

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

MOSAIC

MAGAZINE
FALL 2019

Light and lens
of discovery
inspire creation
of Alabama
Humanities
Fellows Award



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.

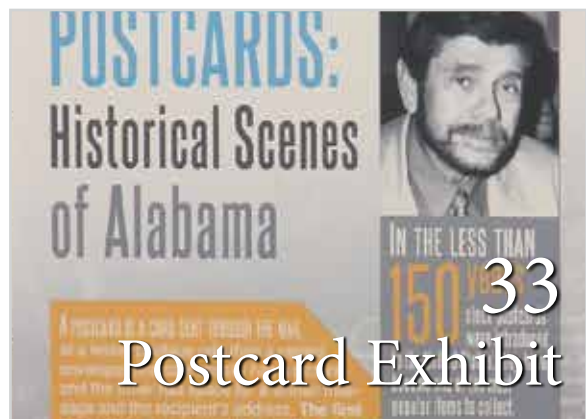


For ticket information and hours, visit troy.edu/rosaparks.

MOSAIC



20
Stony the Road



33
Postcard Exhibit



14
Colloquium
Fellows

**ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
FOUNDATION**

About the Cover: AHF unveiled the new Humanities Fellows Award at The Alabama Colloquium Oct. 7. Sculpted from Sylacauga marble by noted sculptor Craigger Browne, the award depicts the lens of discovery and the flame of enlightenment. The awards were presented to: Fred Gray, Jody Singer, Howell Raines and Marquita Davis (pictured above).

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For more information about Alabama Humanities Foundation,
go to our website www.alabamahumanities.org

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* Denotes Gubernatorial appointments



MISSION STATEMENT:

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



alabamahumanitiesfoundation



@AHF



AlabamaHumanities



Alabama Humanities

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

Alabama Humanities Foundation Staff

Armand DeKeyser, Executive Director
Alma Anthony, Executive Assistant
Laura Anderson, Director of Operations
Melanie Bouyer, Programs Director
Jerald Crook, Programs Coordinator
Marcy Miller, Development Director
Graydon Rust, Grants Director



The Alabama Humanities Foundation Enhancing Minds ... Enriching Lives

1100 Ireland Way, Suite 202 • Birmingham, AL 35205
Phone: (205) 558-3980 • Fax: (205) 558-3981
E-mail: info@alabamahumanities.org
Website: alabamahumanities.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/alabamahumanitiesfoundation
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ahf

Behind Mosaic

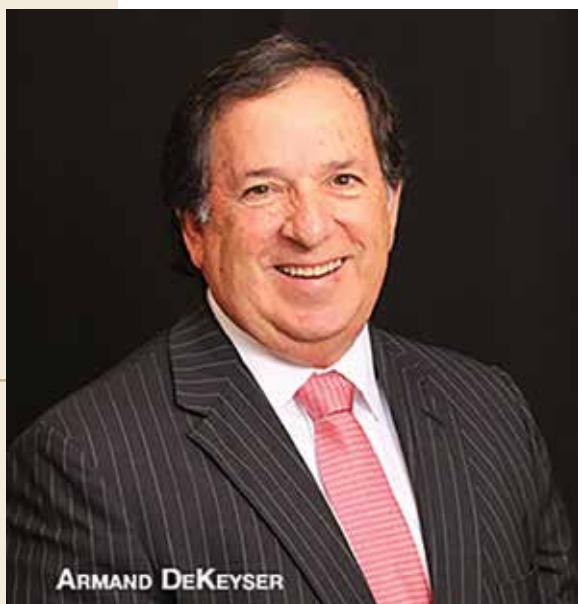
Editor: Carol Pappas • Partners by Design

Designer: Toni Franklin • Partners by Design

Please direct all Mosaic comments, questions or concerns to
Laura Anderson at landerson@alabamahumanities.org or (205) 558-3992.

Lessons to be learned in civics education

By Armand DeKeyser
Executive Director



I have always enjoyed studying civics.

I fondly recall my senior year's civics class at Murphy High School taught by Mr. Tarver and what a great class it was. I won't go so far as to say that it changed my life because much happened in between, but I ended up spending a large portion of my adult life working in, with and around city, state and federal governments.

We are starting to see planning begin for the celebration of America's founding in 1776. The 250th anniversary (and yes, there is a name for that – a semiquincentennial) will be on us before you know it.

There are a number of organizations that are following the path taken by Alabama to celebrate its 200th anniversary as a state. Alabama began the process to celebrate the December 14, 2019 date more than four years ago. America's 250th anniversary is now being planned for a series of events culminating in 2026.

These are more than just celebrations of a particular date. They are the foundation for knowledge and understanding of the events – the history – that led to that moment when we became a state and a nation and why it is important to our everyday lives.

It's been a long time since I was in that civics class with Mr. Tarver, and much has changed about our educational system. Perhaps the most disappointing has been the lack of civics education. Our children are no longer proficient in the historical facts we used to recite routinely.

That deficiency leaves them without a clear understanding of the republic and what it means to be a democracy. They may not know that there are three co-equal branches of government to maintain a check and balance system, or they may more easily recognize the coach of the University of Alabama than the state's governor. That's a problem.

Throughout the country, states are passing legislation to help reverse that trend, requiring students to at least be proficient in civics found on the test for citizenship.

Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, "For me, civics education is the key to inspiring kids to want to stay involved in making a difference." She's right. Through civics education, they can see the power of one voice, one vote, one bold act for positive change. The power of one has been demonstrated throughout the history of our state and our nation.

We should not waste any opportunity to reach and teach our children. They are the kind of powerful lessons AHF rewards with the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship each year, giving teachers an opportunity to bring civics studies to life for their students. The scholarship underscores the notion that these are lessons worth learning and principles worth instilling.

Throughout Alabama's bicentennial celebration, those chances to learn have been evident in virtually every corner of our state. Our own *Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit* visited all 67 Alabama counties, giving old and young alike an opportunity to learn about their history and how one voice or one event had the power to change history's course.

When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus, the course of history changed. When President Kennedy asked 'why not' in our nation's quest to walk on the moon, the course of history changed again. We have witnessed these epic moments since our beginning, and we will no doubt see them throughout our future.

The lessons of history should not be lost, they should be respected, remembered and revered. They do make a difference in our everyday lives, and an informed citizenry is one that has the ability to move us forward as a state and nation.

So, take advantage of the teachable moments in celebrating our country's milestones. They are countless, and their impact on us all is immeasurable. There is a powerful lesson to be learned in each one of them.

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

AHF Executive Director

First two grant rounds yield \$114,000 for humanities projects around state

From lectures to training, from documentaries to exhibits, Alabama Humanities Foundation topped the \$114,000 mark in grant-giving in the first two rounds of 2019.

Applications are made in March, June, September and December in the areas of Mini Grants, up to \$2,000; Major Grants, up to \$7,500; and Media Grants, up to \$10,000 for humanities-based projects throughout Alabama.

Grants awarded in February and June were:

February Grants Awarded

*Alabama Community Scholars
Institute: Sounds of Appalachia*
Alabama Folklife Association
Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Alabama Folklife Association will host Alabama

Community Scholars Institute (ACSI) 2019, a multi-day training program that provides participants with the tools, skills, resources, and experience needed to document, present, and promote Alabama's folk and traditional arts or folkways. Held June 19-22, 2019, in Ft. Payne, the program will explore the traditional music genres of the Southern Appalachian region of Alabama, and contributed to archival collections housed at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Teaching with Stories: Holocaust Education Series
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center
Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Birmingham Holocaust Education Center will host teacher workshops in four locations across Alabama. The *Teaching with Stories* workshops parallel the state's high school curricula for WWII and U.S. History, Holocaust studies and English Language Acquisition. Scholars will interpret stories from *The Diary of Anne Frank* to those of local Alabama survivors, Dr. Robert May and Mrs. Ruth Siegler. The workshops will be free for 6th-12th grade teachers and provide six credit hours for attendance.



Pride of Place II

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center

Camden (Wilcox)

Pride of Place II will continue undergirding residents of the Black Belt with a foundation of pride in their history and heritage that they can share with others interested in the unique region. Presentations feature the blues music of well-known Vera Hall from Sumter County, Black Belt barbeque traditions and the influence of the Black Belt on creative writing. Sites chosen for the programming are the Monroe County Courthouse Museum in Monroeville and the Ruby Pickens Tratt Library in Livingston.

A Red Record in Alabama

Auburn University Department of History

Auburn (Lee)

A Red Record in Alabama will continue the research and building of a project on the history, experience and legacy of lynching in the state of Alabama and offer focused resources for K-12 educators to teach the history of racial violence in our state. The result will include a digital exhibit, lesson plans and a teacher workshop.

Another River to Cross - The Indian Legacy in Alabama

Birmingham International Education Film Festival
Birmingham (Jefferson)

This documentary film explores the legacy of Indian tribes in Alabama, including the Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole, who represented the Five Civilized Tribes of the Southeast. Their spiritual connection to the land, customs, traditions and heritage continue to have cultural significance in the state. The film includes conversations between elders and young members of the

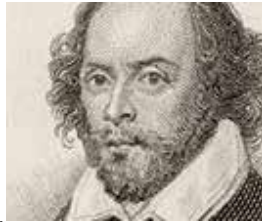
tribe, scholar interviews and tribal oral history, songs, music and art along with historic and sacred site cinematography.

Shakespeare Project

Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc.

