the 21st century, technology is a part of student learning and teacher implementation. I am proud to be in a state that has such a great resource as the Alabama Humanities Foundation that is proactive when such shifts in educational paradigms and practices occur. AHF provides Alabama teachers with professional learning opportunities that integrate the humanities with the technology opportunities that are happening in our state, as well as in the nation.

In a very short period, computer/digital technology has changed the way we integrate learning platforms for the students of Alabama in all areas of science, math and humanities. I am working with students who are "digital natives" and savvy in the ways of the new-technology learning.

As a digital immigrant, I embraced the SUPER Teacher Program on July 29, 2014, to become more enthusiastic in the use of technology as a learning vehicle for my students. I participated in *Team-Based & Collaborative Learning in Digital Environments for the Humanities* led by Rosie O'Beirne, Director of Digital Media & Learning at UAB. Her team provided the guidance to help digital immigrants to gain the knowledge needed in order to keep up with digital natives in their classrooms. She also offered the participants to become a member of the UAB digital-learning community for support and additional resources.

It is important that we as digital citizens are aware of the vast resources at our finger tips that aid in student learning. The open-resource classroom is not in the future but here today. My goal for school year 2014-2015 is to use the computer to help my students navigate their curriculums as well as effectively communicate

using the open resource concept.

As a teacher at Homewood Middle School, I have many technological avenues in which to use the digital platform to help students in their learning through teacher blogs, Google documents, Google tools and checking grades online. My technology goals are to help students access these tools to help navigate student learning and success at Homewood High School.

This SUPER helped connect technology training from my school to digital communities throughout the state. These professional learning opportunities of Alabama Humanities Foundation help aid teachers in meeting student needs in the Alabama schools of today. I am very thankful to be part of such a great organization. ■

AHF is currently finalizing plans for the 2015 SUPER institutes and workshops that will include content-specific topics such as history, foreign languages, technology, civil rights history and literature.

Visit www.alabamahumanities.org to learn more about the program.

SUPER Supporters

- A.S. Mitchell Foundation
- Daniel Foundation of Alabama
- Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund
- Hearin Chandler Foundation
- Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation
- Protective Life Foundation
- Stephens Foundation
- Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust
- Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust
- Wells Fargo Foundation

MUSEUM on MAIN STREET

Museum on Main Street leaves lasting impact



Bob Hollis rose from a wheelchair, steadying himself on the historic display of Avondale Mills, the centerpiece of Pell City's early growth as a town.

He stretched as tall as he could to point to a 1930s panoramic photo of a young boy in overalls running with classmates, their books in tow with a strap. A smile ensued, a photographer snapped the picture, and it was recorded — Bob Hollis, then and now.

Poignant moments like those were the standard throughout the five-week exhibit, *The Way We Worked*, which blended the Smithsonian Institution's national version with an extensive local exhibit tracing Pell City's history from founding to present day.

Thousands of visitors made their way through the exhibit and attended its programs, coming away with a real sense of having just witnessed an historic event of their own.

To them, it was more than a national exhibit many would not have had the opportunity to see otherwise. It was more than the thousands of photographs, artifacts and interactive displays that told the story of a city and nation at work. It was the reaction from the people, themselves, that tells this story and captures the essence of what it means to host this exhibition.

For cities like ours along the Smithsonian traveling exhibit trail, the journey begins long before the ribbon is cut and the doors open to this historic event.

Just days before the opening in Pell City,



Today's Bob Hollis points out the photo of him as a boy heading to the mill school.



Turnout
impressive at
opening of
exhibit

the first stop on this yearlong tour of *The Way We Worked*, Project Director Pam Foote reflected on how this community-driven event came to be. It was no easy task, she admitted. “But the end result will be well worth the effort.”

She was right. By the exhibition’s end, more than 7,032 people representing 21 states had toured the exhibit — hundreds coming back again and again because “we couldn’t see it all.” They wanted to see every photo on giant graphic boards, read every narrative, turn every page of flip books which held more photographs — *their* photographs, *their* history.

But that’s not the only story in this. It is the story of a small city coming together to make something big happen right in their own hometown.

Because it was the first site, Pell City had the shortest amount of time to get ready. So Foote quickly assembled a core committee called Pell City Works, and they did as the name implied. They went right to work.

On the committee were the ultimate movers and shakers — school superintendent, business executives, the chamber director, retired educators, the city manager, the library director and a host of others whose skills and expertise complemented one another.

Alabama Humanities Foundation seeded the effort with a \$2,000 grant. The City of Pell City added \$3,750, and the St. Clair County Commission invested \$2,500.

