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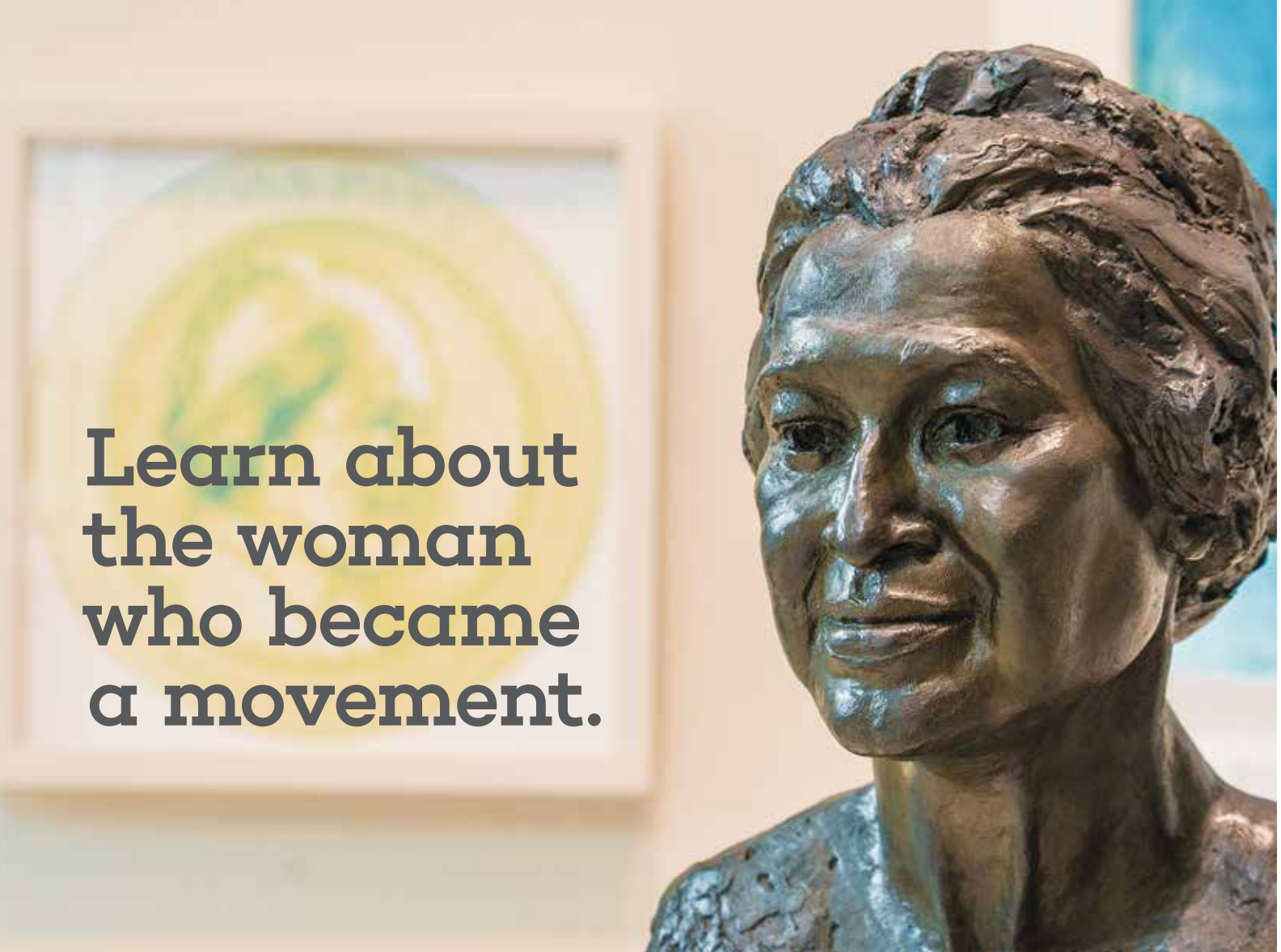
MAGAZINE

Fall 2016



Stony the Road

Walking in the Footsteps of Civil Rights Heroes



Learn about the woman who became a movement.

More than sixty years ago, Rosa Parks' simple act of bravery became an important symbol of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, you can step back in time and experience the sights and sounds that forever changed our country. Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum is a state-of-the-art, interactive facility that honors one of America's most beloved women. Visit today and learn all about this freedom warrior firsthand.

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About the Cover: National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop teachers retrace historic footsteps on Edmund Pettus Bridge.

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For more on the Alabama Humanities Foundation,
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TAKING A CHANCE LEADS TO UNRIVALED OPPORTUNITY

From Executive Director Armand DeKeyser

I had never really thought about the humanities in the terms that Dr. Martha Bouyer put them in, but the message made perfect sense and was, of course, delivered eloquently and powerfully – as only she could do. It's about belief, she told our board of directors recently. It is trusting that innovative learning can lead to a deeper understanding of the world around us and the history that shaped us.

"Because you believed in me and took a chance on me," she told them, her own work has grown into a lasting legacy for the state of Alabama.

Years ago, Bouyer, a revered educator, spotted a void in her school system's curriculum when it came to teaching history. So as she usually does, she filled it.

She reasoned that in a nine-month school year's history survey course, it was virtually impossible to get to history in the modern era, which left little time to study the Civil Rights Movement.

She developed a lesson plan that allowed teachers to delve into Civil Rights study with their students within the parameters given, and she asked Alabama Humanities Foundation for a grant to teach teachers how to use it. Her argument was a compelling one, and she earned the award. The rest, as they say (with no pun intended), is history.

Since that time, she leveraged the initial grant into subsequent ones from AHF and multiple awards from National Endowment for the Humanities. The end result is *Stony the Road We Trod: Alabama's Role in the Civil Rights Movement*.

It is an in-depth, moving, teaching and learning experience that puts the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama in a dramatic, eye-opening perspective that attracted teachers from around the country this summer.

As part of AHF's SUPER Teacher institute and a significant grant from NEH, *Stony the Road*, retraced historic footsteps of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. It led them to a bus in Montgomery, a bridge in Selma, a bombed church in Birmingham and many more stops along the way. They relived those pivotal moments in our nation's history, and



Dr. Martha Bouyer brings a deeper understanding of the Civil Rights Movement

they emerged with a deeper understanding of just what the fight for civil rights meant. They heard it straight from the mouths of history's witnesses – Rosa Parks' attorney, Fred Gray, a Selma marcher, the Rev. Fred Shuttleworth's daughter and so many more of the movement's foot soldiers.

What began as a \$17,500 grant from AHF more than a decade and a half ago—taking its title from the anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," by James Weldon Johnson — *Stony the Road We Trod* has been experienced by teachers from all over the world.

In its infancy, it reached more than 300 educators across Alabama. Then, it began to draw its audience from around the country. Soon, the federal government began sending teachers. International teachers in countries where democracies were beginning and strengthening – Turkey, Kazakhstan and Colombia – joined the momentum.

Add the teachers year after year and multiply the thousands of students those numbers represent year after year. "What they learn and what they experience multiplies," she said. "They tell it over and over for years to come."

And that is how history is made and preserved and exactly how humanities enlightens and inspires.

Well said, Dr. Bouyer, and undoubtedly worth the chance we took!

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

AHF Executive Director

Alabamians on the silver screen

Grants help filmmakers tell the tales

Story by
Carol Pappas

When the theater lights dim and the film flashes upon the big screen, you may not know it, but Alabama Humanities Foundation may have played a role in making it.

Over its grant funding history, AHF has played the part of benefactor to Alabama-based documentaries that have led audiences to revolution in Costa Rica, on the journey of the Freedom Riders and through the untold story of lesbians in the Deep South.

Dozens more films bear AHF's name as a supporter, all with a common theme – understanding complex issues that have their roots in Alabama.

“Our funds may not be large,” said AHF Grants Director Thomas Bryant, “but where they are crucial is AHF acting as a clearinghouse or vetting these documentaries in the early stages. If they apply for a grant and receive it, it is a huge stamp of approval going forward and leading to larger donors,” of AHF grant support.

One such example is *First Lady of the Revolution*, which earned its first grant from AHF in 2011. Spark Media, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit documentary filmmaker, first reached out to AHF about the little known story of a Birmingham native, Henrietta Boggs MacGuire, who would marry a future president of Costa Rica and become a key figure in the 1948 democratic revolution. She would also play a central role in women receiving the right to vote.

“It was like a treasure chest in your backyard you didn’t know anything about,” Bryant said. “Very few people knew anything about it, including in Montgomery where she has lived since returning to the U.S. The grants committee loved it.”

It would become the basis for the first of three AHF grants for the documentary, which premiered at Birmingham’s Sidewalk Film Festival in September.

It would be one of the biggest hits of the festival, winning three awards, including the Audience Award for Best Film in Alabama. Sidewalk created the inaugural Spirit Award to go to Henrietta Boggs MacGuire, the real-life former first lady. Now



in her late 90s, MacGuire appeared at the film festival and other activities and events surrounding the premiere.

MacGuire’s story is incredibly intriguing, as the film subtitle, *A Southern Belle’s Journey Through Love, Exile and Revolution*, suggests, and its impact is being felt well beyond the big screen. Numerous stories have since been published. It has led to a SUPER Teacher Institute for educators across Alabama, and planned is a screening in Washington, D.C. hosted by the Costa Rican Embassy.

The film just recently received the 2016 Indie Fest Award for Excellence.

“The reaction to *First Lady of the Revolution* has been awesome,” Bryant said, “and we are proud to have played a small part in bringing it to fruition.”

