

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

MOSAIC

MAGAZINE

Fall 2017

**ALABAMA
DEPT. OF
CORRECTIONS**

Humanities on the Inside

We're inspired.



We support the Arts and Humanities wholeheartedly for the simple reason that they enhance not only our own lives but the lives of those who consider working and living here. And as we all know, good business and good living are both arts worth mastering.



WIN with Alabama

MOSAIC



ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

About the Cover: Alabama Department of Corrections inmate involved in the humanities programs. Picture by Kathlyn Horan

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Alabama Humanities
Foundation fosters
learning, understanding and
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Alabama Humanities

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

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ART OF STORYTELLING

From Executive Director Armand DeKeyser

Let me tell you a story ...

Recently, I volunteered to be a “featured” speaker to help our Young Professionals group in a fundraiser they organized through Arc Stories, a Birmingham, Alabama-based storytelling organization.

In the process of preparing to relate a story about my own family, starting with my great grandfather, Sebastian Gonzales, coming to Mobile in the late 1800s and concluding with the announcement of the sixth generation of our Mobile family joining us this year, our grandson, Sebastian Armand DeKeyser, I learned something...

It’s hard to tell a good story!

I don’t normally mind speaking publicly. But, standing on a stage in front of 200 strangers, under the lights, with a stand microphone, no notes and coherently telling a true, entertaining story in under 12 minutes...well, gulp!

No, it is hard to compose a complete story containing all the interesting anecdotes and not have to explain all the facets of the story so that the audience understands who my Uncle Nelo was without going through the entire family tree and not having everyone get bored and start to yawn. What an ego deflating experience that was.

In hindsight, I realized I could have used some help, and it was right at my fingertips.

At AHF, we have many programs that involve storytelling and oral histories. In our Museum on Main Street exhibits, we have had wonderful success offering The Box, where local citizens can be recorded and tell their true-to-life stories.

So many historical events are enhanced by actual participants and their experiences with the event as it happened. And it really doesn’t have to be momentous events, it can be the retelling of long ago rival football games or the closing down of a plant that employed many local citizens. That’s real history to those living it in the then and now.

Without those intimate remembrances, the lessons learned or the knowledge gained from those personal experiences, that history will be lost to future generations.

Our Road Scholars Speakers Bureau offers two specific talks – Recording and Preserving Oral History and Writing a Local, Personal or Family History.

There are many other offerings that portray fascinating subjects and historical events with wonderful clarity and in a spellbinding manner presented by Alabama’s most illuminating and engaging scholars. Storytelling is an art, and we have some of the finest practitioners in our lineup. Visit our website, www.alabamahumanities.org, to learn how you can have someone come to your area.

Many of our other AHF programs involve storytelling in one form or another. Our Prime Time Family Reading efforts use accomplished storytellers to help 6-10 year olds and their families come together



in an inviting environment to improve reading and comprehension. Using libraries and other community sites with storytellers and children scholars, families improve their verbal and communication skills over a six-week period. And they do it together. What a powerful story that has become across our state.

We have some real experts in organizing oral history and storytelling in Alabama. As I mentioned, Arc Stories does a fabulous job in the Birmingham area. Dr. John Kvach with the University of Alabama Huntsville teaches and lectures all over the state in his service with the Museum on Main Street exhibits and presenting and recording effective oral histories. Working with the University of Alabama’s Center for Public Television, John helps the MoMS sites arrange for it local citizens to tell stories related to the exhibit. Once recorded, CPT then edits the stories and presents the finished product back to the community to include in its own historical records.

But back to my story, did I tell you about the time. ...

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

AHF Executive Director

MUSEUM on MAIN STREET

WATER | WAYS

Smithsonian exhibit makes its way through Alabama

Water/Ways, the 2017-18 edition of Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution's partnership to bring Museum on Main Street to the state, is halfway through its tour.

Opening in Eufaula in June, then traveling to Decatur and Alexander City, Water/Ways has been an opportunity for communities to have conversations about water's impact on American culture.

Host sites are using the national water story in the Smithsonian exhibition as a jumping-off point to tell their local water stories: the history; the many diverse cultural links; the land changes over time; the current stresses on water – and most importantly, the future story they are part of creating.

They have developed collateral exhibits, activities and programs to raise awareness and help facilitate understanding about what water means culturally, socially and spiritually in their own community.

"Each community amazes us in how they seem to find just the right way to put their own signature on these exhibitions in new, innovative and engaging ways," said AHF Grants Director Thomas Bryant.

The Dothan Eagle reported that in Eufaula, organizers held a "Fish Tales Photo and Story Contest." The aim was to reel in photos and fish stories all at the same time. Instead of the one that got away, the photo was of the catch, and the story was a memory about 'the fight' to catch it.

Destinations and Dates

- **Alexander City**, City Hall, October 5 to November 7
- **Spanish Fort**, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, November 24 to January 5
- **Jasper**, Bankhead House and Heritage Center, January 16 to February 23
- **Selma**, ArtsRevive, March 9 to April 8

For more information on the Water | Ways tour, visit alabamahumanities.org or museumonmainstreet.org.

"What a fun way to think about water and its impact," Bryant said. "That is what Museum on Main Street is all about – looking at issues, like water, through new eyes with a clearer understanding of the perspective presented."

Water/Ways is part of the Smithsonian's Think Water Initiative to raise awareness of water as a critical resource for life through exhibitions, educational resources and public programs. The public can participate in the conversation on social media at #thinkwater. ■

Alabama's French Connection

Wallpaper depicting the Vine and Olive Colony, an early French settlement near present-day Demopolis, Alabama

Image courtesy of State Department of Archives & History

On April 3, 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette visited Montgomery, Alabama. When he arrived in the city, thousands of people gathered on the hill that now houses the capital to see the beloved war hero's much awaited grand entrance.

Almost 200 years later, on that same hill where the thousands gathered, a smaller group of over 100 people came to learn about Lafayette's visit and the many other intersections between the histories of Alabama and France.

Alabama's French Connection was a two-day symposium hosted by the Alabama Department of Archives and History June 9-10 and sponsored by Alabama Humanities Foundation and Alabama Bicentennial Commission. Consisting primarily of lectures, the symposium taught participants about the ways, big and small, that the history of Alabama is intertwined with that of France. Subjects centered on Colonial French forts in Alabama, Alabama's love of French architecture and luxury goods, Alabama's soldiers in France during the World Wars, and, of course, Lafayette's famed visit.

In contrast to his visit to Montgomery, where he was thrown lavish parties and introduced to the most prominent citizens, Lafayette's visit to the state's first capital in Cahawba partially consisted of meeting with some French settlers. These settlers, while perhaps average in appear-

ance, were Bonapartist exiles, who with permission from Congress, had established a colony in what is now Marengo County, Alabama, eight years before in 1817. This colony was the subject of one of the symposium's other, more interactive talks by scholar Betje Klier.

Klier spoke on one of the Archives' own pieces, the Vine and Olive Colony wallpaper. Spanning three walls and depicted in vivid colors, the Vine and Olive Colony wallpaper was made and originally displayed in France. Its aim was to depict an imagined and highly idealized perspective on everyday life in the two American Bonapartist colonies — one in Alabama and the other in Texas — that arose in 1817 after Napoleon's surrender to the British. Participants in the symposium had the rare opportunity to view the original artwork as part of the Archives' collection and hear from one of its foremost scholars in the same afternoon.

In her talk, Klier spoke of how the wallpaper likely served as propaganda in France, aimed to depict the less than successful colonies as thriving.

This illustrated how art, such as that found in Alabama's museums and archives, can be used in conjunction with scholarship to give students an immersive, broad and comprehensive understanding of a subject or event and how it is por-

trayed in historical sources.

This concept was echoed in the institute's final session with a tour of Fort Toulouse. According to Harvey H. Jackson III's *Inside Alabama: A Personal History of My State*, he notes that in 1715, Yamasee Indians had wiped out most English trading posts between the Atlantic and Alabama, so the French had perfect timing to build a fort up the Alabama River to the confluence of the Coosa and Tallapoosa.

Sometimes it was called Fort des Alibamons, but formally the French referred to it as Fort Toulouse. A hundred years later during the Indian siege by Andrew Jackson, Fort Toulouse became Fort Jackson.

This tour, led by Ned Jenkins, the senior archeologist of the Alabama Historical Commission and one of the people responsible for rebuilding the fort, demonstrated how effective on-site, interactive learning can be.

AHF board member Kern Jackson gave a lecture that Saturday on Instinctive Impulses and Colonial Mobile's Early Carnival.

Jackson, an assistant professor at the University of South Alabama, where he also serves as director of the African American Studies Program, gave compelling insight to the colonial personalities of the time emphasizing that Mardi Gras/Carnival was more than just a party, but a way to bring the familiar to this new land of colonization. ■

AHF grants top \$129,600 mark in latest round

In the February and June rounds of grant giving by Alabama Humanities Foundation in major and mini-grant categories, the organization awarded \$129,600 for projects, programs and activities throughout Alabama. Winners and their projects are:

JUNE 2017 MAJOR GRANTS

**Alabama Blues Project –
Alabama Blues Project 2017-2018
Tuscaloosa, Hale, Wilcox,
and Bibb counties**

The Alabama Blues Project's After-School Camps pass on Alabama's rich blues culture 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 are designed to give all students an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the Blues while also learning about their cultural heritage.



