

PHILOSOPHY
LITERATURE
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LANGUAGES
ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
FOUNDATION

MOSAIC

MAGAZINE

Fall 2018



Encyclopedia
of **Alabama**

10 years later, EOA blooms
just like its first post
— the Cahaba Lily

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 an interactive facility that honors one of America's most beloved women. Visit today and learn all about the life and legacy of Rosa Parks.



For ticket information and hours, visit troy.edu/rosaparks.

MOSAIC



Encyclopedia
of Alabama

10
EOA Birthday



26
Stony
the Road



18
Alabama
Colloquium

**ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
FOUNDATION**

About the Cover: Encyclopedia of Alabama is a free, online reference resource on Alabama's history, culture, geography, and natural environment. It was developed by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and Auburn University with generous financial support from across the state. Auburn University hosts EOA's editorial office through the Office of University Outreach, in partnership with University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology. It is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Our cover depicts the Cahaba Lily, indigenous to Alabama, and EOA's very first post. *The photo is by Leilani Carroll. Special thanks to Cahaba Lily Festival.*

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go to our website www.alabamahumanities.org

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* Denotes Gubernatorial appointments



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Alabama Humanities
Foundation fosters learning,
understanding and appreciation
of our people, communities and
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Alabama Humanities

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

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Fellows, award winner tell Alabama's story best

By Armand DeKeyser



As we continue the celebration of the Bicentennial of our state – 200 storied years of history – I cannot help but think how the 2018 class of Alabama Humanities Fellows is a microcosm of how Alabama has evolved over those two centuries.

Our class of nine Fellows from different backgrounds, vantage points and a mix of views have one thing in common. They all are Alabamians.

They may have been born here. They may have arrived a little later than the rest. But make no mistake, they all are Alabamians.

It seems fitting that Mary Margaret Pettway was among the nine. She's a fourth generation Gee's Bend quilter. Her quilts could be a metaphor for Alabama, so many different, yet necessary pieces fitting together to contribute to the whole.

Adding to the finished product are people like Fellow Peggy Wallace Kennedy. In 1963, her father stood in the schoolhouse door to prevent desegregation. In 2015, she stood alongside Congressman John Lewis, who was nearly beaten to death on "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

Others in the class have powerful stories as well.

Nall Hollis grew up in Troy. Now, simply known as Nall, he attracts an international following for his works of art. His 45-year career has taken him virtually all over the world, where his work has been exhibited in fine art museums. His talent and versatility translates into paintings, costumes, etchings, silverware, mosaics, assemblage wall pieces, monumental sculpture, video documentations, set designs, drawings, watercolors, china, postage stamps and more. He has brought global attention to our state.

Joyce Vance was US Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, appointed by President Barack Obama. Among her achievements are working to protect the rights of those with disabilities at polling places, a statewide investigation of Alabama's prison conditions and her creation of an initiative that partnered law enforcement, medical and business communities and educators to fight the heroin and opioid epidemic in northern Alabama.

I cannot think of another person who has done more in Alabama to bring understanding the Civil Rights Movement to those around the country than Dr. Martha Bouyer. She has partnered with AHF for years to develop curriculum that not only teaches educators throughout the nation about the pivotal moments in our state's history, she provides eye witness accounts, helps them retrace the actual footsteps of the movement and gives them a once in a lifetime experience.

For Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, Alabama is the place he now calls home, and he has brought much pride to the state through his leadership as president of Samford University. It is the top ranked private university in the state, and it continues to be a leader in the nation

as the 87th oldest in the country.

Born in an Alabama sawmill town, Bobby McAlpine designed his first house at age 5. Today, his architectural firm, McAlpine, is a blend of architects and interior designers with offices in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and New York. McAlpine himself? He's based in Montgomery, but this native son's works around the world are featured in such revered publications as *Architectural Digest*, *House Beautiful*, *Veranda*, *Southern Accents*, *Elle Décor*, *Southern Living* and *House and Garden*.

Gina Locklear followed in the family business, sock manufacturing. Although it was a dying industry, she is helping revive it around the country from her hometown of Ft. Payne, producing organic socks from Zkano and Little River Mill. Revolutionizing the industry, her work caught the attention of *The New York Times*, which dubbed her "The Sock Queen of Alabama."

Margot Shaw, a Birmingham native, saw a need and promptly filled it. A self-described "call and order flowers girl," she was working with a floral and art designer and aspired for more, so she began apprenticing. Years later, when she was unable to find a publication to inspire what could be done with flowers, she created one. *Flower Magazine* is the only floral lifestyle publication in the country and is now available in all 50 states and 17 countries.

Lest we forget Reggie Hamner, our 2018 Wayne Greenhaw Service to the Humanities Award winner, he, too, has made much of his Alabama roots. While he rose to the higher echelon of the legal profession on state and national levels, his passion for the humanities and what it means to transforming lives never wavered. On the Alabama Humanities board, he relentlessly pushed for expansion of our programs in every corner of our state. Today, we are happy to report they have a presence in all 67 counties. When funds for arts and humanities were being cut, it was Reggie who played a pivotal role in an endowment that would keep humanities strong in our state.

I point out all of these examples to illustrate just how diverse our state is and the many success stories it has produced. They underscore the notion that Alabama's Bicentennial celebration is the story of these people and countless more. It is the story of all of us, and we should be proud they all were made in Alabama.

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

AHF Executive Director

Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit nearing 100,000-visitor mark

Ribbon cuttings, History Club volunteers, local news photographers, art openings – all are features of *Making Alabama; A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit* in communities statewide.

Since April 2018, 27 Alabama communities have played host to the exhibit, and over 85,000 people have visited the show so far. That includes visitors to the historic State Capitol, which hosted the exhibit debut and served as a major *Making Alabama* venue from April through August.

Developed by AHF in partnership with the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, *Making Alabama* offers a big picture view of Alabama history and culture, how we got to be who we are on the occasion of 200 years of statehood.

Featuring large-format artwork and interactive kiosks, the exhibit is designed to educate and inspire visitors of all ages.

Making Alabama will visit only one venue in each of Alabama's 67 counties as it makes its way across the state. Hosts in each county do hard, physical work to greet and unload the exhibit, set it up, maintain it for visitors, schedule school and other tour groups' experiences, and take it all down again to be packed and shipped to the next county. And that's on top of attending training sessions ahead of the exhibit's visit.

AHF and other Bicentennial partners appreciate the work of local communities serving as hosts for their counties. Together, we are *Making Alabama* as we commemorate our Bicentennial. ■



Congressman Robert Aderholt visits the exhibit in Cullman.



Assembly required, but volunteers from around the state have installed exhibit at every stop

The Blount Countian
 Wednesday, August 23, 2017 • Volume 100 Number 8 • www.blountcountian.com

Dorsett pleads guilty
 Blount County District Attorney General John Dorsett has pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to defraud the state of Alabama. The charge is related to the state's attempt to collect unpaid taxes from the state's largest employer, the state of Alabama. Dorsett was arrested in June 2017 and is currently being held in the Blount County Jail. He is expected to stand trial in the near future.

Mustangs claim title
 The Blount County Mustangs football team has won the 2017 state championship. The team, coached by Head Coach [Name], defeated the [Opponent] in the final game. The team's victory is a historic achievement for Blount County, as they are the first team to win the state championship in over 50 years. The team will represent Blount County at the national championship in [Location].

Approves 2019 budget, five-year capital plan, routine items
 The Blount County Board of Commissioners has approved the 2019 budget, a five-year capital plan, and routine items. The budget includes funding for various departments, including law enforcement, fire, and public works. The capital plan outlines major infrastructure projects, including the construction of a new jail and the renovation of the courthouse. The board also approved routine items, including the appointment of new board members and the approval of contracts.

Whatta-melon!
 The Blount County Fair is a popular annual event that attracts thousands of visitors. This year's fair is scheduled for [Dates] and will feature a variety of activities, including games, rides, and food. The fair is a great opportunity for families to spend time together and enjoy the outdoors. The fair is held at the [Location] and is open to the public.

Alabama Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit
 The Alabama Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit is a collection of artifacts and documents that celebrate the state's 200th anniversary. The exhibit is currently on display at the [Location] and will travel to various locations throughout the state. The exhibit includes a variety of items, including clothing, furniture, and documents, that provide a glimpse into the state's history. The exhibit is a great way to learn more about the state's past and its role in the nation's history.



Historical pictures were a treasured feature at the Clay County site.



Students line up to get a glimpse of exhibit, interactive tablet

Traveling exhibit makes headlines in Blount County.



Tasty treats bear exhibit logo for lucky visitors in Cleburne County



Ribbon cutting in Selma

Local events were paired in Wilcox County celebrating their famed quilts.

GEE'S BEND PLAY
 Featuring local cast from Gee's Bend
 and music by local talent

7 pm
 Thursday,
 February 22, 2018

Wilcox Central
 High Auditorium

\$5.00 ticket

Ms. Mary Lee Bessie
 Jasmine Kennedy
 Laura Grace Creswell
 Monique Brown Singleton



ALABAMA HISTORY DAY

AHF and AUM prepare for 2019 Alabama History Day

Preparations for next year's Alabama History Day, which is themed "Triumph and Tragedy," are in the works. AHF's focus is to increase participation and representation across the state, and to improve the caliber of projects by connecting students with resources in their area.

To encourage this, AHF hired a new programs coordinator, Jerald Crook, to oversee History Day operations.

Alabama Humanities Foundation's first year as the convening organization for Alabama History Day saw a heartening display of promising young history scholars eager to showcase their craft. Alabama History Day is the state affiliate of National History Day, the national history contest sponsored by the nonprofit educational organization of the same name. The contest challenges students in grades 6-12 with conducting original historical research that highlights a topic within a prescribed annual theme.

AHF's Alabama History Day partner, Auburn University at Montgomery, hosted the event this year on April 6. On that day, more than 100 6th-12th grade students from across the state gathered on AUM's campus to present the fruits of their labor. The various topics that were portrayed spanned all of history, from the Thirty Years War to the Brown vs. Board of Education case to the birth and progression of the Individuals with Disabilities Act. These topics are examples of last year's national theme of "Conflict and Compromise."