But AHF’s role in filmmaking doesn’t stop there. Plenty of examples come to mind, the most recent being the premiere of *Get in the Way*, the first documentary based on the life of Georgia Congressman John Lewis, an Alabama native who played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement. It was produced by Early Light Productions of Los Angeles, California.

Lewis was born in Pike County, Alabama, the son of sharecroppers. He was one of the “Big Six” leaders in the movement, was an original Freedom Rider and was beaten nearly to

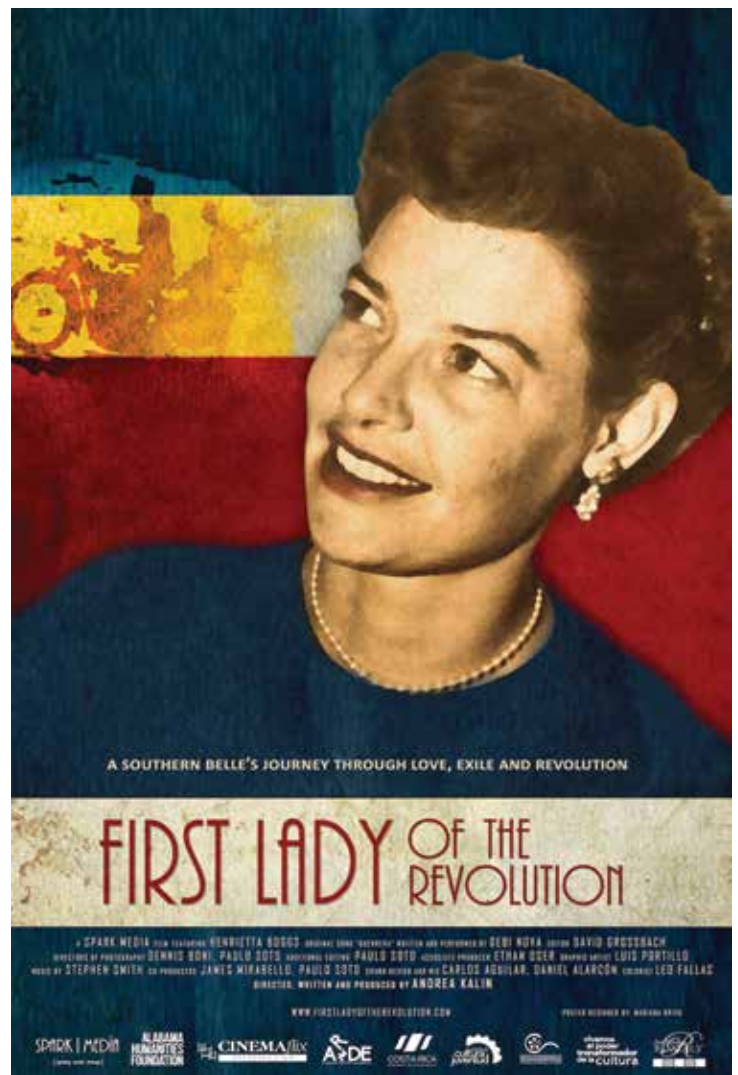
death on the Edmund Pettus Bridge by state troopers in the march from Selma to Montgomery.

After seeing the film, Alicia Phillipp, president of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, said, "The scene of Rep. Lewis voting, even though recent, brought tears to my eyes. How he fought for that to be possible. I can't wait for everyone to experience what I did last night."

"Stories like those beg to be told, and that is the aim of AHF's media grants. Part of our mission is to help make these important stories accessible to the public," Bryant said.

As yet another example, he pointed to the groundbreaking film, *Love, Alabama*. Produced by Michele Forman and directed and co-produced by Lara Embry and Carolyn Sherer, it is in production now. The film follows the lives of several lesbian families in Alabama, "illustrating real life stories of pain, perseverance, strength and humor," according to its overview. It was inspired by the photographic exhibit of Sherer, *Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families In the Deep South*, which opened in 2012 at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and is now touring the country.

AHF has funded several films with director Robert Clem, a Birmingham native now based in New York. *Big Jim Folsom: The Two Faces of Populism* examines the history and politics of the postwar South as seen through the story of Alabama governor James E. "Big Jim" Folsom. *Last of the Bohemians* is the fascinating life of Mobilian Eugene Walter. *The Passion of Miss Augusta*, is based on the life and work of another Mobilian, Augusta Evans Wilson, one of the most popular American writers of the 19th century, famous for strong-willed female characters who often echoed her own life. His most recent film, *How they Got Over*, follows some of the most famous African American quartets of the 20th century and how their music, rooted in spirituals from the slavery era, influenced secular music forms that came after.





Teachers join hands to sing at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery

Teachers on the front steps of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham

'Stony the Road' Traveling Institute

Inspired, enlightened like no other

By T.C. McLemore, Programs Director

*Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past
has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present
has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.*

Stony the road we trod...

*—James Weldon Johnson
Lift Every Voice and Sing*

In my first month as AHF's new programs director, I joined 72 educators from 30 states as they convened in Birmingham to embark on a near 500-mile journey through cities, cotton fields, pine forests, and over rivers to learn in the places where Alabamians changed the world.

This summer's NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop: *Stony the Road We Trod: Alabama's Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement* set my expectations early and set them high for the quality of programming a humanities council is uniquely suited to deliver to teachers. Adequately capturing and summarizing such a profound experience has proven difficult. Fortunately, our guest teachers' reflections offer a collective description of the workshop's influence on their lives and careers. Their comments are featured below in italics.

Dr. Martha Bouyer is a woman on a mission, and it is clear she has a passion for teachers to learn about these really important events of the Civil Rights Movement, and that shines through in everything she does.

As much as it was a matter of calling and conviction for freedom riders in the spring of '61, child crusaders in Birmingham in the spring of '63, or those marching from Selma in '65, so too was it a matter of calling and conviction for our project director Martha Bouyer to share the stories of the Movement. After 16-plus years of guiding educators on this journey through the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, if she showed any signs of slowing down, it was only to provide the rest of us an opportunity to catch up.

Dr. Eskew gave a wonderful lecture at the [Historic] Bethel Baptist Church. Glenn was always available for questions, and gave thoughtful responses that helped deepen our knowledge of Civil Rights.

Alabama native and professor of history at Georgia State University, Glenn Eskew served as our erudite lead scholar. Employing his encyclopedic knowledge of the people, places, and events that shaped the Movement, Glenn played the role of lecturer and tour guide, synthesizing our guest scholars' contributions and contextualizing the teachers' experiences with scholarship.

Alabama truly was the bedrock of the Civil Rights movement, and it is clear they have done a lot to preserve the memory of those who fought hard to gain rights for all people in this country. Seeing the site of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, going through Kelly Ingram Park, imagining children being fire-hosed and attacked by dogs, walking across the Edmund Pettus bridge, walking the streets from Dexter Church to the Capitol—this workshop was non-stop but incredibly well done...

The week was filled with truly once in a lifetime experiences, and it's hard to put into words what it was like to meet and hear from such courageous and inspiring people as Carolyn McKinstry, Calvin Woods, Fred Gray, etc.

Historic places and powerful speakers not only provided an opportunity to engage scholarship in discussion but served as a basis—in a way unmediated by text—to learn and be moved by often neglected histories of ordinary folks striving to make change. Teachers learned of the complexity and burdens of shared histories and also learned that those histories require ongoing public ownership and interpretation.

Overall, the colleagues that were selected were incredible. In fact, my self-esteem took a blow when I saw the caliber of teachers I was working with. It was akin to cresting what you hope is the top of the mountain, only to find that you have another mile to climb. I thought I was a great teacher—but I found out that I am only good (I hope!) because I have seen what great is.

The impact of the workshop was predicated on the voracious pace at which our guest teachers consumed the experiences, readings and lectures. Following visits to historic landmarks, teachers generated intense discussions and lesson plans that translated the week's events for use in their own and other's classrooms. In an effort to initiate a new generation of life-long learners in the continuous reinterpretation of places and events of the Civil Rights Movement, our teachers returned to their respective schools with stories, resources and renewed enthusiasm.

Their charge is to teach youth about the important events that happened in Alabama within a broader discussion of our country's struggle to fully recognize its promise for all of its people.

Honorees enhance Alabama



Award winners from left: Hill Crest's Charles Terry, AHF Board Chair Lynne Berry, Ben and Luanne Russell, Nancy Grisham Anderson.

By Carol Pappas

In their own ways, they share one thing in common: making Alabama a better place. Whether it is through sharing gifts of knowledge, time or financial support, the winners of the Alabama Humanities Awards truly do make a difference.

The 2016 class of honorees is no exception. Through their efforts, countless worthy causes across the state have benefitted from the passion of these individuals and organizations who see needs and never shy from seeking to fill them.

Take Hill Crest Foundation, winner of the Charitable Organization in the Humanities Award. Its grant making impact can be felt in many corners of the state. In 1992, it made its first gift to Alabama Humanities Foundation for its SUPER Teacher program, and it has been a loyal partner ever since.

Other gifts from Hill Crest have gone to the Literature and Health Care program of AHF. The initiative employs literature to work with veteran facilities throughout the state to help health care professionals understand their own work and empathize with those in their care. Other nonprofits have benefitted from Hill Crest's grant giving, including the Shakespeare Festival, education foundations, public colleges and universities.

Nancy Grisham Anderson won the Wayne Greenhaw Service Award, given to a current or former board member

of AHF who has given exemplary service to the humanities in Alabama.