Lawmakers and Alabama Department of Tourism anted more shares, and 12,000 brochures — the first official signal of what was to come — were developed, designed and distributed throughout the state, mostly in the St. Clair County area.

From there, businesses and individuals kept the momentum going by pushing fundraising over the \$30,000 mark in dollars and cents. At least \$20,000 more came in the form of in-kind services from local companies, the school system and individuals.

“Our community has really stepped up to the plate to make this a reality,”

Hometown Teams traveling exhibit coming to Alabama

Alabama has been selected to host the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit Hometown Teams in 2016.

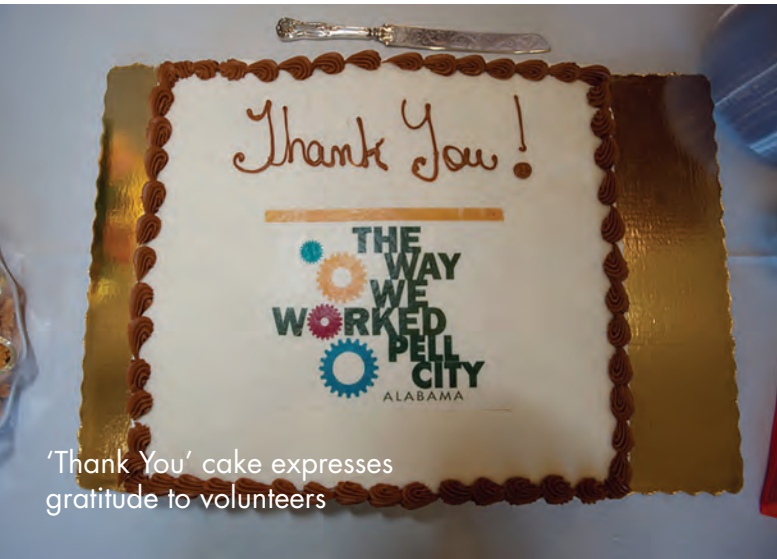
The exhibit is part of the Museum on Main Street program, which seeks to bring a Smithsonian exhibit to small towns and cities across the country.

Hometown Teams centers on sports, which are an indelible part of our culture and community. For more than 100 years, sports have reflected the trials and triumphs of the American experience and helped shape our national character.

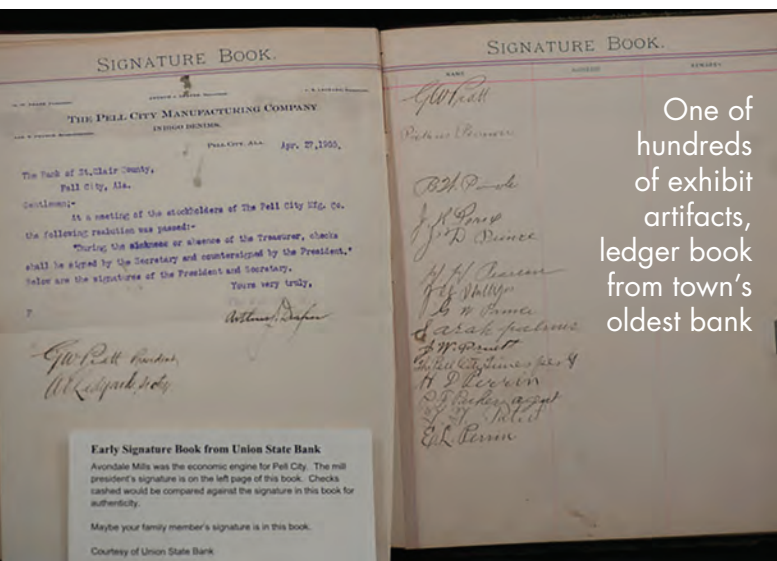
Six cities in Alabama will be chosen to host this national exhibit which will tour the state for one year. Traditionally, host cities present a local exhibit of their own to complement the Smithsonian’s national emphasis on the subject, giving visitors an in-depth look from national and local perspectives.

For more information or to apply for hosting, contact Thomas Bryant, grants director, Alabama Humanities Foundation. He may be reached at: 205-558-3997 or tbryant@alabamahumanities.org.

MUSEUM on MAIN STREET



'Thank You' cake expresses gratitude to volunteers



One of hundreds of exhibit artifacts, ledger book from town's oldest bank



Pell City Players, a local theatre troupe, dressed in period costume and interacted with the opening crowd in the roles of historic citizens.

Foote said at the time. "From donations of equipment, labor, design and even a website, companies came forward offering their services for free. Dozens and dozens of volunteers are handling everything from tour guide to putting up signs and banners. This truly is a community effort."