Of the more than 100 students who competed at Alabama History Day, 36 students went on to compete on the national level at National History Day in College Park, Maryland from June 10 to June 14. Several students represented the state in special ways:

Lily Hoyle, a 6th grader at *Phillips Preparatory Middle School*, Mobile, produced a documentary for the History Day series. Her documentary, *The Lynching That Brought Down the KKK*, was selected to be screened at the Oprah Winfrey Theatre at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Essence Carter and Jamya James, 8th graders from *Phillips Preparatory Middle School* in Mobile were invited to "Breakfast on the Hill," an event hosted by the National Endowment for the Humanities that gives students the opportunity to



present their project to their congressional representatives and senators. Their project was an exhibit titled, *Do or Die D-Day: The Birmingham Children's March*.

Michael Ivan, a 6th grader from Hampton Cove Middle School in Huntsville was selected to attend "Night at the Museum," an event which sees History Day projects on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History for an evening. Michael's project was an exhibit titled, *The Purchase of Alaska—Seward's Folly*. ■

If you would like to learn more or are an educator or community leader interested in History Day, you may contact Jerald at jcrook@alabamahumanities.org.



Lily Hoyle, 6th grade documentary producer for History Day series.





PRESERVING THE PAST. DEFINING THE FUTURE.

Associate Professor of English Emily Friedman and her team of undergraduate researchers are preserving never before published fiction manuscripts from 1750–1900 through digitization. The resulting online database will keep these stories alive for future generations of scholars and fiction enthusiasts around the world. Our faculty are defining humanities scholarship in the 21st century.



For more information on research initiatives in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, visit our website at cla.auburn or contact us at (334) 844-4026.

By Paul South

The Encyclopedia of Alabama celebrates its 10th anniversary



The Encyclopedia of Alabama – an online treasure trove filled with chronicles of the flora and fauna, preachers and politicians, heroes and heroines, rare species and rowdy scoundrels of the state – celebrated a milestone this year, its 10th anniversary.

Since the site launched on Sept. 15, 2008, the digital reference has attracted more than 15.5 million-page views by some eight million visitors from around the world. More than 60 percent of viewers come from outside Alabama, many of them Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers and students, Laura Hill, communications editor, for the Encyclopedia told the Alabama History Podcast.

“We know this because our traffic starts to pick up in August and it climbs, and it climbs. And then in December, the week of Christmas, it goes back down to the levels we have in July. It picks back up again and climbs and then when school ends, we level out.

So, we know that a lot of the traffic that we get is related to what people are learning in the classroom.” The ever-expanding, ever-evolving digital resource began at the turn of this century, as a collaborative

effort among the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the University of Alabama Press and Auburn University. The state needed a more modern resource to make the story of Alabama available to the world. That story would include not only the stories of the distant past, but material on the Civil Rights movement, Alabama’s role in the Space Age and some of Alabama’s lesser-known historical figures, like Mary Anderson, a Greene County native who invented the windshield wiper, or Maria Fearing, a single woman of color who was a force in the fight against international human trafficking. Fearing was born a slave near Greenville, but after emancipation, worked her way through Talladega College and then traveled to the Congo as a missionary and at great personal risk, helped many young women to freedom.

“She epitomizes Alabamians,” Hill said of Fearing. “It’s missionary work, which is what drew a lot of Alabamians overseas. It’s determination. It’s overcoming hardships. So, I think in a lot of ways, she epitomizes a lot of Alabamians.”

Anderson and Fearing are among the 2,083 articles and 4,934 images in the Encyclopedia. The number of articles,

videos and photographs are constantly growing. And entries are hyperlinked, guiding viewers to related articles. The Encyclopedia’s 2,000th entry was written on tornadoes by Birmingham television meteorologist James Spann. Its first entry 10 years ago? That was the Cahaba Lily, named for the Cahaba River.

“There’s a distinct difference in the traffic that comes from within the state and traffic that comes from outside the state. In the state, people are drawn to a lot of our natural sciences entries – the ones on insects, endangered species, birds ... Many of our





From left, Dr. Martin Oliff with Laura Hill, Claire Wilson and Christopher Maloney displaying the Digital History Award for EOA from Alabama Historical Association.

agricultural-related entries are viewed by people from Alabama. And we think a lot of that has to do with the fact that we're one of the best sources for people to find that for their science classes.

And then outside Alabama, the number one article is always the Scottsboro Trials. Alabama's Civil Rights movement articles draw people in, and when they look at Civil Rights, then they start looking at agriculture and other things related to Alabama because our articles are hyperlinked."

In its brief life, the reference has opened new windows of learning both inside and outside Alabama. Searchers come from India, Germany, Russia and across the globe.

"There's very little that you can look at in modern world history that doesn't somehow have an Alabama connection," Hill said in a phone interview. "It seems like Alabamians are out in the world, and they have been for a very long time."

The Encyclopedia unlocks doors to Alabama links in every field, from archaeology to zoology. And affirmations for the work done by Hill and team members, Senior Content Editor Claire Wilson and Content Editor Christopher Maloney, come almost daily, from teachers, students and authors. Hill crisscrosses the state, often to civic clubs and schools.

"I like showing teachers how you can teach almost any subject and bring an Alabama tie in and it makes it more interesting for students because it's local."

Positive feedback from well-known authors really resonates, Hill said.

"That's the greatest, is when people who are out there writing award-winning books, best-selling books, and they say they used EOA. And when I ask them if they found what they were looking for and they say, 'Yes.'" Interactions like that enforce the Alabama Humanities Foundation's original vision for the Encyclopedia of Alabama, Hill said.

"Part of it was to enhance scholarship, to encourage scholarship. And when I hear people who are writing about the state saying that they are using it, we know that we are accomplishing that goal."

As for the next decades, the Encyclopedia not only wants to keep pace with changing times and grow its audience, with new entries and new readers sprouting like Alabama kudzu, but also with advancing technology.

"I don't even know if we can imagine the technology in 30 years, or how people will be accessing it, or even 10 years. What we're using today is not what we launched with, so I think the technology and being able to keep the vision going," Hill said. "Maybe not being cutting edge, because that has its own drawbacks, but just below cutting edge so that we don't become obsolete. Obsolete technology could ruin us."

As the Encyclopedia continues to bloom and grow like "the vine that ate the South," Hill hopes new readers will discover the wonders of EOA's never-ending Alabama story.

"It is not a static resource," Hill said. "It is continually growing. We have so many articles to add."



Future ADAH Executive Director Steve Murray with EOA staff



EOA staff participating in 'global selfie'

To learn more about the Encyclopedia of Alabama, visit Encyclopediaofalabama.org, or like the EOA on Facebook. The Alabama History Podcast is available on SoundCloud. The Alabama History Podcast contributed to this story.

AHF awards nearly \$70,000 in latest round of grants

In the June round of grant giving by Alabama Humanities Foundation, 16 grants were awarded for programs and events across the state, totaling almost \$70,000. Eleven grants were given in the Major Grants category, and five were awarded in the Mini Grants category. Grants, recipient organizations, locations and descriptions of programs are:

How Art and Poetry Create a Sixth Sense **Alabama Writers' Forum** **Colbert County**

How Art and Poetry Create a Sixth Sense is a closing lecture and audience discussion at the Helen Keller Public Library (Tuscumbia), featuring photographer Wayne Sides and writer Jeanie Thompson. Sides' onsite installation, *I Wake from A Dream*, opened at the library on June 18 and was in place until Aug. 31. Large format photographs, collages and assemblages are a response to Thompson's book, *The Myth of Water: Poems from the Life of Helen Keller*.

Visiting Writer Stephen Graham Jones **Stokes Center for Writing at the** **University of South Alabama** **Mobile County**

This project aims to brought the internationally renowned Native American Fiction writer Stephen Graham Jones to visit Mobile, during which time Jones gave a reading at inner-city Murphy High school to 80 students, gave a public reading and Q&A at The University of South Alabama that was publicized widely to the community of Mobile and attended by the high school students he met early that day.

A Town that Endured Change – Mooresville 1900s **Town of Mooresville** **Limestone County**

Historic Mooresville will host an outdoor walking tour conveying the story of the town's progress and transformation through the 1900s with interactive displays, photography, demonstrations and collections. Through a very generous gift to the town, changes to the Town's landscape, homes and businesses is being shared through the photography of Frank (Bubba) Richardson paired with historical text content explaining historical significance to the town.

2019 Mitchell-McPherson Lecture in Southern History at *Troy University*

Troy University Department of History and Philosophy **Pike County**

Grant will support Dr. Sylviane Diouf's presentation, *The Clotilda, Africa Town, and Beyond* at the 2019 Mitchell-McPherson Lecture in Southern History, Troy University, January 28, 2019. The Mitchell-McPherson Lectures have hosted a prominent and renowned scholar of Southern History annually since 2000. Diouf authored *Dreams of Africa in Alabama* about the cargo of the last US slave ship (*Mobile*, 1859) in 2007.



ALABAMA JUSTICE image: Alabama Department of Archives and History. Donated by Alabama Media Group / Photo by Norman Dean, Birmingham News.

Vulcan Park and Museum's Programming for *Alabama Justice Exhibit*

Vulcan Park and Museum **Jefferson County**

Alabama Justice is a traveling multimedia exhibit that highlights Alabama's role in the shaping many U.S. Supreme Court rulings. In conjunction with the exhibit, Vulcan Park and Museum (VPM) will develop programming. VPM will host its Annual Teacher Symposium, extend field trip content to include highlights from the exhibit and provide guests the opportunity to experience the reenactment of the Ollie's Barbecue case and hear from a panel of attorneys involved in litigation highlighted in the exhibit.