**Alabama Folklife Association –
Fall into Folklife Symposium:
Documenting, Preserving, and
Presenting Our Heritage
Sumter and Tuscaloosa counties**

Second annual Fall into Folklife Symposium: Documenting, Preserving,



1964 - Harold Franklin
with Dr. Malcolm
McMillan and Auburn
Dean William Van Parker

and Presenting Our Heritage is a one-day event serving the general public that will generate discussion with speakers and panelists. Held at the University of West Alabama, the symposium will draw from their academic resources and programs to engage persons in dialogue about indigenous folkways storytelling, metal arts, rural folk architecture and traditional arts.

**Alabama Public Television –
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Learning Adventure
Statewide media**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Learning Adventure is a webcast interactive, collaborative experience during which 9th–12th grade students learn about the history and impact of the Vietnam War and Alabama's role in the war. Students use email, text messaging and mobile apps to question experts and participate in interactive polling. The adventure and related online resources are correlated to the state and national standards for social studies.

**Alabama School of Fine Arts
Foundation –
Ron Casey Visiting Writers Series
Jefferson County**

ASFA's Creative Writing department will partner with Nitty Gritty Magic City and Desert Island Supply Company (DISCO) to present a series of readings by acclaimed regional writers to the public. It also includes educational master classes conducted by those writers at ASFA and three high-need schools participating in DISCO's Woodlawn Writers Corp program: Oliver Elementary, Avondale Elementary and Putnam Middle School.

**Alabama World Languages Education
Foundation – WILD (Weekend
Immersed in Language
Development) 2018
Shelby County**

WILD is a statewide world language immersion experience 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, food culture, history, theater and film study.

**Auburn High School –
Land of Freedom:
The Civil Rights Movement
in East Alabama
Lee County**

This project seeks to engage both Auburn High School students and local residents of Lee County in exploring the unique story of the Civil Rights Movement in their community through a study of the Movement and production of a local exhibit highlighting the struggle for equal rights. The production and presentation of the exhibit will serve as a culmination to a student-led research project uncovering Lee County's history of this critical era.

**Alabama Prison Arts and Education
Project, Auburn University –
History and Humanities:
A Project of the APAEP
Stanton, Elmore, Bullock
and Tutwiler prisons**
See cover article

**Birmingham Holocaust Education
Center– Facing History and Ourselves
Teacher Workshops
Jefferson, Madison, Pike
and Sumter counties**

Four teacher workshops are offered to intermediate, middle and high school teachers in fall 2017. The primary goal is to provide educators with techniques for teaching students about the Holocaust and the crucial lessons it provides for all of humanity. The workshops will use tested methodology from the nationally acclaimed program Facing History and Ourselves to model lessons for teachers in key areas of Holocaust history, providing them with extensive resource materials and a solid foundation upon which to build their own classroom curriculum.

**Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts
Center – Pride of Place
Monroe, Perry and Wilcox counties**
Pride of Place is a series of programs designed to explore the cultural

heritage of Alabama's Black Belt and how it has been impacted by the unique composition of the Black Belt soil. Archaeology, geology, foodways, customs, social and political history, literature, music and art lectures and discussions on the Black Belt will be available to all who are interested in a stronger understanding of the journey that has brought us to the Black Belt we know today.

**Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art,
Auburn University –
Immanuel: A Symposium
Lee County**

This symposium accompanies Leo Twiggs: Requiem for Mother Emanuel, an exhibition of nine paintings in response to the murders of the Charleston 9. Focus will be the history of the African American church and its historical and contemporary role as both sanctuary and location for political and civic activity. The symposium will include four talks and a panel discussion, and culminate with an artist talk by Dr. Leo Twiggs.

**Lurleen B. Wallace
Community College:
Our Story, Our Song
Covington County**

The conference will survey and lead to discussion of many of the diverse cultural influences figuring into the hymns and other songs that Christian congregations in America sing. Such influences range from the theological and the musical to the literary, the historical and the political.

**Marion County Historical Society –
Marion County: Alabama's Northwest
Territory. Marion County Historical
Expo and Symposium
Marion County**

Marion County Historical Society and Bevill State Community College will present the Marion County Historical Expo and Symposium "Marion County: Alabama's Northwest Territory," events celebrating the bicentennials of both the State of Alabama and the original Marion Territory on the Bevill State Community College Campus in Hamilton and at nearby historic locations.

**Spark Media in partnership with
Montgomery County-City Public
Library System –
First Lady of the Revolution:
Library Screening
and Discussion Series**

**Jefferson, Lauderdale, Madison,
Mobile and Montgomery counties**
This series is a multi-library screening initiative built around the documentary, First Lady of the Revolution, the remarkable story of Henrietta Boggs, a Southern belle from Alabama who, through a twist of fate in the 1940s, became First Lady of Costa Rica and influenced the progressive reforms that rocked an entire hemisphere. Screenings of the film, which was produced with AHF support, will include discussions with local humanities scholars.

**The Liberty Learning
Foundation –
Super Citizen Program
Coosa, Dallas, DeKalb
and Geneva counties**

The civics-based Super Citizen Programs teach, inspire and empower elementary students through a deeper understanding and applied practice, of their important roles as citizens. It invigorates schools and entire communities who share ownership in improving child, community and country. The Liberty Learning Foundation will present The Super Citizen Programs in very rural, lower socio-economic school districts.

**University of North
Alabama College of Arts
& Science– UNA-Limestone
Prison Initiative
Limestone Prison**

Two programs will be provided at Limestone Correctional Facility: The IF Project Writers' Workshop and the Inside-Out Program. Both are national models that provide humanities-based programming to correctional settings. The IF Project is a writing therapy program that uses expressive writing and creative truth-telling to help incarcerated men and women explore their life experiences. The Inside-Out Program will bring UNA students to Limestone to study literature alongside incarcerated learners.

GRANTS



Village of Promise, Inc. – Rocket City Civil Rights: Phase 1 - Connecting Generations Madison County

This project engages high school students in bringing the history of Huntsville's civil rights movement to a larger audience. These "citizen-historians" will collect and manage oral histories of the local civil rights movement, contributing important knowledge to our understanding of this under-researched era in Huntsville's history. The team will share these histories with their peers and the public and will establish a permanent digital resource on local civil rights history.

JUNE 2017 MINI GRANTS

Mobile Medical Museum – Sally Green Clark Memorial Lecture Series Mobile County

This is a series of public lectures held in conjunction with the special exhibit, Josiah Clark Nott Pathological Specimens. Three distinguished historians will come to Mobile to offer rare insight into lesser known areas of the region's medical and social history.

The Ridge Macon County Archaeological Project – 2017 Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival Macon County

The second annual Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival at The Ridge Interpretive Center in Warrior Stand, 12 miles south of Tuskegee. The theme is "Our Story of Alabama Begins Here!" The event aligns with the 2017 Alabama 200 Bicentennial Celebration theme, "Discovering Our Places." The storytelling format is inspired by a trend by scholars to use creative narratives to attract general audiences to engage with scholarly topics.



Old Federal Road
Storytelling
Festival
Photo from MobileStudio

EXCEL Center - Decatur City Schools – One Story, One Boy: Transforming Lives in Decatur Morgan County

This program sharing the true and heartbreaking story of 16-year-old Enrique will transform the view of teachers and community of immigrant students. The book study is on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Enrique's Journey, by Sonia Nazario. It is the story of a young boy who makes the difficult and dangerous journey from Honduras to the United States to reunite with his mother. Enrique was trying to flee poverty and dangers at home, but instead faced more difficulties as a result of his journey.

Fountain of Life CDC – Montgomery on My Mind: Lessons from the Bus Boycott of 1955 Through the Lens of Fred Grey Madison County

Montgomery on My Mind is public reading and discussion to educate members of the Huntsville/Madison community on the important lessons that can be garnered from this monumental, historical Alabama event.

Monroe County Heritage Museum – Getting to Know Eugene Monroe County

The program introduces Eugene Walter, Alabama's Renaissance man,

in Monroeville, The Literary Capital of Alabama, by hosting a two-part program in the historic courtroom made famous by the film version of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Dr. Sue Brannan Walker will discuss several themes in Eugene's published works with a focus on his first novel, selected short stories and poetry. Alabama author Carolyn Haines will then present the unique characteristics and talents of the Eugene Walter whom she knew.

Tallapoosa Historical Society – Cultural History of Lake Martin in Pictures Tallapoosa County

A photographic exhibition depicts a cultural history of the Martin Dam/Lake Martin impact on Tallapoosa County. Pictures tell the story of the construction of Martin Dam at Cherokee Bluffs, the workers and their families who were involved. This exhibit will be on display at Smithsonian's Water/Ways traveling exhibit in Alexander City.

Troy University – A Conversation with Riva Schuster Hirsch Pike County

Troy University will welcome Ms. Hirsch to the Troy Campus to speak on her experiences as a Holocaust survivor. Ms. Hirsch will speak at two events – a campus assembly open and promoted

to the general public in the Troy and Wiregrass areas, and a workshop on the Holocaust offered to area teachers.