And she was right again.

Because Pell City has no museum, "we virtually had to create one for this five-week exhibition," Foote said. Pell City Works contracted with John Kelton of Kelton Design, a Huntsville museum consultant whose work has appeared at museums around the region.

"John was great to work with," Foote said. "His vision and our vision seemed to be one. He teamed with our own Jeremy Gossett, whose experience as a set designer and previous work with a Smithsonian exhibit, helped us transform the grand lobby at Center for Education and Performing Arts into a bonafide museum exhibition. And with Pell City Library Director Danny Stewart as historian and Carol Pappas of Partners by Design writing the narratives, it all came together to tell Pell City's story."

Residents came forward with artifacts and old photographs, and the history of this mill town that has become a thriving city started to be told.

People talk a lot about 'buy in' when they undertake a major project. In Pell City, people did not just buy in, they took ownership. Docents spent untold hours telling the city's story to students and citizens as they guided them through the exhibit. The pride heard in their voices told visitors of early struggles with poverty and child labor and how they were overcome.

They sparked 'remember whens' by the dozens with each tour they led. And they engaged young and old alike in powerfully moving conversations about then and now in their hometown.

As they gazed at photographs, we saw tears of remembrance and smiles of recognition of someone they knew or possibly themselves.

We heard parents in 'teachable moments,' explaining life as it was when they were a child or their own parents were children.

They stuffed nearly \$2,000 — most of them dollar bills — into an acrylic donation box as they exited. It was their buy in, their small symbol of gratitude for bringing their history home at long last.

Inquiries by the hundreds asked what would become of the exhibit and as we hoped, it has become a catalyst for talk of establishing a city museum. For now, it will become part of the genealogy section of the city's new library, a fitting tribute to a room where family roots are uncovered and discovered daily.

So this Museum on Main Street — just as others who have come before us and still others that will follow have come to realize — is bigger than a traveling exhibit. It embodies exactly what was intended. It was our opportunity to think, to learn and to understand the history of the world around us.

Alabama Humanities Foundation gave us that opportunity, and our city will be forever thankful. ■

Humanities can open up the world

By Victoria Vaughan

All the way back to my kindergarten performance in the production of *It's Raining Rabbits* (I was bunny number three), the humanities have played an important part in my life.

That love continued through high school. While in school, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to take Spanish classes, piano lessons and participate in the drama club. I also had the opportunity to be in a production of *Annie* my senior year.

Following high school, I attended Mississippi State University, where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Paralegal Studies. While at Mississippi State, I had the opportunity to spend a summer abroad in Mexico, practicing my Spanish skills and learning about the Mexican culture, one of the most memorable and exciting experiences of my life.

I am continuing my trek through the humanities in the area of jurisprudence working as a paralegal. When I moved to Birmingham last year, I wanted to find a way to get involved in the community and meet like-minded people who also have a deep appreciation for the humanities. I found that in the Alabama Humanities Foundation. I am thrilled to be a part of an organization that is involved in the community promoting a love for the humanities. AHF brings people together with different backgrounds who are linked by a common denominator to achieve a common goal.

In the short time that I have been a part of this wonderful organization, I have met some amazing people and have seen firsthand some of the different ways that we share our love for the humanities.

One such way is through the Prime Time Family Reading Time program. This program brings families together for a weekly story time. It takes place in different areas of the state that are unfortunately underserved and do not receive a lot of funding. From the first time I attended, I was hooked. When you participate in this program, you are not just simply reading the children a wonderful story. You are also letting them use their imaginations and hopefully, instilling a lifelong love of reading. And just as important, you are bringing families together and getting them to engage in meaningful conversation. The scholars take a simple children's story and make a real-life application, teaching valuable life lessons. I know the children's infectious smiles will always be ingrained in my memory.

I believe it is vital for us to instill an appreciation for the humanities in children from an early age. You cannot go wrong with the humanities. It is such a broad area and covers every interest imaginable.

When you help someone discover and explore the humanities, you are opening up a world of opportunities for a child. That is why I love that the Alabama Humanities Foundation provides programs such as Prime Time Family Reading Time. I am excited as I think of what the future holds for generations to come.

We already have more dates scheduled for Prime Time, and I am looking forward to once again tapping into my inner child as we delve into a world of cunning monkeys, sly alligators and fairy godmothers. In a story, you can be anyone from a frog to a prince or do anything (like flying), and I hope that spills over and gives the children the confidence to know that they can become anything. And it all begins with the humanities. Open up the humanities to a child, and you open up the world. ■

Victoria Vaughn is a member of AHF's Young Professionals.