2019 In and After School Blues Camps

Alabama Blues Project

Jefferson, Shelby, Escambia and Baldwin counties

The Alabama Blues Project's In- and After-School Blues Camps and Clubs 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 skills-based musical instruction and Blues history. The programs are designed to give all students an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the Blues while also learning about their cultural heritage, since many Blues artists came from Alabama.

Weekend Immersed in Foreign Language Development

Alabama World Languages Education Foundation

Shelby County

The Weekend Immersed in Language Development (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, history, theater and film study.

We Are the Music Makers!

Carnegie Visual Arts Center

Morgan County

During October 2018, the Carnegie Visual Arts Center of Decatur will be exhibiting a collection of works titled, *We are the Music Makers!* Provided by the Music Maker Relief Foundation, this exhibit aims to educate and engage the viewers in the cultural history of traditional Southern Music originating around the blues, gospel and string bands. It is a collection of 28 photographic panels featuring Music Maker musicians and includes their stories and life experiences.

Community Films and Conversations Series

Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

Lee County

Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University presents a Sunday afternoon program called Community Films and Conversations. It will screen a series of six films over the coming academic year. Each screening will be accompanied by a speaker or panel who will give a talk and lead discussion after the screening. In some cases, the speaker will stay in Auburn a day in order to meet classes and student organizations.

Alabama Types: Poets, Playwrights and Storytellers

The University of Alabama Departments of Theatre & Dance and English & Creative Writing

Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County

The Steve Soboroff Typewriter Collection has been declared by national media reporters to be "the world's greatest

typewriter collection." As president of the Los Angeles Police Commission, Soboroff has been uniquely positioned to collect the typewriters of international artists in drama, journalism, music, poetry and classic American fiction at auction and firm estates. He will loan notable typewriters from the collection for public display at UA's downtown Tuscaloosa gallery this fall.



2018 Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival

The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project

Macon County

The Ridge Project and Town of Shorter proposed the third annual Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival for Friday evening, Nov. 2, and Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018. The theme is "Honoring Our People" and will emphasize historic individuals, both vernacular and well-known, who are associated with the Old Federal Road. The overarching goal is to frame an interpretive narrative of the community's history around humanities themes and to engage the public in the discussion of those themes.

A Huntsville City History Collection Project

Rocket City Civil Rights

Madison County

Rocket City Civil Rights is a history project analyzing the factors that led to a relatively peaceful transition during the civil rights era in Huntsville. The project involves researching and presenting the very strategic protesting tactics as well as the economic drivers that led the city leaders and white business community to adopt the federal laws and break with the state directives. Oral histories are being captured from firsthand participants while they are still alive so they can be shared and learned.

110: The Story of the Last Enslaved Africans Brought to America (Post-production)

Spring Hill College

Mobile County

Documentary film about the enslaved Africans illicitly brought to the US on the schooner, *Clotilda*, in 1860, will

GRANTS

capture the essence of these people by focusing on the lived experiences of one member, Cudjo Lewis. This will allow the audience to connect with the heroic journey of the Africans on the ship, their enslavement in Alabama, and the establishment of Africatown, one of the only known settlements of exclusively native Africans in the United States.

Super Citizen Program

Liberty Learning Foundation

Dallas, Geneva, Coosa and DeKalb counties

Liberty Learning Foundation facilitates active civics and character programs in K-12 classrooms and orchestrates immersive events that empower schools, parents, local leaders and businesses to take ownership in the future of community and country. As a facilitator of the *Super Citizen Program* in Alabama schools, the foundation raises funding and provides materials, training, onsite and offsite educational support and live event production in order to maximize impact of the 10-week intensive.

Take Note! Pre-Concert Series

Mobile Symphony

Mobile County

Take Note! Pre-Concert lectures explore the historic

contexts around the music and composers featured in the concert, which occur twice a month in November 2018 and January, February, March and May 2019. The 40-minute presentations also include information about other art forms created in the same period and biographical information about the composers. This series particularly attracts elderly audience members and students.

Lunar Landing Reenactment

**U.S. Space & Rocket Center Education Foundation
Madison County**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon mission in July 2019, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center will create a multimedia presentation reenacting the landing on the Moon. From the take-off of the Saturn V to splashdown of the Columbia command module, the reenactment combines elements of live theater, actual Apollo artifacts, video and special effects to recreate the excitement and anticipation people experienced as they viewed this landmark event in human history.

Alabama Department of Archives and History.
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Birmingham News.



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Scholarships available in all areas!

STATE OF THE ART IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Clean, smart and high tech. That's the world of modern automotive manufacturing today. An industry experiencing unprecedented growth and constantly in need of a steady flow of skilled local workers.

It's why you'll find us partnering with schools, colleges, agencies and attending employer job fairs. We also support education through grants and scholarships.

Our aim is to develop talent, build skill sets and shine a light on the opportunities a career in automotive manufacturing affords. Together with our friends and neighbors, we aim for Alabama to continue to have a workforce to be reckoned with.



HondaAlabama.com

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HONDA

Honda Manufacturing of Alabama



Story by Jackie Romine Walburn

Forums feature state's Pulitzer Prize winners, reporters on democracy

If we lose the truth, we are lost. That's one conclusion by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Joey Bunch in the first of a series of public forums on the links between journalism and a healthy democracy.

Called *What Comes to Light: Alabama Journalists and an Informed Citizenry*, the series of four public forums sponsored by Alabama Humanities Foundation feature three Alabama Pulitzer Prize winning journalists, local reporters and editors, and journalism scholars from across the state discussing the importance of journalism to democracy. Similar forums are being held across the U.S., all featuring Pulitzer Prize winners and sponsored by state humanities councils.

"News is watching history take hold," said Joey Bunch, a DeKalb County native and five-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, who was on the *Denver Post* team that won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Journalism for coverage of the Aurora, Colorado theatre shootings. The July 2012 mass shooting left 12 dead and 70 wounded.

A reporter for 32 years, Bunch got his start as a student at Northeast Alabama Community College in Rainsville, where AHF's first forum in this series was held. A University of Montevallo graduate, Bunch worked as a news and sports reporter and editor in Alabama before joining the *Denver Post*, where he worked for 16 years. He is now senior political correspondent and deputy managing editor of *Colorado Politics*, a statewide website and weekly magazine with the largest political reporting staff in the state.

Bunch was joined on the *What Comes to Light* forum at Rainsville by Brandon Cox, publisher of the *Jackson County Sentinel*, a tri-weekly newspaper in Scottsboro, and Dr. George Daniels, a former broadcast news producer who is now associate professor and assistant dean of the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama.

"Every story is about something that matters to

people," Bunch said.

"It's what's going on and also WHY it matters. That's what's missing in today's news coverage. We've lost sight of the mission," he said, "and we've lost sight of the difference between fact and opinion."

Answering questions from forum moderator Justin Lutz of the David Mathews Center for Civic Life and from the audience at the Health and Fine Arts Building at NACC, Bunch, Cox and Daniels agreed that changes in the news business – including social media and polarization of news outlets – mean citizens must try to seek out the truth.

"Depend on more than one news outlet," advised Daniels. "Read local and watch local."

"Don't just talk to people you agree with or watch only news you agree with," Bunch advised. "Take a step back. Make an effort to look around and don't be one of those who are too dang smart to learn about anything."

As the news business has changed, Cox said, "the role of the local newspaper has increased. We have a niche and it's hyper-local coverage." He said local newspapers like the *Sentinel* play a big part, not only in recording history for future generations, but also in community engagement. Local newspapers also are usually the only ones covering a community's politics, businesses and schools.



Joey Bunch



Joey Bunch featured in Informed Citizenry forum.

“Each community has a responsibility to support the local newspaper and news outlets,” Bunch said. “Your newspaper depends on you as much as you depend on it.”

Accuracy and credibility help local and other news outlets earn the trust of citizens, they said. “It’s more important to be right than to be first,” publisher Cox said. “I’ve said it like a Psalm every morning.”

Good journalists “care about the truth,” said Bunch. He lists some of his reporting rules, including having three sources to document information and double-checking quotes with sources when in doubt. He recalls an editor at the *Denver Post* who had a rule that any reporter with three corrections published in a year were required to report to his office. “A correction will not ruin your reputation or credibility,” Bunch said, “but not making a needed correction will.”

Today’s news media can face a rush to post online, to broadcast the story quickly or put on social media as quickly as possible, said Daniels, the professor who worked in local broadcast news. “The need for speed can push information out before it is vetted. There is increasing pressure to post or get it on air quickly, and accuracy suffers,” Daniels said.

At an evening session at Ft. Payne’s city auditorium, Bunch was joined on the panel by journalist Anna Claire Vollers, a Madison County native and reporter for AL.com, and Dr. Michael Clay Carey, former reporter and current assistant professor of journalism and mass communication in the Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University in Birmingham.

The forums also took place in Thomasville with Pulitzer Prize winner John Archibald, who won the prestigious Pulitzer award for commentary in 2018. His work was recognized by Pulitzer jury members “for lyrical and courageous commentary that is rooted in Alabama but has a national resonance in scrutinizing corrupt politicians, championing the rights of women and calling out hypocrisy.”

Archibald, a native of north Alabama, is a columnist for Alabama Media Group with his column appearing in *The Birmingham News*, *Mobile Press Register* and *Huntsville Times*. He worked many years as a reporter for the *News*. Kyle Whitmore, reporter and commentator with AL.com and a Clarke County native, joined the panel at events at Coastal Alabama Community College and Clarke County High School

in Grove Hill.

A forum at Talladega’s Ritz Theater featured Harold Jackson as its Pulitzer Prize-winning guest. Jackson and fellow *Birmingham News* writers Ron Casey and Joey Kennedy shared the Pulitzer Prize in 1991 for their editorial campaign analyzing inequities in Alabama’s tax system. A Birmingham native who reported for the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, UPI and *The Birmingham News*, Jackson is now editorial page editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Scholars involved in the project also include Nan Fairley, reporter and editor who is now associate professor of the School of Communication and Journalism at Auburn University.

