

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

MOSAIC

MAGAZINE
FALL 2020

VIRTUAL: THE NEW REALITY



New platforms deliver humanities programs

ALICE IN WONDERLAND THE *Nall* MUSEUM

INTERNATIONAL ARTS CENTER

158 INTERNATIONAL BLVD. TROY, ALABAMA 36082

Hours of operation
Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM
Sunday 1 - 4 PM

To schedule a tour or for more information:
Call 334-808-6412

THIS EXHIBITION
IS RECOMMENDED
FOR MATURE
AUDIENCES.



iac_troyuniversity



International Arts Center

“NALL'S MOST DARK,
UNSETTLING, COMPLEX
AND ARTISTICALLY
STUNNING SERIES”
— AL HEAD

The International Arts Center presents Nall's most acclaimed series — “Alice in Wonderland.”

Step into a mesmerizing rabbit hole experience created by Nall, inspired by Lewis Carroll and his most well-known literary masterpieces “Alice's Adventures in Wonderland” and “Through the Looking Glass.”

Also available for viewing:

- “Three Who Dared: Civil Rights Icons”
- Unveiling of Nall's studio addition

I | A | C
TROY UNIVERSITY
TROY.EDU/IAC

MOSAIC



ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

About the Cover: As AHF pivoted to virtual programming when the pandemic hit, scholars and participants came together to ensure quality content and usher in a new digital era for humanities across Alabama. Clockwise, from top left corner: *Reflect, Alabama* panelists Barbara Caddell, Bridgett King and Martha Bouyer with YP Board President Jessica Chriesman; Beverly Scruggs, *AHF Virtual Book Club*; Melissa Mann, *SUPER Teacher Tech Tuesdays*; Roger Thorne, *Democracy and Informed Citizen* participant; Nan Fairley, *Democracy and the Informed Citizen*; Jeffrey Bibbee, *SUPER Teacher Workshop*; Rebekah Davis and Peggy Towns, *Road Scholars*; George Daniels, *Democracy and the Informed Citizen*; Michael Davis, *Democracy and the Informed Citizen*; Ghenni Platenburg, *Democracy and the Informed Citizen*; Colin Woodard, *AHF Virtual Book Club*; Kevin Lee, *AHF Virtual Book Club*. Center: Jim and Joyce Cauthen, *Road Scholars*.

Inside this issue of Mosaic

Board Spotlight.....	5	National Conference	19
Virtual Book Club.....	6-7	Super Impact	20-21
CARES Funding.....	8-9	Reflect, Alabama.....	22-24
Virtual Grants.....	10-11	Stony 2021	25
Grants Round Listing.....	12-15	Tube Scholar	26-30
Solutions Journalism	16-17		
Museum on Main Street.....	18		

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

Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors

Officers and Executive Committee

Trey Granger*, Pike Road, Chair
Darren L. Hicks, Birmingham, Vice Chair
Dr. Joseph A. Aistrup, Auburn, Treasurer
Sally Greenhaw, Birmingham, Secretary
Ann Florie, Birmingham,
Executive Committee-At-Large
Brett Shaffer, Birmingham,
Executive Committee-At-Large

Directors

Bob Barnett, Pell City
Dr. Michael Burger, Montgomery
Julian D. Butler, Huntsville
Janice Hawkins*, Troy
Dr. Kern M. Jackson, Mobile
Dr. Elliot A. Knight*, Montgomery
Dr. John F. Kvach, Brownsboro
Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews, Camden
Ed Mizzell, Birmingham
Dr. Mark D. Nelson, Tuscaloosa
David A. Rains, Fort Payne
R.B. Walker*, Homewood
Andy Weil, Montgomery
W. Edgar Welden, Birmingham

* Denotes Gubernatorial appointments

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

MISSION STATEMENT:

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



alabamahumanitiesfoundation



@AHF



AlabamaHumanities



Alabama Humanities

Alabama Humanities Foundation Staff

Judge John Rochester, Interim Executive Director
Alma Anthony, Operations Manager
Melanie Bouyer, Director of Programs
Laura Anderson, Special Projects Coordinator
Jerald Crook, Programs Coordinator
Graydon Rust, Director of Grants



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

The Alabama Humanities Foundation Enhancing Minds ... Enriching Lives

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.



AHF thanks retiring board member Edgar Welden

Sports and humanities seem an unlikely combination, but when the governor appointed Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Chairman Edgar Welden to the Alabama Humanities Board of Directors in 2002, the match became an ideal fit.

Appointed and reappointed to various terms, Welden used his sports and business acumen along with his generosity to become a leader on the board, and in turn, humanities influenced him to publish a series of books, help students achieve and reward top teachers with scholarships for their classroom.

"I was not a normal prospect for the board," Welden recalled. "Outside of my real estate business, most of my volunteer work has been in sports-related activities." But he found a way to bring the two together. He serves as chairman of the Bryant Jordan Scholarship, which has awarded millions of dollars to deserving student athletes statewide to further their education. He founded the Birmingham Athletic Partnership in the City of Birmingham to ensure sports, band and cheerleading in city schools did not fall victim to budget cuts.

And because he was on the humanities board, he said he was influenced to continue his interest in the writing and publishing process. One such venture was when his publishing company, Will Publishing (which is named after his first grandchild) published *Hearts of Dixie: 50 Alabamians and the State They Called Home*. Former AHF Board Chair Jim Noles, he said, shouldered most of the writing responsibilities and did an admirable job.

A portion of the proceeds went to the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships he founded in 2003, which is given each year to deserving teachers to enhance their classroom learning experience. The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded by AHF in memory of the daughter of former Gov. Bob and First Lady Patsy Riley.

The former head of Alabama Development Office and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Welden was active in Alabama politics over the years. He worked on Riley's campaign for governor and got to know the whole family, he said. "I was especially fond of Jenice Riley. She loved teaching, and I wanted to honor her dedication to teaching." Tragically, she died of cancer at the young age of 33 when her father was beginning his first campaign for governor.

Welden is proud of the scholarship, which is open to K-8 teachers for civics and social studies projects for their students. "It helps students understand history and the value of public service and civic duty and encourages them to get involved in civic service," he said.

But his work with humanities and students did not stop

there. Will Publishing later partnered with Tom and Jan Bailey of Seacoast Publishing to produce a series of paperback books for fourth-grade students in public schools based on the biographies of famous Alabamians. The series of 45 books is called *Alabama Roots*. "They expose them to Alabama history," Welden said, citing an impressive list of native sons and daughters like Julia Tutwiler, Jesse Owens, Joe Lewis, Hank Aaron, Tallulah Bankhead, Harper Lee and Jennifer Chandler, who are among the subjects of the books.

They are written on a level geared toward elementary school children to help them learn through these inspiring stories about famous Alabamians. "I'm proud of that, and it was motivated and inspired by the humanities," Welden said.

Throughout his tenure on the AHF Board, he has continued to make an impact. He led fundraising opportunities, helping secure governmental funding for AHF projects like *Encyclopedia of Alabama* and *Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit*, which toured all 67 counties in the state to celebrate 200 years of statehood.

Welden took a tour of his own around the state, again teaming sports and humanities. He traveled to all 67 county seats where he visited all of the courthouses and played tennis in every county. "I wanted to inject sports into humanities, so while I was in each county, I took the opportunity to promote both the AHF and ASHOF. The AHF had a packet of information for a statewide project related to Alabama food traditions, and they were trying to get every county to participate. I took the packet to the local newspapers in every county and encouraged them to run a story on it."

In another instance, he took a year off from business and traveled to all 50 states, attended 250 different sporting events for 35 different sports. It was the centerpiece of his book, *TIME OUT! A Sports Fan's Dream Year*. As a part of this trip, he also visited every state capitol building and learned the history of each state.

As he approaches the end of his final term with Alabama Humanities when he retires from it in December, he talked of the many positive experiences he has had in serving over the years, melding his passion for sports and humanities. He has received AHF's highest honor, the Alabama Humanities Award, forerunner to Alabama Humanities Fellow, and he has demonstrated leadership in multiple terms serving on the board. "I am proud to have been part of the organization," he said. "I want to thank all of the board members and AHF staff that I have had the privilege of serving with and who have taught and influenced me so much about the humanities."

"I have been honored to serve with Edgar as a board member and board chair and now as interim director," said retired Judge John Rochester. "Over the years, AHF has benefitted greatly from his knowledge, expertise and his deep devotion to the humanities." ■



Virtual programming built around books sees early success

Book clubs are hardly a new phenomenon. Their beginnings can be traced back to the days of Socrates and Pythagoras. They have given rise to intellectual and critical thinking discussions throughout time.

But as online opportunities of the modern world have grown over the past decades, and a pandemic thrust humanities programs into virtual strategies, Alabama Humanities Foundation discovered a new way to expand its reach and elevate conversations around books.

On June 1, it launched AHF's Virtual Book Club, a Zoom video conferencing version of that age-old practice of reading, engaging discussions, critical analysis and understanding.

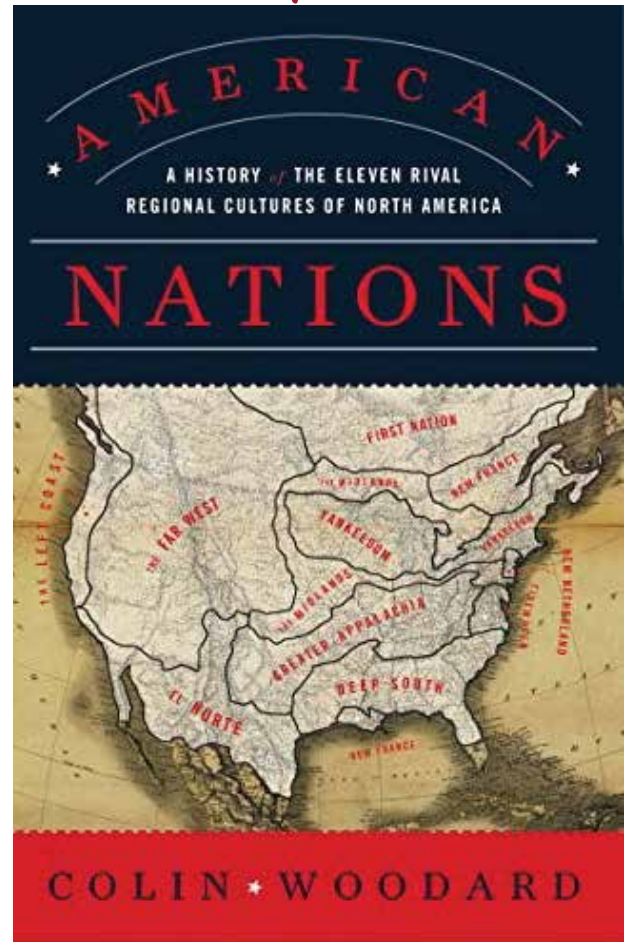
"Part of the shift of programming to a virtual format included opportunities for individuals to connect," explained AHF Programs Director Melanie Bouyer. "We could be physically distanced but not socially distanced from each other."