AHF Young Professional
Victoria Vaughan



Networking
integral part
of YP



YP Night
at Rojo



AHF Executive
Director Armand
DeKeyser with YP

PRIME TIME

Family Reading Time expanding across Alabama

When a program is successful, the natural inclination is to do it again. That's precisely what Florence-Lauderdale Public Library has done with the growing Prime Time Family Reading Time, and other communities are following suit. Still others are coming on board for the first time, hoping to emulate Florence-Lauderdale's success story throughout Alabama.

On September 9, 2013, the library welcomed eight families and 23 participants for its first Prime Time Family Reading Time Program. Families engaged with award-winning children's literature, and discussed humanities-based themes with trained storytellers and scholars. In spring 2014, Florence-Lauderdale Public Library conducted its second program and nearly doubled its participation for Prime Time, embracing 14 families and 49 participants for reading, fun, food and discussion. In fall 2014, this site will open its doors again to eager families and children, seeking literacy and humanities education through the Prime Time experience.

Florence's story represents the recent history of many libraries and sites that have made Prime Time Family Reading Time a part of their programming. Since becoming a state affiliate of Prime Time Family Reading Time in Fall 2013, Alabama Humanities Foundation has expanded its sites from two pilot programs in Florence and Birmingham, to eight sites across the state. The Prime Time family is growing at a significant rate, and with this growth, Prime Time in Alabama will continue to serve many diverse communities and families through literacy and humanities education.

Prime Time Expansion

Since the fall of 2014, AHF has expanded Prime Time Family Reading Time into various educational and community-based organizations. To date, Prime Time sites include libraries, schools, and community-based organizations.

The first phase of Prime Time expansion, in spring 2014, included the Parkway Branch of the

By Dionne Clark



Scenes from Prime Time at the Weaver-Bolden Branch of the Tuscaloosa Public Library



Did You Know? AHF's Prime Time Reading Time sites have:

- Served 61 families and 161 participants through literacy and humanities-based discussions, healthy meals, free transportation, books and door prizes since fall 2013.
- Circulated 915 books through the program.
- Trained 32 professionals in Alabama that lead the program throughout the state.
- Served five counties: Jefferson, Lauderdale, Mobile, Wetumpka and Tuscaloosa counties.



Mobile Public Library and YWCA of Central Alabama. Both sites yielded enthusiasm in implementing Prime Time Family Reading Time into their programmatic arms. Program Coordinator Kharen Chapman of the Parkway Branch of Mobile Public Library welcomed 12 families and 46 participants to their first Prime Time program. The YWCA of Central Alabama, AHF's first community-based Prime Time site, served their local housing community in Birmingham's Woodlawn area. Families interacted with the YWCA's Prime Time staff and engaged in humanities-based discussions.

This fall kicked off the second phase of AHF's Prime Time expansion, and it made a significant impact in the Alabama community. In July, staff from five sites participated in extensive training for the development of Prime Time in their areas. Birmingham Public Library's Inglenook Branch and Five Points West joined the Prime Time family. The Weaver-Bolden Branch of Tuscaloosa Public Library hosted Prime Time and Prime Time Preschool. Elmore County Board of Education served as AHF's first school implementation of Prime Time Family Reading Time. Coosada Elementary (Millbrook, AL) and Holtville Elementary (Deatsville, AL) served families in their local communities. ■

2014 Fall Prime Time Sites

Coosada Elementary School
Millbrook
Aug. 26 – Sept. 30

Holtville Elementary School
Deatsville
Sept. 2 – Oct. 7

Inglenook Branch of Birmingham Public Library
Birmingham, AL
Sept. 4 – Oct. 9

Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
Florence
Sept. 8 – Oct. 13

Woodlawn Branch of Birmingham Public Library
Birmingham
Sept. 9 – Oct. 14

Parkway Branch of Mobile Public Library
Mobile
Sept. 16 – Oct. 21

Weaver-Bolden Branch of Tuscaloosa
Public Library
Tuscaloosa
Sept. 23 – Oct. 28

Five Points West Branch of Birmingham
Public Library
Birmingham
Sept. 23 – Oct. 28

Endorsing the Humanities



Alabama Power CEO Mark Crosswhite delivers keynote address, stressing importance of humanities and announcing a major grant for pre-K program, Brighter Minds.

Alabama Power steps up to fund education program

When the head of one of the most influential companies in Alabama speaks, people tend to listen. As Mark Crosswhite, CEO of Alabama Power Co., spoke about the importance of the humanities, many in the audience of more than 420 nodded in agreement.