Anniston (Calhoun)

The Shakespeare Project will provide free, abridged literature performances in a modern setting to schools in the community to aid in the comprehension of arts and humanities and curriculum development. The project will provide paid apprenticeships to have students learn from a professional production team and actors. Through a partnership with Jacksonville State and the American Shakespeare Center, the project will also provide workshops and educational materials to teachers.



The Lyric: A Documentary Film by Norton Dill

Central Alabama Theatre

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Lyric: A Documentary Film by Norton Dill focuses on the Lyric, its history and the role the theatre has played in the life of its community. The documentary will create awareness for this cultural crown jewel in a manner that no other medium would. Norton has assembled an impressive team to help him tell the Lyric's stories before society loses them forever. These important stories about the Lyric will highlight the unique impact that the theater has had on Birmingham and the state of Alabama.

North Sumter School

Oral History Project

Coleman Center for the Arts

York (Sumter)

The Coleman Center for the Arts will continue its ongoing oral history work in the Panola community of Sumter County through a combined storytelling event and oral history campaign. The project began after the recent closing of the North Sumter School, which was built in 1933, primarily for the education of African-American children in the segregated Alabama Black Belt. In collaboration with scholars, local junior high students will interview alumni of North Sumter School to contribute to the Black Belt Collection at the Black Belt Museum.



I Have a Voice Exhibit and Programming Series

Florence-Lauderdale Public Library

Florence (Lauderdale)

Florence-Lauderdale Public Library (FLPL) will host an exhibit and program series to celebrate the vital role of African American music in American and international culture and history. FLPL will be hosted the exhibit "I Have a Voice": Tennessee's African American Musical Heritage from July 20 to September 15, 2019. Along with the exhibit, the library will present a wide-ranging series of lectures and performances exploring various genres of African American music and its history.

Lawson State Community College Public History Project

Lawson State Community College

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Carved into the western slopes of Red Mountain, the Tennessee Coal and Iron (TCI) mining communities provided miners and their families with stability, shelter and an incentive to help TCI advance its interests. Nearby Lawson State Community College has long served these communities. The *Lawson State Community College Public History Project* will digitally archive oral histories and artifacts from mining camp residents. It also will interpret this archive using an audio story platform.

Preserving Mobile's History through Digitization:

A DIY Workshop

Mobile Creole

Cultural and Historical

Preservation

Society

Mobile (Mobile)

This Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society will

host a digitization workshop at the Mobile Public Library. The organization encourages participants to bring their own memorabilia to learn how to utilize the library's new publicly available digital media equipment and create their own digital files on a provided flash drive. At the workshop, participants will also learn about Mobile and Creole history, the importance of preservation and ways to find records pertinent to enhancing their own family history.



The Evolution of African American Gospel Music in Alabama

Tennessee Valley Jazz Society

Huntsville (Madison)

The Evolution of African-American Gospel Music in Alabama is part of the Evolution of Black Music in Alabama Educational & Concert Series including spirituals, gospel, blues and jazz and their impact on world arts and cultures. The project goal for the *Evolution of Black Gospel Music in Alabama* is to celebrate Alabama's bicentennial through exploring how African-American gospel music influenced Alabama through a symposium and educational programming.

"Real Talk" Community Forums

Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum

Montgomery (Montgomery)

Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum is pleased to present "Real Talk" Community Forums.

"Real Talks" are scholarly forums that examine contemporary topics related to civic education. Topics for this series are gun violence and political activism among women of color in the South. After a moderated panel discussion, the audience will have an opportunity to query and engage with the panelists in civil dialogue about the subject matter.



Sharing Stories: Oral History in Blakeley Bluff and the Greater Mobile Tensaw Delta

University of South Alabama Honors College

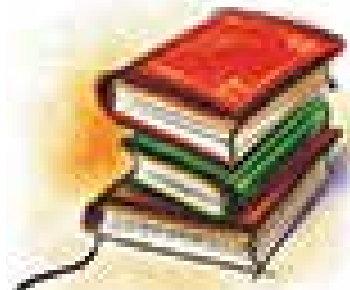
Mobile (Mobile)

Blakeley Bluff is a nexus of cultures and histories with many untold stories surrounding Apalachees, U.S. Colored Troops, Reconstruction and Creole culture. The University of South Alabama will interview individuals with unique connection to historical events and share their stories through interactive exhibits, public conversations and a one-day event. These stories will enhance regional and national discourse, promoting an appreciation of the region's vibrant cultures.

Washington County: Where Alabama Began

Washington County Public Library

Chatom (Washington)
Washington County Public Library (WCPL) will provide programs on St. Stephens, Alabama's territorial capital and will highlight history, literature and archaeology in promotion of the state's bicentennial across Alabama's first county. WCPL will implement an outdoor movie series, book giveaways and book clubs to encourage reading, cultivate home libraries and promote Alabama's rich history and literary treasures. WCPL will show movies based on Alabama literature dealing with historically significant events and cultural heritage in six rural towns throughout the county.



Celebrating the Legacy of John Rainey Adkins

Wiregrass Blues Society

Dothan (Houston)

The Wiregrass Blues Society will produce a shortdocumentary film on the legendary guitar contributions of Dothan native John Rainey Adkins to the history of blues music. The organization will screen the film at a free public event at the Artists' Meet and Greet, the evening before the Wiregrass Blues Fest kicks off at the Wiregrass Museum of Art. The screening also will feature a panel discussion of blues musicians moderated by Gil Anthony, DJ for the Blues Power radio program.



Continuum Exhibition Interpretation and Programs

Wiregrass Museum of Art

Dothan (Houston)

The Wiregrass Museum of Art will presented *Continuum: 1808 to 2017/Goya to Erdreich* an exhibition of recent work from Alabama artist Beverly Erdreich, on-site from April 18 to June 29, 2019. Programming included lectures, panel discussions, film screenings, musical performances, community art projects, and extended in-gallery learning with a focus on the local and regional impact of war and violence.

June Grants Awarded

Exploring the Humanities with the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project

Auburn University- Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project

Auburn (Lee)

The Alabama Prison Arts+ Education Project will offer four courses that explore the diverse histories of Americans and our international roots. Students at correctional facilities in central and west Alabama will be able to enroll in one of two classes: *The American Civil War* or *Living and Communicating in a Diverse Society*. Faculty and graduate students from universities in Alabama will teach these courses.



Lecture on the Bottle Creek Mound Site by Dr. Ian Brown **Historic Blakeley State Park**

Spanish Fort (Baldwin)

This free public lecture by Dr. Ian Brown, preeminent authority on the Bottle Creek Native American Mound Complex, will bring the significance of this incredible Mississippian-era site in the heart of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta to the attention of the residents of Baldwin and Mobile counties. Dr. Brown has conducted extensive archaeological excavations at the site, a National Historic Landmark with limited public access, and written the definitive study of its archaeological heritage.



Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition"
at Eastern Shore Art Center

Mobile Chamber Music Society

Mobile (Mobile)

In 1874, the composer Modest Mussorgsky composed "Pictures at an Exhibition" after viewing Viktor Hartmann's exhibit of watercolors and drawings at the Imperial Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg, Russia. On October 19, at the

Eastern Shore Art Center in Fairhope, art historian Dr. Robert Bantens will spoke about Hartmann's work, and Russian pianist Ilya Yakushev will perform Mussorgsky's composition with projected images of the works that inspired the composer.

Aspiring Author Project

North Shelby Library

Birmingham (Shelby)

North Shelby Library will offer the *Aspiring Author Project* to burgeoning authors with a focus on those participating in National Novel Writing Month in November. Through two all-day workshops on Saturday, October 19 and November 16, award-winning author K.B. Hoyle will discussed how to plan, prep and execute a novel using various writing techniques. The library will serve as an official "come write in" location with a room dedicated for authors to work and collaborate.

Rocket City Civil Rights Interactive Educational Digital Home **Rocket City Civil Rights**

Huntsville (Madison)

Rocket City Civil Rights is a history project focused on the unique civil rights experiences in Huntsville, which led to a relatively peaceful integration ahead of the rest of the state. This project will enhance the organization's digital home so that it becomes an educational resource to middle and high school teachers. Additionally, the organization will build a portal for citizens to share their personal histories from that time.



*Expanding the
Hands on*

Liberty and Super Citizen Programs

The Liberty Learning Foundation

Huntsville (Madison)

The Liberty Learning Foundation brings strong lessons of civic character and civic responsibility to students throughout Alabama. The organization will utilize funds to maintain programming in Selma City Schools as well as provide seed dollars for pilot programs in Colbert County, Dallas County and Perry County school systems.

GRANTS

We Dare Defend our Rights

Space One Eleven

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Space One Eleven will host a panel discussion and produce a critical essay related to the organization's art exhibition addressing gun violence. The purpose of the project is to examine and discuss Birmingham's history as it relates to violence and how we might move forward on a path to reconciliation.

Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Films

University of Alabama Honors College

Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa)

Working with The Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Task Force and those involved with the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Trail, part of the larger Alabama Civil Rights Trail, the organization identified and interviewed, on camera, 14 foot soldiers who were a vital part of the Civil Rights Movement in Tuscaloosa. Funding will allow the organization to complete post production and post the films to the web for the community and scholars of history.