The first book in line for the new format was best-selling 2011 book *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, facilitated by Kevin Lee, award-winning journalist and Arts editor for Mobile newspaper, Lagniappe.

"My goals for the book club were to affect the participant's views of American history, to see it as less a string of dates and more 'cause and effect,' as coalesced motivations shaped by cultural forces of particular times," Lee said.

"I also hoped participants would gain a better understanding of the origins of contemporary fractures in American governance and society in hopes they could use that information to make better decisions and work toward mending the ills that plague our system of self-governance."

Bouyer pointed out that the virtual format not only expanded



The inaugural Virtual Book Club focused on *American Nations* with a surprise talk by author Colin Woodard.



Kevin Lee, author and Arts editor for Mobile-based *Lagniappe* newspaper, facilitated lively discussion.

AHF's reach, with participants joining the discussions from Oregon, Atlanta and areas throughout the state, it enabled the club to hear from the book's author, Colin Woodard. "He did a great job telling the nation's history within one hour. We were enthralled by his overall knowledge and the warmth he brought to the book club."

Participants agreed. Following the presentation, Nancy Ekberg wrote, "Wow. That was terrific. A doctorate in American history condensed into one hour!"

"What I think participants gained from the club was the sense that our history is more complex than we've been taught, that mistakes and missteps are as much a part of our country as successes," Lee said. "I think they also sensed the degree to which we need to be guarded against letting our factional biases destroy the national potential for progress."

Just Mercy

With the success of the inaugural book club event, AHF moved to its second in the series. In September, Virtual Book Club focused on best-selling author Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*.

Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need. In one of his first cases, he won freedom for Alabama death row inmate Walter McMillian, who was wrongfully accused. The book was named by CNN as one of the most influential books of the decade, and it has been adapted for a movie.

Veteran Birmingham attorney Beverly Scruggs facilitated the discussion, bringing in her legal background to enhance the conversation.

"Those of us who believe storytelling to be an art that can change lives had those beliefs confirmed with this book," Scruggs said. "Bryan Stevenson's stories forced each of us

to get proximate with the racial injustice and unfairness faced by many of his poor, Black clients. Like one of his grandmother's hugs, we could still feel the dehumanization his clients experienced long after we closed the book."

For AHF, "*Just Mercy* spoke to our ability to provide programming around issues currently pressing in our country – issues around education reform, poverty and criminal justice," Bouyer noted.

"While race in America is often viewed as an incredibly complex and nuanced issue, Stevenson's compelling account of his confrontations with the humanity of his clients made the abstract personal," Scruggs added. "Each week we shared our insights on the author's stories and the impact those stories had on us. We discussed the flaws in our justice system which those stories revealed. Then, we considered why those flaws came to exist and why they continue to persist."

Finally, discussion centered on some possible approaches to remedy the flaws. "Storytelling can change hearts," Scruggs reasoned, "and changed hearts often lead to changes in behavior. Bryan Stevenson's stories are intended to lead to compelling, paradigm shifting discussions. I was honored and inspired to be a part of this thought-provoking conversation with so many brilliant booklovers."

Let's keep the conversation going and shift the paradigm of justice in America."

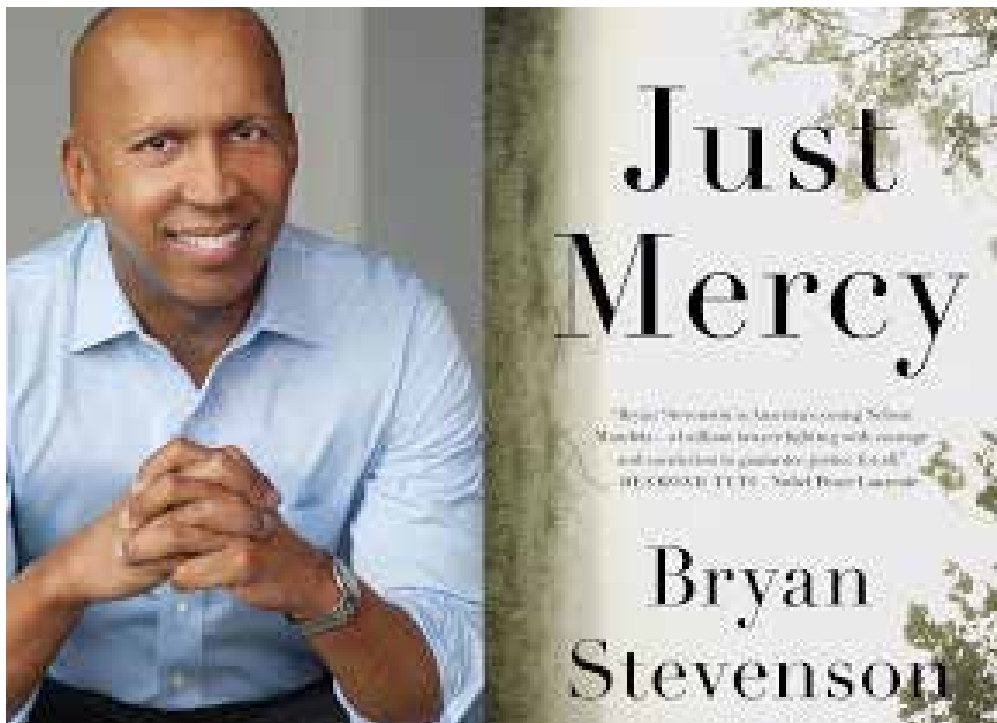
With two Virtual Book Clubs behind it and more on the horizon, organizers and participants see the potential and the prospects for the future. The program has even spawned talks of a young adult version of the Virtual Book Club for school students, ninth grade and up.

"What I hope is birthed from all of this," Bouyer said, "is a statewide reading initiative or Big Read for the state of Alabama." ■

Bryan Stevenson's best-selling book is now the subject of a movie.



Birmingham attorney Beverly Scruggs guided the conversation on *Just Mercy*.



CARES FUNDING

AHF CARES bridges gap to keep humanities thriving during crisis

When COVID-19 hit Alabama, the fate of humanities programs lay in its wake.

With lockdowns and no viable means of fundraising opportunities, humanities-based programs faced tremendous challenges.

But Congress acted quickly, giving National Endowment for the Humanities a sizable opportunity to lift organizations across the country through the CARES Act.

In turn, NEH distributed grants to its state affiliates, and Alabama Humanities Foundation was able to award 79 such agencies a share of \$500,000 across Alabama for everything from helping pay staff, fund operations, provide infrastructure for distance learning and make accommodations for social distancing. Simply put: to keep doors open.

"AHF is here to ensure that Alabamians have access to humanities programming and, with a pandemic, that meant making sure organizations had the support they needed to stay afloat," said AHF Grants Director Graydon Rust. "Our CARES grants were often the first, and sometimes only, relief funding that humanities organizations received. We are appreciative of the opportunity NEH gave us to help our partners across the state retain staff, pay bills and reopen as soon as possible."

A sampling of recipients tells the story as it unfolded. The Pioneer Museum of Alabama in Troy had been closed for 10 weeks due to COVID-19, according to Director Barbara Tatom.

"During all that time, we have not had any admission fees and have had no sales in the gift shop," she told the *Troy Messenger* after receiving CARES grant funding from AHF. "And the spring is normally a busy time for the museum. It is an ideal time for school groups to visit the museum. It's also spring break so there is a lot of traffic on Highway 231 that also includes snowbirds who are going back north." She called the funding "a real blessing." With the CARES Act grant funds, they bought a touchless credit card dock and reader and an iPad that allows visitors to register electronically rather than signing a guest register, she said.

They purchased signage related to COVID-19, including social distancing guides. "We are making effort so that visitors to the museum will feel safe and comfortable," she said at the time.

For the Triana Warden House/Clinic, planned use for funding was completion of the facility. "Hopefully, we can finish this project soon and make it available for community medical use in these trying times," said Triana Historical



Mobile Medical Museum, Photo by Daryn Glassbrook, Executive Director



Ivy Green, Photo by Mary Carton, Colbert County Reporter



Society President Betty Williams. "We are doing pretty well, and we're doing even better now that we have the CARES funding from AHF."

At Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, the funding was "vital to our library returning to a full (but altered) level of service to our community," said Jennifer Butler Keeton, Public Affairs Coordinator. "Our part-time staff had to be furloughed due to funding loss due to the pandemic, and we requested funding from AHF CARES to help bring them back. Many of our altered services (such as curbside pickup and online humanities programs), which are necessary to keep our

staff and patrons safe, are very time-consuming, and we need all our staff on hand to provide these services."

The AHF CARES funding allowed the library to "continue providing learning opportunities to our community and to offer high-quality virtual humanities programs through the summer and fall," she said.

As AHF, itself, pivoted toward a new virtual reality of delivering its programs, organizations across the state did likewise. As the pandemic grew, they recognized the danger ... and the opportunity.

In an AHF CARES needs assessment survey, Atmore Historical Society put the crisis in context in real time:

For many smaller non-profits, the future is bleak. On many levels, the pandemic has the very real potential to claim our enjoyment, and education of the humanities will become yet another victim. Our recovery may well depend on the life support provided by these grant opportunities ...

This pandemic will be a lesson for everyone on many levels. Is there a way a non-profit entity could have prepared for the financial loss we now face? Not likely. At least not for small or mid-size non-profits.