After all, he told those gathered for the Annual Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon, companies like his need employees who are “creative thinkers... innovators... who help us think in different ways.”

Those skills of understanding history and changing culture are “cultivated by the study of humanities,” he said.

Alabama Power’s role in economic development and industry recruitment is buoyed by humanities’ role in providing those ‘outside-the-box’ thinkers and enhancing education and the quality of life for Alabama citizens, he said.

But the humanities’ role doesn’t end there. “Arts and humanities is an industry in its own right,” Crosswhite said. “It is an \$8.7 billion Alabama industry, and that’s very important.”

Arts and humanities employs 71,000 Alabamians. He compared it to the equivalent of 71 Airbus plants. “It enriches the lives of all of us who live here in Alabama.”

Looking to the future, he talked of the need to develop a “young creative class of people.”

He cited AHF’s Prime Time Family Reading Time, which brings whole families together to read, comprehend and discuss what they have read as a family. It complements the Brighter Minds early learning, pre-K program that “sets children on a better course to stay in school and stay out of trouble.”

It is a program other states want to emulate, but funding in Alabama falls well short of what is needed to fully implement it. In a surprise announcement, Crosswhite put into action the premise that business should play a role in education and helping establish programs like it.

He took the opportunity of having an audience of civic, business and humanities leaders to announce that Alabama Power Foundation will contribute \$10,000 each to 14 classrooms across the state in underprivileged areas for expansion of Brighter Minds.

He did it to underscore the importance of mutually beneficial partnerships. It must be a collaborative effort, he noted. “Education, humanities and economic development are all intertwined.” ■



2014 AWARDS LUNCHEON

Awards, anniversaries highlight annual luncheon

A cultural arts activist, a university chancellor and a trucking firm executive shared center stage Oct. 6 at Alabama Humanities Annual Awards Luncheon at Birmingham's The Club, each honored for their contributions to the humanities in Alabama.

It actually represented a quadruple celebration all rolled into one special event — the awards ceremony, announcement of the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships, 25th anniversary of the luncheon and the 40th anniversary of AHF.

More than 420 civic, business and humanities leaders from across Alabama gathered for this year's luncheon, which saw AHF's top honors given to Betty McMahon, Alabama Humanities Award; Dr. Jack Hawkins, Wayne Greenhaw Service Award; and AAA Cooper, Charitable Organization to the Humanities Award.

McMahon inspired by arts

Described as a "lifelong contributor to cultural life in Birmingham," the impact of McMahon's work is felt as a community leader, activist and patron. She has a passion for the arts, and she works tirelessly to promote them.

In accepting the award, McMahon noted that "the arts are what makes our country strong."

She is a graduate of Huntingdon College and served as a teacher in her career, but her contributions to the humanities came as a community leader, philanthropist and patron.

She chaired the Birmingham-Southern College Fine Arts Society, served on the board of directors of Birmingham Children's Theatre and Red Mountain Theatre Company.

She serves on the Board of Managers of Virginia Samford Theatre and was involved in the initial major renovation that reopened the theatre.

Her civic involvement is seen in the historic Alabama Theatre, Sidewalk Film Festival, McWane Science Center, Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Alabama Ballet, Lyric Fine Arts Theatre and UAB's Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center.

But it doesn't stop there. She works with Sugar Babies dance group, which performs free of charge at theatre and charity events, helping raise significant funds for charities throughout the state.

McMahon earned the Alumni Loyalty Award from Huntingdon College National Alumni Association. At Huntingdon, she has been heavily involved as Gift Agent, member of the National Alumni Board, secretary of the Board of Trustees, member of the Presidential Search Committee and has an endowed scholarship in her name that offers students financial assistance to attend Huntingdon.

Hawkins' service to humanities lauded

When Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. accepted the Wayne Greenhaw Service Award, he employed a quote from Helen Keller: "The best and most beautiful



AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser



AHF Board Chair Guin Robinson with 2014 Alabama Humanities Award winner Betty McMahon



Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins (left), winner of Wayne Greenhaw Service Award presented by AHF Board Member Al Head

things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.”

She must have had the humanities in mind, he said, underscoring its integral role in understanding the world around us.

Named for the late author and commentator, the service award goes to present and former board members of AHF who have greatly contributed to strengthening the humanities. AHF Board Member Al Head described the award's namesake as a “great ambassador for the state of Alabama, AHF and the role of humanities in our society.”

In presenting the award to Hawkins, he talked of his many contributions to the humanities and his unparalleled work at Troy. “His leadership, service and vision have achieved iconic status,” he said.