A retired professor from Auburn University at Montgomery, Anderson's skills have taken her well beyond the classroom in pursuit of humanities work. She is a leading scholar in AHF's Road Scholars Speakers' Bureau, and she founded Actions Build Communities in Montgomery, which includes Writers Block – teaching children in low income neighborhoods how to write.

Anderson not only served on the board of directors of AHF, she led it as chair during her tenure.

By the actual numbers, Ben and Luanne Russell's impact can be felt by thousands of children and their families in Alabama. They founded Children's Harbor on Lake Martin, offering a recreational respite for children and families from Children's Hospital.

Later gifts led to the building of the new Children's of Alabama and Children's Harbor in Birmingham.

In accepting the 2016 Alabama Humanities Award, Russell said the more he learned about Alabama Humanities Foundation the more impressed he has become. AHF's scope of work in the state is "just amazing," he said.

In presenting the award to the Russells, board member Trey Granger described their work as heartfelt philanthropy, putting words into action. They have become "beacons of light throughout our state and nation," said Granger.

Jenice Riley scholarships awarded to top teachers

Begun by Alabama Humanities Foundation board member Edgar Welden as a way to honor the memory of an inspiring teacher who lost her battle with cancer at an early age, the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship has grown into an impactful teaching tool for dozens of teachers across Alabama.

Named for the late daughter of former Governor and First Lady, Bob and Patsy Riley, the scholarship is awarded by the Alabama Humanities Foundation each year to teachers who make a difference in their classroom by creating innovative ways to reach and teach children in grades K-6.

Mrs. Riley presented the scholarships at the luncheon and after hearing presentations from each on how they would use their scholarship, she added, "Wow! What it would be like to go back to elementary school and have teachers like this?"

Winners of the 2016 Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship were:

- Lisa Compher, Central Elementary School, Rockford, Coosa County School System.

Compher will use her award to give students the experience of traveling around the world in 180 days through scholastic news magazines, postcards sent to the school from around the world and US and world maps to pinpoint their travels.

- Yvonne Hare, North Highland Elementary School, Bessemer, Jefferson County School System.

In Hare's classroom, students will have a mock election, create a living history museum and learn the important impact each child can have.

- Kim Hinds, Deer Valley Elementary School, Hoover, Jefferson County School System.

Hinds will purchase materials to help history come alive for her students.

- Lori Nelson, Roger B. Chaffee Elementary School, Huntsville, Madison County School System.

Nelson will create a wax museum, where "unforgettable people" of the American Revolution will come to life



Lori Nelson accepts award from former First Lady Patsy Riley

to tell their stories.

- Harrow Strickland, Pick Elementary School, Auburn, Lee County School System.

Strickland will attend a conference and workshop to gain knowledge she can share with her students plus purchase Declaration of Independence and US Constitution materials to help her students better understand their

role and the workings of the nation.

The \$1,000 scholarships are used to enhance the classroom experience for students.

Jenice Riley had a passion for teaching, and the award is meant to continue that legacy in classrooms throughout Alabama. At the presentation, Mrs. Riley told the winning teachers, "You have my heart."



2016 Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship winners

White House chef mixes, meets with students



Chef Mesnier fields questions from Wenonah students.

When former White House Executive Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier came to Birmingham as a guest of keynote luncheon speaker and White House Historical Association President Stewart McLaurin, it was considered quite a treat – much like the pastries he has created over the years.

During his time in Birmingham, he baked with noted chefs Meredith and George McMillan and students at Samford University, and he held a roundtable discussion with junior and senior culinary students from Wenonah High School's Academy of Hospitality and Tourism.

Mesnier served as executive pastry chef in the White House for 26 years for five presidents – Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Born in France, he began cooking as an apprentice. "There was no cooking school," he told Wenonah students. "From Day 1, we were working. I worked from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and I was 14 years old."

He crafted his talk around work ethic, noting that he cleaned the floor for the first year. But in cleaning that floor, he was able to watch the chefs at work and learn.

Mesnier, through a heavy French accent, seemed to mesmerize the students, relating stories about the White

House and preparing dishes for state dinners. "All the White House desserts are very complicated," he said. "It is a lot of pressure, but you get better and better and better. It went on for 26 years. The presidents left, but I stayed."

You must prove yourself, he noted. "They were skeptical until they saw what I could do. Then they gave me *carte blanche*."

His signature recipe for success? "Create challenges for yourself. Yes, I am making a pie, but make it the best pie you ever made."

His favorite pastry? "Croissant," he answered without hesitation.

"It is the national pastry" of his native land.

He warned them of the work and the long hours and besides a talent for cooking, "you need a great sense of humor. I always had fun in the kitchen."

Teacher Dianne Pilgrim said when AHF called about his talking to the students, it was an exciting moment for all involved.

"What an opportunity for our students to meet someone who cooked in the White House – to have an intimate time to ask questions. They are learning about the industry and what is involved. You don't get this kind of opportunity," she said.



Culinary, hospitality students pose for a photo opportunity with former White House pastry chef.

Everybody knows a building can't heal a child.

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Healthcare as amazing as their potential

*Congratulations
Ben and Luann Russell,
2016 Alabama Humanities
Award Winners*



Why I Give

William Gantt
*Music Rights and Patron Services Manager
Department of Theatre and Dance,
College of Arts & Sciences
The University of Alabama*



Demopolis native William Gantt credits his mother, Demopolis High School English teacher Wynell Gantt, with inspiring his passion for the humanities. He also recognizes the important role she played in the lives of others—organizing class trips to New York City to expose her students not only to the world beyond Marengo County but to connections between Alabama and some of the giants in the cultural life of our nation. “I honor my mother’s memory by giving to the Alabama Humanities Foundation,” says Gantt.

Gantt first collaborated with AHF in 2007 when he organized the Hellman Wyler Festival in Birmingham and Demopolis. “Former AHF staff member Susan Perry encouraged me to look to AHF for support for the festival, which was attended by over 4,000 patrons to celebrate the works of William Wyler and Lillian Hellman,” says Gantt. “They were two great American collaborators and artists with remarkable family connections to Demopolis, Alabama.”

Out of that festival grew The Southern Literary Trail, which winds through Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia connecting the places that influenced Southern novelists and playwrights. Developing the Trail with support from humanities councils in each of the three states led Gantt to notice that AHF and other state councils bring something other than just financial support to projects like his.

“Working with humanities councils, you realize that there are people in rural communities who want to see the humanities woven into the social fabric of their towns,” Gantt emphasizes. “AHF can really support a small town becoming part of a larger network. My experience is that connections with likeminded individuals and organizations statewide, regionally, and nationally through AHF is just as important as the funding it provides.”

Following decades practicing law in Birmingham, Gantt, a graduate of The University of Alabama and the UA School of Law, finds himself back on campus. “After over 30 years in the billable-hours world, it was time for a change,” explains Gantt. “I yearned for a job in the humanities. The University of Alabama’s graduate program in Theater Management is the perfect fit for my passions, skills, and interests.”

In negotiating music rights for the UA Department of Theatre and Dance and working with its graduate students in all aspects of theatre management, Gantt now uses his legal background in service to the humanities full time.

In joining the selection committee for the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame, another AHF-supported project, Gantt realized that AHF funds humanities-based research and programs on university campuses, too. “AHF’s support is a catalyst for

large institutions and small towns alike,” he says. “I find that the older I get, the less stuff I want, and I’m always pleased to know that someone has given to AHF on my behalf.

“Likewise, I love to honor those in my life who understand and value the humanities. We can all protect and promote the humanities statewide by giving to AHF. AHF, in turn, advocates for and supports those who write, teach, and perpetuate the humanities in Alabama.”

When you give...

\$70: A teacher attends a one-day workshop

\$175: A speaker from Road Scholars Speakers Bureau speaks to a community group

\$500: A teacher attends a residential SUPER Teacher Institute

\$4,000: 25 families receive a complete 6-session PRIME TIME Family Reading Time book set

\$10,000: A town in Alabama enjoys six weeks of Museum on Main Street, a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit

White House Historical Association president addresses luncheon crowd



Stewart McLaurin delivers keynote speech

Story by Carol Pappas

In the midst of a heated presidential election, Alabama Humanities Foundation Annual Awards Luncheon speaker Stewart McLaurin delivered a keynote address that served as an ideal reminder of what the presidency and White House are all about.

This native Alabamian, who serves as president of the White House Historical Association, skillfully weaved together a behind-the-scenes look at what has become the symbol of the free world.

"It's much more than a building," he said. "It is a ceremonial stage." Some may see it as a political place, McLaurin noted, "but it is a much more substantive, complex place. It is a symbol of peace to billions of people who know the meaning and purpose and symbolism of that house. The story of our nation draws so many people from around the world."

He talked of several rooms, describing them as one would his own home, pointing out interesting features and history behind their contents – the unpainted scars left behind from the British burning of the White House in 1814, the piano in the foyer from FDR's era. It was played by President Nixon for Pearl Bailey.

Taking the more than 350-member luncheon audience on their own guided tour, McLaurin discussed the Blue Room, with furniture from James Monroe; the East Room, where President Washington's portrait hangs. First Lady Dolly Madison was purported to have cut the canvas from its frame to save it from the British attack.

But it was First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy whom he credited with preserving and enhancing this nation's precious legacy. Prior to the Kennedy administration, first families could

change anything about the White House they wanted. And since the budget was dependent on Congress' will, there was little funding. Some administrations sold existing White House furnishings to finance their own redecorating.