What Comes To Light is a Federation of State Humanities Councils program coordinated by AHF and supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Pulitzer Prizes organization. Other partners include the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, a non-partisan nonprofit dedicated to strengthening civic life in all of Alabama’s 67 counties, and Alabama chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists.

“All presenters encourage attendees to give careful consideration to reliable and unreliable sources of information,” and to understand the difference, said Laura Anderson, AHF director of Operations. She said the forums in Alabama and across the nation represent “an ongoing conversation about the critical role journalists play in maintaining an informed citizenry and how information in turn affects democracy.”



Harold Jackson celebrating his Pulitzer win in 1991 with fellow winners Ron Casey and Joey Kennedy.

John Archibald

Colloquium delivers powerful message

By Carol Pappas

The message was clear. Nine different people. Nine different stories. All made in one state. All aimed at moving that state forward.

Chairman Trey Granger set the stage for the Alabama Colloquium with a quote from C.L. Lewis: "We are who we believe we are."

It was a powerful follow-up to the 2017 version, featuring nine fellows who engaged the audience with their viewpoints of life, career and the state they call home.

As WBHM General Manager Chuck Holmes skillfully moderated the next 90 minutes that morning and another 90 minutes in the afternoon, the picture of who Alabama is as a state seemed to emerge. The Colloquium evolved into a mosaic of differing views coming from vastly different backgrounds but each sharing a common desire. From those diverse vantage points, it turned out, they all were working from different directions to fulfill that same vision: A better Alabama.

Alabama Humanities Foundation chose the Colloquium format to not only honor Alabamians' contributions to the goal of a better Alabama as Humanities Fellows, but to illustrate in their own words, views and actions just what a better Alabama means to them.

Honored as the 2018 Humanities Fellows were:

- Nall Hollis, known as Nall, a Southern American artist with an international following.
- Gina Locklear, founder of Zkano, an online retailer of organic cotton socks manufactured in Fort Payne that is revolutionizing the industry.
- Bobby McAlpine, self-described architect, romantic, poet and entrepreneur.
- Dr. Martha Bouyer, Executive Director of Historic Bethel Baptist Church Foundation, Bouyer developed and has served as project director for 12 "Stony the Road We Trod..." National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)-sponsored institutes in Alabama.
- Mary Margaret Pettway, a third-generation quilter and member of the Gee's Bend Quilters

- Margot Shaw, founder and editor of *Flower Magazine*, the only floral lifestyle magazine in the country.
- Joyce Vance, former US attorney in Alabama, professor at University of Alabama School of Law and regular contributor of political analysis on MSNBC.
- Peggy Wallace Kennedy, daughter of former Alabama Gov. George Wallace and known across the country as a voice for peace and reconciliation.
- Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, president of Samford University.

Turning points, legacies and understanding

When Dr. Westmoreland gets an opportunity, he goes to class at his university – not as an observer but as a teacher. He called it his "therapy," being able to connect with a younger generation and emerge with hope and optimism for the future based on the engagement that took place in that classroom.

He believes that somewhere along the way, the country began to lose its way in talking to each other in civil ways when they disagreed about the politics of the day. That belief led to his delivering a seven-minute commencement speech that "went viral" on social media.

Westmoreland



Westmoreland engages with Vance.



It's simple, really, he told the graduates. "Respect everyone. Respect even if you violently disagree."

At the time, Westmoreland thought it a common sense view. But the impact of that seven minutes was felt well beyond that commencement audience. In the Atlanta airport, a stranger called him "that respect person."

"The world is hungry for that message," he said. "We must do our best to love one another, not just be tolerant."

Kennedy's moment of understanding came when her son was 10 years old, and they were visiting the Martin Luther King Memorial in Atlanta. When they approached the part of the exhibit in which her father loomed as a dark figure – standing in the schoolhouse door in Tuscaloosa, trying to block the Selma to Montgomery March and dogs and hoses deterring protesters in Birmingham – her son asked a searing question: "Why did PawPaw do those things to other people?"

Mrs. Kennedy replied with a challenge for her young son. "He was wrong, so why don't you and I make things right?"

In the time that followed, Kennedy became a national voice for the same ideals she expressed to her young son so many years ago. On the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March, she stood on the steps of the capitol where the marchers had gathered. Fifty years before, her father would only watch from a window, she said.

It was her moment to make things right. She told the crowd, "Fifty years ago, you stood here in front of your state capitol and sought an opportunity as a citizen of Alabama to be recognized and heard by your governor. And he refused. But today, as his daughter and as a person of my own, I want to do for you what my father should have done and recognize you for your humanity and for your dignity as a child of God, as a person of goodwill and character and as a fellow Alabamian and say, 'Welcome home.'"

She found her voice. She had always been someone's



Morning panel discussion.

daughter, wife and mother. But when she stood alongside Congressman John Lewis, who was nearly beaten to death on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Bloody Sunday, she credited his courage with helping her find that voice. She described it as "a building block to leave my two sons a legacy not left to me."

She concluded in a speech she once gave, "We must choose to stand up rather than stand by when justice for all is at risk."

Pettway talked of legacy in a different way – an art handed down from generation to generation in Gee's Bend. "I was made to make quilts," she said. It seemed a simple answer, but what those quilts represent today is an art now shared with the world, originating from a place virtually cut off from the outside. Gee's Bend was an island-like community, reached mainly by ferry service. When that service was cut in 1962, it meant isolation for its people, but the art form they deftly crafted gained attention well beyond those borders.

Today, those quilts – their legacy – have been exhibited at fine art museums around the country. They "take on a life of their own," Pettway said of the process of creating them.

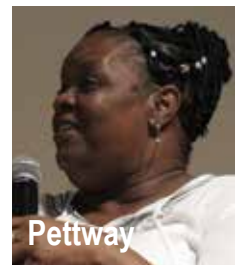
....With every piece of fabric, they tell a story, a memory. Souls Grown Deep, the organization she now chairs, is responsible for the quilts and is "finding forever homes for them in museums now."

Of her approach to creating her own quilts, she borrows the motto from her mother: "Take what you have to make what you need."

Her own motto? "You look for things like colors



Morning panel with awards.



Photos by Graham Hadley

and stitches. It's like a flavor of ice cream. Get one that suits you."

Legacy is part of Vance's make-up, too. She spent her career as a prosecutor seeking justice, rising to US Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama. It was a legacy handed down from what she described as her collection of heroes. One stands out above the rest, though – Frank Johnson, "a civil rights icon," who issued landmark opinions in cases as a US District Judge in Alabama. His decisions, she said, weren't popular at the time, but he did the right thing. He was even expelled from his church for his "personal courage."

Among those acts of personal courage were striking down the "blacks in the back of the bus" law as unconstitutional when he ruled in favor of Rosa Parks. He ordered bus depots and airports to be desegregated and ordered a halt to beating and harassing Freedom Riders who tried to integrate such places. And he overturned Gov. Wallace's prohibition of the Selma to Montgomery March, saying the activists did have the right to petition the government through the march. That decision is widely considered to be the catalyst for passing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

While Vance is "deeply concerned about politics and parties over country" in today's climate, she is "eternally optimistic we will overcome this polarizing force. We can't sit back and be complacent. We must find a way to overcome division."



Drive, determination and a calling

In the afternoon session of the Colloquium, five panelists shared stories of their successes and their legacies that help drive them.

Bouyer found her legacy in the Civil Rights Movement – living it and teaching it. In 2002, there was a local effort to teach about the Civil Rights era. "I know this history," she recalled thinking at the time, but soon realized how little she really did know. At the end, "I still needed to know more."

With that, she developed a curriculum called "*Stony the Road*

We Trod...: The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. It grew from an AHF-funded program to a National Endowment for the Humanities-supported grant and has reached thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of their students.



She taught in England, and teachers there said, 'If we came to Birmingham would you show us around?'

Twenty years later, teachers from all over the world let Bouyer 'show them around' the pivotal moments and the historic places at the center of the Civil Rights Movement.

Legacies tend to hinge on a belief, whether its your own or that someone else believes in you.

For Nall, his grandmother believed in him. His father, who owned a chain of banks, tried to dissuade him from becoming an artist, offering him \$.5 million to do otherwise.

He took the less popular road enroute to becoming an internationally acclaimed artist.

Much like Nall, McAlpine took the road less traveled from the sawmill town where he grew up near Monroeville. The houses were owned by the mill and looked alike. "This didn't look right to me."

Now an internationally known architect, he used a candy box lid to draw his first floor plan at age 5. He showed it to his mother, who replied, "It's very good, but the kitchen is nowhere near the dining room." She has been his "editor" since.

Some may see it as a family business, but it's deeper than that for Locklear.

It's the legacy of perseverance. Her parents owned a sock-making mill when she was 12 in what was then known as the "Sock Capital of the World" – Ft. Payne. She spent summers there. They became her "fondest memories." By the time she went to college, the sock manufacturing and textile industry was in steep decline, the mills



closing one after the other.

Her parents' own mill followed suit, but, "I had an idea to start something completely different, something along the lines of that's insane," she mused. Zkano Socks and Little River Mill are revolutionizing the sock world, and *The New York Times* dubbed her, "The Sock Queen of Alabama."

Shaw's legacy came in the form of a vision to do a publication with flowers as the centerpiece. "It just wouldn't leave me alone. She was uniquely poised in Birmingham. It was a publishing center at one time, but magazines were leaving. Luckily for her, they left editorial and design talent behind that she was able to tap.

She wanted the magazine to be about flowers, "but more about flowers as a verb – botanical lifestyle – to flourish." And flourish it has. It is the only flower lifestyle magazine in the country and is available in all 50 states and 17 countries.

All five of the afternoon panelists find inspiration in the world around them. Their success is built in recognizing that inspiration and capitalizing on it, and they shared their secrets.

For Bouyer, it is her ability to see a void, fill it and impact the future. She founded Our Father's House Foundation to help older kids as they transition out of foster care. There was no program to bridge the gap between foster care and independent living. "We have to invest now in our children rather than prisons later on," she said. "It's our rent for being on the planet."