Hawkins served on the AHF board from 1988 to 1992, and his contributions to the humanities as member and in the years since “have been immense,” Head said.

Hawkins serves as chancellor of Troy University, with campuses in Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City. Under his leadership at Troy, the university has hosted SUPER Teacher institutes, workshops and receptions. He guided thousands of dollars in funding to AHF programs through his work with Daniel Foundation and through his own personal gifts.

He has served as chancellor since 1989. Prior to coming to Troy, he was president of Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. He was assistant dean/associate professor, director of Student and Public Relations at University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Health Related Professions. He also was executive director of Health Careers Council of Alabama, Alabama Hospital Association.

A native of Mobile, he served in the marine corps in the Vietnam War. Among his many honors is the Distinguished Public Service Award presented by the secretary of the Air Force for his service in an advisory capacity to Air Force education efforts which led to the accreditation of all Air University programs.

It was noted that he and wife, Janice, make a good humanities team. She is a current member of the AHF board.

AAA Cooper impact felt across state

In presenting the charitable contributions award, AHF Board Member Christina Nettles talked of the firm's impact on nearly every county in the state over the past 15 years.

AAA Cooper is based in Dothan with an office in Birmingham as well and is a multi-regional transportation solutions provider. As such, it has transported — at no charge — the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, Museum on Main Street, throughout Alabama to six host cities per year for the past decade and a half. The value of that gift is estimated at more than \$5,000 per exhibition tour.

To give an idea of the magnitude of that cargo, Nettles pointed out it involves 12 to 15 crates, weighing 1.5 to 2.5 tons and has been central to the success of the Museum on Main Street program in Alabama. Last year, 25,600 people visited those exhibits.

The family-owned company had its beginnings in the 1930s and has service centers across the country and in Puerto Rico. Successful partnerships have enabled it to expand into Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

AAA Cooper Transportation has earned a number of safety and maintenance management awards for its operation.

AAA Cooper's Jeremy Dollar, in accepting the award, said it was “an honor to be associated with Alabama Humanities Foundation. Our employees have been the beneficiaries” because of their direct involvement in a program that has a “real and powerful impact.” ■



AHF Board Member Lajuana Bradford presenting 2014 Alabama Humanities Award



AHF Board Chair Guin Robinson introducing keynote speaker Mark Crosswhite (left), CEO of Alabama Power Co.



From left, AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser, AHF Board Chair Guin Robinson, AHF Board Member Christina Nettles, award presenter, AAA Cooper's Jeremy Dollar and Tim Burch.

Scholarships continue to remember Riley

From left are: AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser, AHF Programs Director Dionne Clark, Lucy Bloodworth, Patsy Riley, former Gov. Bob Riley, Abby Lucas, Brandy Russell, Lindsey Irvin, Haley Dykes and Edgar Welden, who was instrumental in establishing the scholarship.



Thanks to Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships awarded to six teachers across the state, kindergarten students will learn the importance of voting and civic responsibility. Second graders will travel the globe without leaving their classroom. Third and fourth graders will help design and build a structure to house an historic bell.

At one elementary school, a drama program will be created to help students learn through dramatic expression. A community garden planted and tended by students will give them hands-on learning while providing a service to the community. And still other students will discover how Alabamians have inspired and impacted the world.

Alabama Humanities Foundation awarded six Alabama teachers with the 2014 Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships for outstanding teaching projects at its annual luncheon Oct. 6, at Birmingham's The Club. It gave them an opportunity to share what is in store for their classrooms with more than 420 civic, business and humanities leaders in attendance.

Named for the late daughter of Gov. Bob and Patsy Riley, the scholarships seek to recognize elementary school teachers whose classroom projects enhance the learning experience for their students.

Receiving the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships for excellence in teaching were: Lucy Bloodworth, McElwain Christian Academy, Birmingham; Haley Dykes, Paine Primary School, Trussville; Lindsey Irvin, Calera Elementary, Calera; Abby Lucas, St. Aloysius Catholic School, Bessemer; Lesa Roberts, J.E. Williams Elementary, Huntsville; and Brandy Russell, Weaver Elementary, Weaver.

Lucas' project is "Community Involvement," which will be an opportunity for her students to create a community garden with colorful plants and art somewhere in the city that could benefit from those improvements.

"Smiling is a chain reaction," she said. And with this garden, she hopes to brighten the community and challenge other schools to do likewise. The project, she noted, will be an opportunity for her students to say, "I did that for my community."

Irvin's proposal is "Ackridge Arboretum Church Bell Project," which is aimed at promoting "civic involvement, community pride and an opportunity for historic research," she said.