FEBRUARY 2017 MAJOR GRANTS

Auburn University Department of Political Science

Alabama Justice: The Cases that Changed America

Statewide

To coincide with the Bicentennial of Alabama statehood, this project will create a traveling multimedia exhibit of several landmark United States Supreme Court cases from Alabama and the three U.S. Supreme Court justices appointed from this state.

UA Center for Public TV & Radio

Alabama's Water/Ways

Eufaula, Decatur, Alexander City, Spanish Fort, Jasper, Selma

One sixth of the area of Alabama is comprised of lakes, reservoirs, ponds, wetlands, estuaries and flowing rivers and streams. "Alabama's Water/Ways" is an oral history video collection of the importance of Alabama's precious natural resource to accompany the Museum on Main Street "Water/Ways" exhibition.

Alabama Black Lutheran Heritage Association African-American Education in the Black Belt from 1912-1960: The Work of Rosebud Native Rosa Young

Selma, Sardis, Pine Hill, Pine Apple, Vredenburgh, Camden, Rosebud, Gees Bend, Snow Hill, Arlington, Oak Hill, Haynesville, Prattville, Marion

A traveling exhibit documenting the work of Alabama native Rosa J. Young (b. 1890) in establishing 35 schools for African-American students in the Black Belt during the Jim Crow era. The Rosebud native built her first school in 1912. The Lutheran Church joined her in 1916.

UA Department of Theatre and Dance Our Tuscaloosa Live Exhibit

Tuscaloosa, Moundville

This living history program will introduce aspects of local culture and history. A collaboration between UA Department of English, Moundville

Archeological Park, the Tuscaloosa Historical Society, the Transportation Museum, Tuscaloosa Public library system and UA Department of Theatre & Dance.

Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership Multicultural Environments: Korea Montgomery

A free workshop to train the general public on the objective similarities and differences between Korea, Alabama, and the United States in culture, history, language, social behaviors and expectations, and more in order to apply their knowledge for the quality of life.

Central Alabama Theatre C.A.T. SCRIPTS Play Reading Series Birmingham

First annual series of public play readings celebrating both the writer and the audience. Author led post-discussions explore the creative writing process and how it speaks to our heritage and molds our relationships in today's culture.

Chricton Optimist Club Foundation – Youth in Motion Film Festival Mobile

Two public panels at the Youth in Motion Film Festival at the Gulf Coast Exploreum in Mobile will feature professionals interacting with 20 young Festival winners.

Alabama Department of Archives Foundation– Deep South Science Montgomery; statewide

A three-part documentary series will offer historical perspective on the significant scientific discoveries, innovations, and cutting-edge research by world leading scientists at Southern Research, UAB, and HudsonAlpha. The first episode in the series will feature Southern Research.

Space One Eleven – Women's Exhibition and Related Panel Discussions Birmingham

Panel discussions examining the significance of women's historic and current contributions to the arts.

FEBRUARY 2017 MINI GRANTS

Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism Birmingham Watch Media Literacy Demonstration Project Birmingham

The Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism [AIIJ] is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that supports public service, investigative and explanatory journalism for Birmingham and Alabama. This project is a workshop for the general public to promote media literacy and objective journalism.

USA Center for the Study of War & Memory War and Memory Podcast Series Mobile; statewide

Interviews conducted by Frye Gaillard with scholars, writers, museum and memorial directors, and veterans addressing the topic of war and memory from many different angles will be recorded, promoted, and exhibited at the University of South Alabama and online through social media.

Alabama School Fine Arts Foundation 2017 Young Writers Literary Awards Birmingham; statewide

One of Alabama's most comprehensive student literary award competitions, the program recognizes and awards cash prizes to talented young writers in grades 6-12 from across the state.

Dothan Houston Co Library System Discovering Alabama: A Speak and Show Series Dothan

Series designed to raise awareness of Dothan's rich culture, history, and unique places in honor of the Alabama 200 theme for 2017 – Exploring our Places. The series features selected episodes from the Discovering Alabama documentaries paired with scholars/speakers who are expanding upon the content discussed in the episodes.

Marengo County Archives & History Museum The Changing of America Demopolis

Public discussion program with keynote speaker Joseph McGill of "The Slave Dwelling Project" and a tour of Magnolia Grove's slave cabin.

Humanities on the Inside

Inmates take part in classroom program.



In 2001, Kyes Stevens returned home to Alabama from New York after earning a MFA in Poetry and MA in Women's History. She received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts that granted her the opportunity to teach poetry at the Talladega Federal Correctional Institution. And that's where it all began.

This fellowship, the students she met, an obvious critical need in the state of Alabama and a profound love of learning led to what is now known as the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project at Auburn University.

It is a program fueled by the belief that all people deserve access to education, that the more opportunities made for citizens through education, the more it contributes to a vibrant state, to a better quality of life for all.

The program grew out of a belief in the interconnectedness of all fields of study—that learning to write a strong

poem can cultivate a more nuanced reader of literature, that the problem solving of creating and communicating through drawing is not dissimilar to solving mathematical equations. So, the growth from poetry and drawing to the humanities was completely natural.

Education should be viewed as what it is – an investment. The people and the state of Alabama deserve the investment of quality and sustained educational programming, and universities, funding agencies and community programs must push hard to get access to meaningful learning into all places of the state.

Since the first grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation in 2005, the partnership between AHF and APAEP has offered more than 40 semester-length college level classes to more than 700 students within Alabama's prison system.

In 2006, Alabama Humanities Foundation earned the Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize by the Federation of State Humanities Councils for its sponsorship of APAEP's Pilot Course in a Survey of Southern Literature.

The Schwartz Prize is a national award given annually to an outstanding public humanities project that recognizes initiatives that use innovative approaches to provide cultural programming to underserved and diverse audiences.

In making the award, the judges "found this groundbreaking program, which brings writers and scholars into prisons to teach courses in literature with an emphasis on political and social contexts in which these works were produced, to be an incredibly moving and well-documented illustration of the potential of the humanities to empower neglected and marginalized groups."

Classes in subjects such as literature, history, anthropology, psychology, art history and political science fields open doors for students to learn about their state, their country and world, while also learning to see themselves as a part of that world.

A favorite story of Stevens illustrates the eagerness of students to learn, and it took place at a medium security men's facility. The first day of class is for the introduction to the course, reading material, handing out some basic supplies, but if the facility has a lot going on, sometimes those first days are challenging.

At this one facility, where a course in Alabama history was being taught, the students were given two texts for the class: *Alabama: The History of a Deep South State*, written by Dr. Wayne Flynt et al. and *Alabama in the 20th Century*, also written by Flynt. The following week at class, two students came back having read both books in their entirety and wanted to know if historians can write with a particular purpose in mind.

These are engaged students. They want to learn, to understand the world. The teacher was stunned that the readings that were to cover the semester were consumed in a week, but it also created the opportunity to challenge students to engage and re-engage with a text, and that each time a text is read, there is new knowledge and awareness.

The students of the APAEP identify their classes as powerful motivators for growing their lives, for working to become an educational role model for their children, to build a foundation of confidence that allows for personal growth. Students always evaluate classes because the program uses their feedback to best structure future classes and develop course diversity.

One student remarked on the program, "No other class compare(s) to APAEP classes: the teachers, the information, the supplies, the kindness, and the sincerity are all genuine."

Another had this to say: "Our workshop developed a connection between us students by allowing us to shed the masks we were all wearing (some for decades) through nurturing ideas and an atmosphere free of judgment."

"What I remember about the first APAEP class I took was not the course material as much as the light which appeared in some of my classmates' eyes in response to the camaraderie created in the group as they accomplished something meaningful for the first time in their lives. I enrolled in every APAEP class offered after that until my transfer to another prison, where I continue to enroll in every possible class offered, the inmate said.

"Whether it is a Shakespeare workshop, creative writing, mathematics or basic drawing, the class awakens the human spirit in us condemned students, restores hope in our lives and opens the door for us to nurture qualities such as empathy, love and humility."

Capitalizing on learning

The lessons learned have been the catalyst for another step forward in the progression of the program. In 2015, as part of AHF's literature program for veterans, APAEP and AHF started working together to bring courses into prisons specifically for veterans. Each year, at least one literature course is offered to veterans at the host facility. Active and retired military from the Auburn and Montgomery areas teach these courses. This program provides an incredible avenue for vets to invest in vets.

The long track record of AHF and APAEP working together through education contributed to the success of the APAEP program.

In 2016, Auburn University/APAEP were present at multiple conversations at the White House regarding the role of higher education in criminal justice reform, with Auburn University becoming one of the founding signatories of the Fair Chance Education Pledge. The strong foundation in academically rigorous classes supported by AHF and others also allowed for Auburn University to be awarded designation as a Second Chance Pell Program through the US Department of Education's Experimental Sites program.

The 16-year partnership with the Alabama Department of Corrections is significant, and shows the commitment of both organizations to helping educate people on the inside. Statistics show that the more education someone receives while incarcerated, the less likely they are to return to prison.