Locklear realized her roots ran too deep in Alabama to leave it. She is transforming an industry by deviating from tradition and producing organic cotton socks right here at home. "Taking it out of state never crossed my mind. It's a huge part of the branding – Made in Ft. Payne, Alabama."



Afternoon panel with awards



Shaw

Nall has studios in Brussels and Fairhope. The work of the young man from Troy who shunned his father's advice is now exhibited around the world. His key to success is to "believe in what you're doing. Surround yourself by positive people and keep on going."

Never stop learning, Locklear and McAlpine advised. She is more aware of colors in nature, which have inspired her line of socks. "Be aware of your surroundings always. Learn something new every day."

When McAlpine was younger, he said, he had tunnel vision. Now, "I let in things that are trying to tap me on the shoulder and tell me something." He listens, and it shows in his world-recognized designs.



McAlpine

Shared vision

All nine Fellows – all coming from different directions – sounded a familiar note. Giving voice to what they do or what they believe extended their reach well beyond Alabama and was able to bring the positives back to their home again.

"Diversity is what makes America great," Kennedy said. "It's what makes Alabama great, too. I am proud to be an Alabamian. It is not who you were, but who you can become no matter the circumstances in your life. I was given the courage and the strength to find my voice."

Paraphrasing King's "I have a dream" speech, "One day little white girls and little black girls will hold hands as sisters down in Alabama," noting that she – the daughter of George Wallace – and Bernice King – the daughter of Martin Luther King – walked hand in hand during the anniversary march. "How history could have changed if our fathers could have seen us holding hands as sisters down in Alabama." ■



Afternoon panel discussion.

Photos by Graham Hadley

Hamner honored with Wayne Greenhaw Service to the Humanities Award

When Reggie Hamner stepped to the podium at the Alabama Colloquium to accept the Wayne Greenhaw Service to the Humanities Award, he described the moment as a bit of irony. “The reason I’m involved is because of our friend, Wayne Greenhaw.”

Before Greenhaw’s passing in 2011, he had asked Hamner if he was interested in becoming a part of the Alabama Humanities Foundation board of directors, and it wasn’t long after answering in the affirmative, that he accepted a seat on that board.

Greenhaw, a prolific writer and author, had the ability to “bring out the better angels in us,” Hamner recalled, working in various ways, including on the AHF Board, to envision and bring about a better state.

The award is named in his memory and given to past or present board members who have contributed greatly to promoting and advocating humanities in Alabama.

It was a perfect fit for Hamner, who said he had “a passion” for the humanities, and his record of service over the ensuing 11 years bears that out.

The passion was obvious as he talked of the humanities’ ability to “give us the Alabama we deserve – a better Alabama. It’s exciting to see what one Smithsonian exhibit can do,” he said, referring to the Smithsonian’s partnership with AHF on a traveling exhibit going to small Alabama towns and cities each year.

He pointed to Red Bay as an example, where “more people came there to see the exhibit than lived in the county.”

He talked of the endowment he helped create that aids AHF in its funding. And he spoke to the expansion of humanities-based programs in all corners of Alabama. Hamner is known on the board as a vocal proponent of bringing humanities programs to every county in the state. Today, AHF grants and programs have reached all 67 counties.

Always committed to a better Alabama for its citizens, Hamner served 11 years as a director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, first elected in 2004. After his elected terms expired, he was appointed as one of the Governor’s appointees. He has served as treasurer of AHF and, at times, a member of most AHF committees, including Grants, Nominating, Finance, Search, Executive, and chairing the Long Range Planning Committee.

He served on the AHF Liaison Committee as liaison to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and the Encyclopedia of Alabama. While he had earlier served as state chair for the Alabama Rhodes Scholar Selection Committee for a five-year term, he strongly believed in the AHF Road Scholars program and the Smithsonian traveling exhibits.

Hamner was a strong supporter of an AHF Endowment. As state and federal funding for the Humanities were being cut or threatened annually, the need for a safety net to continue AHF’s responsibilities needed a non-governmental source of revenues. On his motion, the AHF Board established an endowment with an independent source of revenues for AHF.

A most successful celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of *To Kill A Mockingbird* provided the initial gift to the endowment.



Reggie Hamner speaks of importance of humanities and his time on the board.

Hamner is a native of Northport. He was valedictorian of the 1957 Class of Tuscaloosa County High School. He obtained both an undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Alabama. He has remained an active alumnus and served as President of the UA National Alumni Association. The NAA named him its Distinguished Alumnus in 2004.

He began his legal career in Montgomery as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Alabama in 1965. Following his clerkship, he served on active duty as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Air Force. He remained in the active reserves, retiring as a colonel after 30 years of service in 1995. Upon his release from active duty, he returned to Montgomery, where he resides today.

He entered the association management field as director of Legal and Legislative Affairs for the Medical Association of Alabama. He was elected as secretary and executive director of the Alabama State Bar on June 1, 1969, and retired in 1994. He was one of the first two Alabama association executives to earn the Certified Association Executive designation by examination from the American Society of Association Executives. He served as president of the Alabama Council of Association Executives and the National Association of Bar Executives.

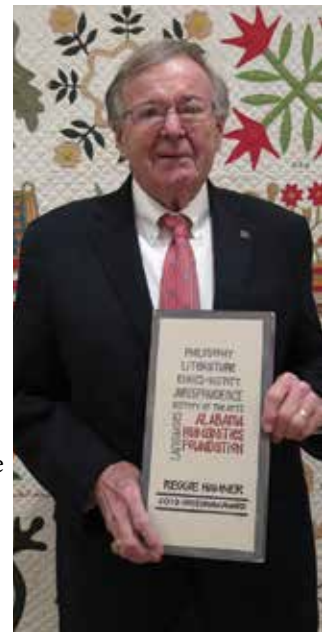
Serving in the American Bar Association’s governing House of Delegates for 10 years, he was a charter member of the ABA Standing Committee of Bar Activities and Services and the first bar executive to serve on the ABA Standing Committee on Continuing Legal Education, which launched the first offerings of continuing legal education by satellite.

After his service with the Alabama State Bar, he was selected to be the Court Project Coordinator representing the U.S. District Court during the construction of the annex to the Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. He later served the same role in the restoration and renovation of the Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse.

He continues to serve on the court’s History Committee and recently completed 12 years as a trustee of the Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Historical Society. He serves on the Alabama State Bar Lawyers Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

He is married to the former Anne Ellen Young of New York, a registered nurse and patient educator. He met Anne when she, too, was serving in the Air Force as a Registered Nurse. They are the parents of two grown sons.

They are parishioners at St. John’s Episcopal Church, where he has served on the vestry. He also serves on the Department of Development for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and had previously served two terms on the Diocesan Disciplinary Board. ■



Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships awarded

As part of the annual awards presented at the Alabama Colloquium, AHF Board Member Kern Jackson presented some of the state's top teachers with the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship to enhance studies at their schools.

The 2018 winners of \$1,000 scholarships are: Tammy Brown, a sixth-grade teacher at Central School in Madison; Janet Leffard, a teacher at Olive J. Dodge Elementary School in Mobile; Karen S. Grimes, a librarian at Salem Elementary School in Orrville; and Jana Hadley and Wendy Turner, fourth-grade teachers at White Plains Elementary School in the Calhoun County School System. Created in memory of the late Jenice Riley, the scholarship recognizes educators who share her extraordinary commitment to enhancing the quality of education in Alabama. Daughter of former Alabama Governor and First Lady Bob and Patsy Riley, Jenice had a passion for teaching and fostered creativity and a desire to learn in her students. She encouraged parent involvement and actively promoted better educational programs in her community.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to K-6 educators in support of history and civics-related projects in their schools and classrooms.

The award aids teachers in attending a conference, purchasing classroom materials, or creating programs that enhance students' understanding of history and civics.

Jackson, a professor at the University of South Alabama, called the public school teachers "soldiers of education," who are "molding and shaping our young folk."

In Madison, the award will enable Brown's Social Studies students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the use of primary source materials and lockboxes.

Through the "History Breakout Project," students analyze documents and, in the process, learn to think with the mind of a historian, political scientist, economist or geographer.

As students explore clues in the documents, they examine connections to the people and events of the past, the continuity and change of events and learn how to distinguish fact from opinion. They also examine the impact of past actions and events on the future and present-day world views. The scholarship allows Brown to expand the project to create lessons in American History, while fostering teamwork and citizenship.

For Mobile's Leffard, this marks the third time she has won the scholarship. She teaches gifted students in third, fourth and fifth grades at the school and also won in 2009 and 2013. This year, the funding was used for a project called "Colonial Times, The Constitution and Costumes."

Since 2008, Dodge students have led a bell ringing at the school to celebrate the signing of the Constitution. In 2016, Dodge began city bell ringing at the USS Alabama, the World War II-era battleship that serves as a memorial to veterans. The ceremony helps instruct students on the three branches of government, enhances communication skills and knowledge of American history. The school's third annual bell ringing was Sept. 17 of this year.

The funds were used to purchase Colonial-era costumes for the ceremony aboard the Alabama, aimed at instructing students on the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods, as well as the history of the Constitution. Students also developed a deeper understanding of American patriotism and national pride.



AHF Chair Michon Trent, teachers Karen Grimes, Wendy Turner, former first lady Patsy Riley, teachers Jana Hadley, Tammy Brown and AHF Board Member Kern Jackson (not present/pictured: teacher Janet Leffard)

The Riley scholarship was shared with other teachers and was expected to impact 1,000 students. Students also developed a deeper understanding of American patriotism and national pride.

The \$1,000 award will enable Salem Elementary to partner with the Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center in Camden and allow the center's best teaching artists to come to Salem Elementary and integrate history with the visual arts, literature and everyday life in their interactions with students.

The initiative will bring the history and culture of the Black Belt to life at the small Dallas County school. As a result, students will be exposed to the richness and diversity of the region's heritage.