For the Atmore Historical Society, we will redouble our efforts towards legacy giving and hope the economic recovery is strong and swift but also sustained. We will find a way to prepare. We have to. The next pandemic is just waiting to be documented by historians like us. ■

CARES Funding Grantees

Grantee	City	County
16th Street Baptist Church	Birmingham	Jefferson
AFED Center Economic Development Corporation	Montgomery	Montgomery
Alabama Asian Cultures Foundation	Birmingham	Jefferson
Alabama Constitution Village Foundation	Huntsville	Madison
Alabama Folklife Association	Mobile	Mobile
Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism	Birmingham	Jefferson
Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives	Athens	Limestone
Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership	Montgomery	Montgomery
Aliceville Museum	Aliceville	Pickens
American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese	Birmingham	Jefferson
American Village Citizenship Trust	Montevallo	Shelby
Anniston Museums & Gardens	Anniston	Calhoun
Athens Limestone County Tourism	Athens	Limestone
Atmore Historical Society	Atmore	Escambia
Autauga County Heritage Association	Prattville	Autauga
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center	Birmingham	Jefferson
Boys & Girls Club of South Alabama	Mobile	Mobile
Bragg-Mitchell Mansion	Mobile	Mobile
Burritt on the Mountain	Huntsville	Madison
Civil Rights Activist Committee	Birmingham	Jefferson
Clarke County Historical Society	Grove Hill	Clarke
Desert Island Supply Co.	Birmingham	Jefferson
Dothan Landmarks Foundation	Dothan	Houston
Eufaula Carnegie Library	Eufaula	Barbour
Eufaula Heritage Association	Eufaula	Barbour
Fiesta 2003	Birmingham	Jefferson
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library	Florence	Lauderdale
Foundation for New Media	Northport	Tuscaloosa
Friends of Gaineswood	Demopolis	Marengo
Gadsden Public Library Foundation	Gadsden	Etowah
Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation	Tuscumbia	Colbert
Historic Bethel Baptist Church Community Restoration Fund	Birmingham	Jefferson
Historic Huntsville Foundation	Huntsville	Madison
Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church-Selma AL Legacy Foundation, Inc.	Selma	Dallas
History Museum of Mobile	Mobile	Mobile
Invisible Histories Project	Birmingham	Jefferson
Jesse Owens Memorial Park & Museum	Oakville	Lawrence
Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute	Montgomery	Montgomery
LaGrange Living Historical Association	Leighton	Colbert

Grantee	City	County
Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery	Montgomery	Montgomery
Landmarks of DeKalb County	Fort Payne	DeKalb
Learn to Read Council of Athens and Limestone County	Athens	Limestone
Lee County Historical Society	Loachapoka	Lee
Liberty Learning Foundation	Huntsville	Madison
Literacy Council of Central Alabama	Birmingham	Jefferson
Magnolia Springs Public Library	Magnolia Springs	Baldwin
Mobile Medical Museum	Mobile	Mobile
Montgomery City-County Public Library	Montgomery	Montgomery
Muscle Shoals Music Foundation	Sheffield	Colbert
Museum of East Alabama	Opelika	Lee
Newbern Library	Newbern	Hale
Pioneer Museum of Alabama	Troy	Pike
Prestwick Preservation Society	Leroy	Washington
Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County	Anniston	Calhoun
Red Bay Museum	Red Bay	Franklin
Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project	Warrior Stand	Macon
Safe House Black History Museum	Greensboro	Hale
Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald Museum	St. Stephens	Washington
Selma-Dallas County Museum of History & Archives	Selma	Dallas
South Baldwin Literacy Council	Foley	Baldwin
Southern Museum of Flight	Birmingham	Jefferson
St. Stephens Historical Commission	St. Stephens	Washington
Sullivan and Richie Jean Sherrod Jackson Foundation and Museum	Selma	Dallas
Triana Historical Society	Triana	Madison
Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum	Montgomery	Montgomery
Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History and Reconciliation Foundation	Birmingham	Jefferson
Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society	Northport	Tuscaloosa
Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center	Montgomery	Macon
University of Alabama Center for Public TV & Radio	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
University of Alabama Museums	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
University of West Alabama's Black Belt Museum	Livingston	Sumter
Urban Impact Birmingham	Birmingham	Jefferson
Vulcan Park and Museum	Birmingham	Jefferson
Washington County Public Library	Chatom	Washington
Wilcox Historical Society	Chatom	Washington
WJAB-FM	Normal	Madison
Your Town Alabama	Birmingham	Jefferson
YouthServe	Birmingham	Jefferson

AHF grants help humanities programs rise to meet opportunities

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Winston S. Churchill

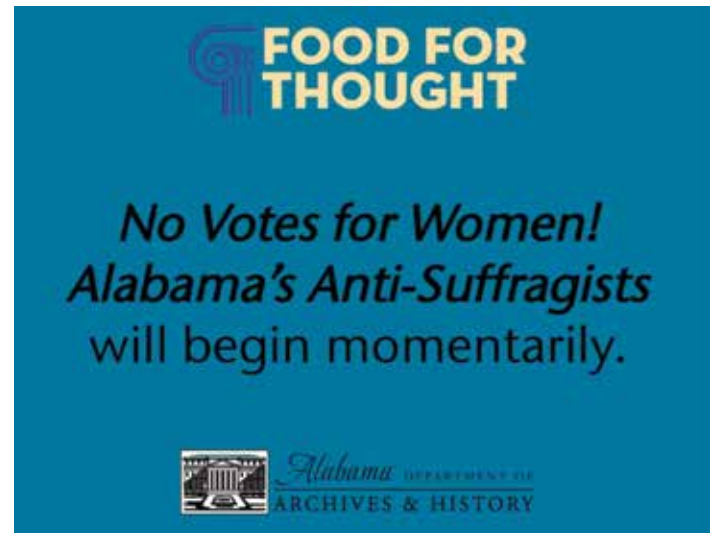
As the deadly COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe to mark the beginning of 2020, it would have been an easy route for humanities-based organizations to throw up their collective hands and declare a halt to the delivery of their programs.

But in the face of a crisis that gripped the nation and the state, they saw opportunity instead.

Alabama Humanities Foundation, while seizing its own opportunities to pivot to virtual programming, provided a bridge to dozens of other organizations across the state to help them cross into a new digital world.

"Even though the building had to be closed to the public, the Alabama Department of Archives and History wanted to find a way to continue our monthly programs to keep the audience engaged with Alabama history," said ADAH Public Programs Curator Alex Colvin, PhD.

"Beginning in June, we had speakers record their program and posted it on YouTube. This was effective as hundreds of viewers watched the program – one even made it to 300 in the first two days – but the recording didn't allow the audience to interact with the speakers," Colvin explained.



Restore Mobile shifted its preservation efforts to virtual program delivery with the help of a CARES grant.

Not to be deterred, "Beginning in August, we began to livestream Food for Thought through a new streaming platform that allowed the speaker to see Facebook comments and questions in real time," she said. The first program had a total of 75 people at its height and allowed the audience to ask questions and interact with the speaker.

"These livestreamed programs have given us back some semblance of normal," Colvin said, "where historians and audiences can connect over a shared interest in Alabama history."

Restore Mobile saw opportunity in crisis as well. "When the call for applications went out from the Alabama Humanities Foundation to support organizations around the state, we immediately knew that a successful application would allow us to continue our Facebook Live Preservation Talk Series, which we had piloted as a weekly program in the month of May," according to Executive Director Sydney Betzeze.

This was the first virtual programming Restore Mobile had offered, and it was created solely because of the pandemic. "Not only did we have to cancel plans for an in-person event in May, we knew that with the lockdown many people were searching for content and information on social media. The funding from AHF has enabled us to provide educational programming while at the same time increased our number of supporters," Betzeze said.

Through its virtual discoveries, Restore Mobile has been able to produce "relevant, informational lectures on a wide variety of historical and cultural topics since the height of the pandemic, and the series will continue through December 2020."

Meanwhile, 16th Street Baptist Church recognized two crises – COVID-19 and racial discord with riots and protests emerging over Confederate monuments and police



Restore Mobile's first venture into virtual programming was a Preservation Talk Series

shootings around the country.

“COVID-19 and the protesting and rioting has brought to light the need for the message of 16th Street Baptist Church and the need for a new way of delivering the message,” said Theodore “Ted” Debro, chair of the church’s board of trustees.

The message was clear from pastor of the church, the Rev. Arthur Price, Jr., who challenged the membership in a meditation with “when this crisis has subsided, we will all be different in some way after encountering the coronavirus and will embark upon new experiences. Hopefully, we learned new lessons and behaviors. Do not waste this crisis!”

The general environment surrounding historic sites and religious organizations like Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church has changed drastically over the last 50 to 60 years. From sociocultural to technological and even global forces, external developments have significantly shaped the conditions affecting these sectors.

While the church remains one of Birmingham’s most-valued historic and religious treasures, “the advent of COVID-19, the overwhelming reaction to the death and ill treatment of Blacks in America, the opportunity to experiment with virtual reality, and request from visitors and educators of the church to have a virtual reality tour presentation has dictated and revised our media and technological plans,” Debro said.

At the initial threat of COVID-19, 16th Street Baptist Church partnered with the TimeLooper Foundation to develop an AR/VR application on the TimeLooper Xplore platform that is available for end consumers via Apple and Google’s app stores. Users can download the application to learn more about the history of 16th Street Baptist Church and its role in the building of a community and in the Civil Rights Movement.

“This experience has empowered us to move beyond in-house museum tours and into experience delivery, bringing meaning and impact to visitors, classrooms and homes. But more importantly, the church itself will integrate the immersive technologies into remote virtual field trips on Zoom, Skype or Google Meet for schools and visitors across the country, actually enhancing the church’s ability to spread its message to those who otherwise could never make it to Birmingham,” he said.

With an initial grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation and five BhamStrong Corps members, the church continued building on this partnership in designing an immersive interpretive journey that details the church’s history and development.

A second grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation with funding matches from Regions Bank and the Greater Birmingham Foundation is enabling the implementation of 16th Street Baptist Church Digital Interpretation and Virtual Tour Program. Users will be able to move through a virtual environment that depicts the world as it looked and then witness the horrors through a combination of computer-generated imagery overlaid with oral histories.

In addition, Debro noted, “Users will have the ability to

explore the church community dating back to its founding in 1873 to gain an appreciation for how it evolved and the decisions that we made that led to the conditions for and outcomes of the Civil Rights Movement.”

“Many of our grantees are finding that virtual programs offer more benefits than simply maintaining a sense of normalcy during the pandemic,” Grants Director Graydon Rust said. “Organizations tend to reach a wider or more diverse audience, scholars and presenters are easier to schedule (and without the travel costs) and staff can be more creative with the program format. On top of all of that, the public is quickly becoming more accustomed to not only finding programs online but participating digitally in real time as well.” ■



16th Street Baptist Church

Photo by Theodore Roosevelt Debro, Chair, Board of Trustees
Alabama Humanities Foundation is partially supporting a team of BhamStrong Corps members, Allison, Ahkeem, Elizabeth, Matthew, and Traci to further 16th Street Baptist Church’s efforts to provide distance learning opportunities for the season impacted by the pandemic and beyond.

PROGRAMMING GRANTS

Alabama Humanities awards over \$105,000 in grants

In the past two rounds of grant giving, Alabama Humanities Foundation awarded more than \$105,000 in humanities-based grants in the mini, major and media categories.

March Grants Awarded

Sharing the Stories of Flora

Birmingham Botanical Society, Inc.
Birmingham (Jefferson)

As the only public horticulture library in the United States, the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens continues its mission to inspire children and adults to develop a thirst for literature and plants by offering programs for participants to engage with stories through author talks, group discussions and hands-on activities for children that bring stories to life.



Pride of Place III: The Influence of Architecture on Community Life in Alabama's Black Belt
Camden (Wilcox)

Pride of Place III will explore the topic of architecture and its influence on community life through two lecture sessions and group discussions. The organization will present the first session in Newbern, home of Auburn University Rural Studio, and the second in Gee's Bend, home of the world-renowned Gee's Bend quilters. The purpose of the project is to increase a sense of pride and awareness in Black Belt citizens through providing needed information and education.

James M. Wilson Poetry Readings

Faulkner University Department of Humanities
Montgomery (Montgomery)

Faulkner University Department of Humanities will bring James Matthew Wilson, a professor at Villanova University and distinguished contemporary poet, to Alabama to give readings of his published poems on three university campuses: Faulkner University, Samford University and Troy University.