Mary Todd Lincoln sold White House furnishings after her husband's assassination, fearing she would be destitute. President Arthur sold more than 20 wagon-loads of furniture.

Kennedy saw the need for private funding and advice on any redecorating to be done.

She went to prominent individuals who cared about the arts and to private museums to help create a private, non-partisan, nonprofit organization with no government funding – to ensure the White House would be improved and preserved for generations to come. "The White House Historical Association is a legacy of her vision and drive," McLaurin said. "The program has an education emphasis with K-12

materials available and a national classroom experience."

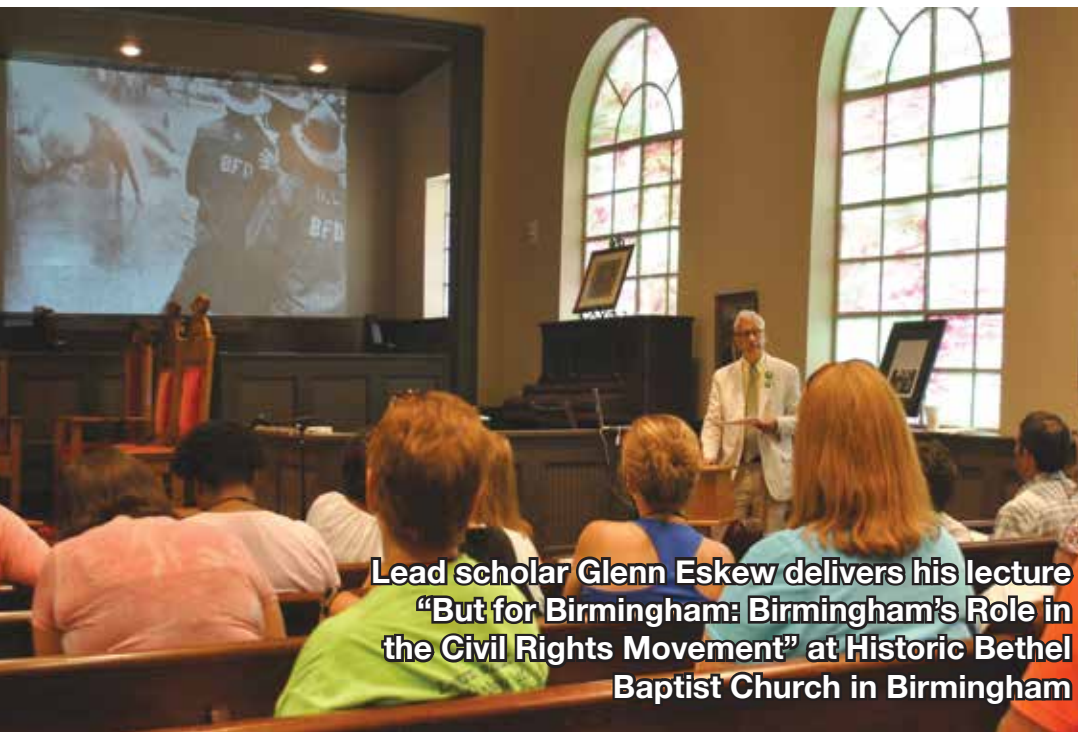
President Kennedy summed it up best, according to McLaurin: "If young people can come here and see this building alive, they will go home with more of an interest in becoming better Americans."

McLaurin showed a film about the White House with President and First Lady Obama and former presidents and first ladies telling their own experiences about their time living in this "sacred legacy."

It is not a permanent residence, he said. "It is the heart of the American people, the treasure of every American."



Stony The Road opens eyes and minds to Civil Rights Movement



Lead scholar Glenn Eskew delivers his lecture “But for Birmingham: Birmingham’s Role in the Civil Rights Movement” at Historic Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham

Story by Graham Hadley

There is a difference between reading about history and living it.

For teachers trying to reach out to young minds today, particularly when it comes to the Civil Rights Movement, that can be a difficult bridge to cross.

But thanks to the foresight, dedication and hard work of a group of educators, with backing from The Alabama Humanities Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, those teachers are getting the tools they need to do just that.

This summer, as part of the Stony the Road We Trod: Alabama’s Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement, a 2016 NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop, teachers from around the country got to see firsthand the places where Civil Rights history happened in cities like Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma.

Tours of famous landmarks, like the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Rosa Parks Museum or Tuskegee University went hand-in-hand with presentations from the very people who were on the front lines of the movement — people like Ruby Shuttlesworth-Bester, daughter of Civil Rights icon the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and an activist in her own right, or Mrs. Catherine Burks Brooks, who was one of the famous Freedom Riders.

This year’s event involved two separate groups of educators from around the country touring different sites and attending lectures and discussions over the course of a week each.

Many of the tours were guided personally by Project Director Dr. Martha Bouyer. She stressed the importance of educators experiencing as much of the Civil Rights movement for themselves. This proved particularly valuable for younger teachers and those from other parts of the country — places far removed from the heart of and legacy of the Civil Rights Movement. It became more than just words in a history book.

Georgia State University Professor Dr. Glenn Eskew, lead scholar for the workshops agreed, with both stressing the importance of capturing the interest and imagination of the participating teachers so they can bring that back to their students.

And while historical landmarks and museums will last, we are many years removed from the height of the Civil Rights Movement, especially those early years

that were so crucial. And as time passes, we are losing more and more of the people who lived through those times, Bouyer said.

Nothing can replace the impact of talking to Ruby Shuttlesworth-Bester in person, hearing her tell of the fear she lived with through the bombing of her house and assaults on her parents when they first tried to enroll her in a white school in Birmingham. Nothing can replace her describing the sense of safety she felt in the presence of her father and how they, as a family, bravely worked to change the world around them.

Likewise, no history book or documentary can take the place of listening to Myrna Jackson tell how it felt to take part in the first sit-in protests in Birmingham as teenagers.

It is these experiences that Bouyer, Eskew and other organizers believe can bring the events of the Modern Civil Rights Movement to life for the participating teachers so that they can pass that on to students for generations to come. That way, no one forgets the struggle and sacrifices that were made during this turbulent time in American history and the pivotal role Alabama played in it.

Big things from small beginnings

What has become an annual series of workshops started out as a simple idea.

Bouyer originally met Eskew more than 16 years ago when he was doing a SUPER workshop on Civil Rights.

“I grew up and thought I knew about it. But I am black, and after listening, I realized I did not know about the intricacies of the history,” she said.

Encouraged by what she saw during the program, Bouyer

er, who was working as a supervisor in schools in Birmingham, was encouraged to write her own grant to continue educating people about the Civil Rights Movement.

"I received a grant, funded by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a major teacher's grant, for \$17,500," she said.

She took the phrase "Stony the Road We Trod ..." from the poem and song by James Weldon Johnson, "Lift Every Voice and Sing", which has become one of the anthems of the Civil Rights Movement.

The original program focused on local and state teachers in Alabama and over the course of its inaugural years, reached hundreds of educators.

"We had taught more than 300 educators and had covered all the local teachers," Bouyer said, expecting the program to have run its course after those first few years.

But after a trip to England and talking to people about the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, she realized she had a much broader audience.

"People kept saying they would come to Birmingham so we could show them the historic sites," she said.

She applied for a National Parks Grant to help support the program, but was turned down.

"I remember standing in my kitchen saying, 'Lord, what am I going to do,'" she said.

But soon, she was approved for other grants, and support started rolling in. Individuals provided some sponsorship, and the government and businesses like Alabama Power and Alagasco provided everything from funding to shirts for the participants.

"It changed my whole world," she said.

Then the National Endowment for the Humanities came on board, as did the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Their support, coupled with the existing backing from AHF all but guaranteed the success of Stony the Road.

The program was already drawing people from across the U.S., and the federal government started sending people from other countries.

"The State Department started sending international educators, from places like Turkey, Kazakhstan, Colombia — all over the world, everywhere democracies were starting to take hold," Bouyer said.

"The teachers come and are learning from the history makers, listening to them tell their stories," she said. "Out of this, they form, not only lesson plans, but friendships with each other and share ideas.

"One of the teachers told me today (during the second conference in July) that this has changed her life" — something Bouyer said she has heard many times over the years.

An essential program

Nettie Carson-Mullins, a social sciences education specialist with the Alabama Department of Education, who is one of the active supporters of the program, said what Stony the Road is providing is invaluable.

"A lot of times we have heard about an event in history or read about the moment," she said. "But this is hands-on for these teachers. These survivors they are talking to participated in the



Project director Martha Bouyer offers insight in connecting scholarship and experiences to the classroom

Civil Rights Movement. They were the foot soldiers. Meeting them in person makes you become more empathetic for them and for what people are still facing today."

And for many of the participating teachers, what they hear from people like Mrs. Shuttlesworth-Bester or Bishop Calvin Woods, another one of the early protesters who started out as a teenager, is "totally different from what they were expecting."

Real life is often very different from movies, history books or documentaries.

"To see the expressions on the teachers' faces, it's like a transformation. That is what is going on in here. ... And the first thing they want to do is to take that back and teach what they have experienced to their students."

Because so many of the key events of the Civil Rights movement happened in Alabama, Stony the Road is providing experiences to participants unavailable in any other state, Carson-Mullins said.

"There is something about the way people like Myrna Jackson tell their stories. She was there, a piece of living history. And these people can use that experience and tell it over and over and over for years to come."