In the program, called "Making Our Way Through Black Belt History," students will learn and be inspired by the work of some of the Black Belt's best-known artists, including the work of the internationally-renowned quilters of Gee's Bend, nationally-known folk artists Bill Taylor and Mose Tolliver, as well as study the work of critically-acclaimed three-dimensional artist Charlie Lucas.

With the scholarship award, White Plains Elementary's Hadley and Turner will purchase Breakout EDU, a kit that includes physical hands-on and digital elements that transform questions in any content area into a fast-paced puzzle. Students work collaboratively and build critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Lessons can be based on literature, non-fiction texts, science, history, math or any subject that can be taught in the classroom.

Specifically, the pair will use "The Missing Dream – MLK Breakout" during a study of the Civil Rights movement of the mid-20th century. The story-like construct of the activity will make the events of that transformative period more personal for students. The breakout encourages collaboration, critical thinking and communication, as well as inquiry-based thinking and perseverance. The digital Breakout EDU can be used by all fourth-grade teachers at White Plains. ■



Jenice Riley winners with scholarship founder Edgar Welden.



Journalist, author, filmmaker featured in AHF event

Story and photos by Jackie Romine Walburn

Making a documentary film about court-ordered school desegregation in the small Mississippi town where he grew up has been – much like the nation’s struggle with race – “a complicated and contradictory thing,” according to filmmaker and author Douglas Blackmon.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Slavery By Another Name* discussed his new documentary film, *The Harvest*, and showed segments from the documentary at an Alabama Humanities Foundation event at Birmingham’s Ramsey High School in July.

Along with AHF, it was sponsored in partnership with the Georgia Humanities Council and with support from WBHM public radio.

The Harvest, being produced with the help of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will premiere in October 2019 on public television. Academy Award-winning filmmaker Sam Pollard partners with Blackmon on this groundbreaking documentary.

The Harvest tells the story of the struggle to integrate public schools in one small Mississippi Delta town as

seen through the eyes of black and white children born at the height of the civil rights struggle. It details the transformation they – and all of America – would undergo over the next 50 years.

Using archival film and footage shot by Blackmon and Pollard over the past two decades, *The Harvest* tracks the experiences of children born when Mississippi was aflame from 1964’s Freedom Summer.

The film follows them as they enter school six years later in the first mixed-race classrooms in Mississippi, their rise through youth and into adulthood, and then, as they emerge as leaders of their communities.

Blackmon is more than a little familiar with the journey. He was a member of this first mixed-race class in his hometown of Leland, Mississippi.

The scenes played out in Leland were not unique. They occurred in countless places around the country. And 20 years after desegregation, areas – while racially diverse – became segregated once again. In *The Harvest*, Blackmon takes viewers on a journey of remembrance and reflection,



WBHM News director Gigi Douban and author and filmmaker Douglas Blackmon discuss Blackmon’s newest work, *The Harvest*, and take questions from the audience at an Alabama Humanities Foundation event July 12 at Birmingham’s Ramsey High School auditorium.

asking the question, “Why did this happen?”

The answer, promoters say, lies in lessons to be learned through self-examination and taking advantage of opportunities for change.

Most recently a senior fellow at the University of Virginia, Blackmon is beginning work as a faculty member at Georgia State University.

A journalist who served as Atlanta bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal* and hosted the PBS program, *American Forum*, Blackmon won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction in 2009 for his book, *Slavery By Another Name*.

Also the subject of a documentary, *Slavery by Another Name* challenges the widely held belief that slavery came to an end with the Emancipation Proclamation. Blackmon’s work reveals how thousands of African Americans were the victims of forced labor through the convict lease system. Many were jailed for crimes they did not commit, asserted Blackmon, and the practice lasted well into the 20th Century.

In a discussion and question and answer period led by WBHM News Director Gigi Douban, Blackmon reflected on lessons learned in *The Harvest*. The 1970 court order replacing “freedom of choice” with required desegregation of school systems created a difficult situation for school systems which had to figure out how to desegregate quickly, combining schools and closing schools.

“This had never been done before in the history of the United States,” he stressed. “It was not going to be easy, and it was left to five people on local school boards.”

Noting that the National Endowment for the Humanities sponsored both documentaries, he reminded the audience, “These are your films. They belong to you.”

They are the legacy of a story that had its beginnings in the Civil Rights Era but lives on today in the story of those children – now parents and grandparents – of a new generation. ■



Blackmon’s documentary film, *The Harvest*, during an Alabama Humanities Foundation event July 12 at Birmingham’s Ramsey High School auditorium.



Pictured Above: Audience members watch segments of the in-progress documentary film *The Harvest* during a July 12 AHF-sponsored event featuring journalist, filmmaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Douglas Blackmon.



To Left: Alabama Humanities Foundation Board Member Lajuana Bradford, left, and WBHM General Manager Chuck Holmes greet Douglas Blackmon, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and featured speaker at AHF’s July 12 event in Birmingham.

Ripples of learning, ripples of hope

'Stony the Road' institute brings understanding to Alabama's Civil Rights story

By Paul South

The Old Testament book of Amos reminded – and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., repeated it 2,000 years later – “that justice rolls like a river, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

But sometimes, the highest ideals are like a well-thrown pebble on a glassy pond, its ripples reaching around the world, from Birmingham, to Berlin and from Beijing to Johannesburg.

Each summer for the past two decades, those ripples of knowledge and freedom spread at a summer institute for teachers, funded by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities and supported by the U.S. State Department. “*Stony the Road We Trod...*”: *Exploring Alabama's Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement* has grown from a weeklong workshop for Birmingham-area teachers, to a three-week institute for educators from across the country and around the world. In two decades, teachers from 45 states and many nations, including Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, South Africa, Colombia and elsewhere have participated in the workshop, the brainchild of Dr. Martha Bouyer, a retired educator and vice chair of the Jefferson County Board of Education.

Because of the broad sweep of American history, from its native peoples through the 20th century, teachers were unable to take students into a study of the Civil Rights era.

“I was concerned that many of the teachers that I knew never got to teach the Civil Rights Movement,” Bouyer said. They never got there” during a school year, Bouyer said. “I was looking for a way to provide teachers with quality instruction about the modern Civil Rights movement that they could then transform into lessons in the classroom that were measurable, that the outcome could be directed, and people could understand what (the movement) was about.”

The title for the institute comes from lyrics of a traditional hymn, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” that served as a National Anthem for African-Americans for generations.

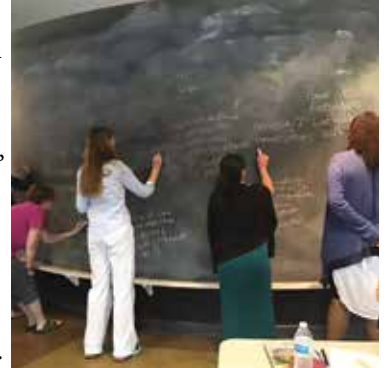
“It was a song I learned in elementary school,” Bouyer said. For generations, people learned that song because it was a song of hope and determination for black people: Don't give up. Just keep going, hang in there. But the message of the hymn spoke to all Americans. It spoke of the state and the nation,” she added.

“We were all walking on a stony road, all of our feet were hurting, because we were still trying to live separately, even in the year 2000, things were not a whole lot better. We were all walking on stones. I was trying to find a better way to teach this history.”

That better path has come, not only through instruction from leading civil rights scholars, but from survivors of the movement, and a whirlwind of travel to the familiar and lesser-known landmarks of the movement – including Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge and the

historic Bethel Baptist Church – where teachers retraced the footsteps of the nonviolent foot soldiers of the movement, many of them children.

Thirty teachers from around the country were selected from among 89 applicants to participate in 2018's three-week initiative.



History comes to life

“I sometimes refer to them as living epistles,” Bouyer said. “We think about the Apostle Paul and his letters. In this project, I get to bring history makers, people who lived the history and were actively involved in the civil rights movement in Birmingham and Montgomery and Selma to come and talk to teachers and share their story of involvement – why they were inspired to do this, what happened as a result of the communities coming together and galvanizing behind a single movement to bring about change in all areas. Having our firsthand accounts of the movement adds greatly to the work that I'm attempting to do.”

And as the ravages of time, through illness and death, thin the ranks of survivors, scholars help preserve a precious record of the past.

“Even the people who lived the history, they are in their 60s and 70s. I'm concerned that we're in a race against time and a race against diminished capacity, whether that's the ability to travel to a workshop, or the ability to coherently share what happened and what they remember, and even death,” Bouyer said.

“So, I'm very thankful for the scholars who've taken the time to do research and talk with survivors of this movement to capture their stories. It's very important that we save this for future generations of Americans. It's also so very important that teachers be provided the best scholarship possible.”

The institute's impact reaches into the future, Bouyer said. Consider that a classroom teacher at the middle and high school level can impact an estimated 150 students in a given year.

“When you think about the students and the family members that are reached, the impact is so great. I don't think we can even number what will happen as a result of that.”

As for the teachers, their lives and by extension, their students, have been forever changed by their Alabama civil rights journey.

Andrea Owen Martin teaches the social sciences in seventh through 12th grade at Birmingham's Dupuy Alternative School. “Personally, this experience allowed me to investigate and critically examine previously held understandings, presumptions and knowledge about a subject that I had only scratched the



surface,” Martin wrote in an email. “The moments that allowed us to walk in the footsteps of history makers and gain an understanding of the totality of the narrative of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama are moments that have changed me forever.

“The experience of having met those that fought the good fight; to walk into the home where great men and women stood, prayed, and discussed the next steps; to stand in the places where tragedy eventually grew to triumph with more than just the knowledge of the events was transformational,” she said.

Stephanie Colquitt, a Spanish teacher at Auburn (Ala.) High School, and of African-Latina heritage, called the institute “amazing.”

“It was more than a program. For me, it was a personal pilgrimage. I discovered ways in which the past is still reflecting on our today and the hard work that still has to be put in for our future to change. Meeting and personally learning from foot soldiers of The Movement and going to places where history was made was super life-changing. I will never be the same.”