Everybody's War: The Valley in World War II Exhibit and Commemorative Events

H. Grady Bradshaw Library and Cobb Memorial Archives
Valley (Chambers)

The Everybody's War exhibit and events will commemorate Chambers County's role in World War II through an exhibit showcasing local materials from Cobb Memorial Archives. Public programs, ranging from lectures to a film series, will highlight aspects of life on the home front. They also include a week-long History Detectives Club for students aged 9-13 years of age, which will offer hands-on learning experiences using letters and artifacts from the collections of Cobb Memorial Archives.

Magic City Memories: An LGBTQ History of Birmingham

Invisible Histories Project
Birmingham (Jefferson)

Magic City Memories: An LGBTQ History of Birmingham will be a temporary, interactive timeline of the Birmingham metropolitan area's LGBTQ history held at Space One Eleven in downtown Birmingham in Spring 2021. Invisible Histories Project (IHP) will create the timeline from their own archival collections of and a community-centered research project. IHP will then invite participants to include their own knowledge of local LGBTQ history into the timeline.



The Shakespeare Project

Jacksonville State University Department of English
Jacksonville (Calhoun)

The goal of The Shakespeare Project is to introduce local, underserved high school students to Shakespeare's works

free of charge. Jacksonville State University believes that the plays are of central importance to the education of young minds and have an edifying effect when presented in a dynamic, modern way. As such, JSU will provide training to local high school teachers, allowing them to present the works of Shakespeare in their classrooms in a more fruitful, engaging way.

MCCHPS Creole Family Reunion: Revitalizing Mobile's Creole Past

Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society
Mobile (Mobile)

The Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society will present two days of broad and specific programming to the public at no cost. The first day will consist of touring landmarks significant to Mobile's unique blend of African, Creole and European history with the Dora Franklin Finley African-American Heritage Trail, the Richards DAR House and the Conde Charlotte House. The second day will include lectures and interactive group discussions on music, Creole language, a previously taped interview of members of Creole No. 1 and a genealogy panel.

Ujima Family Reading Circle

National Hook Up of Black Women
Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Ujima Family Reading Circle will address the ills of illiteracy by promoting books that focus on the family and community. The project will engage families with books and interactive activities that will improve family reading habits, foster children's knowledge of other cultures and people and promote parents' confidence as educational mentors and leaders.

American Character Program

The Liberty Learning Foundation
Huntsville (Madison)

The American Character Program creates an exciting experience for students to learn lessons in civic responsibility, character building, financial literacy, career development, community engagement and the Great American story that helps them discover and define their role in America's future.

Past, Present & Future: A Model for Preserving and Conserving History in Northwest Alabama

University of North Alabama Collier Library
Florence (Lauderdale)

The University of North Alabama Collier Library will host a two-day archival event where attendees will identify and explore techniques related to the nature of artifacts, agents

and causes of deterioration, common conditions and issues related to preservation, methods and materials and collection housing solutions. The project will expand upon prior efforts in northwest Alabama to inventory archival collections and best practices to build capacity for future gatherings.



The Women of Alabama Exhibit: A Musical Journey from the 1900s to 2020

Valley Arts and Entertainment
Huntsville (Madison)

Valley Arts and Entertainment will host a series of 45-minute presentations of The Women of Alabama Exhibit, a collection of life-size color photographs of six women performers who have impacted the musical heritage of Alabama, accompanied by short film clips aimed to educate and engage both seniors and youth with open discussion and questions. A closing lecture by Kristin Atkins follows with first-hand accounts about Dinah Washington, her aunt.

WBHM Magic City Walking Tour

WBHM 90.3 FM
Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Magic City Walking Tour will be a multimedia oral history storytelling project about landmark Birmingham buildings that will be accessible via mobile app, on-air and on WBHM's website. The Tour will capture stories of older city residents and connect younger generations to Birmingham's past in an interactive, meaningful way. This new digital resource will give Alabama residents (as well as tourists) a deeper understanding of and appreciation for Birmingham's complex history.



histories related to the history of Black radio in Alabama. The organization will conclude the project with a public program in Huntsville to bring the community and members of local Black radio and institutions together to archive their recollections of early Black radio's impact on the community as individuals, entrepreneurs and movement activists.

The EarlyWorks
Family of Museums

EarlyWorks Online Virtual Field Trips
**EarlyWorks Family of Museums
Huntsville (Madison)**

As schools prepare for a new year with blended and virtual learning, the EarlyWorks Family of Museums will support the educational community through high-quality interactive virtual field trips. The organization will make programs available to all schools, including educational partners in North Alabama who would usually visit the museums in person each year.

June 2020 Grants Awarded

16th Street Baptist Church Digital Interpretation and Virtual Tour Program (Phase 1)

**16th Street Baptist Church
Birmingham (Jefferson)**

16th Street Baptist Church will implement immersive augmented and virtual reality content of its history in three phases that will enable visitors to take a journey through time on the role of the church in history and the civil rights movement. The church will expand their partnership with TimeLooper, a global storytelling company that specializes in the design, production and distribution of augmented and virtual reality content for historic sites, museums and cultural institutions.

Building Alabama Support for Preservation Statewide

**Birmingham Black Radio Museum
Birmingham (Jefferson)**

The Birmingham Black Radio Museum (BBRM) will work to assess the capacity of identified partners in eight Alabama cities to facilitate the collection, identification, preservation and cataloging of important local ephemera and oral

MMFA
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Bethany Collins "My Destiny is in Your Hands" Exhibition and Programming Support

**Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association
Montgomery (Montgomery)**

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) will present "My destiny is in your hands," a solo exhibition of the work of Bethany Collins, a native of Montgomery currently living in Chicago. Collins' works explore the intersection between race, language and history. In addition to the exhibition, MMFA will present a brochure, an artist-designed musical performance, an artist talk and additional programs that explore how the changes in rhetoric have shifted throughout time and have changed history.

Family History: A Webinar for Beginners

Northeast Alabama Community College Learning Resources Center
Rainsville (Jackson)

The Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) Learning Resources Center will host three introductory webinars on the topic of family history using newly licensed software. The program's purpose will be to assist people who have an interest in family history research but are not sure where to begin. Additionally, it will help people in Jackson and DeKalb Counties better understand the history and culture of the region.



Voices of Heritage: The Negro Spiritual
Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.
Grand Bay (Mobile)

Through lectures, workshops and musical interpretations, Providence Missionary Baptist Church will present the history of the Negro Spirituals to make those in attendance aware of the circumstances under which Negro Spirituals developed in this country. The overall goal is to raise the level of awareness of an important American genre by presenting its historical, religious, musical, linguistic, and ethical background.

Virtual Preservation Lecture Series

Restore Mobile, Inc.
Mobile (Mobile)

Restore Mobile will produce six virtual lectures on diverse cultural, preservation and architectural history topics pertaining to the City of Mobile and the immediate region. From the first Native American settlers to the European and African-Americans who followed, Restore Mobile will explore their impacts through the geography, heritage sites and the architectural landscape that makes Mobile what it is today. The organization will air the series via Facebook Live monthly from July through December.



*Foot Soldiers:
The Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement*
Safe House Black History Museum
Greensboro (Hale)

Safe House Black History Museum will recognize those who risked their lives and incomes to fight for justice, civil rights and voting rights for African Americans in the 1960s. The organization will frame each unique story in its historic context, along with freedom songs and upload the videos to YouTube and the museum's website as part of its oral archives. The organization also will present the foot soldiers with medals of honor for their services.

The Humanity of Black Music in Alabama and the Civil Rights Movement

Tennessee Valley Jazz Society
Huntsville (Madison)

The Tennessee Valley Jazz Society will invite scholars, including educators and artists, to teach and demonstrate The Humanity of Black Music in Alabama and the Civil Rights Movement. This project will present both educational and entertaining events including a panel discussion, exhibits of significant historical humanities collections, visiting lecturer and musical demonstrations, workshops and performances.

Nobody Knows My Name

Urban Impact Birmingham
Birmingham (Jefferson)

Urban Impact Birmingham will generate rich content about the about people, places and structures in the history of the civil rights movement and the Historic Fourth Avenue Business Districts. The organization will interpret their role in the Birmingham community, advance civics education about the crucial growth of this community in American history, and ultimately help the protection of endangered African American sites and architecture while inspiring black business development as part of cultural heritage.

DEMOCRACY AND THE INFORMED CITIZEN

Hope + Information = Engagement

On a Friday morning in July, Alabamians from places as varied as Beatrice, Camp Hill, Sterrett, Mobile, Birmingham and Huntsville gathered for a virtual workshop with veteran journalist Michael Davis.

South Regional Manager for the Solutions Journalism Network, Davis typically travels from his home in Charlotte, N.C., offering training in the network's approach to reporting and storytelling.

The workshop was part of AHF's *Democracy and the Informed Citizen* initiative, which is placing special emphasis on the future of journalism in rural Alabama communities.

Democracy and the Informed Citizen, funded by a grant from the Federation of State Humanities Councils, is part of a national initiative. Now in its second round of funding, the initiative is made possible by generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Pulitzer Prizes are national partners while Alabama partners include the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, the PACERS Newspaper Network, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Pebble Hill, The University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences and the Auburn University School of Communication and Journalism.

Evaluating scholar for the project is University of Alabama Associate Professor Dr. George Daniels, and



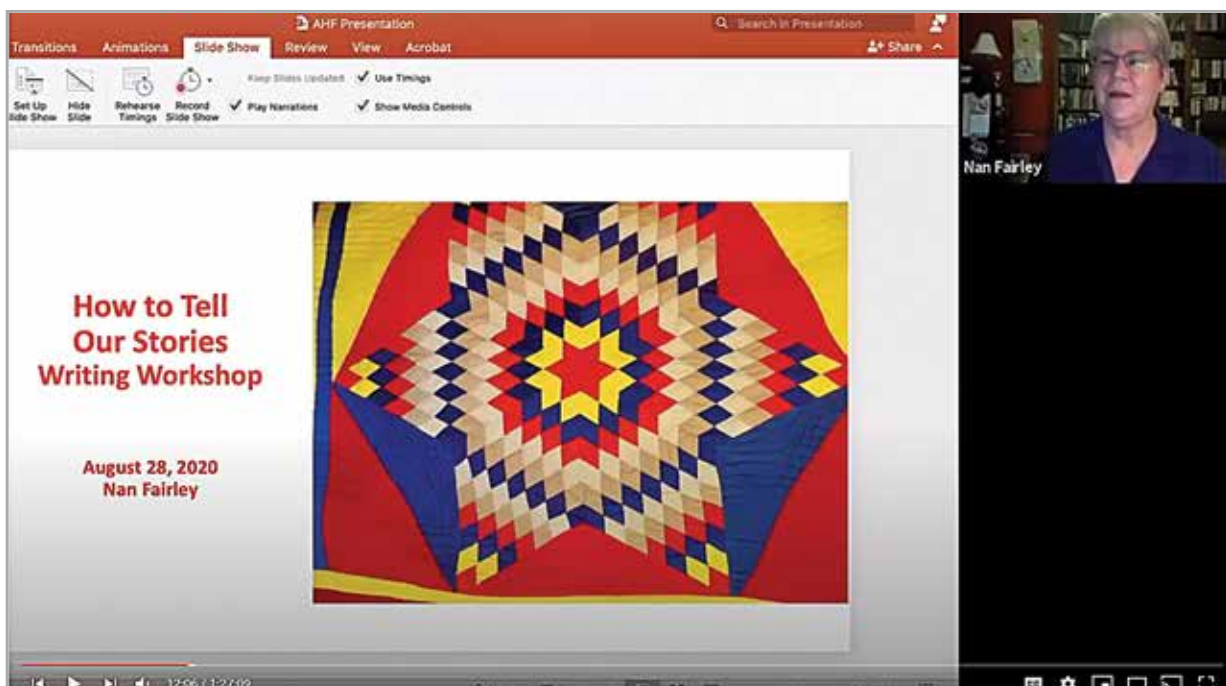
George Daniels



Nan Fairley

co-lead scholar is Auburn University Associate Professor Nan Fairley.