Mrs. Janice Kelsey & Mr. Alvin Wesley share their experiences as child crusaders in Birmingham

AHF director earns national humanities recognitions

Story by Carol Pappas

When Armand DeKeyser returned to his home state four years ago to take the reins of Alabama Humanities Foundation, he brought with him a certain amount of national name recognition. After all, he served as chief of staff for US Senator Jeff Sessions and US Senator Bob Corker.

It should come as no surprise he knew his way around the intricacies of Capitol Hill, and those who work there knew him. He had served on all levels of government – local, state and federal. He had been in private business, the military and served as a government relations specialist.

While work in the humanities really was not a part of his resume, DeKeyser, who now serves as Alabama Humanities Foundation executive director, cited his other work perspectives as deciding factors for the board of directors that hired him. He also cites those diverse vantage points of experience as pivotal in bringing some national focus back to Alabama – this time from the humanities.

DeKeyser was featured in the summer issue of *Humanities Magazine*, the publication of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he has joined the board of directors for the National Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Calling both recognitions a “distinct honor,” DeKeyser explained his evolution from political insider to humanities executive as a natural course.

Humanities Magazine is published four times a year. Considering there are 56 executive directors across the country, to be one of those four featured after four years’ service is “pretty remarkable,” he said.

It is because he does not fit the mold, he reasoned, that puts him in the company of more seasoned humanities colleagues. “I have a different take on everything. My experience allows me to offer a different perspective on what people normally think of as humanities representatives, like educators and scholars. I’m definitely not a scholar. In fact, the humanities people I work with, who are so impressive with such strong backgrounds in their respective fields, can be daunting to this son of a fish monger from Mobile, Alabama.”

But he takes it all in stride, learning more every day and sharing his own knowledge. He sees himself as a bridge between humanities and government. So much of the funding for the humanities comes from the federal government. “Sometimes it is difficult to penetrate that world. I have a unique perspective, having worked at the local, state and federal levels of government,” and that perspective enables him to help government understand the critical role humanities plays in everyday lives.

“We have to explain ourselves much more directly than we would to other humanities scholars,” DeKeyser said. “Everyday life is so full of fascinating topics and opportunities for average Alabamians to experience through the humanities, yet we take it for granted sometimes. We need to communicate that message and its importance,” he said.

“It is not elitist to support the humanities. Instead, it is much more a privilege and an exciting time to share the knowledge that humanities provides and the inspiration that knowledge brings to the world around us.”



Museum on Main Street, Alabama’s partnership with the Smithsonian Institution to bring a traveling exhibit to rural cities and towns across the state each year, comes to mind as an example. For so many Alabamians, it is their first and perhaps only opportunity to see a Smithsonian exhibit, DeKeyser said.

It is his ability to explain the relevance of the humanities in everyday terms on multiple levels that gives DeKeyser the opportunity to play a role on the national humanities stage, a responsibility he savors.

He was nominated to serve a four-year term on the 16-member board of directors for the national federation. Again, he pointed back to his knowledge of Washington and how committees work when it comes to federal funding that helped him bring Alabama’s organization into the national conversation.

“I am pleased to be nominated,” DeKeyser said. “It is one of the highest honors our national members can give to a state director. To be nominated by my peers shows their confidence in me to serve with them, and I find that very gratifying.”

He is looking forward to the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the humanities at a higher level. “I know I will value having the ability to learn more about the scope of what humanities councils do across the country.”

And, of course, he’ll bring that back home to Alabama, too.

Plans under way for AHF Bicentennial traveling exhibit

Story by Carol Pappas

*We all belong to a larger-than-life story, over two hundred years in the making. As Alabamians, our story is being crafted by the moments that both define and refine who we are. A tightly woven tapestry of trials, triumphs and transformations, this vibrant tale celebrates our commonalities and honors our individualities. It is an epic adventure, twisting its way through the peaks and valleys of the past and taking hopeful turns for the future. Its plot is steeped in little-known secrets and monumental events forever carved in history. Its setting spans every county in the state and features a full and fascinating cast of local, unsung heroes and world-famous champions of change. Welcome to the unprecedented, unabridged and often unexpected story of *Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit*.*

And so begins the story of Alabama and its commemoration of 200 years as a state. Beginning in mid-2018, Alabama Humanities Foundation will premiere a traveling exhibit of Alabama's history in all 67 counties as part of a three-year Bicentennial celebration called Alabama 200.

Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit had its beginnings long before the public will see it on the first stop on the tour in a year and a half from now. For nearly two years, AHF has been involved in a series of planning and strategy sessions as a partner to the Alabama Bicentennial Commission and the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH).

Because of AHF's experience and success in the Museum on Main Street Program, a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, the organization was tasked with creating its own tour to showcase not only 200 years of statehood, but offer opportunities for local communities to get involved with presenting their own 'making' of a community.

AHF is working with experts to develop *Making Alabama* – taking it from concept to opening of the 18-month event. Its final days are expected to lead up to the 200th anniversary of Alabama's statehood, Dec. 14, 2019.

The actual celebration covers nearly a three-year long program, which will kick off in Mobile on March 3, 2017, 200 years to the date that Alabama became a territory. Over the next three years, it will invest in schools and teachers, engage communities, and encourage citizens and visitors alike to explore and learn about the state.

Each year will have a theme: 2017, Explore Our Places; 2018, Honor Our People; and 2019, Share Our Stories.

In March of 2018, AHF will put its tour in motion, traveling to all of Alabama's counties with four-week engagements. In January 2017, AHF will begin its recruitment of host communities, which is expected to be a months-long process.

Any community is eligible to be a host, provided it has minimum event space requirements. Applications to be a host community and the requirements may be found online at <http://makingalabama.org>. As plans progress, more resource information will be housed on the site, including a 'how to' guide to hosting, an overview of the exhibit itself, concept designs, teacher lesson plans and tour schedules. It will serve as an online component of the exhibit, giving host communities a place to promote events in conjunction with *Making Alabama*.

"We are excited and honored about our role in this whole process of celebrating our state's rich history," said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser. "*Making Alabama* is an unparalleled opportunity for us to share the pivotal moments – some well-known, some not so famous – that shaped who

we are as a state. This is a valuable investment in learning more about and understanding this place we call home."

"From the very start," explained Alabama Bicentennial Commission Executive Director Jay Lamar, "the Commission's wish list for projects included a traveling exhibit. ADH's *Alabama Voices* exhibit, which tells the story of Alabama through its artifacts and art, is an extraordinary exhibit and rivals anything you can

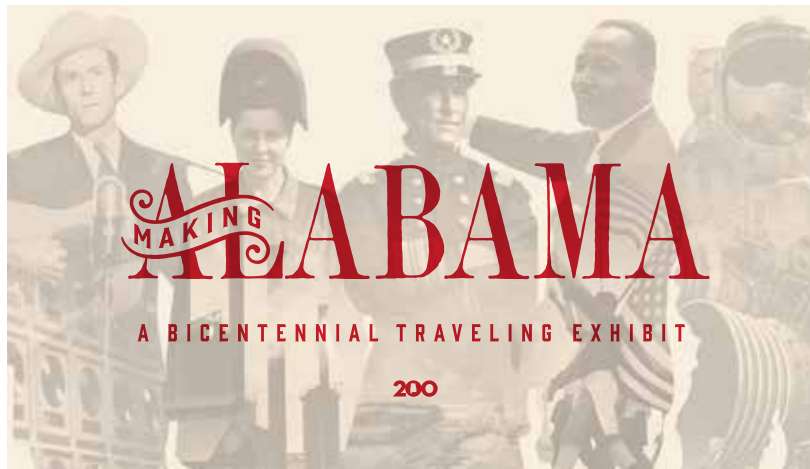
see in D.C. But not everyone can make it to Montgomery to visit *Alabama Voices*, and that was a compelling reason for the Commission to think about a traveling exhibit that would take great content to every corner of the state. That gives real meaning to educational outreach."

AHF's experience with Museum on Main Street made it a natural project lead, Lamar said. "It has worked extensively with communities throughout its history. Thanks to its work with Smithsonian exhibits, many places have the knowledge and skills to make the most of a traveling exhibit. That is a great foundation for the bicentennial.

"*Making Alabama* is a – maybe the – signature project of the commemoration. It is hard to think of another that will be more visible. Imagine three or four transport vehicles wrapped with the project logo traveling up and down the state! But there is probably no project that will reach more people either." Because it will travel to every county, and be there long enough for adults and children from all over the area to visit, *Making Alabama* stands to reach a huge number of Alabamians.

Making Alabama can be a "lynch pin" for projects in communities, she said. Public libraries, schools, local history and heritage organizations, and others can take advantage of the presence and publicity of the exhibit to bring attention their activities and projects. Other statewide bicentennial projects—like a statewide common read—will support and be supported by *Making Alabama*.

"As Steve Murray, director of the Alabama Department of Archives & History, has said, '*Making Alabama* is a tent pole project. When AHF puts *Making Alabama* in place, we will all want to be under the tent!'"



Logo and concept by Tatum Design

AHF awards over \$146,000 in grants

By Thomas Bryant, Grants Director

Alabama Humanities Foundation awarded \$146,294 in major and mini-grants across the state in its latest rounds of giving in July and September. From public discussions to exhibits to film projects and reading programs, dozens of grants were awarded.

AHF's grants are awarded three times per year. Grant recipients and their projects are:

July 2016 Major Grants

Alabama Public Television-Journey Proud IV, \$5,000

Journey Proud IV is a 9-episode documentary series that travels Alabama's highways and byways documenting the state's diverse folk culture and practitioners. This series about Alabama's folk traditions supports Alabama's forthcoming bicentennial collection of digital, cultural artifacts while exploring the Humanities roots of each folk practice.