Colquitt wrote, “This experience made many words read through the years, made history books come ALIVE. I was able to personalize and internalize the plight and fight of so many unsung heroes. I am now, more than ever, grateful for their sacrifice and am inspired to work hard and make a difference in the life of my students daily. I recognize that the March truly continues.”

Emeka Barclay Marshall teaches at Huntsville Junior High School. The civil rights struggle has a family tie for her, an aunt who was a nurse in Selma in the Movement’s most turbulent days. As she learned of the struggles of those in the “Children’s Crusade,” Marshall thought of her own students.

“To say I wasn’t haunted by the struggles the children faced is an understatement,” she said. “As a teacher, I always feel like the children are the ones left knee-deep and wading in the mess of what adults make. We live and err in the now, and they have to deal with the fallout in the future. And all the while, they feel like bystanders being affected and having no effect.”

She pointed out, “It’s difficult to be a child – even more difficult to be a child who has to deal with a society that might

not view him/her as a child. A child who may feel mistreated because of their race, gender, socioeconomic situation, etc. To be able to show all of my students the impact that they can have on society, how they can affect change, how they can be more than who they were expected to be.”

A self-described “lifelong learner,” Nancy Palmer traveled from Palo Alto, Calif., to participate in the institute. A 20-year classroom veteran, Palmer teaches fifth grade at Trinity School in Menlo Park, Calif., in the heart of Silicon Valley. She applied for the institute, she said, “to become a better teacher and a better person.”

She spends a month each academic year on civil rights. “Fourth and fifth-graders, developmentally, they’re at an age where social justice and their sense of right and wrong is really developing, so they have a very strong sense of treating people fairly.”

A point of emphasis to her students is that racism is a national problem. “I really emphasize to them that racism is all over. It’s not a Southern thing,” Palmer said. “This is a small chapter where people made a lot of sacrifice and worked really hard to ensure rights for all Americans all over the country.”

Like her fellow teachers, Palmer’s heart was stirred, her life changed by her Alabama experience. “I connected a lot of dots. The depth of knowledge that the institute gave me really helped reshape my understanding in a new way. I didn’t understand a lot of the underlying issues particular to Alabama and the South. I don’t think I would have gotten that from reading books.”

Calling it “incredibly powerful,” she said, “I cried every day, whether on the bus going from place to place, or listening to someone speak, or back in my hotel room, the weight of this knowledge and this hard, dark history was exhausting. But it was also exhilarating. It made me feel very passionate about teaching this to my students.”

The hope of the institute is that ripple effect, from civil rights survivors and scholars to teachers and on to students and their families, to their communities and on to the nation and the world. Just as the civil rights struggle in Alabama and throughout the South fired the imagination of freedom fighters



STONY THE ROAD

in Nelson Mandela's South Africa, in 1968 Czechoslovakia, at the Berlin Wall and in Tiananmen Square, Bouyer and the teachers who attended the institute hope to inspire new generations of leaders.

Bouyer compared the effort to crafting a fabric of freedom.

"(Teachers) want to be able to tell the story of courage and hope and commitment that comes out of the Stony Project."

"I see that courage, hope and commitment being woven like golden threads into the fabric of the United States of America," Bouyer said. "If they are woven so into the history of the United States, they can't be easily pulled out.

"Whenever we see those golden threads, we realize who we are as a people and why it's important that we live up to our creed as a nation."

The ripple grows

"My ultimate goal is that when teachers go back to this school, they'll teach this history so well that it will continue to resonate through their communities and through the lives of their children," Bouyer said. "Threads of disharmony, hatred and division are pulled out. And boys and girls understand that they have a stake in the nation and live up to the promises of the Constitution to forever change their communities."

For cynics, who think the fires for change will fizzle at the end of a school year, consider this:

In the spring of 2019, Nancy Palmer will bring a group of her California students and their parents to Alabama to retrace the stony road of civil rights. ■

Notes from a Birmingham native...

By Dionne Clark

I grew up in Birmingham. Modern Civil Rights history was a collective, historical reference in every Alabamians' memory, but also became a dulled thorn that some grew to forget and even carry apathy for.

I never forgot it and grew disdain for perspectives that pushed for "reconciliation" only as a means of silencing the history that touched everyone in our community. Civil rights history remained at the forefront of my mind, initially, because it was taught alongside Alabama and American History. Civil rights history was American History to my teachers. I attended a historically black college that was the center of The Movement in Birmingham. I even found myself briefly studying Civil Rights history in graduate school. It was a continuing part of my historical and cultural literacy.

In August 2015, I met Dr. Martha Bouyer, the executive director of the Historic Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham. I, at the time, was programs director at Alabama Humanities Foundation and primarily organized K-12 workshops and institutes. Dr. Bouyer was a former educator that led the public programming for and historical preservation of one of The Movement's most active congregations in Birmingham.

Bethel Baptist Church was the major hub of civil rights activism in Birmingham and was led by Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth. Upon our initial meeting, I knew very little about Bethel and Rev. Shuttlesworth's role in the Movement. I knew of him by name but did not know his story or impact. After speaking with Dr. Bouyer, she made me understand Shuttlesworth's critical role in the Civil Rights Movement and why President John F. Kennedy noted "but for Birmingham" in his pivotal address about civil rights and desegregation in America.

Our meeting in August led to the development of the 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Teacher Workshops Grant "Stony the Road We Trod...": Alabama's Role in the Modern Civil Rights Movement. This one-week

workshop for K-12 educators not only led teachers in critical discussions of the civil rights movement, but also engaged them in a field experience visiting landmarks of civil rights engagement.

After working with Martha and leading the administrative arm of this workshop, I left with an unrelenting tug to hear Shuttlesworth's voice and learn more about the civil rights struggle and work in Alabama. Many of our participants, myself included, wanted more time to experience the archives and critically interrogate the standard narrative of civil rights history that we found in textbooks and even a part of the traditional American, historical narrative.

Shortly after the workshop, I departed Alabama and my position with AHF to pursue doctoral studies at Georgia State University. While I left the program and Birmingham, my desire for this project gained momentum, and I continued personal research well into my first year in an archival studies course.

Upon writing this piece, Stony the Road has evolved from a one-week workshop to a three-week NEH Summer Teacher Institute program. In 2017, Dr. Bouyer and Alabama Humanities Foundation received funding to extend the opportunity for educators to delve into an intensive study of the Civil Rights Movement for three weeks in the summer of 2018.

As a graduate student participating as a past administrator turned scholar, seeing the research engaged by educators drew the connection between scholarship, instruction and learning, and personal impact. 'Stony' also shows the value of public landmarks and how they continue to serve as tangible evidence and histories of America's past.

The NEH Summer Institute experience allows one to see the bridge between university research, the innovation of K-12 educators in the classroom, and the continuing education of public humanities institutions. In 2019, Dr. Bouyer and civil rights scholars will continue the work of examining the role of activists and freedom fighters during this Movement. ■

Mapping project to raise awareness about LGBTQ communities



By Katie Beth Buckner

The LGBTQ community has a complex history in Alabama, but much of it has remained in the shadows, according to its advocates.

With the launch of a recent LGBTQ mapping project, the aim is to raise awareness so that people can become educated, excited and proud of the community's origins and growing base throughout the state, South and country.

As part of the Invisible Histories Project (iHP), it will be collecting and preserving LGBTQ history, and Alabama Humanities Foundation granted \$7,491.16 to conduct the LGBTQ Cultural Geography Mapping Project.

iHP is dedicated to connecting the South with its LGBTQ past. Using maps of Alabama to pinpoint significant sites throughout the LGBTQ community, the project will make its unseen history visible for the first time.

iHP co-founders Joshua Burford and Maigen Sullivan will be hosting several town hall-style forums to bring members of the LGBTQ community together to share their stories. Participants are encouraged to speak about their coming out, attending pride festivals, visiting bars and other relatable topics.

"Our main objective is being able to get folks in the same space together and having dialogue," Burford said. "Once you get people in the same room, and they start talking and brainstorming, that community memory brings up a lot of stuff for people that they might not remember all by themselves."

Sullivan serves as director of development for iHP and works to cultivate and maintain strong relationships with project participants, donors and board members. It's vital that she secures healthy relationships so people feel comfortable sharing their knowledge and information in relation to LGBTQ history in Alabama.

iHP has had representatives at virtually every gay pride festival in Alabama this year. Utilizing networks from these festivals, primarily in the cities of Auburn, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Florence and Birmingham, Burford can collect data to include on the maps. Taking robust history and population size into consideration, each of these cities have a relatively large LGBTQ base, waiting to have its history uncovered and mapped.

The group has had two mapping events – one in Birmingham and one in Tuscaloosa – where they screened *Out in the South*, a documentary on the first gay

pride parade in Alabama, prior to each event

"It's hard to know exactly where the enclave of communities is because they've moved, but we know for certain that the rural parts of Alabama have a significant amount of LGBTQ people in them," Burford said. "Part of what we hope to do in this project is uncover where these communities are together."

As director of outreach and collections, Burford works diligently to locate archival collections and facilitate getting information onto maps and making them accessible. Using data gathered at the city forums and pride festivals across the state, he'll construct maps for each respective city, each one including significant sites in the LGBTQ community.

The maps will not only instill pride and excitement throughout the LGBTQ community but also dispel the myth that queer history hasn't played an integral part in Alabama's history. Pinpointing numerous key sites of LGBTQ history will help people recognize how vast the community and its history truly is.

"There are a lot of reasons for us to be proud to be gay, lesbian, bi(sexual) and trans(gender) from Alabama, so we want people to take the same excitement that we feel for the project with them when they leave to do other things," Burford said.

iHP is aiming to complete the mapping project in 2019. At that time, Burford plans to have the maps compiled into an interactive exhibit to show people how connected LGBTQ groups are across the state. Having the maps in one display will enable people to visibly see Alabama's LGBTQ history in all its context.