A Solutions Journalism workshop that Fairley attended in 2018 inspired AHF's connection with the network and with Davis, who has previously worked with the North Carolina Humanities Council's *Democracy and the Informed Citizen* initiative.



In addition to Daniels, Fairley and Davis, Dr. Gheni Platenburg of Auburn University offered “Multi-Media Approaches to Community Journalism” to offer suggestions for would-be journalists eager to apply their Solutions Journalism to storytelling about their local places.

Solutions Journalism reporting features not just a person but a community’s response to a problem. It seeks to go beyond inspiration to impart knowledge of how to solve challenges and it never produces ‘puff pieces.’ So, how does Solutions Journalism training relate to the humanities – or to future of journalism in rural Alabama – or to the future of democracy? The answer lies in the word hope.

Reflecting that hope, initiative participants have formed a social media group for sharing story ideas and practical information with one another and to encourage writing and publication. Participants in *Democracy and the Informed Citizen*, many of whom are new to the work of AHF, report realizing that Alabama Humanities is a resource for helping educators facilitate community-based storytelling with students. Others remarked that the initiative has helpfully brought to light the widespread need for chronicling life in rural Alabama and provided great speakers and useful content to participants in tumultuous times. Set to continue through 2021, *Democracy and the Informed Citizen*, while focusing a lens on rural communities and issues, offers tools to help strengthen citizenship in communities of all types across Alabama. Join the conversation! #HumCitizen. ■



Michael Davis



Gheni Platenburg

Editor’s note: For more information contact Laura Anderson. You are encouraged to view Michael Davis’ training session on Solutions Journalism and consider how you might support this approach in your own Community and by media statewide.



“ *If we’ve learned anything from ... decades of practicing journalism, it’s that a steady flow of negative news ... doesn’t empower people.*

In fact, it leads to news avoidance and pushes people into their corners. One of the greatest risks to democracy is of people tuning out, of news making people feel disengaged and hopeless. A healthy democracy is made up of people who have hope and the information they need to make things better.

– David Bernstein, co-founder Solutions Journalism Network

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET

Smithsonian traveling exhibits return to Alabama

Following a three-year hiatus to focus on the state's bicentennial and traveling exhibit, Making Alabama, Museum on Main Street returns to the state in 2021 with *Water/Ways*.

AHF has partnered in years past with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program, which gives access to the Smithsonian for small-town America through museum exhibitions, research, educational resources and programming.

It is a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and state humanities councils nationwide, and the *Water/Ways* exhibit will be in six Alabama communities.

Having visited more than 1,600 communities across America since 1994, MoMS is designed to engage small town audiences and help bring attention to assets found in their communities.

AHF's last Museum on Main Street tour featured *Water/Ways*, an exhibit exploring the role that water plays in human society and culture and the importance of protecting this critical resource.

Rejoining the MoMS community means that AHF is bringing *Water/Ways* back to Alabama for a 2021-2022 tour set to visit the following locations:

- Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center, Danville (Lawrence Co.)
- Guntersville Museum, Guntersville (Marshall Co.)
- Bessemer Public Library, Bessemer (Jefferson Co.)



View of the Alabama River from a Bridge in Claiborne, Alabama -- Photo by Carol Highsmith for Library of Congress (public domain)

- Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal, Camden (Wilcox Co.)
 - Elba Chamber of Commerce, Elba (Coffee Co.)
 - Bayou La Batre Public Library, Irvington (Mobile Co.)
- Representatives of host communities will participate in a series of orientation workshops via Zoom this fall and on through winter and spring. *Water/Ways* will arrive in Alabama next July. Stay tuned for more details about the exhibit, tour schedule and complementary programs statewide. ■

For more information, contact Laura Anderson, landerson@alabamahumanities.org

***Stories from Main Street* podcast added to exhibition**

Now is an ideal time to learn about MoMS thanks to a brand-new podcast – Smithsonian's *Stories from Main Street*. Inspired by stories shared with them over the years, MoMS staff developed the podcast to shine a light on the people and culture of a wide variety of rural communities. The podcast will reveal stories from rural communities and their connections to the content of MoMS exhibitions.

The first season of Smithsonian's *Stories from Main Street* launched in early September and takes inspiration from the *Water/Ways* exhibit, which began touring the country in 2016.

Stories from Season One reflect water's impact on work and play, in agriculture and landscape and in personal experience and memory. The host for the six-episode series is Hannah Hethmon, a podcast producer and host of her own podcast, *Museums in Strange Places*.

To learn more about and listen to the podcast visit museumonmainstreet.org/podcast.



2020 National Humanities Conference and AHF

Each November, the Federation of State Humanities Councils and National Humanities Alliance hosts the National Humanities Conference.

Traditionally an in-person gathering of representatives of colleges, universities, state councils and other community and cultural organizations, it is an annual opportunity to explore approaches to deepening the public's engagement with the humanities.

During this year's event, taking place virtually, Alabama Humanities Foundation will be well represented. To kick things off, Programs Coordinator Jerald Crook will host a November 6 Zoom-based conversation, "Millennials in the Humanities," inviting professionals in the 24 – 38 age group to reflect on why they are involved in the humanities, strengths and skills they bring to the field and aspirations for their futures in the work. Humanities administrators of all ages are encouraged to attend and consider challenges associated with engaging millennials as both supporters and employees. Joining Crook as a co-host will be Maiben Beard of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University.

On November 10, Director of Programs Melanie Bouyer will participate in "Activating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts." Panelists, who identify as people of color or indigenous, will discuss why they choose to work for



Dr. Joe Aistrup



Dr. Martha Bouyer



Melanie Bouyer



Jerald Crook

their employer, why they stay, and how they might be included or excluded in ensuring equitable and inclusionary programming and grantmaking practices, as

well as opportunities and challenges in their work environments.

Attendees will then engage with one another to formulate strategies for activating diversity, equity and inclusion beyond the conference at humanities organizations nationwide.

Rounding things out on November 12, Board Treasurer Dr. Joseph Aistrup and Alabama Humanities Fellow Dr. Martha Bouyer will contribute to two conference sessions. Aistrup, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, will join other deans and a humanities council staff member in discussion of mutual benefits to working together to promote public humanities in their wider communities.

And to strengthen another conference offering, Bouyer, founder and project director of "Stony the Road We Trod..." teacher professional development exploring Alabama's Civil Rights Movement legacy, will participate with NEH staff members in a grant-writing workshop to educate and encourage potential applicants for NEH funding.

Proud to be well represented during conference activities, all AHF board and staff anticipate another useful occasion for engagement with colleagues and newcomers alike during the national conference. ■



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.



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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

Workshops refocus efforts on virtual delivery, get high marks for impact

Kiera Ware, a 9th-grade world history teacher at Montgomery's George Washington Carver High School, is no stranger to SUPER Teacher workshops. You might say she's somewhat of a veteran, having attended in person or virtually eight workshops in her young career as an educator.

A 2018 graduate of Auburn University in Montgomery and working on her Master of Art degree in teaching social sciences from the University of West Alabama, Ware sees the workshops as opportunities to become better at her craft.

And when Alabama Humanities Foundation pivoted during the pandemic to virtual delivery of those workshops, the quality did not waiver, Ware said.

"I always leave SUPER programs with an array of ideas and things I would like to try with my students," she said. "I have never left one SUPER without saying, 'I'm going to try that.'"

And try, she has. "My students love them. I recreated an activity called the *Atom Activity* that I learned during my SUPER at Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

The Atom Activity is a teaching strategy to spur conversation with students. A space is cleared in the center of the room, which is designated as a "significantly agree" area. Other areas outside are designated as varying degrees of disagreement. A series of statements are read, and the students stand in the areas they think best describe their opinion. Students then voice that opinion, often the catalyst for persuading students to move from one area to another.

"I was able to get my students out of the classroom and actively participate in their learning. I received numerous comments from my students to do this activity again in class," she said.

Landmark cases
subject of SUPER



SUPER Teacher
Kiera Ware

"We also attended a field trip to view the Alabama Story at ASF," Ware said. "The kids enjoyed having a moment to talk to the actors."

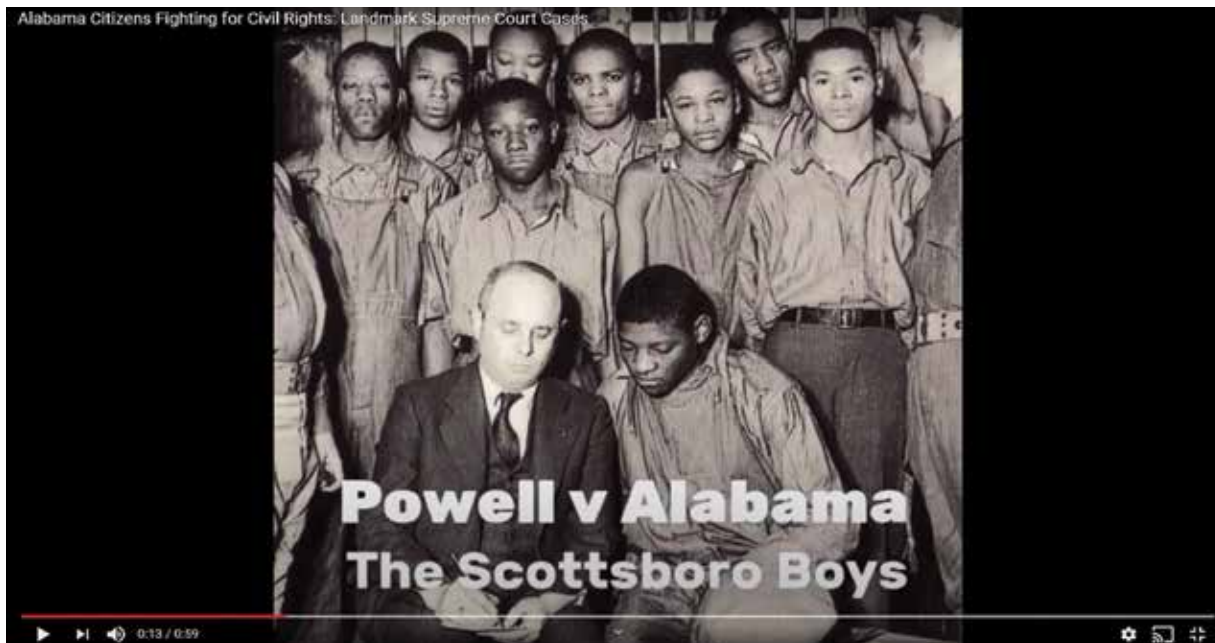
While in-person workshops have greater opportunities to network and interact with fellow educators and presenters, she found that virtual SUPER workshops enabled her to participate in multiple SUPERS at a time. Whether it was in-person or virtual, she still came away with valuable information to be used as learning tools in her classroom to reach and teach her students more effectively.