Tuskegee University- Without Regard to Sex, Race or Color, \$2,500

Without Regard to Sex, Race, or Color is a photographic exhibition by renowned author and artist, Andrew Feiler that tells the painful story of the closing of Morris Brown College. The exhibition includes educational workshops, lectures, local school tours, and Live Video Streaming raising the question of whether other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) face similar futures.

Alabama Blues Project Afterschool Camps, \$4,500

The Alabama Blues Project's After-School Camps pass Alabama's

rich Blues culture on to the next generation while teaching self-esteem, discipline, cross-cultural understanding and teamwork. Students learn hands-on and performance-based musical instruction and the history of the Blues. Programs target at-risk children and are designed to give all students an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the Blues while also learning about their cultural heritage.

Auburn University — Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project, \$7,500

This series of classes offered by the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project will introduce students in four correctional facilities to literature, philosophy, anthropology, and film studies and will be taught by faculty from Auburn as well as graduate students from the University of Alabama. AHF humanities classes build spaces for positive community development inside prisons and bridges to stronger family bonds, and contribute to success post release through academic educational development.

Birmingham Museum of Art-Third Space, \$4,250

As an extension of the two-year exhibition "Third Space," BMA will present Chapters, a series of public programs aiming to explain and explore contemporary art for a variety of audiences. Through artist talks and discussions with numerous artists featured in the exhibition, Chapters will demystify contemporary art, expand exhibition themes, and create thought-provoking opportunities for viewing and interacting with the Museum's permanent collection.

Florence-Lauderdale Public Library-Local History Exhibit, \$7,000

Florence-Lauderdale Public Library plans a local history exhibit and

series of interactive programming in preparation for the 2018-2019 Bicentennial Celebration of the City of Florence and Lauderdale County. The Florence Bicentennial Online Exhibit will include an interactive timeline, created by scholars, outlining Florence's history and will allow community members to add their own family stories to the timeline.

Jule Collins Smith Museum-FILM@JCSM, \$2,450

FILM@JCSM stands for "Fostering Interdisciplinary Learning through Movies." The museum screens classic and current movies that complement exhibitions, bringing in artists and scholars to explore the connection between multiple art forms and their commentary on the human experience.

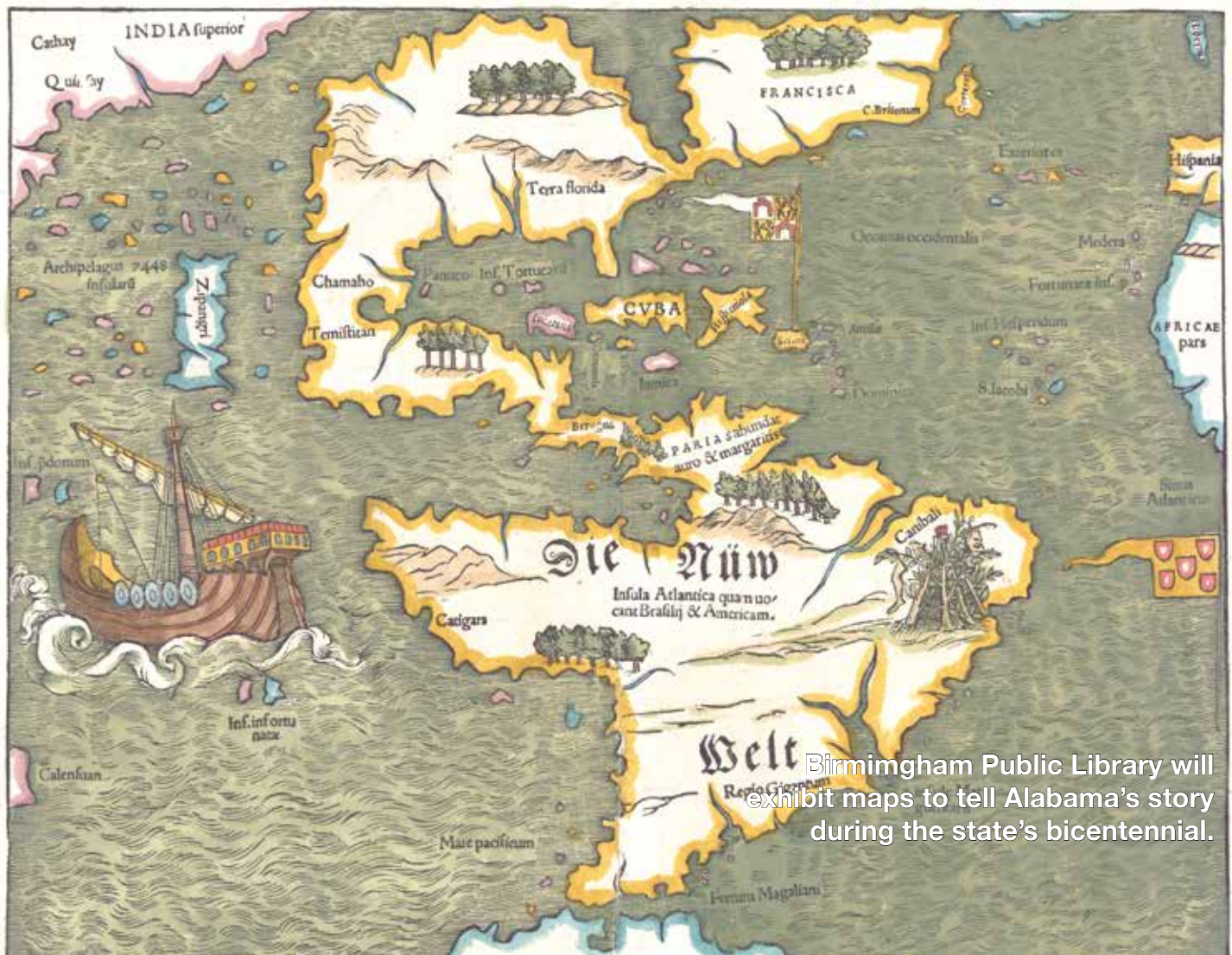
Gulf Coast Exploreum- How Rock & Roll Transformed American Culture, \$2,000

How Rock & Roll Transformed American Culture is a Humanities presentation within a four month comprehensive project featuring two major exhibitions, hands-on learning spaces, education for school children, and guest presenters. The project narrates, through scholarship and photography, the transformational effect that Rock & Roll had on American culture. Rock & Roll originated in the South in the Jim Crow era and has played a significant role in Alabama's musical and historical heritage.

Scottsboro Public Library- Racing and Reading, \$5,350

The Scottsboro Public Library will provide a community read program to the residents of Jackson County. This project is called *Racing and Reading: Jackson County Community Read*. It will consist of a storytelling

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Birmingham Public Library will exhibit maps to tell Alabama's story during the state's bicentennial.

program that invites local residents to share their own stories of growing up in Jackson County. The program will feature a community read program for children, adolescents and adults with Garth Stein, author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, visiting the community.

Birmingham Public Library Southern History Department- Alabama's History in Maps, \$3,500

Sweet Home: Alabama's History in Maps is an exciting new exhibit from the Birmingham Public Library. Timed to coincide with Alabama's upcoming bicentennial and using maps

from the Library's world class collection, this exhibit will tell the history of the state by introducing patrons to maps that depict Alabama's development from the earliest days of exploration through the present day.