Alabama and Friends:

Meet Your Authors at the DISCO

University of West Alabama - Livingston Press

Livingston (Sumter)

Livingston Press will sponsored an event to bring authors and readers together at the Alabama and Friends: Meet Your Author event in Birmingham on Saturday, October 26, at the Desert Island Supply Company (DISCO), a non-profit geared toward promoting reading in adolescents. The organization expects 20 authors, mostly from Alabama, to appear on stage and read from or talk about their work for about 15 minutes each. They will meet their readers at a book signing afterward.

Maxwell Rafferty Global Leadership Lecture Series

Troy University - College of Education

Troy (Pike)

The Maxwell Rafferty Global Leadership Lecture Series is a series of scholarly community forums held at Troy University to highlight the importance of historical analysis

in understanding current events, including the impact of effective leadership as a catalyst in transformation. Roundtable discussions will allow participants to engage in dialogue with scholars to invoke critical analysis.

Roots on Record: An Educational LP and Symposium on American Roots Music

University of South Alabama)- English Department Mobile (Mobile)

In an effort to preserve and promote the democratic folkways of American roots music, the organization will produce 500 copies of a 10 track vinyl LP featuring live listening-room performances. The records will be distributed at a public event at the University of South Alabama, which will feature musical performances, a presentation on the role of roots music in democratic exchange and audience participation.

The Oral Tradition in

Contemporary Southern Society and Literature

Wallace Community College

Dothan (Houston)

Wallace Community College will hosted noted Southern writer Tom Franklin on the respective WCC campuses in Dothan and Eufaula on October 14-15, 2019. Prior to Franklin's reading, Dr. Kate Simpkins presented the history and continuing influence of the southern oral tradition in contemporary southern society.

*16th Annual Taste of
4th Avenue Jazz Festival*

Urban Impact, Inc.

Urban Impact will host the 16th Annual Taste of 4th Avenue Jazz Festival to enrich

the lives of the citizens in Jefferson and surrounding counties to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of jazz and the Historic 4th Avenue District. The event will highlight the businesses in the district along with local and national jazz artists and will include a workshop to educate underserved students about jazz theory and history. ■



AHF to increase grant rounds to four per year

For the first time, AHF is offering a fourth grant round this year, which will be in December. Letter of Intent deadline is Nov. 18. Application deadline is Dec. 15. The spring grant round next year will move back to Mar. 15 with Letter of Intent deadline Feb. 16. In 2020, grant application deadlines will be March 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15. Letter of Intent deadlines will be Feb. 16, May 18, Aug. 18 and Nov. 18.

DeKeyser gets presidential appointment on national advisory council



Taking the oath

Alabama Humanities Foundation Executive Director Armand DeKeyser assumed his position on the National Council on the Humanities Sept. 17 after a swearing-in ceremony in Washington, D.C. by National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman John Parrish Peede.

President Donald Trump nominated DeKeyser several months ago, and he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in August.

DeKeyser was one of 16 leading humanities scholars and advocates across the country named to the 26-member advisory board. They work in all walks of the humanities – academia, business and public institutions, such as museums and libraries.

“We are delighted to welcome this distinguished group to the National Council,” Peede said in making the announcement of the Council’s appointment. “Together they bring a wide range of expertise in cultural leadership, government and public policy, international affairs, philanthropy and numerous humanities fields, including archaeology, languages, law, literature, history and political science that will be invaluable to the National Endowment for the Humanities.”

The Council meets three times a year to review grant applications and advise the NEH chairman on humanities issues. DeKeyser has already attended an orientation meeting and gone to work to fulfill his duties.

“I am humbled by this appointment,” DeKeyser said. “I appreciate the confidence our NEH chairman has in me, and I am honored to be appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. To represent our state and the humanities on such a distinguished board is truly an honor and a privilege.”



The council



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit winds up statewide tour

18 months. 67 counties. 200 years of Alabama history. Add it all up, and it equals an ambitious project of Alabama Humanities Foundation – *Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit* – in partnership with Alabama Department of Archives and History and Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

In November, the tour makes its final destination point just in time to celebrate Alabama’s 200th birthday, on Dec. 14.

“This has been an incredible experience for our state and for AHF,” said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser. “In towns and cities across the state, we traveled to all 67 counties, making sure all Alabama citizens had an opportunity to view this impressive exhibit of our storied 200 years of statehood.”

The exhibit – five copies of it – crisscrossed the state for 18 months, traveling to big cities and small towns in every corner of Alabama. Some may call that a logistical impossibility. AHF and its staff simply labeled it a challenge and set about to make its own history with this epic exhibit.

When AHF was in the planning stages of this monumental trek that began in March of 2018, DeKeyser noted that he hoped it would be the catalyst for dialogue about issues facing Alabama – that it would be the beginning of some

conversations, but not the end.

In furtherance of that vision, one of the exhibits is being permanently housed at Alabama Public Television in Montgomery. Others may be heading to permanent homes in other communities. And at least two will be available for communities that did not get to host them so that the opportunities will continue long after the final stop.

Making Alabama has been quite a venture. Some might even call it an adventure. But the guiding principle of every leg of this journey has been enlightenment, engagement and inspiration.

“It was AHF’s honor to present this exhibit to Alabama,” DeKeyser said, “and it is our sincere hope that *Making Alabama* continues its journey and its impact for a long time to come.”



At Heritage Hall in Talladega





Exhibit in Geneva

Kiosks with interactive
 tablets, panels
 assembled and
 ready to view



St. Clair celebrates
 own bicentennial
 along with state's
 birthday



A warm welcome in
 DeKalb

Fellows engage, inspire at Colloquium

National Public Radio's Michel Martin's opening statement at the Alabama Colloquium rang profoundly, if not prophetically, about what was to follow.

As moderator for the Alabama Humanities Foundation's Colloquium, she introduced the 2019 Humanities Fellows, saying, "Many creatures do complex things. Only humans tell stories. It's not only an honor, it's a joy to hear from great storytellers."

And for the next hour, they did indeed skillfully tell great stories. Their life's tales, sewn from Alabama threads, centered on breaking barriers, standing up for civil rights, drive, determination and compassion. They talked of the metaphorical 'thorn' and 'rose' along the way and how each shaped their lives.



Martin

Story by Carol Pappas
Photos by Jonah Enfinger



Fellows on stage



Raines

Grady's 'gift' to Howell Raines

For Howell Raines, retired executive editor of the *New York Times* and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, growing up in Birmingham during the height of segregation was "a blessing and a curse."

He grew up in a white world but for a young black housekeeper by the name of Grady. "Grady's Gift was the subject of his Pulitzer piece in *New York Times Magazine*, earning him journalism's highest honor and giving understanding to the perspectives of race.

Birmingham has "a complex story," he said. "We need to avoid too much self-congratulations on the progress we've made but at the same time, honor that progress."

His rose – Birmingham Southern College – "shaped me in every way." His thorn was "the brutal racism commonplace in this city," he said. But the thorn was also his education – this time, from Grady. With the blessing

of his parents, she talked to him about racism. She showed him the photo in *Ebony Magazine* of Emmett Till in a coffin, the 14-year-old African American lynched for allegedly offending a white woman in a grocery store. When his killers were acquitted, his mother insisted the coffin be open so the world could see the results of racism. He was nine. Grady was 16 and an honor student prevented from fulfilling her dreams because of the color of her skin. She taught him about the "hidden life of Birmingham," the brutality, how teenage boys were killed by police.

His parents understood, and they "created a classroom in a non-political way."



Davis

New perspectives for Marquita Davis

Dr. Marquita Davis was "formed here" in Alabama, as Martin described this young woman who came from Illinois to the state in the 1980s for graduate school. "I was the beneficiary of this thing called The Movement," she said.



Of course, she had ideas about the South – “horseback, Klan hats and the roads wouldn’t be paved” – but the notions were quickly put to rest after arrival. Alabama, she said, “became so much a part of me, my heart, my home. Wonderful people allowed me to do authentically Marquita in the flawed way she can.”

Her thorn was being told she can’t. To be a woman and a woman of color traditionally would be strikes against her. But in Alabama, she became the first black woman to be finance director of the state. “This shouldn’t be,” she said, “but two governors were interested in me, and if you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.”

She now heads a multi-state education strategy for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which aims to ensure that all young children have access to high-quality, effective and affordable preschool.

Davis has ascended to national heights, but not before making her mark in her adopted home. Two governors appointed her to cabinet posts in their administrations, director of Finance and commissioner for the Alabama Department of Children’s Affairs.



Gray

Righting wrongs, aim of Fred Gray

For Fred Gray, nationally known civil rights attorney and activist, there were only two professions successful black boys could think about when he was growing up in 1940s Alabama – a teacher or a preacher, he said. “I decided I would be both.”

It was at Alabama State College for Negroes that he realized his real calling. Taking public transportation back and forth, he saw how African Americans were discriminated against. He witnessed a man killed, and he made a commitment to himself to become a lawyer. “Lawyers help people,” he concluded, and he set about to do just that.

He didn’t bother applying at the University of Alabama School of Law in the early 1950s. They wouldn’t accept an African American. Instead, he went to Case Western Reserve University

School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio.

After passing the Bar Exam in Ohio and Alabama in 1954, he returned to his native home to practice law in a state that denied him the right to attend law school. “I’ve been practicing law in this state ever since.”

While he is most famous for his defense of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, the genesis of that pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement actually came nine months earlier. And Gray, again, was there.

He represented a 15-year-old girl named Claudette Colvin. She, too, refused to give up her seat in northeast Montgomery, and the honor student was charged in juvenile court as a delinquent.