Those valuable tools have been drawn from workshops, Reflecting on Our Justice System, Exploring Drama-Based Instructional Techniques in the Classroom Through "Alabama Story," Teaching the History of Espionage, Women's Suffrage, The Social Emotional Toolbox, SUPER Teacher Tech Tuesdays with Melissa Mann, The Shape of Alabama and Exploring the Spanish Influenza Epidemic.

"My favorite SUPER was Reflecting on Our Justice System. This SUPER provided the opportunity of deep, meaningful and poignant conversations among a wide variety of individuals. The moment that stood out to me the most was the conversation we had with the judge and attorney," she said.

Attorney Beverly Scruggs, a former City of Birmingham prosecutor turned defense lawyer, and Judge James H. Anderson of the 15th Judicial Circuit took teachers inside the courtroom through their presentations, giving an insightful look into the criminal justice system.

"It was refreshing to hear the opinions and thoughts of those who are currently working within the criminal justice system; and, to compare and contrast those thoughts/opinions with the societal conversations of the current climate of our criminal justice system," Ware said.



Ware is not alone in giving high marks to SUPER's impact on her classroom. Kellye S. Self, U.S. Government A.P., U.S. Government & Politics, Innovative Teaching & Learning Professional Learning Community at Hoover High School, commended the shift to virtual workshops.

"I think we can all agree that 'in person' is almost always superior to distance when it comes to learning and many other things in life, but when well-organized and facilitated, distance learning can be extremely good," Self said.

"I have attended more than one of the seminars organized this summer due to the ability to do so without the normal size limits that an in-person workshop demands. I am very appreciative of that opportunity."

In June, she attended the seminar on the 1918 Spanish Flu Epidemic and found the presentation – against the backdrop of this century's pandemic – to be "very interesting and timely. I will be using some of those resources in both my regular and A.P. U.S. Government classes to help students draw parallels about policy making by different levels of government in the time of an epidemic.

"This is a topic that couldn't be more timely for students than it is right now, and I appreciate having the resources shared to help my students look at primary sources and data to make relevant comparisons related to Alabama."

That workshop would not be her last this summer. "I attended all four days of the SUPER workshop on Landmark Supreme Court cases from Alabama, and I was blown away by the superior quality of the information and resources provided. Learners were engaged and participating, and I can guarantee that I will use those lessons in both my regular and A.P. Government classrooms in the coming years.



SUPER Teacher
Kellye S. Self

"Additionally, I asked the professors in charge of the project at Auburn for permission to share the resources from their curriculum project more widely in a professional community I help administer on Facebook for close to 6,000 teachers of A.P. Government – both in this state and around the world. I was gratified that they were willing to allow me to do that. I will also be sharing the superior nature of your programs with my colleagues in that PLC, in my school and through my contacts as a trainer and consultant with A+ College Ready working with Advanced Placement teachers in Alabama."

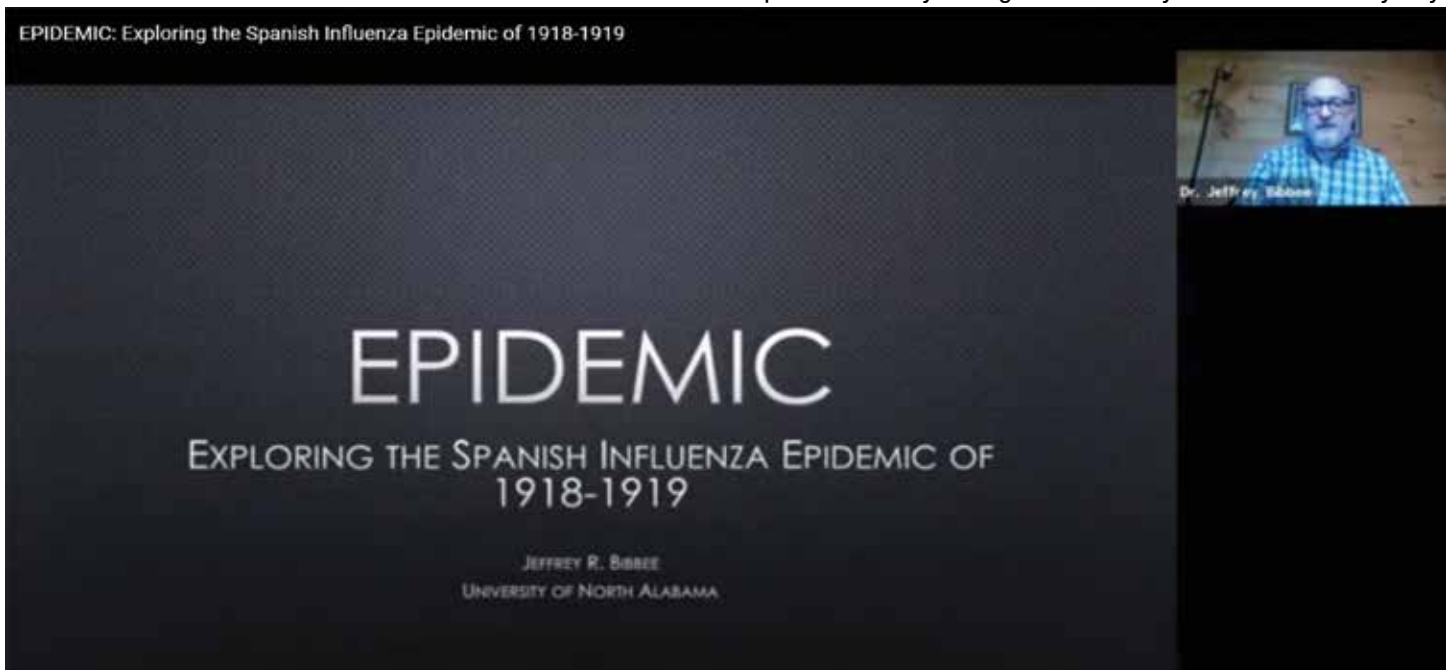
She commended Programs Director Melanie Bouyer on "an excellent job of facilitating the workshops, and I am so very impressed with the quality of the training provided to teachers in Alabama this summer under such extraordinary circumstances."

AHF Programs Director Melanie Bouyer called the pivot to virtual programming for SUPER "a now or never position for AHF. As an organization, we needed to tell our story about our services and what we have to offer in professional development for teachers."

It came at a time when the Alabama Department of Education was cancelling some of its programming, so "it was a great opportunity to really step into professional development," Bouyer said. Using Zoom Webinar and Zoom Meetings, "we were able to reach out to so many more teachers," she added. In the live versions, 358 attended, and thousands more saw it online. We were able to really reach out and make a difference in the lives of teachers and make the new school year better."

The virtual approach was an opportunity to teach them new technology, and forge a stronger partnership with the state department, which helped AHF get the word out about its programming. "It was a capacity building exercise for us," Bouyer said. "We were strengthened because we were able to strengthen the knowledge of teachers."

Spanish Flu 100 years ago mirrors today's COVID-19 in many ways.



REFLECT, ALABAMA

Reflect, Alabama ushers in a new era of online conversations

When a global pandemic slowed the world to a grinding halt, Alabama Humanities Young Professionals Board saw an opportunity to bring technology and humanities together for a time of reflection, engagement, enlightenment and understanding.

"The coronavirus pandemic has been a life-altering event that none of us will forget once it ends," said AHF Programs Coordinator Jerald Crook. "From the initial uncertainty surrounding the disease, to the toilet paper shortage scare, to the mask 'debate,' to the long-term socioeconomic and public-health impacts yet unseen, Alabamians have had to endure a great deal of physical and mental duress."

Mindful of the "new normal" and the need for programming responsive to current events, AHF staff sought to evolve its programming to accommodate Alabamians' adaptation to the current reality. Enter the AHF Young Professionals Board.

AHF's Young Professionals Board is comprised of 13 (up to 20) culturally savvy professionals across the state of Alabama aged 21 to 40. The YP Board's mission is to increase awareness of AHF amongst a broad demographic by implementing programming events and activities that display cultural awareness. The board cultivates young professional members into leaders who have a strong understanding of the benefit of the humanities.

Heeding AHF staff's call, the YP Board set out to develop a

program that would help Alabamians contextualize their lives within the pandemic. For all of its inconveniences and tragic life tolls, the pandemic has had a few small silver linings. One of those is a chance to stop the mad dash of life, look around and take inventory of who and where we are. Thus, *Reflect, Alabama* was born.