"The ADOC provides rehabilitative programming, but we depend on Auburn University to offer the exemplary higher education academic classes that have become an integral part of re-entry and rehabilitative programming at all the facilities served by this program," said Commissioner Jefferson Dunn on APAEP's programming.

"These classes teach critical thinking skills, develop self-efficacy and challenge students to persist. They help students become part of a community and learn to positively invest in their peers. This experience is vital for helping people who are in prison build skills that will help them not only while they are incarcerated, but importantly, when they re-enter our society."

To learn more about the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project at Auburn University, visit apaep.auburn.edu or find the program on Facebook.

Kyes Stevens is the founder and director of the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project at Auburn University. Stevens, an Alabama native, earned her M.A. in Women's History and M.F.A. in poetry from Sarah Lawrence College in New York. Recognitions include: Co-recipient of the first Lillian E. Smith Writer in Service Award through the Lillian E. Smith Center for Creative Arts, Auburn University Young Alumni Achievement Award in 2012, Auburn University Women of Distinction Award in 2010, 2014 Alabama State Council on the Arts Literary Arts Fellowship, and in 2016 Al.com Woman Who Shapes the State and 2016 Southerner of the Year by Southern Living.

Pathways Out: Reaching Beyond Prison Walls



Time behind bars does not have to be a life sentence. Recidivism rates can turn radically in the right direction, given the tools that can successfully point inmates that way.

That's where humanities, particularly literature, can step in to illuminate what Dr. Katie Owens Murphy of the University of North Alabama calls "pathways out."

Alabama Humanities Foundation is in its second year of funding another pilot endeavor at Limestone Correctional Facility through the University of North Alabama College of Arts & Sciences. In addition, AHF just concluded co-sponsorship of a two-year literature and discussion program for incarcerated women at Tutwiler Correctional Facility for Women, a pilot partnership project between Ingram State Technical College and Troy University.

According to Owens-Murphy of UNA's Department of English, the university "seeks to promote the humanities as a model for reflection that encourages inmate students to explore their own pathways to prison and as a model for change that allows them to identify pathways out."

UNA is implementing two ambitious models that use reading and writing, pro-social group interactions, critical thinking and creative expression to facilitate the rehabilitation of incarcerated learners.

"UNA is very grateful to AHF for allowing us to make higher education available to incarcerated learners at Limestone Correctional Facility," she said. "These programs are not only transforming the lives of those at Limestone, who now have access to the humanities through our literature and writing programs, they are also transforming the lives and pedagogical practices of the faculty who teach there," she said. "This spring, they will also impact our students at UNA, who will be learning alongside incarcerated students through our new Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program."

The inmates themselves are giving the programs high marks derived from their own up-close knowledge. "I never wanted to be a person with habitual criminal thoughts," said one inmate participant. "That's why I joined this class to break them habits. ... Now that I can explain my problems, I can control them. I'm learning every day. I've learned how to be content and not to make assumptions, and I also learned how to be patient."

Another participant noted, "I had never looked at the psychological part of my criminal thinking" before this program.

"Reading the Malcolm X book helped me understand my life and how easy it is to turn a stumbling

block into a stepping stone," said another. "Once again thank you for helping me to understand the law and to know that anyone can get out of prison, and get their life together like Malcolm X did."

The same positive assessments are coming from the Tutwiler project. "I believe [the Humanities Reading Initiative] is an invaluable tool to give the ladies opportunities they may never have had before," said Warden Bobby Barrett. "I agree with the goal of outfitting them with abilities that will keep them from returning to prison. The unified support of the program is remarkable, and I am proud to be on board with it."

Project Director Dr. Noel Harold Kaylor Jr. of Troy's Department of English agrees. "Some are in for life without parole, some are in multiple times, many are in for complications from drug addiction or poverty. The ladies read out of the books both the intellectual and social moments of importance of their own lives. ... They're very surprised that we are eager to hear what they have to say. ... I got to discover the fact that just because one is in the prison system doesn't mean that there is no hope for that individual. They all have that element of hope; they all want to improve themselves."

And through literature, they are discovering their own pathway out. ■

Birmingham VA Medical Center, AHF partner in **Literature and Health Care program**

By Chaplain Darren L. Kennemer

Few segments of the professional world still rely on digital pagers. Health care is an exception. Visit any hospital food court and you are sure to hear the ubiquitous, and dreaded sound ... BEEP ... BEEP ... BEEP. And, completely by reflex, over half of the people will reach for the waist. It's a noise that no one enjoys...especially in the middle of an overnight on-call shift...just before (or after) lying down. It means that there will be hours of work before sleep. It means that something serious and unplanned has happened. And, when that pager belongs to the chaplain on call, it almost always means someone's life has just been shattered. That is just one point at which "the story" matters.

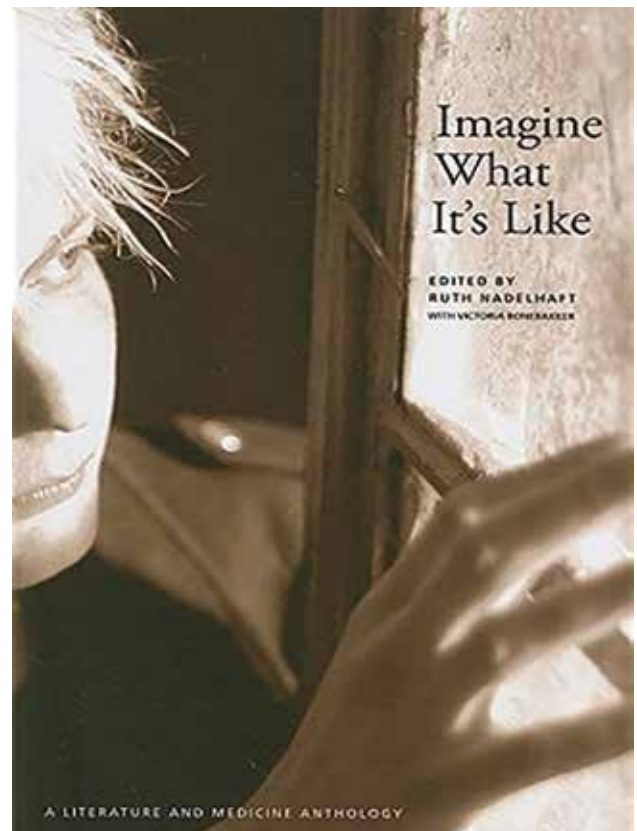
Every life has a story with many chapters. And when every workday brings the struggle between life and death, the opportunity to ease someone's suffering, or open the doors of healing the spiritual and emotional wounds of war, the importance of our experiences comes into sharp relief. Such is the reality for the staff of the Birmingham Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Some of them find that their own stories are punctuated by the stories of the veterans they serve. They need to be attuned to that and give it voice. Such awareness enhances the meaning of their work — and makes them better at it.

In early 2017, the Alabama Humanities Foundation partnered with the Birmingham VA's Chaplain Service and Education Service to sponsor a Literature and Health Care Reading and Discussion group. The group, facilitated by a clinical chaplain, consists of a wide spectrum of participants from various clinical and administrative disciplines. For eight weeks, the group met over lunch to share their reflections on the previously assigned readings. In addition to a discussion of the literature itself, each session included the sharing of chapters from the participants' own stories.

Program participants developed a common bond and a deeper sense of purpose in their work and personal lives. They grew from the experience and are eager to do more. The next series is currently being planned for Fall/Winter and will incorporate art and film, in addition to literature.

There are many ways in which to share our stories. ■



2017 AWARDS LUNCHEON

Rave reviews on Alabama Colloquium



A full house

As if lifting the veil on a prized piece of art, The Alabama Colloquium premiered Oct. 2, and the event was as promised – an unforgettable experience.

Reviews from the audience were measured in laughter and applause, punctuated by periods of intense silence as they focused on the engaging words of Alabama Humanities inaugural class of Fellows.

CNN's Emmy-winning Kamau Bell, business executive and historic novelist Nimrod T. Frazer, best-selling author Cassandra King and US District Judge Myron Thompson took the stage in front of a crowd of more than 320 at The Club with moderator Michel Martin, host of National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

And what followed was historic. The Fellows – an all-star cast with Alabama ties – engaged in a live conversation about issues of the day and the impact those Alabama ties had on their lives, their careers and their perspectives. Martin called it a conversation that was both “timely and timeless.”

They spoke of race. They joked about decisions that ultimately shaped their lives. They talked about the good and bad of Alabama. And they looked to the future and what they would like to see for their state, for the nation and for humanity.

Judge Thompson, the second African American to serve as a federal judge in Alabama, overcame polio, went on to Yale Law School and returned to the state where he once rode a segregated bus.

Why come back?, Martin asked him.

“I came back because of the impact the state had on me,” said Thompson. At Yale, a colleague said he was going back to Alabama to be a big fish in a small pond. He said he was initially incensed at the notion, but then realized “she was telling the truth.” His parents had been active in the NAACP, and his mother asked, “What about your people back down here?”

He talked of his third-grade teacher, who inspired him to look past his perceived disability and toward his ability. “You can do better,” she told him.

“I could be a cripple or one who excels,” Thompson said. He chose the latter.