But the opportunity to take a public stand came with Parks, who had been active in the movement with Martin Luther King Jr. “If she (Colvin) had not done what she did, Mrs. Parks wouldn’t have done what she did. The whole Civil Rights Movement would not have been without Claudette Colvin. She gave me inspiration to do what I do.”

One can find Gray at the heart of landmark civil rights cases in most constitutional law textbooks: Integrating buses in the City of Montgomery in 1956; returning African Americans to the city limits of Tuskegee, opening the door for redistricting and reapportioning and laying the foundation for the ‘one man one vote’ concept; enabling the NAACP to resume its business operations in Alabama after being outlawed; reinstating students expelled from Alabama State College unconstitutionally; protecting and preserving rights of those involved in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study; allowing African Americans to serve on civil juries; integrating all state institutions of higher learning; and ordering Governor Wallace and the State of Alabama to protect marchers walking from Selma to Montgomery for the right to vote.

The march eventually led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



Singer

Barriers, glass ceiling broken by Jody Singer

Jody Singer knows all about breaking down barriers.

As director of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, she is the first woman to serve in that position.

"All of you pave the way, open doors. Someone's got to be first," said Martin, asking Singer about her journey to that lofty place.

"Family and teachers took me under their wing," Singer said. "They invested in me."

Her thorn was confidence in being the first, that pioneer. But she adhered to her own rules. "Don't let barriers get in your way," she said.

The Hartselle native has apparently hurdled those barriers over the years. Today, Singer manages one of NASA's largest field installations, with nearly 6,000 on-and near-site civil service and contractor employees and an annual budget of approximately \$2.8 billion.

Before becoming director, she served as deputy program manager for NASA's Space Launch System, the only rocket designed and tested from the ground up to return humans to deep space. It was Singer, who was responsible for safety during the ground test program that led NASA back to flight after the Columbia accident.

Thanking those who invested in her, she continues to mentor others to reach new heights. ■

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*A special thanks to our co-chairs
Nancy Grisham Anderson & Guin Robinson*

Quotable Moments of the Colloquium

As moderator Michel Martin guided the conversation among the Fellows, her thought-provoking questions brought out some poignant moments in the powerful dialogue.

On mentors, influencers...

Singer talked of "the time they took to invest in me. They had the patience to let me be myself." She likened it to "finding your own recipe – you own secret sauce." At NASA, that person was Alex McCool.

For Davis, it was a professor at Alabama A & M, Bernice Richardson, who first who talked to her when she arrived late one day. " 'This is not a bank,' " she told her. "And what you have on is not professional." She loved me. She cared. If not, she would not have corrected me."

She went on to name Bill Newton, former state finance director who "stood in the gap" for her. Of Newton, she said, "he had no reason to help me." He was white and from rural roots, yet he helped this woman of color navigate her way through government. "When you break down the stereotype, you can see the heart, and I thank him for it."

Raines talked of his mother's influence. A copy of Field and Stream magazine came in the mail one day when he was growing up. He pointed to it and proclaimed that one day he wanted to write for a magazine like that. His mother replied, 'I don't know why you can't.' The boy who grew up to be an award-winning journalist told the Colloquium audience, "Be careful what you say to your children. They think you know what you're talking about."

First impressions are lasting ones for Gray. He talked again of Claudette Colvin, who refused to give up her bus seat nine months before Rosa Parks' ultimate act of defiance. "She gave me inspiration to do what I do. I have been doing it for 65 years."

Where do we go next?

Davis, labeling herself "a transplant," talked about "how incredibly beautiful this state is and how important Alabama is to the history of the country and to the future. We have so much in us to give. We know how to do things the right way – voices of real-life experience. People are waiting to hear your voices, and they should hear your voices."

"Encourage and inspire to stay engaged," said Singer. Whether it's the moon landing or shuttle or the educational system, Alabama needs to explore and go "deeper than ever before. Stars fell on Alabama, but we can reach for them, too."

"The struggle for equal justice continues," noted Gray. "Two generations know nothing about hard core segregation. They need to know what happened in the past, so they can solve the problems before us." Racism is at the top of the agenda.

"We need to recognize that racism and inequality are alive, and we need to do away with it. We need a plan to implement. It's all up to us."



AHF unveils Alabama Humanities Fellows Award

Story by Carol Pappas

Photos by Jonah Enfinger and Craigger Browne

Skillfully sculpted from Sylacauga marble, the new Alabama Humanities Fellows Award captured the spotlight at The Colloquium with a special unveiling and the inaugural presentation of the sculpture to the 2019 class of Fellows. Created by Craigger Browne, the sculpture is just shy of a foot tall and depicts the lens of a magnifying glass, the symbol of searching and discovery, wrapped in the flames of enlightenment and desire.

The magnifying glass is convex in the front and concave in the back, creating what he described as “a glowing translucency in the center, further emphasizing that burning flame from within.”

To be chosen to create the award is “a great honor,” Browne said. “It is great to be associated with Alabama Humanities Foundation.”

Following the Fellows’ conversation on stage, Browne noted during his own comments, “The more I speak, the more I realize how similar the journey is – the passion within us to discover.”

He referenced Civil Rights attorney and activist Fred Gray, one of the Fellows who received the award. During the program, Gray talked of having “a plan” to right wrongs in the state. “The quest for answers rather than pointing out problems” was the theme, Browne said. “When you listen to the panel, they wanted to fix them, not just complain about them.”

After graduation from Vestavia Hills High School and earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Montevallo, Browne traveled to Lacoste, France, in 1990 to study at the Cleveland Institute of the Arts. He became an assistant sculpture professor there in 1991. In 1992, he received a four-month Guggenheim scholarship to work and study at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy.



Sculptor Craigger Browne with sculpture and original sketch design



Then, at the recommendation of Peter Rockwell, Norman Rockwell’s son, he moved to Carrara, Italy, to work with its quality white marble, previously used by artists such as Michelangelo and Bernini.

For more than a decade, Browne divided his time between Italy and his studio in Birmingham. Then, in 2011, he discovered Sylacauga as the source of beautiful marble – the same marble used in the award.

His sculptures are found in public, corporate and private collections on five of the seven continents.

His recent works include:

- Sylacauga Emerging, Sylacauga, Alabama
- Madonna and Child, St. Marks Catholic Church, Birmingham, Alabama
- Once Upon a Time, Sylacauga, Alabama
- The Warmth of Enlightenment, Ivy Green (Helen Keller’s home), Tusculumbia, Alabama



From left, AHF Chair Trey Granger, moderator Michel Martin, Fellows Fred Gray, Jody Singer, Howell Raines and Marquita Davis

Vallely honored with Greenhaw Service Award

Story Carol Pappas

Photos by Jonah Enfinger

Mention the name Wayne Greenhaw, and it's sure to evoke a smile from those who knew him best. A prolific writer and quite the storyteller, Greenhaw authored 22 books before he passed away in 2012.

As a member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors, Greenhaw was a tireless advocate for the humanities and in 2014, AHF honored his memory by naming its Service to the Humanities Award after him. "He was an incredible board member," said Lynne Berry Vallely, 2019 recipient of the award that bears his name. She served on the board for 20 years and served with Greenhaw part of that time. "I am deeply honored," she said in accepting the award.

In making the presentation, Board Member Ann Florie talked of Greenhaw's accomplishments. "His works were shaped by the history he lived and in turn, he shaped us through his work."

The impact of Greenhaw's work is much like the impact of the humanities. "The humanities," Vallely said, "help us understand others' perspective."

A native of Huntsville, Vallely is a graduate of Lee High School and Vanderbilt University. She retired after serving as executive director of the HudsonAlpha Foundation.

She was the founding executive director of the Community Foundation of Huntsville/Madison County. She has served in the offices of former Congressman Bud Cramer and Senator Jeff Sessions.

Her diverse career also has included serving as a high school teacher and a NASA department head.

Playing leadership roles in service to the community, Vallely has worked in positions that promoted Huntsville's tourist attractions, preserved its historic sites and protected the area's natural environment.

She serves on the following boards and committees:

- Leadership Alabama Board (Class 3, Board Chair 2004-2005)
- Alabama State Council on the Arts Board (Governor's appointee)
- Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama Board

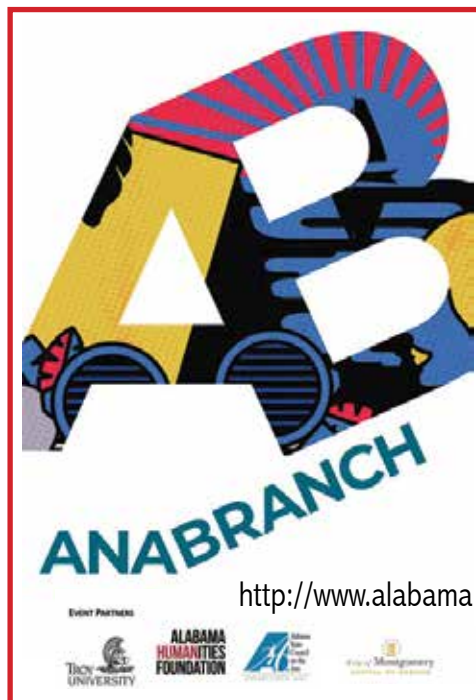
AHF Executive Director
Armand DeKeyser
presents
Greenhaw
Award to
Lynne Berry
Vallely.