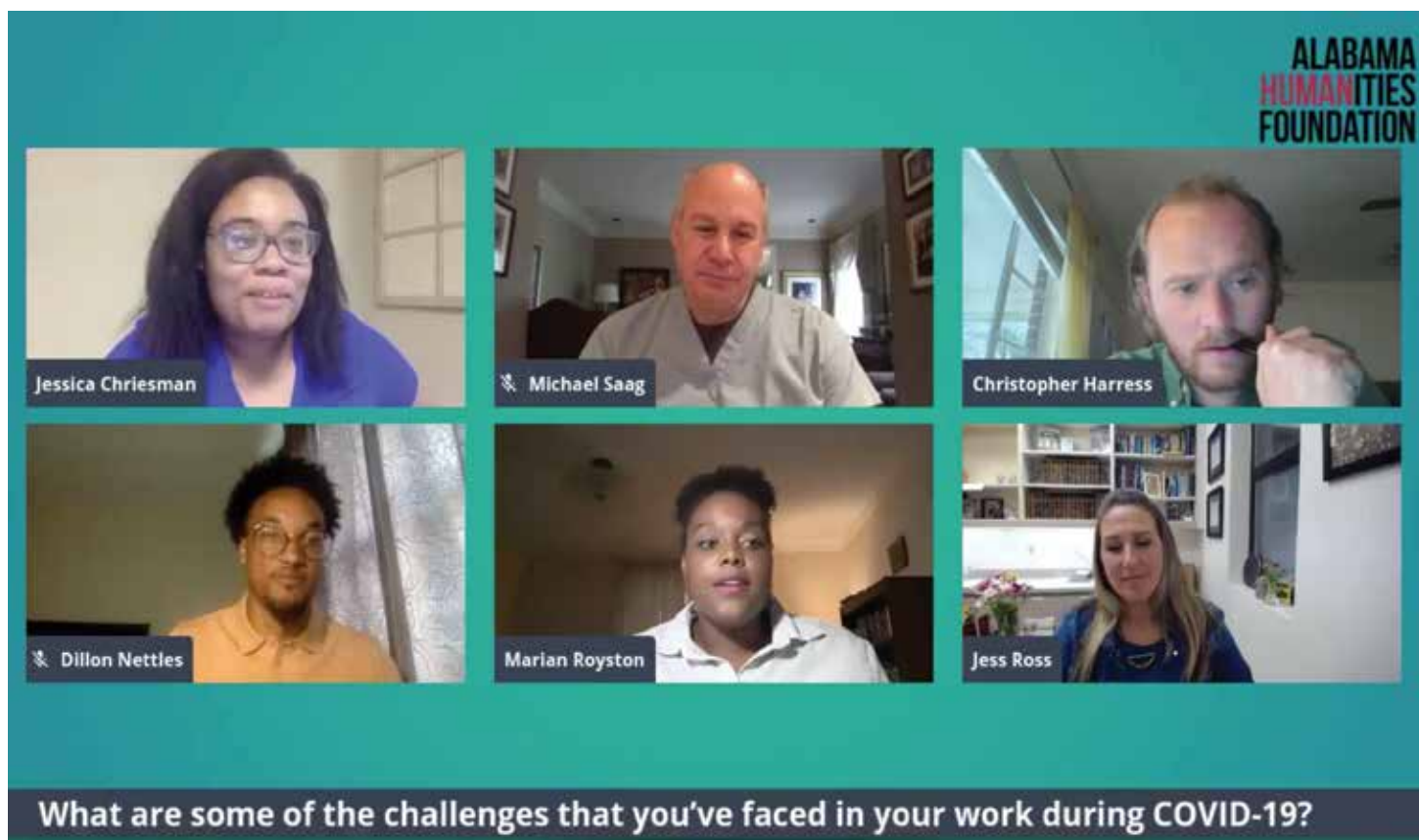
Coming together to reflect and understand

'*Reflect*' is an online conversation series that seeks to generate dialogue among Alabamians. The first installment, which debuted over two weeks in June, posed two guiding questions: Within the context of the current coronavirus pandemic, what makes us human? What makes us Alabamians?

"The *Reflect, Alabama* series has been a great opportunity to bring together experts from all corners of Alabama to educate fans of the Alabama Humanities Foundation on timely topics and how they connect to the humanities," said Jessica Chriesman, YP Board chair.

"It's a way to amplify conversations people are already having and add more nuanced perspectives."

On June 11, Alabamians were invited to partake in online breakout discussions. Five breakout rooms were created to help focus the discussions. Participants could choose to discuss the pandemic within the context of the community, education, journalism, government or public health sector.



The following week, on June 18, Alabamians were invited to engage in a virtual panel discussion featuring experts from these same sectors. The panelists were Jessica Ross, director of the Washington County Public Library; Marian Royston, Roanoke Middle School social studies teacher; Christopher Harress, AL.com journalist; Dillon Nettles, policy analyst for the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama; and Dr. Michael Saag, professor of medicine, Associate for Global Health and director of the UAB Center for AIDS Research. The panel was moderated by YP Board Chair Jessica Chriesman. This particular mixture of panelists provided a great deal of insight their respective fields and how each of those sections of Alabama's infrastructure was responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Jessica Ross highlighted what could be accomplished when individuals and organizations within communities worked together and collaborated on solutions.

Marian Royston spoke from the perspective of one of the most important backbones of all communities — educators. Royston emphasized how existing education networks enable teachers and students to leverage shared resources when a lack of resources already persists. She also elaborated on the importance of structure in the education system where students and their parents rely on said structure to navigate uncertainty to thrive and grow.

Christopher Harress discussed the need for balance in covering critical topics like COVID-19, where reporting content doesn't exaggerate the facts, but the truth is reported in such a way that it is taken seriously and internalized. Harress also stressed the need for more journalists of color who can help. When a global pandemic slowed the world to a grinding halt, Alabama Humanities Young Professionals Board saw an opportunity to bring technology and humanities together for a time of reflection, engagement, enlightenment and understanding.

Reflecting on women and the right to vote

The second installment of *Reflect, Alabama*, Aug. 28, observed the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, and their overall contributions to civic engagement. The panel featured Barbara Caddell, president of the League of Women Voters Alabama; Dr. Bridgett King, Auburn University associate professor of political science; Dr. Martha Bouyer, executive director of the Historic Bethel Baptist Church Community Restoration Fund and Alabama Humanities Fellow; and DeJuana Thompson, founder of Woke Vote.

REFLECT, ALABAMA
Women's Suffrage Centennial & Civic Engagement
an online conversation

Join the Discussion!
THU, AUG. 27 | 6:00P CST

REFLECT, ALABAMA
Women's Suffrage Centennial & Civic Engagement
an online conversation

Join the Discussion!
THU, AUG. 27 | 6:00P CST

REFLECT, ALABAMA
Women's Suffrage Centennial & Civic Engagement
an online conversation

Join the Discussion!
THU, AUG. 27 | 6:00P CST

DR. MARTHA BOUYER

BARBARA CADDELL

DR. BRIDGETT KING

DEJUANA THOMPSON

VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION
AUGUST 27, 2020 | 6P

JUANA THOMPSON
under
the Vote

The panelists reflected on their personal experiences with the American voting system as well the legacies of those who inspired those experiences.

Caddell began by paying homage to

African-American women in Alabama, such as Adella Hunt Logan and Margaret Murray Washington, who had organized suffragists in Tuskegee as early as 1909-10. Dr. Bouyer gave a robust history of the Civil Rights Movement's role in establishing the right to vote for all Americans, sharing primary documents that helped illustrate the history.

In the same vein, Thompson, who joined from Washington, D.C., while taking part in a commemoration of the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington, connected her work to the marchers' legacy. She highlighted how the hard work of the civil rights activists of the 1950s and 60s continues today in the face of modern voter suppression and intimidation. She noted that her work goes beyond rallying voter participation around election cycles to activating long-term voters who participate consistently outside of election season.

Dr. King offered poignant thoughts on maintaining voter engagement, particularly with young people. She noted that her students don't have the blatant reminders of voter suppression and discrimination that are characteristic of the 1950s and 60s, so the challenge lies in keeping them aware of hidden and embedded forms.

"This particular installment was rife with historical reflection and tinged with the hope of what can be accomplished through voting and voting activism in the future," Crook said. ■

Editor's Note: Recordings for both 'Reflect' installments can be found on the Alabama Humanities Foundation Facebook page.

Stony the Road returns in 2021 via NEH grant

“Stony the Road We Trod ...”: Exploring Alabama’s Civil Rights Legacy is set to take place again next year as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers.

Thanks to a \$215,000 grant from the NEH, the institute will be fully funded, able to bring 30 teachers and 16 faculty together in Alabama from around the nation to consider the many lessons to be learned from Alabama’s role in the long movement for civil and human rights in the United States.

Founding Director Dr. Martha Bouyer is as excited about the upcoming class and experience as she has been about the dozens of other teacher institutes she has made possible for educators from throughout the nation during her own career in education.

Despite years of work coordinating field study itineraries and securing funding for life-changing teacher institutes, Bouyer’s energy and enthusiasm for the endeavor grows from year to year. *“The Stony Institute* is designed to engage, educate and empower teachers to revolutionize teaching and learning,” said Bouyer. “With the support of renowned scholars, jurists and presentations by ‘Foot



Teachers at iconic 16th Street Baptist



Teachers watch footage of protesters attacked with dogs and hoses



Teachers from across nation gather at Historic Bethel Church

Soldiers' of the movement and travel to key sites of memory such as Selma, Montgomery and Tuskegee, teachers will undertake an epic journey across Alabama designed to help them reconcile what they thought they knew about this era of history with knowledge, facts and the truth."

Set to take place July 11-31, 2021, this NEH Summer Institute for Teachers will welcome educators from all types of school settings, grade levels and subject area. Of course, for the first time ever, Dr. Bouyer and AHF staff face the question of whether *Stony the Road* will need to be offered virtually.

For now, however, plans are being made for a true field experience based in Birmingham and facilitating participants' group travel to sites of memory and conscious statewide.

After a rigorous application process, 30 educators will be selected as Summer Scholars to participate in the three-week institute. They will spend substantial time in Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery and Tuskegee as they learn more about the movement's non-violent, direct-action, often rural, African-American roots, as well as issues around racial segregation and Jim Crow.

They'll visit museums and historic sites such as Bethel Baptist Church of Collegeville and Brown Chapel AME Church. They'll also walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, tracing the steps of the marchers who were violently confronted by Alabama State Troopers on Bloody Sunday. Summer Scholars will learn from an experienced array of movement foot soldiers and renowned civil rights scholars. This year, Dr. Danielle McGuire, author of *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Race and Resistance*, will join the group for the first time.

This will be the third iteration of the three-week institute. The "*Stony the Road We Trod* ..." project has also offered many shorter, workshop versions of the institute's curriculum. In all, over 1,300 educators from 45 states and five foreign countries have traveled to Alabama to experience *Stony the Road*. ■

Editor's Note: For more information, contact Laura Anderson on the NEH Summer Institute. For instructions on how to apply, visit stonytheroad.org.



Attendees visit the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery



Teachers form a human chain inside Historic Bethel Church as part of an exercise

Virtual Road Scholars series opens new doors of opportunity



Rebekah Davis (left) and Peggy Towns (right) present *Pen Strokes of Justice*. Davis is archivist for Limestone County Archives, and Towns is author of *Scottsboro Unmasked: The Decatur Story*.

For years, Road Scholars crisscrossed Alabama to enlighten, engage and inspire audiences across many miles.

But when the COVID-19 pandemic closed doors around the state and shut down humanities-based organizations, Alabama Humanities Foundation found a way around the challenges of the pandemic, traveling those same miles to deliver humanities programs via the internet.

Facebook Live and Zoom video conferencing became the tools of the day, and organizers soon discovered that there were positives in a time of crisis.