It centers on building a structure to house an historic bell once located in a tower of Calera Presbyterian Church, adjacent to the city's park project, Ackridge Arboretum. The students will research and collaborate in the design of the structure.

"It will bring a piece of history back to our city," she said, and

give her students a "one-of-a kind experience."

Dykes' project is "Globetrotting With StrataLogica," which will employ a geography-based computer software program to give students the ability to "visualize and comprehend the ways in which geography has impacted events, politics and populations throughout human history."

In Dykes' classroom, she said, students can "globetrot anywhere in the world within seconds," giving them the opportunity to broaden their perspectives and knowledge.

Russell's idea gives birth to "WES Drama All-Stars," which will create a drama program for K-6 students, who will present two performances this school year — *The American Revolution* and *The Environmental Show*.

Performances get students involved in history and the environment through dramatic expression and will "truly engage students' imagination," she said.

Roberts' class will learn how "Alabamians Inspire and Impact the World." Students will be studying about Alabamians whose influence "changed the course of history for their state and nation, as well as internationally," she said.

In addition, students will make their impact on their own community by raising funds for worthy projects, which will help them be able to donate to state museums.

Bloodworth's project, "STATE the Facts," is an innovative way to help students recognize and understand the importance of voting. Because the school also houses a polling place on election days, Bloodworth is hoping to capitalize on its living civics lesson for her students.

They will produce posters thanking voters for voting. She will be able to purchase an iPad, iBooks and other materials aimed at enhancing her students' understanding of what it means to exercise the right to vote.

Because of these \$1,000 scholarships, teachers are able to purchase 'extras' for their classrooms and schools to better reach and teach their students.

Known as a teacher whose passion was teaching, "Jenice would have loved that she is connected with each of these projects," Patsy Riley said.

She called AHF's role in facilitating and awarding the scholarships "an honor" for the family, and she thanked former AHF board member Edgar Welden for establishing the scholarship in her daughter's memory. "What a difference this organization makes in thousands of people's lives each and every day." ■

— by Carol Pappas

AHF celebrates 40 years and looks forward to next 40

By Carol Pappas

The year was 1974. Across the nation, bell bottoms were in. President Richard Nixon was on his way out.

At home here in Alabama, an organization was taking shape that would impact Alabamians over the next 40 years. And the journey continues.

In 2014, Alabama Humanities celebrates its 40th anniversary, and the evolution of this organization is a story in itself.

It began at the invitation of National Endowment for the Humanities to distribute federal humanities funds at the state level. Early higher education leaders in the effort to establish that organization were university presidents David Mathews of Alabama and Harry Philpott of Auburn. Government, business and professional leaders joined the cause.

And the Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy — named Alabama Humanities Foundation in 1986 — was born.

Today's mission sounds straightforward enough: Alabama Humanities Foundation fosters learning, understanding and appreciation of our people, communities and cultures.

But how does it do that? More important, how has it done that? From its earliest days, AHF granted funds to colleges, universities, libraries, museums, historical, arts, schools and community groups for humanities scholarship in public policy.

At first, the funds came from national sources. Then it expanded its coffers from state corporations, foundations and individuals with the aim of creating its own programs in humanities disciplines — history, literature, languages, philosophy, ethics, art history and criticism, archaeology, jurisprudence and linguistics.

It went from a policy-based organization to one that in the early 1980s responded to the public's interest in state and local history and culture.

What followed were programs and projects like the Alabama History and Heritage Festival, Theatre in the Mind, co-sponsored with Alabama Shakespeare Festival to feature lectures, outreach and teacher workshops.

AHF created the Road Scholars speakers bureau, which has scholars crisscrossing the state to deliver free presentations to cultural and community organizations like libraries and historical commissions.

SUPER Teacher Institutes and SUPER Emerging Scholars programs for youths launched, serving thousands over the years. Museum on Main Street began 15 years ago, strengthening AHF's reach into small, rural communities. In 2013, 26,000

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people visited *The Way We Worked* in Alabama. It is now on its second year of the tour and is already drawing significant numbers.

Prime Time Reading Time, a whole family approach to literacy, began as a pilot program two years ago and is now expanding quickly across the state.

In addition to exhibitions, institutes, workshops, speakers bureau and other cultural programs, AHF has been a huge benefactor of documentary films, including the current Ken Burns' *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*.

AHF began coordinating the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship in 2003, which is named for the late daughter of Gov. Bob and Patsy Riley. It rewards innovative teaching in elementary classrooms throughout the state.

In higher education, the Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award encourages professional development among non-tenured faculty at Alabama's colleges and universities and is awarded by AHF.