- Alabama Department of Archives and History Foundation Board
- Blackburn Institute Board (University of Alabama)
- Huntsville Committee of 100 Board
- Village of Promise Advisory Board
- Huntsville Housing Authority Advisory Board
- Church of the Nativity Legacy Society Board and Accessibility Committee

She was a member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board for 20 years and served as board chair in 2016. She was a member of the board of directors of The Nature Conservancy, Alabama chapter, and served as board chair 2009-2010.

She was in Class 1 of Leadership Huntsville and is a past board chair, 1992-1993. She proposed and established Huntsville Hospital's Community Health Initiative in 1996. She received the 2018 Women's Economic Development Council's Women Honoring Women Award. Vallely works with former Congressman Bud Cramer's firm, manages her family's businesses, Berry Millsaps Properties and J. T. Berry, Inc, and volunteers at the Greene Street Market Store. ■



<http://www.alabama>



State's top teachers presented Riley Scholarships

Story by Carol Pappas
Photo by Jonah Enfinger



Jenice Riley, the daughter of former Gov. Bob and Patsy Riley, was one of those special teachers that brought learning to life for her students. She engaged and inspired them. When she lost a valiant battle with cancer in 2001, she was only 33.

Edgar Welden, who was a family friend, was so impressed by her work as an educator, he wanted a way to let her legacy live on. As a longtime supporter of Alabama Humanities Foundation and a board member, Welden created the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship to be given by AHF each year.

It recognizes educators who share her extraordinary commitment to enhancing the quality of education in Alabama. She had a passion for teaching and fostered creativity and a desire to learn in her students, according to the award's history, and she encouraged parent involvement and actively promoted better educational programs in her community.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to K-8 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.

Patsy Riley has long noted that her daughter would have loved being connected to each of the teachers' projects. She and longtime friend of Jenice, Guin Robinson, presented the awards.

This year's recipients are:

Amber Broadhead teaches fourth grade at Thompson Intermediate School, Shelby County School system, in Alabaster. With her scholarship she will purchase 450 backpacks and 450 pencils for her students to commemorate "Alabama Day" at Thompson Intermediate School.

Kim Hinds teaches fourth grade at Deer Valley Elementary School, Hoover City School System, in Hoover. She will purchase books about Alabama and a 17' x 21' map of the State of Alabama as resources for her students.

Victoria Adams is a counselor at Red Level Elementary School, Covington County School System, in Red Level. She will purchase a portable projector system and materials from BreakoutEdu.com to include ink, locks, posters and lessons for her students.

Deborah Southall is a K-6, special education teacher at F.S. Ervin Elementary School, Wilcox County School System, in Pine Hill. She will purchase two HP Laptop Computers, ink cartridges and copy paper for use in her classroom.

Misty Turner is a Pk-2nd-grade teacher at Westwood Elementary School, Tuscaloosa County School System, located in Coker. She will purchase match and sort vocabulary activities, positional words readers resource box, coil binding machine and coils, and a holiday and festival resource box. ■

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STONY THE ROAD



Historic Bethel Church, a national landmark where Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth pastored



Carolyn and Ruby Shuttlesworth talk to teachers



Stony the Road impact felt across the nation

Story by Carol Pappas
Submitted photos

It is hard not to relive the emotions that must have emanated from the pulpit and pews of Historic Bethel Church in Birmingham nearly seven decades ago – even if you were not there.

It was in that church and in that time, that the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, an unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement, would make his compelling case for equality and fight – nonviolently – to make it happen.

In July, his daughters, Ruby Shuttlesworth Bester and Carolyn Shuttlesworth, told his story, their story and the story of countless others who believed that civil rights were worth any personal sacrifice.

As part of a three-week teacher institute, *“Stony the Road We Trod ...” Exploring Alabama’s Civil Rights Legacy*, teachers from across the nation traveled to the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, seeing and hearing firsthand the power of those pivotal moments in the country’s history.

Directed by Dr. Martha Bouyer, who developed the curriculum for what has become a nationally recognized program, *Stony the Road* has impacted thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of students throughout the nation and around the world.

“Lives will be forever changed because these teachers came to Alabama,” Bouyer told a reporter for Alabama Newscenter. If they stay in the classroom just three, five or seven years and teach 150 students a year, “just look at the impact.”

Teachers agreed. They will take the most valuable of lessons back to their classrooms – their personal experience. “I want them to know there’s more to the story than Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.,” said Kevin Mears, a 10th grade U.S. history teacher in Brooklyn, NY, during an interview at the historic Greyhound Bus Station in Montgomery. “And there’s more to them than just the ‘I have a dream’ speech and refusing to get out of a seat on a bus.”

Funded by National Endowment for the Humanities and presented in partnership with Alabama Humanities Foundation, the 2019 institute made headlines and newscasts all across the state. Teachers had come to Alabama from dozens of states to visit civil rights landmarks, retrace the historic footsteps of the movement in Birmingham, Tuskegee, Selma and Montgomery and take what they learned home to their students.

They heard from learned scholars and eye-witnesses to those historic steps. They talked to footsoldiers and Freedom Riders of the movement, and they heard from people like Shuttlesworth-Bester and her sister, who talked of the bombing of their home in Collegeville on Christmas night.

They listened to and asked questions of Peggy Wallace Kennedy, the daughter of Gov. George C. Wallace, about her personal journey to understand and reconcile the history and politics of her father.

STONY THE ROAD



Greyhound tour



Peggy Wallace
Kennedy
interviewed
for TV



Walk across Edmund Pettus bridge

"Most of my life has been lived in the shadow of history," she said. "But a simple question changed my life." She and her eight-year-old son, Burns, were visiting the Martin Luther King Jr. Museum in Atlanta. When they reached the part of the exhibit depicting Bloody Sunday at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, firehoses turned on marchers in Birmingham, and Wallace standing in the schoolhouse door at the University of Alabama to block black students from entering, Burns asked that fateful question. "Why did Paw Paw do those things to other people?"

At that very moment, she decided to "do for my son what my father never did for me. He never told me why. It's up to you and me to make things right," she recounted telling Burns.

In the years since, she has traveled the country advocating peace and reconciliation. Her book, *The Broken Road*, is about to be published in December. She calls it an attempt to "inspire to be the best you can be. America is all of us, not just some of us."

She credits Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, who grew up in Alabama and joined the Freedom Riders, with giving her "the courage to find my voice." He was nearly beaten to death on Bloody Sunday at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the victim of a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery that led to passage of the Voting Rights Act.

At the 50th anniversary of that day, Lewis took her hand,

and they walked across that bridge together. "To be embraced by a man beaten on that very bridge attests to redemption," she told teachers. "I have crossed many bridges in my life, and I will cross many more. None are as important as the bridge I crossed with him."

Earlier in the day, Bester gave teachers the same insight but from a different perspective. "We didn't choose to be here. We were brought here," she told them. "If you are born a human being, you should have human and civil rights." Yet in that dark period of history, "bombs were going off everywhere," she said. The area in which they lived became known as "Dynamite Hill." The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing killed four little girls on a Sunday morning in September 1963.

She urged teachers to take those lessons learned from those tragedies back to their children. "The Constitution applies to all citizens."

Encouraging teachers to let their students know the truth, Bester added, "You didn't do it. Your ancestors did. What you can do is make it better now. We need leaders. Teachers are our first leaders. If we can teach teachers how it happened, they'll know the truth."

Editor's Note: For stories and newscasts about Stony the Road, go to: alabamahumanities.org/in-the-news-stony-the-road-makes-headlines-newscasts/

2019 NEH Summer Institute Lecturers

NEH Summer Institutes focus on the intellectual quality of humanities education, addressing recent developments in scholarship. Scholars invited to serve as *Stony the Road...* lecturers model excellent scholarship and teaching, which contributes to participants' intellectual growth. One effect of the three-week Summer Institute format is to emphasize that a range of perspectives can be brought to any humanities topic. *Stony the Road...* has long engaged the participation of top-rate scholars.



David Carter

Associate Professor of History at Auburn University, Carter is author of *The Music Has Gone Out of the Movement: Civil Rights and the Johnson Administration, 1965-1968* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009), a study of the shifting relationships between the presidency of Lyndon Johnson and grassroots advocates of racial and economic equality. He has also served

as a project consultant for the Persistent Issues in History Network, which seeks to build a community of master teachers overseeing pre-collegiate history study. In the same vein, he has worked with Auburn and Opelika teachers as part of a Teaching American History grant program.



Robert Corley

Retired from the Department of History at the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB), Corley is writing a book about Jim Crow Birmingham from 1901-1956. He previously directed UAB's Center for Urban Affairs and Global and Community Leadership Honors Program. He also served as Regional Director of the organization now known as the National

Conference for Community and Justice. Active in many organizations and agencies in Birmingham, Corley was a member of Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington's Task Force that created and designed the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) and was a founding member of the BCRI Board of Directors.



Glenn Eskew

Professor of History at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Eskew teaches courses in southern history. Author of *But For Birmingham: The Local and National Movements in the Civil Rights Struggle* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997) and *Johnny Mercer: Southern Songwriter for the World* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2013), Eskew has

served as the lead scholar on multiple National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Workshops for Schoolteachers and Teaching American History Grants. He has lectured widely and travels the world in support of preservation of important Civil Rights Movement sites in the U.S. South.