He has been recognized across the country by Yale, Stanford and Harvard law schools. He was awarded the Thurgood Marshall Award by the National Bar Association Judicial Council for his “personal contributions and extraordinary commitment to the advancement of civil rights and for being a role model for members of the bench and bar.”

“You have advanced personal freedoms and human dignity,” said Martin. “What could be a higher calling than that?”

Why does Bell, an Emmy Award-winning host of CNN's *United Shades of America*, who lives in Berkeley, Calif., come back to the state where he grew up in Mobile? “It's home,” he said. “It's the one place in the country that feels familiar.”

And he wants that familiarity of home to pass down to his 6-year-old. Growing up, “I've crawled around on the ground for

Moon Pies” at Mardi Gras. Now, his daughter has had the same experience. “It has got to be a part of who we are.”

While he recognized the negative connotation with race issues Alabama has, he sees those same issues reach well beyond its borders and really, well beyond the South. He talked of where he lives now, Berkeley – known as a center of liberalism. Not so on closer look, he said.

He explained that he is married to a white woman, and he had met her at a restaurant early one morning for breakfast on his birthday. She stayed to meet some friends, and he left and came back later with a children’s book for their 4-year-old on the Lovings, the bi-racial couple who fought to keep their marriage legal because bi-racial marriages were outlawed in their state at the time.

Bell said someone saw him talking to this group of white women about the book, and someone in the kitchen tapped on the window and told him to “get out.” A few minutes later, the person came out of the kitchen and told him to get out again, that he was harassing the group.

The moral of his story? Biases exist everywhere, even Berkeley in 2015.

King had a bit of a different take. While she recognized race was a divisive issue in her segregated Alabama, it would take her “coming of age – to process this within myself and decide what kind of stand I would take.”

Nothing in her past taught her that. It was instinctual. Martin summed it up from an interview done with King and her late husband, novelist Pat Conroy. The writer described the couple’s writing styles. King was described as one who would “look forward and write about change.” Conroy “looks backward and writes about endurance.”

Growing up white on a peanut farm in Dothan, a place she described as “Lower Alabama,” the racial upheaval of those years was not discussed. “Segregation issues were not talked about. It’s like it didn’t exist,” she said. It is not unlike the perspectives of others who grew up at that time.

Frazier said he was “raised poor.” It wasn’t a white issue or a black issue to him. They were just poor. His driving force? “I wanted to make money.”

His service to country stays close to his heart. He fought in Korea and was awarded the Silver Star. The GI Bill got him in the door at Harvard Business School. And he came back to Montgomery and made that money. Rising eventually to CEO and Chairman Emeritus of Enstar Group, “I made every dime I got in Montgomery, Alabama. All you need is a telephone,” he mused. “Alabama exudes opportunity.”

What keeps you up at night about the future?, Martin asked all four. “Climate change and the environment,” answered King. “I was raised in the land. This is the only land we have, and it has got to be preserved.”

Bell retorted, “Worrying.” He noted that as a society in today’s world, worry seems to be all too consuming. “I worry we’ll be too tired to get out of bed and do the work.”

“Overcoming,” replied Thompson, who rose to national prominence even though he grew up drinking from segregated water fountains. “We can overcome. Overcoming is a lifetime job. It begins when we enter the earth, and it ends when you leave it. You’ve got to keep at it.”

Moving from worrying about the bad to how to work to achieve good, Thompson said to follow the adage of what makes a good judge – the ability to render a fair decision to someone “who doesn’t look like you or act like you.”

“Reach out of your normal communities,” advised Bell, following the same theme. “Be less siloed. Have conversations with people you wouldn’t ordinarily have.”

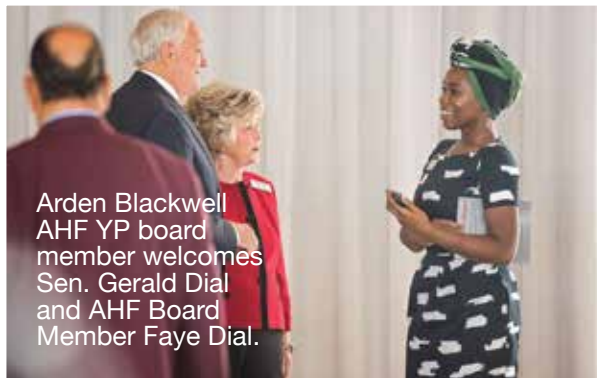
“We need to celebrate the role of the humanities” in life, added King. As an example, she talked of the creation of the Pat Conroy Literary Center. In Beaufort, S.C., they saw a need and had the typical self-doubt questions about whether they could afford to do it. Then, she said, they realized, “How can we not celebrate and provide what the humanities have to offer people. You have to keep at what you’re doing through the humanities to enrich everyone’s lives.”

Thompson beckoned the audience to recognize that “what divides us is the inability to recognize our commonality. We’re all good people. We need to look for qualities in the system” – where people can agree – and realize “we’re all in this same boat called Alabama, and we sink or swim together.”

AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser addresses crowd



Arden Blackwell AHF YP board member welcomes Sen. Gerald Dial and AHF Board Member Faye Dial.



Michel Martin greets Kamau Bell and Judge Myron Thompson.



Sponsors help make event a success



The conversation begins



2017 AWARDS LUNCHEON

Sentell, Vulcan Materials honored with annual awards

Story By Carol Pappas • Photos by Jonah Enfinger

Alabama Humanities Foundation honored Alabama Tourism Director Lee Sentell and Vulcan Materials with its annual awards, recognizing their contributions to humanities work throughout Alabama.

Sentell was awarded the Wayne Greenhaw Service to the Humanities Award, which goes to a past or present AHF Board member who has given extraordinary service to the humanities in Alabama. It is named in memory of Wayne Greenhaw, a former AHF board member who was a prolific author and historian in the state.

In accepting the award, Sentell called it “a great honor, particularly because Wayne Greenhaw and I were friends. It is hard to think of him without a smile.”

AHF Immediate Past Chair Lynne Berry Vallely, who presented the award, described Sentell as an extraordinary tourism director who is “well respected by his peers.” As the longest serving director – spanning the terms of three governors, she mused, “We want him to stay as long as he desires.”

A native of Clay County, Sentell has served as director of the Alabama Tourism Department since January 2003. His tourism career has spanned more than 30 years.

After serving as city editor of *The Decatur Daily*, he became the first director of the Decatur Tourism Bureau. He was director of marketing at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville during the first decade of Space Camp and was director of tourism at the Huntsville Convention & Visitors Bureau when appointed to state tourism director in Montgomery.

He has served on the boards of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Humanities Foundation and Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

He authored a travel guide titled, *The Best of Alabama*, and his agency has earned a number of awards for innovative and creative campaigns promoting tourism in the state.

“As a former board member at AHF and in his capacity as a key leader in our state, Lee has strongly supported our mission and goals as an organization, promoting the humanities in every corner of Alabama,” said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser.

Vulcan Materials Company earned the Charitable Organization in the Humanities Award in recognition to decades of support for Alabama Humanities Foundation.

In presenting the award, AHF Board Member Lajuana Bradford talked of the company’s 100-year history and its principles of “integrity, excellence and people.” Because of Vulcan’s partnerships with AHF, she said, the company has helped make humanities accessible “for all Alabamians.”

David Donaldson, vice president of Government and Community Relations, accepted the award, returning thanks to teachers who are a part of furthering the humanities, to the Legislature for its funding of the humanities and to “the generosity of the people in this room who have done so much” to promote the humanities. “We need humanities now more than ever.”

Vulcan is the nation’s largest producer of construction



From left, AHF Chair Jimmy McLemore, Lee Sentell and Immediate Past Chair Lynne Berry Vallely



From left, AHF Chair Jimmy McLemore, Vulcan Materials' David Donaldson and AHF Board Member Lajuana Bradford

aggregates and a major producer of aggregates-based construction materials. It has a coast-to-coast footprint with a strategic distribution network to serve the nation’s growth centers.

“As a company, Vulcan Materials has long been a strong supporter of the humanities in Alabama, contributing to our biannual magazine, *Mosaic*, and other programs designed to convey the message and mission of AHF,” according to Executive Director Armand DeKeyser.

“Its own company commitment states it will be a good corporate citizen in each community in which it operates, supporting and taking an active part in public and charitable projects, and it certainly has embodied that ideal in our community,” DeKeyser said.

He also noted that Donaldson served on AHF’s board of directors for many years, personally playing a leading role on the board.

Colloquium ushers in new tradition

In a departure from its usual format for the Alabama Humanities Awards, AHF created a new concept for the organization's annual event on Oct. 2 — Alabama Humanities Fellows.

Called 'The Alabama Colloquium,' the event featured the inaugural class of Fellows in a lively, provocative conversation plus the induction of past Alabama Humanities Award winners — living and deceased — as a group.

Inducted into the inaugural class were: CNN's Emmy-winning Kamau Bell, business executive and historic novelist Nimrod T. Frazer, best-selling author Cassandra King and U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson.