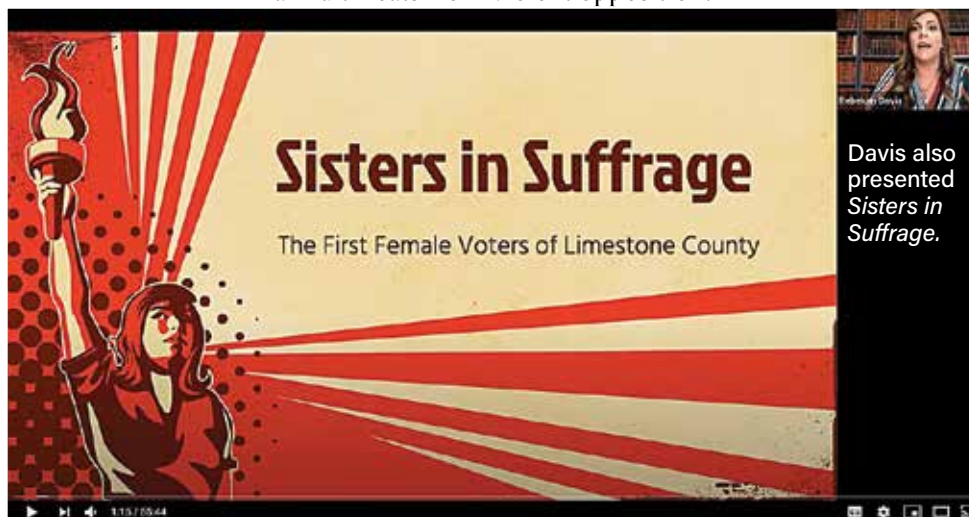
First up was Road Scholar Rebekah Davis, archivist at Limestone County Archives, whose own doors had been closed due to the pandemic. She and others had received a message from Programs Director Melanie Bouyer, pointing out that they had presentations at the ready and asked if they could adapt them to digital delivery.

“We jumped on a Zoom call,” Davis said, “and we discussed what it would look like and how it would work. It was all new for everybody. You couldn’t

really do it the wrong way. It had not been done before. There were no expectations to live up to.”

She saw it as a way to deliver programming in a new manner – “reaching people where they are. You start with what you have and transfer it to a different technology.”

She and author Peggy Towns had done in-person presentations on Judge Horton, the judge in the Scottsboro Boys case who granted a new trial to one of the defendants amid threats from violent opposition.



Davis also presented *Sisters in Suffrage*.

A message sent to Judge Horton during the proceedings

April 6, 1933

W. W.
Harvey
Atlantic City,
NJ



Judge Horton 'archived' all the messages – pro and con – in a lard bucket.

The Horton Papers



CREATE Your Story *AND* IMPACT The World



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SCIENCES

is a proud supporter of the humanities in Alabama and throughout the world. Expand your knowledge and impact by studying in 1 of our 4 online master's degree programs:

- Advertising and Public Relations
Concentration in Marketing Communication Management
- Communication Studies
Specialization in Organizational Leadership
- Journalism and Media Studies
- Library and Information Studies

LEARN MORE

cis.ua.edu/gradstudies

#CreateYourStory

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA®

College of
Communication &
Information Sciences





Rebekah Davis invited participants into her kitchen.

He stored all the handwritten notes – pro and con about his decision – in a lard bucket, and Davis and Towns peeled the lid off and took their audience on a journey of understanding of the case and those turbulent times.

Virtual delivery of that presentation had its advantages, though. Because the pandemic closed the Limestone County Courthouse, too, they were able to broadcast from the very courtroom where Judge Horton presided. “It gave us an opportunity,” Davis said. “I would never have been able to deliver the program with Peggy Towns, a treasure in her own right, from Judge Horton’s courtroom. That was one of the blessings of COVID.”

She had a similar ‘blessing’ with a presentation on women’s suffrage in Limestone County. She delivered a virtual program in the 19th Amendment’s centennial anniversary year, from her pandemic-closed office, which happened to be the old train depot where men protested women’s right to vote. “It was in the spot where history took place.” Like Horton’s courtroom, “We were able to bring the audience to a place they may have never been able to go.” Davis has even taken participants into her own kitchen for a cooking demonstration based on a historic cookbook celebrating its 100th anniversary in print. While the Virtual Road Scholars series saw significant participation numbers during its run over the past few months, Davis noted that as people returned to some semblance of normalcy, interest has not been as high.

But the positives derived

from it are found in a growing resource center for the future. “It’s there.

We recorded the sessions, and we hope they will continue to be used as a resource indefinitely and to complement students’ studies.”

She also points out that the Road Scholars involved have added to their skill sets. “There have been a lot of blessings in this craziness.

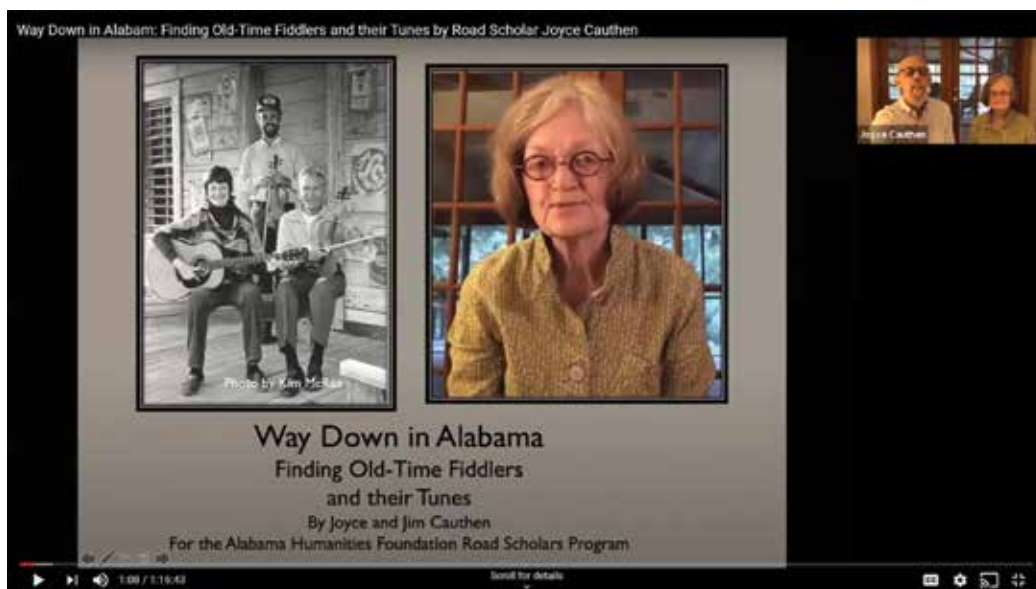
We’ve learned new ways of delivering programming, making it relevant and engaging with the audience.”

Virtual catches on way down in Alabam’

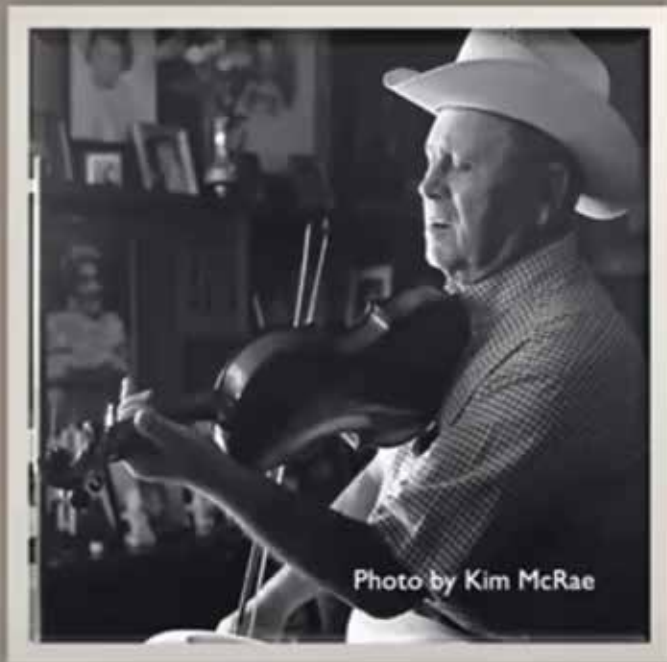
Road Scholars Joyce and Jim Cauthen expressed similar views, calling it a learning curve in working with a virtual presentation versus a live one, but they were willing to put in the work because they wanted control over the finished product.

The Cauthens put together a combination of PowerPoint and iMovie for *Way Down in Alabam’*, recording Joyce’s narratives and their music separately so that videos of her talking or their playing music could appear right alongside photos and graphics.

“When you do it virtually, it lingers,” she said, noting that because the presentation is recorded as a future resource, they wanted it to have a professional look and feel. For instance, when you do a live presentation, alternating between talking and playing, your instrument may become out of tune. When it is live, it would be OK to tune it. When it is in a recorded format, you don’t want that delay.



Joyce and Jim Cauthen video-conferenced from their front porch.



Thomas "Dad" Hill
1910-2001



The Cauthens play a tune within their presentation.

"When you're doing music, things can go wrong," Jim said, and "you would hate for it to be out there forever."

"We really enjoyed doing it, and we got good feedback," she said. More than 250 were in the audience. "It's sure better than any we did live," added Jim.

When they completed work on the presentation, they gave it to Programs Director Melanie Bouyer, who presented it live on Facebook and Zoom, and the audience was able to ask questions of Joyce and Jim in the Zoom session. That made it a completely interactive, engaging experience, even though they were not in the same room as the audience.

"We really care about our music and the fiddlers, and I was happy to get to talk about it," she said, adding that she has appreciated the opportunity to work with the Road Scholar program over decades. She began her tenure with a presentation on Henry Ford, who helped popularize old-time fiddling. She has done others on Sacred Harp singing and Food Ways, the folklore of food.

A former English teacher, she became interested in old-time fiddling, learned to play music from other parts of the country and then started researching its Alabama roots. It led to a book and a recording, and her reputation grew into a job as director of the Alabama Folklife Association.

Now they spend their time giving talks and playing their music. "We've learned a lot," Joyce said. "We appreciate having the opportunity."

Programs Director Melanie Bouyer sees the value in that opportunity as well. "It has increased our reach, not just in Alabama, but we have had videos shared to individuals

across the country," she said.

Actually, the virtual Road Scholars opportunity opened the door to have other programs merge. The presentation on the Scottsboro Boys through Road Scholars had teachers attending and then using it as a resource in their classroom. "They will be able to share the video in their classrooms for years to come," Bouyer said.

Through the program, they were able to give books by local authors to attendees, and they were able to share a PBS documentary with participants, she said. "A lot of good, positive things came from putting Road Scholars online." ■



Jim and Joyce Cauthen discuss old time fiddling.

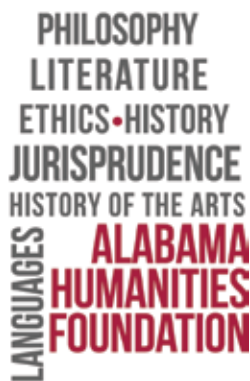
We're attuned.



WV
N
with Alabama

We support the Arts and Humanities because they not only enhance our lives, but also the lives of those who consider working and living here. And as we all know, good business and good living should always be in perfect harmony.

EDPA Economic Development
Partnership of Alabama



Non-Profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 3379

1100 Ireland Way, Suite 202
Birmingham, AL 35205
phone: (205) 558-3980
fax: (205) 558-3981
email: info@alabamahumanities.org
website: alabamahumanities.org

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.



*Corporate sponsorship of this issue of Mosaic
made possible by Vulcan Materials Company.*

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