Hassan Jeffries

Associate Professor of History at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, Jeffries is the author of *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black*

Belt (NYU Press, 2009) and host of the podcast *Teaching Hard History*. Jeffries teaches graduate and undergraduate seminars on the Civil Rights and Black Power Movement and surveys in African American and American history. His current project, entitled *Stealing Home: Ebbets Field and Black Working Class Life in Post-Civil Rights New York*, explores the struggle of working class African Americans to secure and enjoy their freedom rights, from the height of the civil rights era through the present.

Tondra Loder-Jackson

Professor of Educational Foundations in the School of Education at the University of Alabama at



Birmingham (UAB), Loder-Jackson's teaching and research interests include urban education, Birmingham civil rights and education, life course perspectives on African American education, and home, school, and community relations. Loder-Jackson is the author of *Schoolhouse Activists: African American Educators and the Long Birmingham Civil Rights Movement* (SUNY Press, 2015). Loder-Jackson is a founding committee member and former director of the UAB Center for Urban Education (CUE) and serves many local and national organizations.



Carolyn McKinstry
Author, speaker, and ordained minister, McKinstry wrote and published *While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age during the Civil Rights Movement*

(Tyndale, 2013) with Denise George. Witness to and Survivor of the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in September 1963, McKinstry grew up in Birmingham and participated as a teenager in the Children's Crusade that turned the eyes of the world to struggles for change and justice happening across the U.S. South. Today McKinstry addresses audiences around the world, sharing her message of personal belief in the possibility and necessity of racial reconciliation.

Jeanne Theoharis

Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, Theoharis is the author or co-author of numerous books and articles on the civil rights and Black Power movements and the politics of race and education, social welfare and civil rights in America. Her books include *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* (Beacon Press, 2015) and *A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History* (Beacon Press, 2018). She is also an editor, with Brian Purnell and Komozi Woodard, of *The Strange Careers of the Jim Crow North: Segregation and Struggle Outside of the South* (NYU Press, 2019).



Andrew Manis

Professor of History at Middle Georgia State University in Macon, Manis is author of many books and articles, including *A Fire You Can't Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth* (University of Alabama Press, 1999), and *Macon Black and White: An Unutterable Separation in the American Century* (Mercer University Press/Tubman African American Museum, 2004). An ordained Baptist minister, Manis was the first Protestant scholar to teach in the Theology Department at Xavier University in New Orleans. In 2009, was a Fulbright Fellow in Greece and Visiting Professor of American Studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



John McKerley

Oral and Public Historian at the University of Iowa Labor Center, McKerley co-edited *Foot Soldiers for Democracy: The Men, Women, and Children of the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement* (University of Illinois Press, 2009) with Horace Huntley and *Civic Labors: Scholar Activism and Working-Class Studies* (University of Illinois Press, 2016) with Dennis Deslippe and Eric Fure-Slocum. A Huntsville native, McKerley previously worked as a documentary editor at the Freedmen and Southern Society Project at the University of Maryland-College Park, as a journal editor at the State Historical Society of Missouri, and as curator of the exhibit "Speaking of Work."



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Alabama students aim for stars in National History Day competition

Story by Jerald Crook
Programs and Alabama History Day Coordinator

Over the course of any given school year, you can find young people in schools across the country busying themselves with the academic rigors of being a student.

Some of these students seek to fill the rest of their time with other pursuits in extracurricular activities. They engage in sports, the performing arts, chess clubs, technology clubs, even video gaming clubs. Provided adequate funding and administrative support, there are opportunities for everyone to explore new interests and hone old skills.

Such was the case for Sparkman High School (Harvest, Ala.) junior Timmy Bradshaw, whose sister, Abigail, recommended that he join his school's history club, the Sparkman Historical Society, sponsored by history teacher and journalism advisor Erin Coggins in 2017.

The club is a multifaceted organization for history lovers who wish to learn more about history. Students in the Sparkman Historical Society honor American veterans through programs, such as hosting flag retirement ceremonies and a Veterans Day breakfast and assembly, producing a World War II reenactment for Courtland Elementary School students and creating and sending care packages to deployed soldiers.

The club's primary focus, however, is developing projects for National History Day. National History Day is a national history competition which engages 6th-12th grade students in all 50 states plus eight U.S. territories and protectorates in rigorous historical research and allows them to present their findings in either a paper, website, documentary, exhibit or performance format.

Students make their way through local and state competitions during the Spring semester of the school year to compete at the national competition, which takes place every June at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. In 2018 at Alabama History Day, the AHF-facilitated state affiliate competition of National History Day, Timmy competed in the Senior Paper division, coming in second place. While this achievement advanced him to nationals, he did not attend.

This year, things went a little differently.

In the Fall of 2018, Timmy, then a sophomore at Sparkman, gained a History Day colleague in his friend and fellow

Hunter and
Timmy
viewing exhibits
at Alabama
History Day
2019



sophomore, Hunter Goffinett. The pair decided to go in a different direction for their project, this time entering the Senior Group Website category and addressing the annual theme of Triumph and Tragedy in History with a project titled, Through the Darkness to the Stars (seen here: 44157699.nhd.weebly.com). They won second place at Alabama History Day, which qualified them to attend National History Day, where they were awarded the Outstanding State Senior Division Award. An interview with the two young men sheds light on their History Day experiences.

A Q&A with the winners

What led the both of you to choose Website over the other categories?

Timmy: I had already done a paper the year before. I liked the paper, but the website was kind of more of something I was interested in, and so I was able to do a better job on that one.

Hunter: For the exhibit, I think we turned that one down because we're not very artsy...

Timmy: ...yeah it really wasn't our style.

Hunter: ...yeah, so we decided to go with something that we were more used to with being on the internet, it was something that appealed to us.

So now I would like to know what your process was in determining your topic.

Hunter: So, I don't know who mentioned it, but somebody brought up the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing trip, and we decided that it could be a very good idea to implement in our choice for NHD considering we're in Huntsville, one of the



Goffinett (L) and Timmy Bradshaw (R) and their NHD website project

places for NASA. We decided that with our knowledge and our upbringing in this basically “NASA culture,” we could easily implement that into our project.

Timmy: Yeah, and the other thing was when I heard the theme of Triumph and Tragedy nothing really stood out to me as much as the space program. It was like the perfect example of that theme to me.

What’s that been like growing up in “NASA culture?”

Hunter: So, first of all, we are just, I don’t know, surrounded by a bunch of nerds. My mom is an engineer/a lead researcher at the (Redstone) Arsenal and has helped me learn more about math and science and be interested in missiles, space, events, all of that. Many, many times we go over to the Space and Rocket Center and learn about the risk these men took and all of the effort that was put into this triumph.

Timmy: I haven’t lived here all my life, but the reason that I’m here is that my dad got his doctorate in Optics Physics, and he moved out here to work for NASA and Dynetics when he was transferred here with his job. It’s been cool to have this experience being here. I’ve been here now seven years, and like Hunter said, the Space and Rocket Center is pretty awesome to see all of the people who are there who are interested in it.

So, what was the next step in developing your project?

Hunter: Basically, we thought, ‘What was the context of the whole situation?’ ‘Where did it start?’ ‘What started it?’ We found different events and programs that led up to Apollo 11. So, we had (the) Mercury (program), the Cold War. Then once we got the concepts down and found all of the triumphs and tragedies of those programs, we decided to look at what came afterward, what was the effect of Apollo 11 for the country and the world, so we continued (our project) with the space shuttle program and the

triumphs and tragedies of that. Then we decided to reflect upon what is happening right now, how can we be a part of history right now which led to learning about NASA reintroducing plans to land on the moon again by 2024.

Tell me about your research process regarding where you did your research, the different people you spoke with to help you get your information, and how long that took?

Timmy: A lot of it came from the NASA website. It had the most primary sources and pictures. We talked to our history teacher (Coach Brett Larsen). He was helpful. He looked over our website with us and gave us insight. We tried to find news articles from the time period to see what the perspectives were at the time, how press was reacting because usually people react in similar ways.

Hunter: We found one from Huntsville right after the launching of Yuri Gagarin into space, and what I found interesting was that we weren’t more frustrated that we weren’t the first ones, but rather more in awe that as humans, we were able to send somebody beyond Earth.

So, after you’ve done all of the research you had to present. So, tell me what it was like building your website. Was that difficult?

Hunter: (slight pause) It was time consuming. It wasn’t the actual website itself, it was citing the sources and describing them that took the longest time.

Timmy: Yeah, lots of times we would find a source or newspaper, and we would have to find the author as well and the publishing, and that can be a difficult feat.

Tell me about your experience at state. Were you nervous at all?

Timmy: Well, we drove down the night before the judging, and uh (laughs), that takes a little bit.

Hunter: I pumped myself up with a bunch of coffee, so that kept me going. I felt pretty confident, actually, because I knew my material, and I had other people say that our website looked pretty good. I knew we had the possibility to actually win an award. I felt really confident displaying what we had, and I was really proud of it as well.

Timmy: For me, when he and I were going through the judging, it's kind of relieving almost, right? I've done the website, I've worked hard, I know what I'm doing, and me and Hunter did a good job. It's important to show your website and present it well, but the important was already done, so it was a relieving and fun experience.

So how did you feel when you won?

Timmy: I was pretty happy with it. I was a little surprised.

So, once you won at state, how long did it take for you to decide to go to nationals?

Timmy: It was instant.