Troy University Library-Wade Hall Traveling Postcards Exhibit, \$2,500

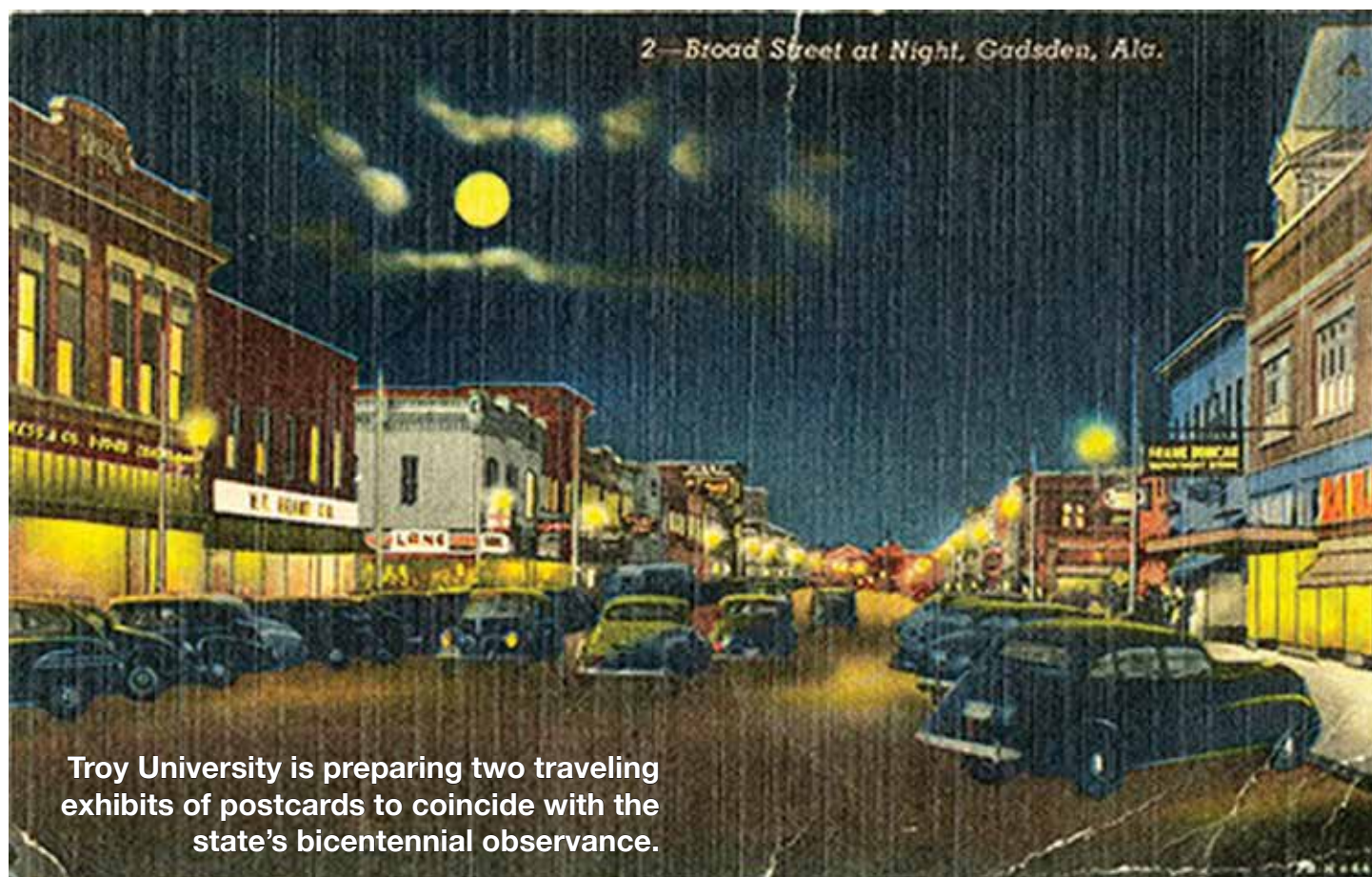
Two traveling exhibits of postcards will showcase cities and towns from around Alabama to coincide with "Discovering Our Places," the 2017 theme of the Alabama Bicentennial Commission. The exhibits will be made up of historical postcards from the Wade Hall Collection at the Troy University Archives. The first exhibit

will depict bustling city streets, such as 20th Street in Birmingham, historic streets, such as Dexter Avenue in Montgomery, and small town streets, such as Front Street in Carbon Hill. The second exhibit will showcase Alabama historical and governmental buildings in cities large and small. The buildings include courthouses, post offices, schools, and churches. These postcards range from the early 1900s to the 1960s.

Alabama World Languages Education Foundation-WILD, \$6,500

WILD (Weekend Immersed in Language Development) is a statewide world language immersion experience

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Troy University is preparing two traveling exhibits of postcards to coincide with the state's bicentennial observance.

for high school students of Spanish, French, German and Chinese led by fluent teachers and professors. The purpose of the experience is to enhance the opportunities for teachers and students to improve their spoken language skills, through the study of several humanities topics including art, literature, music, history, theater and film study.

Birmingham International Educational Film Festival-Direct Action, \$8,700

Direct Action is a film about former segregationist Sid Smyer who along with other businessmen and a group of progressive lawyers challenge "Bull" Connor and other Birmingham, Alabama elected officials to reach accommodation with civil rights protestors before the city erupts into an all-out race war in 1962. Their efforts to help change the form of government and negotiate behind the scenes with black leaders resulted in

Connor and the other commissioners being forced out of office.

July 2016 Mini-Grants

Mobile Medical Museum-African-American Midwifery, \$1,050

The Mobile Medical Museum will host a free public lecture by Dr. Laurie Wilkie, Professor of Archeology at the University of California-Berkeley. The lecture will be on the topic of African-American midwifery in the 19th century, and will be presented as part of a lecture series accompanying the upcoming exhibition *Healing Women: Medical History from a Female Perspective*.

Black Belt Museum-Historic Interpretive Project, \$1,163

The Black Belt Museum Historic Interpretive Project of the University of West Alabama will bring history to life using a public historian/educator to portray historical characters and relate their experiences and adventures to students and the public across the state. With the upcoming Alabama 200 celebration, they position themselves to present the earlier and lesser known parts of Alabama's past that many people are not familiar with but that help tell the story of the state throughout time.

The Ridge Macon County Archeology Project, \$1,500

The Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival will celebrate south Macon County's Federal Road history and

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Alabama Fever pioneers who travelled the road through Creek Indian territory in the 1800s. Dr. Lorenzo Pace, descendant of ancestors from The Ridge, is a children's book author, sculptor, and performance artist, who, along with community storytellers will present an exhibition of local and regional multicultural history that is an important layer in the larger story of becoming Alabama.

September 2016 Major Grants

Birmingham Industrial Heritage Trail Project, \$10,000

Through an interpretive signage system and an intuitive, robust mobile app loaded with video, music, oral histories, and historic photos, the Birmingham Industrial Heritage Trail project will unite core Birmingham landmarks – including Sloss, Vulcan, Tannehill, Railroad Park and Ruffner into a broad narrative with appeal to individuals, families, and student groups and to both residents and out-of-town visitors alike.

Troy University – 2017 Alabama Book Festival, \$5,000

The Alabama Book Festival celebrates the pleasures of reading and the cultural importance of books with a free, day-long festival that annually draws 4,000-5,000 attendees from throughout the state to Montgomery, Alabama's Old Alabama Town. Featuring a mixture of panels by published authors across all genres, writing workshops and crafts and activities, the event is a family-oriented affair that appeals to readers of all ages and tastes.

Troy University Dothan Campus – 2017 Wiregrass Blues Festival, \$4,248

The 2017 Wiregrass Blues Fest will feature blues music history in public discussions which include mini documentary film screenings on blues musicians. Through these events, the Wiregrass Blues Fest hopes to inform participants and promote a deeper understanding of the unique and unsung blues tradition of the Alabama Wiregrass region as well as the entire state.

Friends of the Alabama Archives – 2017 Food For Thought, \$3,265

Food for Thought is a monthly Alabama history lecture series held on the third Thursday of every month at noon at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Food for Thought presentations feature humanities scholars discussing a wide variety of topics relating to the State of Alabama.

University of Alabama at Birmingham – 2017 Red Mountain Writing Series, \$7,500

Red Mountain Writing Series is an afterschool program that seeks to provide students with the opportunity to develop their passion for writing and to develop their skills as writers, not only for pleasure but also across the curriculum through writing communities or groups.

Alabama Southern Community College – 20th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium, \$5,000

The Writers Symposium is an annual gathering of Alabama writers, scholars, and admirers in Monroeville, the Literary Capital of Alabama, for two days of workshops,

readings, and discussions. Highlights include the presentations of the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer and the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar.

Vulcan Park and Museum – Alabama's Auto Racing Legacy, \$2,500

The Alabama Auto-Racing Legacy exhibit will advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham's history and culture by displaying pieces of Birmingham's auto-racing history and culture as seen in the Birmingham area.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival – Shakespeare in Schools, \$3,750

ASF will tour its production of Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* to schools throughout the state. Each performance will be followed by a question-and-answer session and an interactive workshop. The educational activities are designed to foster students' critical thinking and analytical skills.

Shelby County Arts Council – Writing Our Stories, \$7,500

"Writing Our Stories" is a proven anti-bullying creative writing program taught in the 7th grade English classroom. The program was developed by The Alabama Writer's forum and is administered to the schools through The Shelby County Arts Council at no cost to the student or school. A published poet and teaching writer guides the students through a 10 week session at the end of which they receive bound anthologies of their own poems. These students leave the program as published authors.

GRANTS

Historic Blakeley State Park – The Eastern Shore: Place and People, \$4,379

A special year-long, multi-faceted, multi-venue, collaborative program, this exhibit is designed to encourage the greater Eastern Shore and Mobile Area community to discover and explore the rich natural and cultural heritage of the region. The program will focus on history and cultural heritage resources associated with the area's prehistoric settlement, its colonial and early American experience, its Civil War years, and postwar, its growth.

Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, Auburn University – WWI Speaker Series, \$3,750

The center will sponsor a state-wide speaker series on World War I from April 2017 to November 2018. This series will commemorate the centennial anniversary of the state's involvement in the war and enliven an important period of history which often goes overlooked.

University of South Alabama Department of Communications – An Alabama Family Remembers the Civil War, \$9,952

Memory of war has become the subject of intense study among humanities scholars in recent decades. Its fascination has captured scholars from the disciplines of History, English, and Journalism. University of South Alabama humanities scholars, under the auspices of the university's Center for the Study of War and Memory, is producing a documentary project with the goal of engaging the Alabama public in a dialogue about how the Civil War has been remembered in Alabama.

University of North Alabama College of Arts & Sciences – Limestone Prison Program, \$2,244

UNA will establish humanities-based educational programming at Limestone Correctional Facility. The topic of this interdisciplinary pilot course is Crime and Punishment in American Culture.

September 2016 Mini-Grants

Landmarks Foundation – The Alabama Territory in Becoming Alabama, \$1,500

In 1817, Congress divided the Mississippi Territory, creating the State of Mississippi as the western portion and the Alabama Territory as the eastern portion of the vast landmass. The Alabama Territory is the topic of this project with humanities scholars discussing some of the “characters who were active and influential during this period, contributing to the later establishment of the State of Alabama in 1819.”