Defining the new program, AHF presented its guidelines for selection as an Alabama Humanities Fellow:

Alabama Humanities Fellows are individuals who have made exemplary contributions to public understanding and valuing of the humanities and in keeping with the Alabama Humanities Foundation's mission to foster understanding and appreciation of Alabama peoples, communities, and cultures.

Alabama Humanities Fellows shall be inducted annually. Alabama natives, current or one-time Alabama residents, or other living persons who have made substantial contributions to the humanities in relationship to Alabama are eligible to become Fellows. Their efforts might include leadership on behalf of a cultural or educational institution, strong advocacy, significant scholarly achievement, or outstanding public-facing work embodying the values and perspectives of the humanities.

Throughout the year of induction, Alabama Humanities Fellows shall advocate for the public humanities generally and for the value to the public of the work of the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

All Alabama Humanities Fellows, inclusive of the past recipients of the Alabama Humanities Award, shall work collectively and individually to promote understanding of the benefits of the humanities to the life of our nation and to the state of Alabama.

AHF Development Committee Chairman Trey Granger, in introducing the new concept to the Colloquium, quoted Helen Keller, who once said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

Through the Humanities Fellows, "collectively, we can make a difference," Granger said. ■



Inaugural fellows from left, Kamau Bell, Judge Myron Thompson, Cassandra King and Nimrod T. Frazer

Inducted as a group in this inaugural year were the previous Alabama Humanities Award winners, dating back to 1989:

- Ben & Luanne Russell
- Cynthia Tucker Haynes
- Betty McMahon
- Bobby Horton
- Dr. E.O. Wilson
- Dr. Elaine Hughes
- Edgar Welden
- Dr. Bill Carter
- Senator Richard Shelby
- Jack Warner
- Dr. Bert Hitchcock
- Dr. Neal Berte & Joe McInnes
- Senator Howell Heflin
- Dr. Harry Philpott
- Harper Lee
- Dr. Ed Bridges
- Kathryn Tucker Windham & Dr. James Yarbrough
- Emory Cunningham
- Odessa Woolfolk
- Gov. Albert Brewer
- Suzanne Wolf
- Philip Morris
- Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins
- Judge C.J. Coley
- Dr. Wayne Flynt
- Dr. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton
- Winton M. Blount

JENICE RILEY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Jenice Riley
Scholarship winners
Della White, Carly
Turner, Lisa Williams
and Tiffany Rushing
with AHF Chair Jimmy
McLemore, right, and
Minda Riley, Jenice's
sister, third from right



Story By Carol Pappas
Photos by Jonah Enfinger

Teachers were recognized in more ways than one at The Alabama Colloquium. The annual event traditionally is a time to honor the recipients of the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship, given to teachers in support of projects in history and civics in their classroom or school.

Named in memory of the late daughter of former Gov. Bob and Patsy Riley, winners are chosen based on their projects that share the same commitment Riley had as a teacher to enhance learning for students.

Carly Nelson of Demopolis Middle School, Tiffany Rushing of Knight Enloe Elementary, Della White of Chickasaw High School and Lisa Williams of Brownwood Elementary School were duly recognized with a plaque and a check for \$1,000 each.

But there were more recognitions to come. Alabama Fellow Kamau Bell, who was on stage as part of the featured program, talked of the impact of teachers and pledged another \$1,000 to this year's winners. US District Judge Myron Thompson credited his rise to national prominence after being stricken with polio as a child to his third-grade teacher's encouragement. And David Donaldson, vice president of Vulcan Materials, which won the Charitable Organization to the Humanities Award, thanked teachers for their many contributions to the humanities.

"We are always proud of our teachers and their amazing projects to enhance learning across our state," said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser. "We are especially proud this year that the key figures in the Colloquium chose to honor our teachers through their words and gestures of giving."

This year's group of teachers did not disappoint in their projects designed to do more for their students.

Winning projects were:

Lisa Williams, *Where Do You Live?* – A "geography-focused program to help children understand the physical as well as the cultural characteristics of the world. It provides the knowledge and skills to better understand themselves, their relationship to earth and their interdependence with other people in the world. Thus, building cultural awareness."

Della White, *The Bluford Series* – To motivate reluctant readers to read via GoReaders, addressing topics that interest them. The Bluford Series GoReader is a personal, user-friendly audiobook player preloaded with five novels. "With it, my striving readers can work independently, experiencing the excitement of Bluford High, just like their peers. While listening to the audiobooks, students can read along side-by-side with the printed books ... Together, the print books and audio support are a powerful combination that can scaffold students' growing reading skills."

Tiffany Rushing, *The Escape Room* – With the Alabama Bicentennial as her inspiration to instill a love of history in her students, she plans to incorporate the game, The Escape Room, in her Social Studies classroom. The classroom version uses curriculum standards as clues. When the student answers the clue correctly, a lock opens. When the game is over, the students should have learned the curriculum subject matter. She also plans to "unlock local history" through field trips.

Carly Nelson, *Google Expeditions* – Creating "life-long history learners and civically involved citizens" by using virtual reality headsets and a teacher tablet to enhance the Google Expeditions App. "Students will have the ability to travel the world without ever leaving the classroom." ■

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Giving makes our mission possible, and we try to never miss an opportunity to thank those who have given to Alabama Humanities Foundation so that our work can go on in every corner of our state.

Each spring, in Mosaic, we thank our donors.

A group of those did not make it to the special donor recognition page, and we do not want to miss the opportunity to simply say, Thank You! With them behind us, our mission and our work becomes that much stronger:

- Dr. and Mrs. Bob Whetstone
- Dr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson
- Dr. and Mrs. Bertram Hitchcock
- Dr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Potts
- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mooney
- Mr. and Mrs. David Trent
- Mr. and Mrs. Haskell W. Fulmer
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hubbard
- Senator and Mrs. Gerald Dial
- Ms. Katherine Jackson
- Ms. Laura Chambliss
- Mr. Jonah Enfinger

State mourns loss of Creek preservation officer

Alabama Humanities joins the community of historical and cultural organizations across the state in mourning the untimely loss of Robert Thrower, Tribal Historic Preservation officer for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

A week before his passing, Robert was busy crisscrossing Alabama and sharing his story with those who shared his passion—teachers.

Robert joined AHF's June SUPER Institute *Sense of Place: Depictions of Alabama in History and Fiction*, and in doing so, complicated the narrative of territorial expansion in Alabama. By centering discussion of expansion on the perspective of the Creek Indians and the 14,000-year history of Native Americans in present-day Alabama, Robert emphasized the depth and complexity of the historic interactions people had with one another and with the land in Alabama.

Robert served as a critical voice in multiple conversations around Alabama. From the ongoing bicentennial planning effort to the emergence of statewide programming discussing the Creek War of 1814, Robert was an essential figure.

His absence will be felt throughout these bicentennial years and in the years to come.

Our thoughts are with the Poarch Indians and Roberts family during this time. Their loss of a husband, father, and preservationist is Alabama's loss of a passionate torchbearer of native language, culture and history.



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The College of Liberal Arts offers numerous study abroad programs in incredible places across the globe. From summers in Shanghai to exchange programs in Paris, our students have exciting opportunities to gain new perspectives, become globally minded and embark on thrilling adventures, all while making unforgettable memories and lifelong friendships.

For more information about the College of Liberal Arts and studying abroad, visit our website at www.cla.auburn.edu.

THIS IS AUBURN.



Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit

Alabama Humanities driving force behind tour



Beginning in March at the state Capitol, Alabama's history, culture and humanities will be a part of an impressive traveling exhibit making stops in all 67 of the state's counties as a significant contribution by Alabama Humanities Foundation to Alabama's Bicentennial Celebration.

Called *Making Alabama*, the exhibit will feature eight periods of history – from becoming a territory to achieving statehood and beyond.

The exhibit opens March 5, in Montgomery in the Old Supreme Court Chambers and will be on display throughout the month until it begins its march through the

state.

Four exhibits are being built, and they will travel the state concurrently so that all counties will be able to experience this historic event.

AHF was a natural choice for coordinating the traveling exhibit with its decades of experience with the partnership of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit.

"Just like the Smithsonian, where not everyone has the opportunity to view a Smithsonian exhibit in Washington, not everyone can make it to Montgomery to see Alabama Department of Archives and History's

unparalleled *Voices* exhibit," said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser.

"What we are putting together gives them that opportunity," he said.

In addition, host communities are assembling their own historical exhibits and programming to showcase their own history and put their signature on this event.

"It's amazing what these communities are planning to celebrate their history and the 200 years of Alabama as a state," DeKeyser said.