Hunter: Yeah, we get to go to Washington D.C.? I want to do this!

Timmy: What improvements did you make on your project before you went to nationals?

Hunter: I know we added more context. Most of our issue at state was that we cut out a lot of context that led up to the space program to fit within the word limit. So, we went back and added more about the Cold War and how that went into the space program. We added more pictures and

newspaper articles to have more primary sources.

Timmy: And just a small detail, we spruced up the appearance of our citations. We made it easier to find where the sources were from.

So now, tell me about your nationals experience.

Hunter: I napped most of the way there.

Timmy: Yeah, Hunter drove, and I flew.

Hunter: After we got there, we reviewed over the website and to make sure we knew all of the details of it just to be more confident in it.

Timmy: We had to present the next day around 11:30ish. The judges were nice, and they asked good questions...

Hunter: ...and they gave us better scores than the state judges (laughs).

Which is good! That means the system is working! Their feedback helped you prepare for nationals. Were you nervous this time around?

Timmy: I was more nervous at nationals than I was at state.

Hunter: Yeah, I thought I had no chance whatsoever.

Timmy: Yeah, I wasn't expecting this award, but we gave it our best show. It wasn't very stressful, but it made me a lot more nervous.



Hunter and Timmy share NHD website with fellow Sparkman High classmates

What did you do for fun and who came with you?

Timmy: This was my first time in D.C., so I went and saw the iconic (sites) – the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Memorial and the Iwo Jima memorial. We tried different food trucks and restaurants where we were staying in Laurel (MD). We went to Arlington Cemetery, which was pretty cool. My sister, Abigail, who was competing as well, came with me, and my mom.

Hunter: One of my first days I went up to Gettysburg because I'd never been, and I wanted to go. Then afterward that I tried to figure out how the metro works. This was my third time in D.C., and I finally made it to the Holocaust Museum. It was just me and my mom.

And at the end of all of this, you all weren't able to make the awards ceremony?

Timmy: So, I had to make it back. We were going on a westward movement thing called Trek that I had to make it back to.

Wait, so like a westward expansion thing? You went from one history thing to another one?

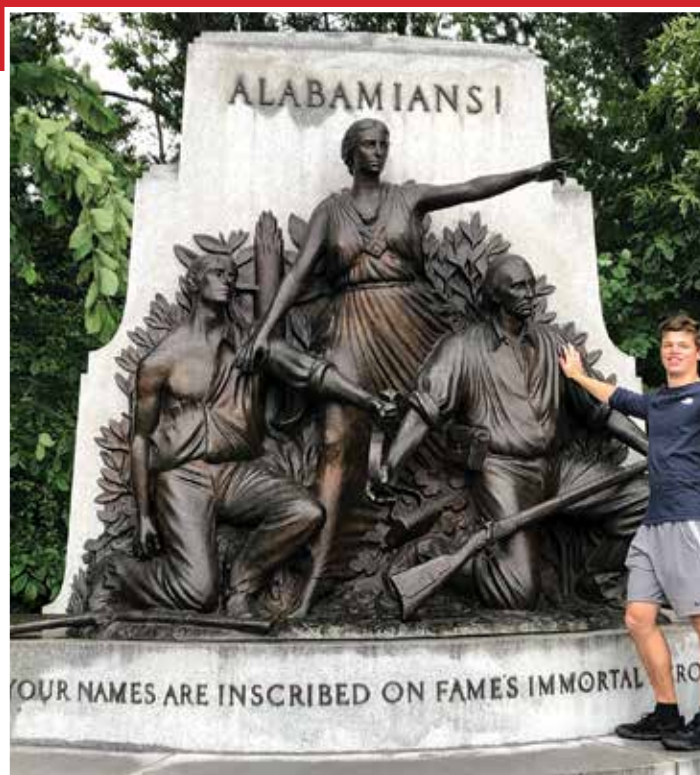
Timmy: Yes, it was through my church. It's like a reenactment thing. You dress up the way that they would during that time. You get your handcars and load all of your stuff onto it. We marched around some local farmland to see what it felt like traveling for a few days traveling by handcart.

Hunter: And we didn't realize that the awards ceremony would be at that time, and we had scheduled a college tour at Johns Hopkins University, the number one college I want to go to.

I see. I didn't realize the two of you weren't traveling together, or I would have contacted you both. (I texted Hunter's mom as she and I had been in contact for the group.) So, what was your reaction when I texted your mom about the award?

Hunter: My mom just looked at me and was like, "Guess what happened?" and I said, "What?" Then she showed me the picture (of the medals) that you sent and said, "You guys won," and I said "HUH?!"

Timmy: And my cousin from Idaho participated in National History Day. We met up with them one night and ate Taiwanese food. We didn't get to see each other that much while in D.C., but we kept in touch through texting and calling. They were at the awards ceremony and texted us about us winning.



Hunter Gonnitt with State of Alabama Memorial at Gettysburg National Military Park

That's hilarious! I suppose that wraps it up, but one last question: What was your favorite thing from when you first started working on your project all the way to nationals.

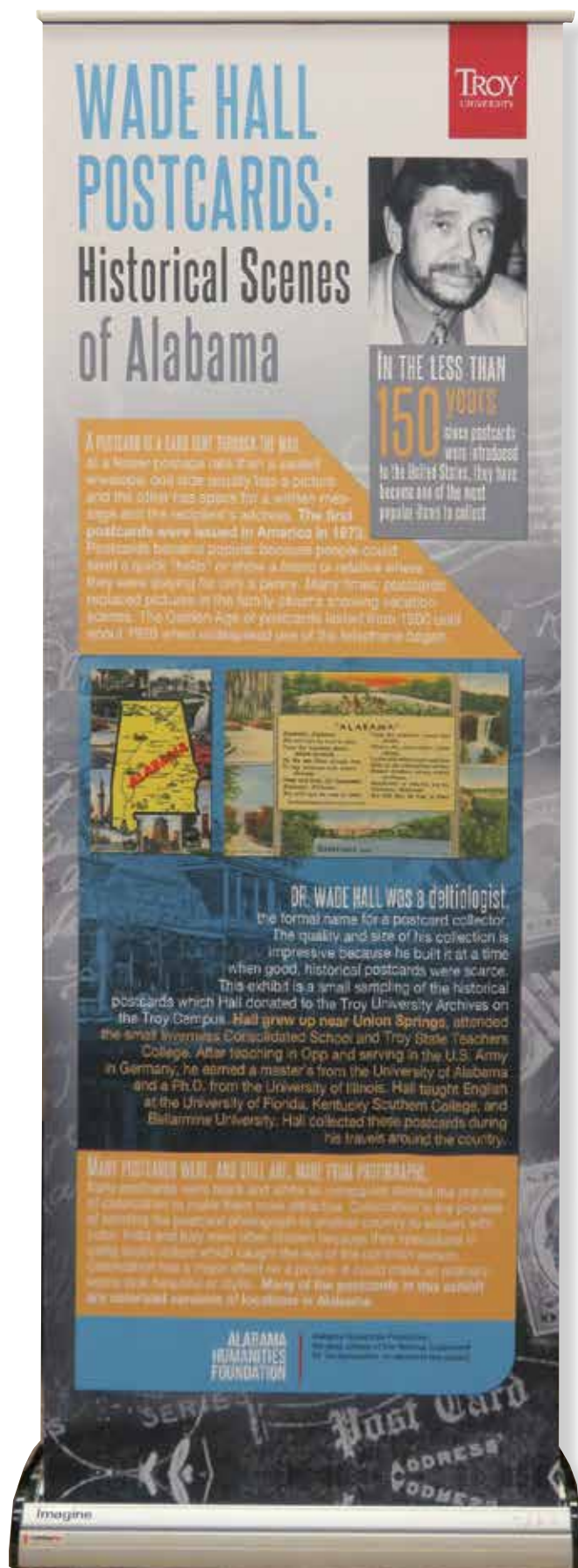
Hunter: Really, I would say learning more about the space probe and looking at all of the pictures. I really liked that.

Timmy: Yes, the imagery was impressive. It was kind of inspiring reading and doing the research that we did on the legacy of the space program. That was pretty awesome to me.

INTERVIEWER'S NOTE: National History Day may seem like just other academic enrichment programs, but it truly is special as it engages students from different walks of life with varying interests through the captivating power of history's myriad stories and lessons.

Timmy, who wants to attend Brigham Young University and eventually receive a juris doctor degree in business administration to become a business lawyer, said that he really enjoys history because he gets to look at different political movements over time and how economic and political trends have evolved over the years and impacted society.

Hunter, who has aspirations of attending Johns Hopkins University to study biotechnology, is interested in history for the opportunities of learning lessons to implement in his own life. These are two shining examples of how history can mold and guide the perspective of future generations, and Alabama Humanities Foundation is over-the-moon excited to be a part of that molding and guiding process. Join us on the journey as we endeavor to "Break Barriers in History" for Alabama History Day 2020. ■



POSTCARD HISTORY SHARED ACROSS ALABAMA

Story by Carol Pappas
Submitted photos

Think of it as an Instagram photo on card stock with a tweet from your Twitter feed on back. That's not a cell phone you hold in your hands, it's history and social media all rolled into one – a postcard – memories of an era gone by.

In its heyday, the postcard was social media. Through photos on front and a concise message on back, they shared vacation sites, invited people to dinner or simply let friends and family know the sender was thinking of them. "It was the social media of the day," said Ruth Elder, cataloging librarian at Troy University. "It's a lesson for young people. In the golden age of postcards, it was the quickest way to contact people."