"Part of our mission at Invisible Histories is curating exhibits. We want people to be able to interact with the materials that we're collecting, and that will be very true with the maps," Burford said.

There are additional plans for virtual maps to be made accessible on the iHP website which will enable people from anywhere to learn about Alabama's LGBTQ history. As the LGBTQ community continues to gain publicity, the virtual maps may also inspire others to conduct similar projects in their own communities.

"A project like this is important to Alabama," Burford maintained. "But on secondary consideration, there are people studying LGBTQ history all over the country and world, so we want that material to be able to be accessed by people everywhere."





AHF grant plays role in preserving Apollo legacy

By Katie Beth Buckner

With the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing coming up next summer, film producer Zachary Weil saw a great opportunity to produce a documentary that captures the lives and experiences of several individuals who played a part in the Apollo Program.

"It's a passion project that stems mostly from my desire to tell the story, but recognizing, too, that there's going to be an audience for it because of the 50th anniversary. And a lot of people are going to be naturally plugged into the Apollo story," Weil said.

His vision for *When We Were Apollo* is to illustrate the ability to make a positive impact on society when people place their differences aside and join together for the betterment of America. The Alabama Humanities Foundation saw value in Weil's vision and granted his company, Contact Light Films, \$10,000 to aid in project costs.

When We Were Apollo is a film meant to preserve the Apollo legacy by retelling the stories of several aging individuals who played a role in the program. The diversity amongst the subjects sheds light on the various challenges they faced during the Apollo era. Within their stories, viewers can grasp a better understanding of the country's status during that time period – against the backdrop of the civil rights struggle.

"We experience the story of Apollo through their lives during the program, not just their professional lives, but their personal lives – their own hardships and challenges," Weil said. And all the while we're learning a little about the program,

we're also learning about the country during that time, too."

Weil conducted an immense amount of background research for the project. In doing so, he connected with Reagan Grimsley at the University of Alabama at Huntsville's Department of Special Collections and Archives. Grimsley told him the department collects nationally in space history and has numerous materials on the Apollo program.

Seeing itself beneficial in providing valuable resources to Weil, the Department of Special Collections and Archives partnered with Contact Light Films to fulfill the project's educational component. It serves as a depository for the film's raw footage and other archival materials.

"We're not involved in the production of the movie at all," Grimsley said. "We are simply the educational and outreach component for the group. They are going to work with us to give us the materials."

Grimsley serves as the project's scholar, offering his expertise on the subject. He also works to collect resources and make them available to Weil.

"I am a content expert that they will consult to make sure the film is historically accurate," Grimsley said. "In my role as head of special collections, my job is to collect materials and make those available. So, it's working with them to make sure that the materials collected are appropriate for not only the documentary but for our collections as well."



Conducting this project has been a grassroots effort. While Weil is the only individual working on the film full time, a small group of other producers along with several volunteers and film subjects have contributed their time, talents, knowledge and resources to aid in the project's progress.

"It's been a team effort on the film side, but really I think one of the pleasant surprises has been that the Apollo alumni community has been very generous with their time and very helpful," Weil said.

The film is set for completion this fall and will begin the film festival circuit early next year. There are community screenings planned for areas of Florida, southern California and north Alabama due to their ties to the Apollo Program. After those screenings, Weil hopes to receive a distribution deal so the film can be released to a wide audience next summer.

UAH has plans to offer two screenings of the film. A screening for faculty, students and staff is planned for next Spring. Another one open to the public is in the works for next summer to coincide

with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 launch.

"That's one of the services we want to offer to the community at large and to our faculty, students and staff here at UAH," Grimsley said. "We're tying these events with the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11... and also the Alabama Bicentennial celebration."

Weil said he hopes that in the midst of today's state of division in the country that the film motivates viewers to be active in creating a better future. He would like people to leave the film feeling hopeful for what's to come.

"There is a lot to learn from a program like Apollo. We were able to do something like this before. That means we definitely have it within us to do it again," Weil said.

"Best case scenario, people not only feel inspired, but they feel like they want to take action."



Breaking the cycle: Literate families are aim of AHF-backed program

By Katie Beth Buckner

Recognizing the consequences of illiteracy, The National Hook Up for Black Women has launched a community literacy program to promote healthy reading habits. Using children's books and interactive activities, the program encourages a home learning environment that addresses all areas of literacy.

The National Hook Up for Black Women originated in 1974 to provide resources that will help improve the well-being of women and their families. They focus on a variety of areas including literacy, family, education, arts and culture. The Birmingham Chapter, chartered in 2014, plans to address these areas through The Ujima Family Reader's Circle project.

The word "Ujima," meaning collective work and responsibility, derives from one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa, an African-American holiday that celebrates family, community and culture. Having the word in the project's title illustrates the collective efforts of NHBW to improve families' lives through the literacy program.

"We based our chapter on the Kwanzaa principle of Ujima," NHBW Birmingham Chapter President Yvette Chatman said. "That is what our history represents... women being together, working together in a community and being responsible for one another. So, I chose the word Ujima because I thought it would work well with what we wanted to do with the literacy program."

Due to the project's strong educational value, Alabama Humanities Foundation agreed to contribute \$7,500 toward



project costs. Its contribution will enable the project to reach families and teach parents how to foster an educational environment in their homes.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, approximately 16% of adults in Alabama are functionally illiterate. Among those individuals, several are living off welfare, working low paying jobs, living in homeless shelters or in prison. These statistics are alarming considering how vital parental literacy is to a child's educational and social success. So, NHBW Birmingham Chapter created the program to improve literary skills in underserved neighborhoods throughout the Birmingham area.

"When you have illiterate parents, it's really important to make sure they're given resources so the entire family can learn about the importance of reading," Chatman said.





Promoting family as the agent for positive social change, The Ujima Family Reader's Circle project strives to improve family reading habits, enhance the time families spend reading together and encourage confidence in parents so they can be positive educational mentors for their children. It's vital for the program to help parents understand the importance of literacy for the sake of their personal and child's success.

"Our program really involves parents. We have parent meetings and orientation," Chatman said. "We give them printouts on how to take concepts and apply it within their lives. It gives them an avenue to talk to their kids about what they've learned."

Targeting families with children aged three through third grade, the project uses books and various interactive activities to teach positive character development skills. Emphasizing books

with diverse characters, experiences and cultures allows each child to see themselves in the stories he or she is reading.

"We did really want to concentrate on books that included African-American authors and about African-American people because it's really important for children to see themselves in books, so they'll know they're a part of a larger community," Chatman said.

The project implements various interactive activities that emphasize literary skills. While the ability to read is an important skill to possess, it's not the only component of literacy. Therefore, activities focus not only on reading but also on listening, spoken word and written word. Visits from an artist, musician, beekeeper and blacksmith help the children relate their world to scenarios found in the books they read. The use of hands-on applications explain concepts in ways children can easily comprehend and apply to their lives.

"It's important for kids to be doing something other than just reading because I think they learn best by doing," Chatman said. "Kids can better understand the concepts that we're trying to teach by doing activities that enhance those concepts in the book."

Every participating family will receive a copy of a featured book, a list of suggested activities and a bibliography of related books to help encourage continued literary growth after the program concludes.



New staff join AHF team

Alabama Humanities Foundation welcomes four new members to its staff in Programs, Development and Grants.

As AHF makes this important transition, Executive Director Armand DeKeyser noted that it has already been a smooth one. "We are fortunate to have such high caliber individuals stepping into the roles that are so critical to our success. We welcome them aboard and look forward to having them help move AHF forward."

New staff, their positions and background are:

Programs Director

Melanie Bouyer is a community-minded professional who has worked in diverse settings to assist organizations to expand their initiatives to meet the communities' growing needs.



Melanie has significant experience in educating and guiding nonprofit and government organizations, including service for a term as mayor of Lipscomb. Melanie previously worked for the Jefferson County School System as a special education teacher at Gardendale and Clay-Chalkville High schools. An alumna of the University of Montevallo, Melanie has also earned a post-graduate degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and graduated magna cum laude, with a Juris Doctor degree from Miles Law School.

Programs Coordinator

Jerald Crook hails from Bay Minette, the county seat of Baldwin County. He attended Auburn University, where he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a minor in Sustainability.



He began his professional career working in public and academic libraries before joining the Alabama Bicentennial Commission staff as community relations specialist. There he served as liaison between the commission and local organizations and bicentennial committees.

Jerald is an avid arts and humanities enthusiast and community development advocate who enjoys finding ways to leverage his skills and experiences to help realize AHF's goals, especially growth of Alabama

Development Director

Marcy Miller brings to AHF over 20 years of professional experience spanning profit and not for profit industries. With a diverse background in resource development and marketing, Marcy has developed strategy and processes to exceed year-to-year fundraising goals and enhance constituent relationships.



Marcy has been a pioneer in developing advanced technology-based marketing projects and helped develop and taught digital marketing courses for UAB and Birmingham Southern.

She holds an MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and earned a BA with a triple major (Finance, Marketing and General Business) from the University of Mississippi. In her spare time, Marcy enjoys gardening and spending time with her daughters, Chloe and Hannah.

Grants Director

Graydon Rust is a longtime resident of Prattville, spending the past two years as Operations Specialist for the Alabama Bicentennial Commission. A graduate of Auburn University at Montgomery with a bachelor's degree in history, he is completing a Master of Library and Information Studies degree at the University of Alabama.



At Alabama 200, Graydon managed the grant program, overseeing the disbursement of more than 150 grants and \$500,000 to community organizations in 61 Alabama counties. He served as the webmaster and wrote more than 400 articles for Alabama NewsCenter's, *This Day in Alabama History*. He served as project manager for Alabama Bicentennial PastPort, a reference guide to Alabama's historical destinations, and as liaison to more than 300 sites featured in the book.

Previously, Graydon worked in the Research Room at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

At AHF, he hopes to encourage community engagement with the humanities statewide while continuing its work of providing opportunities for lifelong learning and promoting Alabama's cultural institutions. ■

We're inspired.



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



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