"We are honored to be able to be a part of this epic undertaking, and we look forward to opening day in March." ■

MAKING ALABAMA TOUR SCHEDULE



2018

April

St. Clair, *Moody Civic Center, Moody*
Wilcox, *Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal, Camden*
Lee, *Lewis Cooper Jr. Memorial Library, Opelika*

May

Bullock, *venue TBD, Union Springs*
Cullman, *Wallace State Community College, Hanceville*
Talladega, *Heritage Hall Museum, Talladega*
Marengo, *Marengo Co. History & Archive Museum, Demopolis*

June

Cleburne, *The Armory, Heflin*
Winston, *venue TBD, Haleyville*
Dale, *Dale County Council of Arts & Humanities, Ozark*
Lowndes, *venue TBD*

July

Marshall, *Guntersville Museum, Guntersville*
Choctaw, *Choctaw County Community Center, Butler*
Coffee, *National Security Conference Center, Elba*
Pickens, *Aliceville Museum, Aliceville*

August

Cherokee, *Cherokee County Historical Museum, Centre*
Calhoun, *The Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun Co., Anniston*
Clarke, *The Community House (H.W. Pearce Memorial Park), Jackson*
Russell, *venue TBD*

September

Blount, *Blount County Fairgrounds, Oneonta*
Covington, *LAAC Gallery, Andalusia*
Marion, *Pastime Civic Center, Winfield*
Mobile, *Mobile Public Library / Toulminville Branch, Mobile*

October

Clay, *Ashland Public Library, Ashland*
Colbert, *Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Tuscumbia*
Hale, *Greensboro Opera House, Greensboro*
Henry, *Solomon Memorial Library, Headland*

November

Autauga, *venue TBD, Prattville*
Limestone, *Athens-Limestone Public Library, Athens*
Chilton, *Jefferson State Community College, Clanton*
Perry, *Smith Building Art Gallery, Marion*

December

Baldwin, *Robertsdale Coliseum, Robertsdale*
Houston, *Landmark Park, Dothan*

2019

January

Dallas, *The Welcome Center, Selma*
Jackson, *Stevenson Public Library, Stevenson*
Randolph, *Annie L. Awbrey Library, Roanoke*

February

Butler, *Greenville-Butler County Library, Greenville*
Chambers, *Bradshaw Library, Cobb Memorial Archives in Valley, Alabama*
Fayette, *Hubbertville School, Hubbertville*



A model of one of the planned panels for the exhibit with a replica of a kiosk with two oversized computer tablets that will contain historic information delving deeper into these periods of history

March

Barbour, *Clayton City Hall, Clayton*
Conecuh, *venue TBD*
Coosa, *venue TBD*
Lauderdale, *Rogersville Town Hall, Rogersville*

April

Bibb, *Bibb County Board of Education, Centreville*
Monroe, *Monroe County Public Library, Monroeville*
Tallapoosa, *venue TBD, Dadeville*

May

Escambia, *venue TBD*
Macon, *venue TBD*
Madison, *Early Works Museum Complex, Huntsville*
Jefferson, *Hoover Public Library, Hoover*

June

DeKalb, *Coal & Iron Building, Fort Payne*
Pike, *Pike County High School, Brundidge*

July

Lawrence, *venue TBD*

August

Greene, *venue TBD*
Shelby, *SCAC Complex, Columbiana*

September

Franklin, *venue TBD, Red Bay*
Lamar, *Vernon City Complex, Vernon*
Sumter, *Black Belt Museum, Livingston*

October

Elmore, *venue TBD*
Etowah, *Gadsden Public Library, Gadsden*
Walker, *Bankhead House and Heritage Center, Jasper*

November

Washington, *venue TBD, Chatom*

December

Morgan, *venue TBD, Decatur*
Tuscaloosa, *venue TBD, Tuscaloosa*
Montgomery, *Old Supreme Court Library, State Capitol, Montgomery*

¡Pura Vida! Alabama-Costa Rica:

Context, connections, legacies and leadership

By Vince Gawronski

Boggs and Jose “Pepe”
Figueres on the now
famous motorcycle



Boggs in later years



Producer Andrea Kalin with Boggs at the film's
Montgomery premiere

¡Pura Vida! (pure life) is what Costa Ricans say to describe anything from the positive to the mundane. Travel guides portray Costa Rica as a beautiful, peace-loving, politically stable, democratic country—the “Switzerland of Central America.”

Costa Ricans (ticos) are happy, healthy, and well-educated. They are proud of their liberal democracy, sustainable development policies, ecotourism industry and 100 percent renewable, clean electric energy. However, how did Costa Rica get here?

Experts have more or less debunked three origin myths for Costa Rican “exceptionalism:” 1) the Spaniards quickly and peacefully subdued the small indigenous population; 2) there was plenty of land for an egalitarian “rural democracy” to emerge; and, 3) the area was isolated from Spanish Colonial America. While most people trace Costa Rica’s contemporary liberal democratic political system to the 1948 revolution of José “Pepe” Figueres, the story is more complicated and interesting.

TRACING ROOTS

History consists of intricate webs of legacies, elements of the present that can be traced back to past events or predecessors. Often, a legacy’s origins are not readily apparent, but sometimes people are lucky enough to encounter a living legacy. *First Lady of the Revolution* recounts the little-known story of how a Southern Belle from Alabama participated in the 1948 Costa Rican revolution and helped to transform a Central American nation-state.

During a visit to her aunt and uncle in Costa Rica, Henrietta Boggs, then a junior at Birmingham-Southern College (BSC), fell in love with and married, José “Pepe” Figueres, a coffee farmer-rancher sympathetic to socialist causes and with a rebellious reputation. Figueres capitalized upon the controversial presidential election of 1948 to start his previously-planned revolt against an increasingly corrupt and nepotistic political system.

The revolution was brief (40 days) but bloody (more than 2,000 killed). Afterwards, Figueres served as president of a temporary junta to consolidate the progressive platform of President Rafael Calderón (1940-1944) and to implement his own reforms, including banning communist political parties, establishing an independent electoral tribunal, requiring presidential term limits, granting full citizenship for blacks, nationalizing the banks and abolishing the standing army.

First Lady Henrietta was a go-between for people who wanted access to President Figueres. She had Figueres’s machista ear, ultimately influencing him to guarantee women’s suffrage.

It is a remarkable story, filled with plot twists and turns and many teaching opportunities, which is why I agreed to be the Lead Scholar for an Alabama Humanities Foundation-sponsored Super Teacher Institute: “First Lady of the Revolution: Alabama’s Connection to the Costa Rican Revolution” (July 24-26, 2017).

T.C. McLemore, programs director for Alabama Humanities Foundation, organized the event, which brought together five scholars and 10 teachers, including two English teachers from Costa Rica, to share knowledge, experiences and pedagogical strategies associated with the documentary, *First Lady of the Revolution*. Our Costa Rican visitors were just as inspired by Henrietta’s story as the U.S. teachers and professors were, especially since so many ticos are unaware of the role Henrietta played in their history.

HISTORY IN CONTEXT

Before viewing the documentary, I provided context for Costa Rican “exceptionalism” by comparing Costa Rica to its neighbors with a variety of political and socioeconomic indicators. Indeed, Costa Rica remains “exceptional,” but global and regional forces are making the country more like its neighbors and even more like the United States.

Dr. William P. Hustwit, Associate Professor of History at Birmingham Southern College, provided more historical context by comparing Costa Rica’s 1948 revolution to the 1954 C.I.A.-backed coup in Guatemala. According to Dr. Hustwit, Figueres was an astute strategist and anti-communist, who, despite his progressive social and economic reforms, stayed on good terms with the United States. The outcome of the 1948 revolution would likely have been very different had it occurred later in the Cold War.

After viewing *First Lady of the Revolution*, Production Manager and Producer James Mirabello of Spark Media led an engaging discussion on the challenges and joys of making the film, especially getting to know Henrietta and her family.



Dr. Victoria Ott, who holds the James A. Wood Professorship in American History at BSC, provided us with a historical perspective on the lives and politically subversive attitudes and activities of Southern Belles in the Deep South. In many ways, the lives of Southern Belles mirrored those of many elite Latin American women.

Dr. William G. Holt, coordinator of the Urban Environmental Studies Program at BSC, demonstrated how the trajectories of urban areas in the Global North and Global South coincide in interesting ways. Similar socioeconomic, cultural, racial and political forces drive settlement patterns and urban development policies. The Deep South has more in common with Latin America than most Americans realize.

Providing a foray into the Spanish language, Dr. Denise Callejas, assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Morehouse College, presented a collection of poetry from Costa Rica’s revolutionary period. The poems reminded us that there were many competing forces in the 1948 revolution, and the losers, especially the communists, were just as passionate about their cause as were the winners.

The workshop participants also visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and Third Space: Shifting Conversations About Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art to further explore possible Alabama-Costa Rica connections.

I have participated in my share of mediocre teaching workshops, but *First Lady of the Revolution* and Henrietta’s story are what made this workshop such a great success. Our discussions were dynamic and erudite. Finding new strategies for engaging students at all levels – K-12 through university – is an ongoing challenge for all serious teachers and professors.

We concurred that *First Lady of the Revolution* could be used as a “hook” to teach many subjects: the history of Alabama and the Deep South, U.S. connections to Latin America, women’s history, the Civil Rights Era, socioeconomic and political development, democracy and human rights, leadership studies, political science, international studies, geography, and language and literature. The documentary is replete with prompts for class discussion, group activities, writing assignments and research projects.

My most important takeaways from the workshop centered on context, connections, legacies, and leadership as well as taking risks and making choices, especially being in the right place at the right time to do the right thing. Henrietta remains an inspiration for women and men, no matter their age or country of origin.