It was not unusual, she said, for a dinner invitation to come by postcard. "There were no phones. Phones really killed postcards."

In the early 2000's, Troy University became a repository for this genre of history when Dr. Wade Hall donated his vast collection of about 25,000 vintage postcards representing every state in the Union and countries around the world. Five thousand of them capture scenes in Alabama.

They depict main streets, vacation spots, historic buildings and points of interest. But more than that, they tell stories of people and places, capturing a moment in time that is preserved through these words and images.

Hall was an avid collector, and he taught in Alabama, Kentucky and Florida. He donated collections to the University of Alabama and Troy University.

Postcards from the collection donated to Troy have since been expanded into traveling exhibits, which are crisscrossing the state to give more and more people the opportunity to see this kind of history up close.

In her role at Troy, Elder has been sorting and classifying the postcards for the school's collection. In 2014, Dr. Christopher Shaffer, dean of Library Services, saw an exhibit, *Iconic Kansas City from Our Postcard Past*, and asked a simple question when he returned home: 'Why can't we do it here?'

HISTORIC EXHIBIT



Panels of traveling exhibit

That question sparked what would become not one, but three traveling exhibits based from the Wade Hall Collection at Troy, and Elder oversees the project. “We are taking the postcards to the people,” she said, noting that Alabama Humanities Foundation helped facilitate the ambitious project through its grant program.

Organizers took the 5,000 Alabama postcards and divided them into themes they thought would interest the people of the state. They chose large cities, like Birmingham, Montgomery, Huntsville and Mobile. Small towns like Carbon Hill and Red Bay also are part of the mix. They chose Tuscaloosa, Union Springs and Troy because of Dr. Hall’s connections to those communities.

They also divided them into geographical regions – North, North Central, Southeast, South Central and Southwest.

In 2017, the first exhibit began the trek and was appropriately named, “The Main Street.” After all, no matter the size of the town, they share a center, a heart – their main street. It was an exhibit to which people could relate. And they could compare and contrast the main street of yesteryear with today’s version.

From these exhibits, seniors can have their ‘I remember when’ moment, Elder said, and youths can learn the history in their own hometowns.

Next came the buildings exhibit. “There are so many,” Elder said. They represent government, education and religion through local landmarks, like courthouses, post offices, schools and universities.

“It’s the story they tell, showing what buildings were there,” Elder said. Some still remain. Others are preserved only in a postcard.

Of the thousands of postcards Elder has cataloged, what is the most unusual to her in the collection? “The penitentiary in Wetumpka,” she answered without hesitation. “Why do you make postcards of a prison?”

What would you want to say? Wish you were here?”

The third exhibit is not divided by geography. Its theme is tourism, and topics range from how people got here, such as roads, trains and ships, to where they stayed – hotels, motels, cottages, homes – to what they saw, natural and manmade.

It stresses “how beautiful Alabama is,” Elder explained, noting that the postcards depict natural beauty, like Mobile Bay and state parks. They might showcase historic homes that still exist today. “It makes people want to go see them as well as being things people can remember,” she said.

Exhibit planners have kept it simple with the goal of making these exhibits available to as many people as possible across Alabama. “They are easy to set up and transportable, said Elder.

They are free to host because each venue works together with the next one to transport from place to place. To give an idea of their reach, 12,000 people saw the tourism exhibit between March and July.

Through online sources, the reach is being extended well beyond the borders of the state. The 25,000 original postcards at Troy are organized by state and country, some by subject, and they are in the process of being digitized. They can be found at resources.troy.edu/wadehall/ and are a complement to the traveling exhibits.

Most of the Alabama postcards are in *AlabamaMosaic*, a repository of digital materials from archives, libraries, museums and other repositories throughout Alabama.

AlabamaMosaic was initiated under a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and is administered by the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For more about the exhibit and scheduling, go to: resources.troy.edu/wadehall/

About the Exhibit

For an exhibit of this magnitude to come to fruition, it takes movers and shakers. So, who is behind the Wade Hall Postcard Exhibits?

- Dr. Christopher Shaffer, Dean of Library Services
- Ms Ruth Elder, Cataloging Librarian
- Ms Jana Slay, Head of Technical Services
- Mr. Jerry R. Johnson, Professor of Art/Design
- Dr. Martin T. Olliff, director of the Wiregrass Archives and professor of History
- Alabama Humanities Foundation
- Alabama Bicentennial Commission

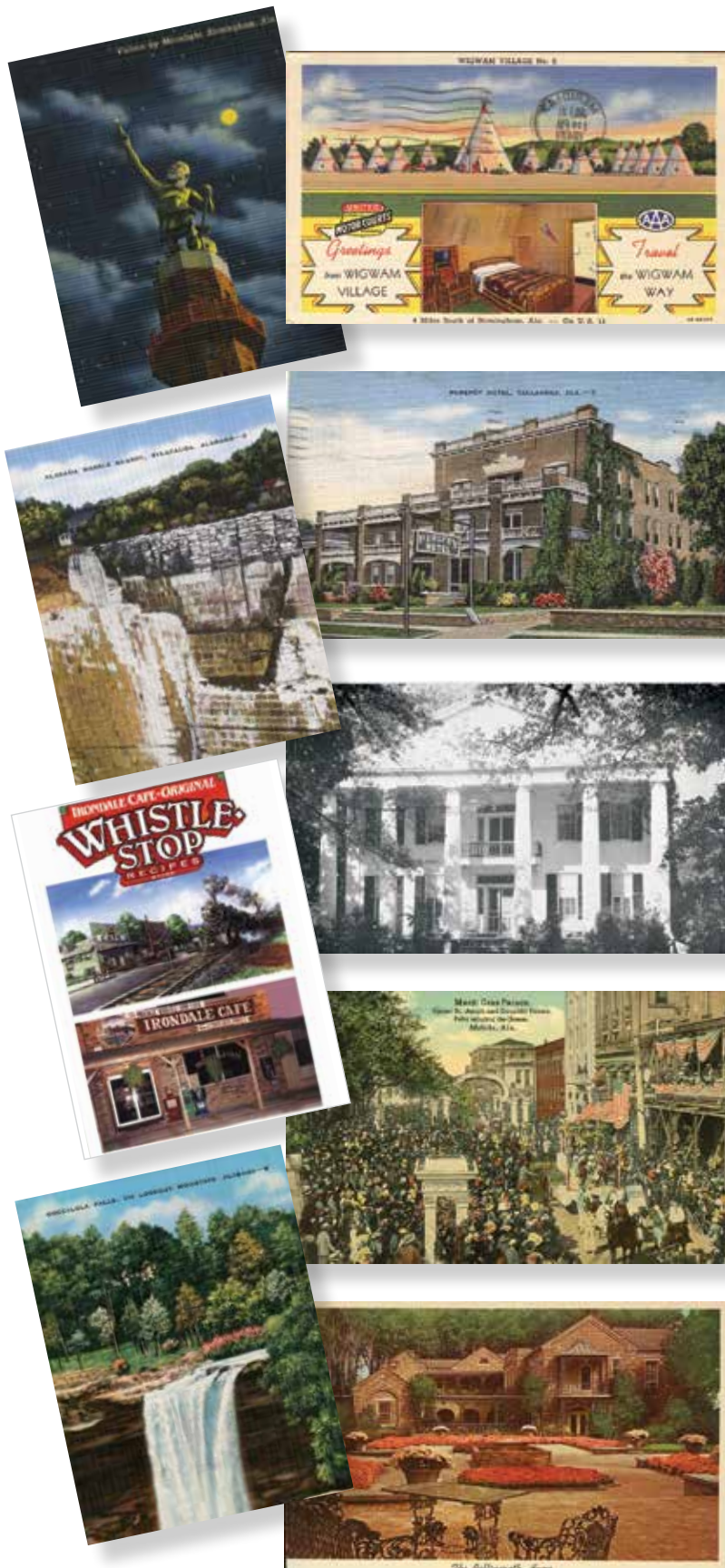
Elder and Slay came up with the idea of traveling panels, wrote the grant, selected the postcards, researched and wrote all the captions, wrote the information for the digital exhibit, coordinated all the bookings, and did and are doing many of the presentations.

Dr. Shaffer initiated the project, paid any expenses not covered by the grants out of the library budget, and proofed the captions.

Dr. Olliff proofed every single caption for accuracy and added extra details that only an Alabama historian would know.

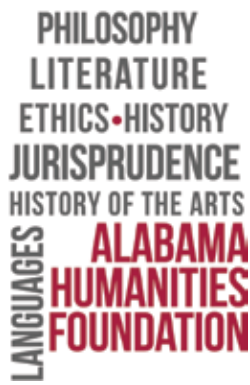
Johnson designed all the panels and the digital website, and Judy Fulmer and the staff of Sponsored Programs helped with every step of the process for both AHF grants.

Plenty of assistance has come from various Troy people to keep the digital exhibit updated.



L to R, Top to bottom: Vulcan, WigWam Village, Marble Quarry, Purefoy Hotel, Hobson House, Whistle Stop, Mardi Gras, Noccalula Falls, Bellingrath Garden Home and Huntsville





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fax: (205) 558-3981
email: info@alabamahumanities.org
website: alabamahumanities.org

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*Corporate sponsorship of this issue of Mosaic
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