Mobile Opera – Orpheus’ Son: The Life of Sidney Lanier, \$961

Mobile Opera will host a lecture and narrative program of Sidney Lanier's poetry and the story of his life. On Friday, January 13, 2017, at 10 a.m., Jeffrey Goodman, PhD, and Gran Wilson, MM, will speak at the Mobile County Public Library on the literary works of Sidney Lanier and at 7 p.m. at the Larkins Music Center in downtown Mobile. Mobile Opera will continue the study of Sidney Lanier with “Orpheus’ Son: The Life of Sidney Lanier,” an original work written by Mr. Wilson.

Mobile Symphony – Take Note! Pre-Concert Lectures, \$1,500

Mobile Symphony Orchestra will offer free, 40-minute pre-concert lectures before each of its classical concerts that explore the historic contexts around the music and composers featured on that day's concert. Lectures include information about other art forms created in the same period, such as visual arts, dance and literature, and biographical details about the composers' lives.

University of North Alabama Writers Series—Reading by Peter Balakian, \$1,500

Peter Balakian, author of *Ozone Journal*, the winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for 2015, will be reading from his work at the 2015 University of North Alabama's Writer's Series on March 16, 2017. Dr. Balakian, chair of the English Department at Colgate University, is also the author of the memoir, *Black Dog of Fate*. The University of North Alabama's Writer's Series was established in 1983.

Monroeville Main Street Program – Celebrating the Party of the Century: Capote’s Childhood Hometown Pays Tribute, \$1,465

Monroeville celebrates the 50th anniversary of *In Cold Blood* and Capote's Black and White Ball on Nov. 18, 2016, at the Old Courthouse Museum with Melanie Benjamin, author of *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*, Marlin Barton, winner of the Truman Capote Prize for Short Fiction, and archival films and photographs of Capote and his fans and friends. Speakers will explore the explosive launch of the nonfiction novel and Capote's trajectory from Monroeville to Manhattan.

**University of West
Alabama — Belles’
Lettres 2 Authors
Tour, \$1,500**

Belles’ Letters 2: An Anthology of Alabama Women Writers is the second anthology of fiction to be published by Livingston Press (April 2017). The book consists of 36 short stories by veteran and new women writers. The press will tour 10 of the authors throughout the state to celebrate and inspire Alabama women writers.

**Northeast Alabama
Community College —
Bringing It Home: Great
Depression & the New
Deal, \$1,467**

Northeast Alabama Community College Learning Resources Center will offer a teacher workshop titled “The Great Depression and the New Deal in Northeast Alabama,” the third in a successful series entitled “Bring-


ing It Home: Utilizing Local History in the K-12 Classroom.” Four dynamic scholar-presenters will be in provide local K-12 teachers with materials and pedagogical ideas related to the Great Depression and New Deal that they can use in their classrooms.

**ArtsRevive — With
Music and Justice for All:
An Evening with Frye Gil-
lard and Ann DeChant,
\$1,075**

Southern author Frye Gaillard and award-winning Nashville recording artist Anne E. DeChant team up for an evening of stories and song titled, “With Music and Justice for All.” Gaillard maintains that great songwriters explore the depths of the human condition with all the subtlety and feeling of our finest novelists and poets. In these unique programs, Gaillard presents brief readings from his works, setting the context for an acoustic performance of original songs by DeChant.

**Marengo County History
& Archives Museum —
Celebrating the Opening
of the National Museum
of African-American
History and Culture,
\$775**


The museum will celebrate the opening of the National Museum of African American History & Culture during Black History Month 2017 through public discussion programming.



ARTS and SCIENCES
University of NORTH ALABAMA

We are proud to honor OUR OWN
T.S. Stribling
Author, Pulitzer Prize Winner, UNA Graduate

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Human/Ties

By Laura Anderson

On September 29, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Arts and Humanities Act into law, creating the National Endowment for the Humanities. To honor the 50th anniversary of that legislation, The University of Virginia hosted *Human/Ties* — a series of free, public events — Sept. 14-17. Major funding came from the Mellon Foundation.

Executive Director Armand DeKeyser and I attended on behalf of AHF. Eight weeks into my new role, it provided a wonderful introduction to the collective work and promise of the state humanities councils and their contributions to the nation.

Human/Ties gathered scholars, artists and humanities professionals from around the country to consider some big questions: How can the humanities help us better understand some of the biggest challenges of our day — war, globalization, the legacies of

slavery, the role of technology in our lives? What can the humanities contribute to the common good?

Scholarly insight, rich commentary and engaged audiences illuminated the panels, presentations and public conversations. We saw preview clips from Ken Burns' upcoming *Vietnam* documentary.

We enjoyed a live taping of the *Backstory* podcast with the American History Guys — historians Peter Onuf, Edward Ayers and Brian Balogh. And we heard from Broadway star Chris Jackson on his portrayal of George Washington in the hit musical, *Hamilton*.

It all took place in the shadow of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, where we capped the week with a *Public Summit on the Legacy of Race and Slavery*. Jefferson's descendants — black and white together — attended, along with nearly 2,000 others fascinated by the lasting impact of our nation's founding on principles of equality and practices of inequality.

Despite the atmosphere of hope and celebration, a discussion or two at *Human/Ties* verged on hand-wringing. How are we seemingly a divided nation when the humanities are available to help us understand, appreciate and overcome differences in service to the public good?

Those of us engaged in public humanities believe that a grounding in the humanities helps prepare citizens for participation in a vibrant democracy.

How, then, did we arrive at a time when the humanities seem in need of defense and when media is saturated with stories of crude divisiveness? This was the subtext of *Human/Ties*, and we can certainly find inspiration for our work within it.

Of the many events I attended, a small session dedicated to defining "a humanities for our time" still resonates. This is thanks to remarks by the essayist Garnett Cadogan, who urged us to forego hand-wringing in favor of just *doing* the work of humanities. As an example, he emphasized the power of literature. "Great literary works help us see ourselves reflected in others," he offered, "by making immigrants of us all, by making natives of us all and by making children of us all."

When we take in one another's stories, we begin to see ourselves in each other's eyes. From this vantage point, we can locate the common good and invest in it. This is the power of the humanities.

Human/Ties served as a big tent revival of sorts. The gathering underscored for me that NEH and the state councils have long supported the very best in public humanities programming, research, preservation, education, films, exhibitions and digital development.

AHF invests in the common good, serving thousands of people over time through documentaries, museum exhibits, books, the interpretation of historic places and much more.

My take-away from *Human/Ties*, then, is that we must continue to reach as many Alabamians as possible through our work. Given AHF's mission and vision, we could have no better goal than to help Alabamians see themselves reflected in each other's eyes.

Meet New Staff at AHF

Story by Caroline Shook

From hosting 70 teachers from across the country for a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture grant to the visit of NEH Chairman William “Bro” Adams, from the launch of a new Museum on Main Street tour to the award of a grant from the Pulitzer Prizes, 2016 shaped up to be a huge year for AHF.

In the midst of all these exciting programmatic events, AHF added two new staff members—T.C. McLemore and Laura Caldwell Anderson.

T.C. McLemore

McLemore joins the AHF staff as Programs Director, replacing Dionne Clark who is now pursuing her PhD at Georgia State University.

Within his first month on the job, McLemore had crisscrossed the state with the *Stony the Road* teachers, attended PRIME TIME training in New Orleans, and met with other humanities councils’ staff at a program in Florida. All the while, he was planning programming for 2017 and ensuring Fall 2016 programs were off and running.

“I learn something new about Alabama and its people every day here at AHF. With such a great network of resources, institutions and people, I understand that we are compelled to create that same intellectual stimulation for our stakeholders—students, teachers, and civic groups—in all corners of the state,” McLemore said.

As Programs Director, McLemore is responsible for PRIME TIME Family Reading Time, SUPER Teacher Program, the Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship and the Young Professionals Board.

“It is a pleasure collaborating with scholars, storytellers, archivists, master educators and a talented team committed to the humanities,” McLemore said.

And collaborate he will as 2017 is shaping up to be as eventful of a year as 2016 was for AHF.



One of the events sure to make next year exciting is the Alabama Bicentennial. Beginning in 2017, Alabama will celebrate 200 years of statehood. AHF will play a significant role in engaging communities in this celebration.

Laura Caldwell Anderson

Laura Caldwell Anderson, who joined AHF as Director of Operations, will lead the Alabama Bicentennial efforts for AHF. Anderson has been instrumental in shaping the vision for a traveling exhibit of Alabama history, culture and environment that will tour all 67 counties in the state.

In addition to this responsibility, Anderson manages all special projects, including AHF’s signature Awards Luncheon, and coordinates outgoing grant applications.

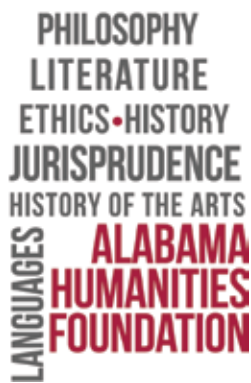
“Always an interdisciplinary thinker, never too keen on becoming a ‘specialist,’ I find myself in a wonderful position as director of Operations at AHF. The opportunity to work on state-level projects – such as the Bicentennial traveling exhibit, just to name one – yet with local communities in each of our 67 counties, was something I could not pass up. The warm welcome I’ve received from board members, fellow staff and many constituents and supporters of AHF makes me feel privileged to be on staff,” Anderson said.

These two new staff members, with strong backgrounds in the humanities and deep ties to the state of Alabama, have already become indispensable assets to AHF.

“Humanities are central to the quality of everyday life in our state. I am eager to work toward AHF’s mission to foster learning, understanding, and appreciation of our people, communities, and cultures,” Anderson said.



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