On May 27, 2017, Birmingham-Southern College awarded Henrietta Boggs-MacGuire the degree of Doctor of Humanities Honoris Causa. Dr. Boggs-MacGuire will celebrate her 100th birthday next year. ■

Editor’s note: Vincent T. Gawronski is professor of Political Science and chair of the Department of Political Science, Economics & Sociology at Birmingham-Southern College.

AHF Young Professionals on the move in 2017-18

New programs & partnerships

By Dawn Coleman

A changing of the guard occurred with the Alabama Humanities Foundation Young Professionals Board in 2017 as the final founding member, T. Marie King, completed her term.

Under her leadership, the group established two new programs designed to make the humanities more accessible and interactive for the next generation.

The innovative *Think & Drink* series draws young professionals to discuss provocative topics of the day and become more engaged in issues facing the region. The *Humanitini* gatherings also serve as a means of bringing young professionals together in social settings for networking while raising funds for humanities' programs.

The YP Board continues on this path by partnering with local and state organizations to promote young professionals' engagement in the humanities.

Underscoring that aim, thanks to the leadership of the YP Board, AHF benefitted from a sold-out Arc Stories event. A Birmingham-based storytelling organization dedicated to helping people tell their own personal stories as well as they can, it encourages community members to tell their own, true stories around a theme.

The theme in August was *Thicker than Water: Stories About Family*, and AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser told his own story that night to great applause. He talked of his family's generations and roots that run deep in Mobile.

Helping to support nonprofits, Arc Stories chose AHF to benefit from proceeds from VIP ticket sales. That night, Arc Stories sold the most VIP tickets of any event since its first one in 2010.

The YP Board has also partnered with the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening civic life in Alabama. Through the partnership, it is bringing the *What's Next, Alabama?* series to Birmingham, a public forum designed to give local communities the opportunity to come together and discuss their community's economic past, present and future.

Forums are convened by local members of the community in a neutral, public space and are moderated by the Center's staff.

Throughout three forums, participants deliberate



AHF Executive Director takes stage to tell 'his' story during Arc Stories event.



Arden K. Blackwell, Kendall Chew (AHF Staff) and Dawn Lee at the 2017 YP Summit.

on broad questions regarding the state of their community's economy. The first forum asks, "Where are we now? What assets do we have in our community? What is working, and what isn't working?" The second forum asks, "Where do we want to go? What do we want to change about our community, and what do we want to preserve?"

Finally, the third forum asks, "How do we get there? How can we move from talk to action?" The three-part series serves as this year's *Think & Drink* with a focus on how the humanities have affected our local economy.

Expanding on the strides made in 2017, the AHF YP Board is planning how to more effectively engage young professionals statewide and become a major presence at many AHF-funded programs in 2018. Some new ideas include starting a book club, organizing field trips to AHF-funded programs and events and providing speaking engagement opportunities to young professionals.

The AHF YP Board aims to capitalize on AHF's mission to foster learning, understanding and appreciation of our people, communities and cultures by expanding its network through programming and engagement that will create a ripple effect, engaging more young professionals with the humanities across Alabama. ■

REAL NEWS

By Jackie Romine Walburn
Photo BirminghamWatch/Solomon Crenshaw

AHF grant sponsors BirminghamWatch Media Savvy forum

With fake news making real headlines and citizens torn about who to trust, the timing seemed perfect for two Media Savvy forums supported by an Alabama Humanities Foundation grant to an Alabama nonprofit dedicated to independent public service journalism.

Aimed at understanding today's constantly changing click-driven media landscape and how to know if the news is real or fake, the media forums were held over the last month and featured veteran Alabama journalists talking about the evolution of the news business. The AHF grant to the nonprofit Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism and its online news presence, BirminghamWatch.org brought together citizens and media experts for discussions Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 in Birmingham.

"There's never been a better time to talk about being media savvy," said Carol Nunnelley, veteran newspaper editor and executive director of the nonprofit Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism and its public service reporting arm, BirminghamWatch.org. "Ten years ago, and it seems almost quaint now, the focus was on accuracy. Today's media have to fight for attention. It's hard to tell who is telling us what and for what purpose."

Media Savvy: Smart Choices in a Changing Information Age began and ended with "Real News or Fake News" games and featured discussion by audience members and presenters about how economics, technology and social media continue to change how Americans receive, understand, and trust or don't trust, the news and the news media.

Leading the forum was Chris Roberts, Ph.D, associate professor of Journalism and Creative Media at the University of Alabama, with presenters Nunnelley and Virginia Martin, lead news editor of BirminghamWatch.

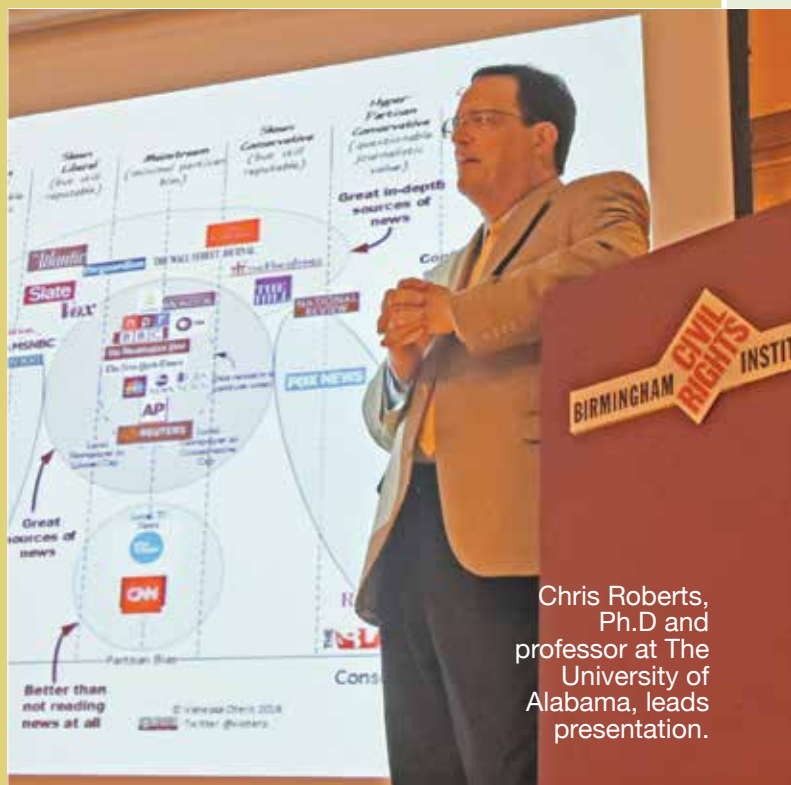
In a presentation that included graphs of national media outlets and where they land on the political and accuracy spectrum, Roberts detailed ways for citizens to separate fact from fiction. Roberts, who is working with a co-author on the second edition of a journalism textbook on media ethics, quoted Politifact.com, the fact-checking news website that was the first to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize for online media, for filtering through news to find the real.

For instance, if a news post does not have attribution, a date on the story, a reporter who can be found, a photo credit on the picture and a website with an "about us" or contact information, it could be fake. Other signs that a news item is fake include poor writing, sensational or overwrought presentation and odd website names that resemble legitimate news sources.

Facebook, Twitter and e-mail sharing historically help the spread of "fake news," Roberts said.

"Well, if it's on Facebook and Twitter, it's bound to be true," joked audience member Todd Benson, who asked Roberts to define fake news.

The term "fake news" in its current use emerged during the 2016 Presidential campaign, Roberts said. Fake news is usually created online, sometimes with political or social agendas, and often to secure more online "clicks." How often



Chris Roberts, Ph.D and professor at The University of Alabama, leads presentation.

readers click on or share online content is the new media currency, Roberts noted, and can determine how some writers get paid or if they keep their jobs.

Economic realities also help drive changes in media. Economically, newspapers in the U.S. are earning 40 cents on a dollar trying to compete for advertising dollars, Roberts said. Meanwhile, Google makes more money in advertising sales than all the newspapers and magazines combined.

"We live in a world where everybody is shouting," Roberts said. "It's hard to know what is really important, when to turn it up to 11."

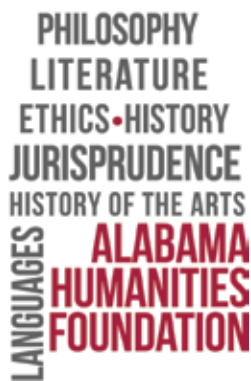
Reading news from sources you know and trust – and being aware of click-driven online posts – are key for people who want to be informed, said Roberts. Even though recent surveys show slight increases in the public's trust in media overall, the professor said that today, "People don't trust the media. They trust 'their' media."

The evolution of the news business – consolidation of media outlets, including newspapers and local television and radio stations, the explosion of social media and fewer daily newspapers who print daily – has created more media outlets with less real reporting.

Nationwide, he said, there are 15,250 radio stations, 1,300 daily newspapers, 9,000 local television stations and 500 million websites.

"We should revel in the freedom" of information, he said, but stay aware that the onus is on citizens who care about being informed.

It comes down to the reader being media savvy, said Martin, lead editor with BirminghamWatch, the nonprofit news site with a mission of public service, investigating and explanatory reporting that is fair and factual. "Learning the truth in this day and age takes a lot more work on our part."



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