In 1989, AHF created the Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon, and it has evolved into a major annual event attracting upwards of 400 people and bringing in nationally noted speakers, like E.O. Wilson, Winston Groom, Charles Kuralt and Rick Bragg.

Honorees have been just as impressive: Winton Blount, Wayne Flynt, Albert Brewer, Harper Lee and E.O. Wilson. And the list continues to grow.

On its 25th anniversary in 2014, it became the most successful luncheon in its history.

For 40 years, the impact of Alabama Humanities Foundation has been felt in every corner of the state. And AHF looks forward to the next 40 fostering learning, understanding and appreciation of our people, communities and cultures.

How AHF does that in the future is only limited by its own imagination and the imagination of countless individuals, groups and organizations it serves. ■

— *From Encyclopedia of Alabama*

Reaching out to veterans

New reading and discussion initiative focuses on soldiers

By Thomas Bryant

There are 21.8 million military veterans in America, according to the U.S. Census. Almost 415,000 live in Alabama. Tens of thousands of new veterans are expected to return to the workforce or to college in the next several years as the military downsizes after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan wind down and the Pentagon budget is pared back.

While many service members return home and report rewarding experiences, many others return with varied complex health conditions and find that readjusting to life at home, reconnecting with family, finding work or returning to school is an ongoing struggle. Often, returning service men and women experience a sense of isolation, a lack of common experience with their new civilian counterparts who have never experienced the military or combat.

As part of *Standing Together*, a new National Endowment for the Humanities initiative to promote understanding of the military experience and to support returning veterans, AHF is partnering with the Maine Humanities Council and 12 other state councils to offer scholar-facilitated reading and discussion programs for veterans.

This fall, AHF is piloting *Literature and the Veteran Experience* on the campuses of Auburn University, Troy University, and the University of Alabama. The program complements the foundation's existing work in support of Alabama veterans, specifically the *Literature and Health Care* reading and discussion program offered at VA hospitals around the state.

At the heart of the program are small groups of veterans (10-12 participants) who gather twice-monthly over three months for reading and discussion. A humanities scholar, who is also a veteran, facilitates the sessions. Texts include novels, short fiction, poetry, letters and personal accounts that relate to the military experience. Participants are recruited from the university and surrounding community.



Through the use of the humanities, the program aims to:

- Provide a veteran-centered setting and context for veterans to connect with one another, build relationships, and share their experiences.
- Create an opportunity for veterans to give voice to and reflect upon issues of particular interest or concern.
- Engage with materials that will offer opportunities for veterans to make connections between their own experience and the experiences of others across time and culture.

"This program is such a vital resource for us and our veterans," said Dr. Johnny R. Green, director of Auburn University's Student Veterans Center. "Because I am in daily contact with them, I see how they struggle with the transition process because they have not had the chance to intellectually and emotionally work through their past military career. For many, this will be invaluable because it will be the first time — via the readings—that they have thought deeply about and reflected upon their military experiences. It is a critical step in the healing and transition process." ■

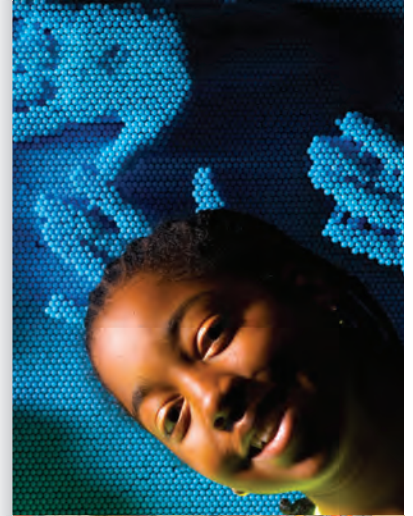
Literature and the Veteran Experience is made possible by grants from National Endowment for the Humanities and the Maine Humanities Council. As with all AHF programs, Literature and the Veteran Experience is provided to participants at no cost.

GIVING ISN'T ABOUT THE CAUSE. IT'S ABOUT THE RIGHT EFFECT.

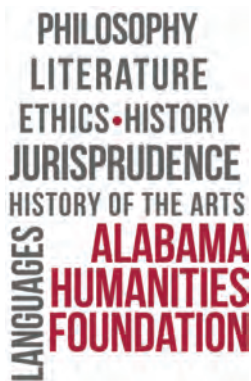
The Alabama Power Foundation does a lot of things. We strive to prepare students for the workplace. We support programs that inform people about the state's history. We work to improve the environment. We've given more than \$100 million since our founding, almost two decades ago. But when it comes down to it, the Foundation believes in making Alabama a better place to live.



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



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