

Winter / Spring 2010

MOSAIC

The magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation

Still Learning from *Mockingbird*



Behind the V-2 missile

*Celebrate Black History Month
with a Road Scholar presentation*

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Our kudzu philosophy:

At AHF, we think we have a lot to learn from kudzu, or at least its concept.

Like it or hate it, kudzu is truly a ubiquitous feature of Alabama as well as our Southern neighbors. No matter who you are, where you're from or how deeply you're rooted in the humanities, if you know Alabama, you know kudzu. Pesky as it may be, the plant is common to everyone. Kudzu spreads and grows, links and connects. And much like the rich humanities in our state, kudzu can be found, well, everywhere.

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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.

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Humanities Highlight



A look at AHF's past, present and future concerning the humanities discipline of literature.

Reflections

Past Grants and Programs

SUPER

"Sunshine and Shadow: Comedy, Condemnation and Contemplation in Southern Literature," a SUPER Teacher Institute held in July 2005, focused on literature works from three critical periods in the social and political history of the region: the tumultuous times of frontier Jacksonian democracy; the Great Depression; and the civil rights movement. Held at Auburn University—Montgomery and led by Bert Hitchcock, Ph.D., the institute offered an intensive, intellectual and interdisciplinary opportunity for both a diverse and diverting experiencing of the culture(s) of the American South. Literary works covered were highly regarded 19th- and 20th-century works of fiction and autobiographical nonfiction. Comedy, condemnation and contemplation were key conceptual touchstones, enabling participants to thoughtfully encounter Southern history and culture through Southern literature.

Literature in Prog

Present Grants and Programs

Mary Ward Brown
Jerry Siegel



Road Scholars Speakers Bureau

In 2010 and 2011, Richard Anderson, Ph.D., a member of AHF's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, is available to present "Mary Ward Brown's Alabama: An Introduction to Her Stories." Anderson refers to Brown, of Perry County, as the Homer of the Black Belt. For three decades, Brown has been publishing short stories, which are among the best written in the United States today. Yet she remains an underappreciated asset to the state, not known by many Alabamians. The presentation will inform general readers of Brown's achievements and introduce them to her fiction. Her works include *Tongues of Flame* and *It Wasn't All Dancing and Other Stories*.

 **Find out more:** ahf.net/speakersbureau



Amos Kennedy demonstrates letterpress printing at the 2009 Alabama Book Festival.
Mike Cortez


Looking Ahead

Future Grants and Programs

Grants

Since its inaugural year in 2006, the Alabama Book Festival has drawn increasing numbers of readers to Old Alabama Town in Montgomery to discuss literature, meet authors and learn about the state of contemporary publishing. The free, public event is the

state's premier book festival—with more than 4,000 people from around Alabama converging in the capital city to meet and hear from their favorite authors and scholars. The family-friendly festival promotes reading and literacy to Alabamians of all ages and backgrounds. Set for Saturday, April 17, the book festival will feature approximately 50 authors, including writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and children's literature. Rick Bragg will be reading from his new book *The Most They Ever Had* and telling stories about the cotton mill and the people of Jacksonville. Other featured writers with newly released books include Ace Atkins, Irene Latham, Bobby McAlpine, Frye Gaillard, Karen Spears Zacharias, Rheta Grimsley Johnson, Jim Noles and Patti Callahan Henry. Formerly spearheaded by the Alabama

Center for the Book, the 2010 Alabama Book Festival has been organized as a statewide collaborative project by various entities, including Old Alabama Town Landmarks Foundation; the Alabama Writers' Forum; Auburn University's Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities; Alabama Public Television; the Montgomery County Public Library; Troy University—Montgomery; and through major funding from AHF, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Support the Arts Car Tag, Alabama Power Company, Alagasco, Alabama Public Television, the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, and Hyundai. The fifth-annual Alabama Book Festival demonstrates Alabama's dedication to the promotion of literacy and the love of reading.  **Find out more:** oldalabamatown.com

North Hull Street Grocery at Old Alabama Town in Montgomery.
Ken Blackwell



The mission of the Alabama Humanities Foundation is to create and foster opportunities to explore human values and meanings through the humanities.

MOSAIC



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Photo courtesy of Monroe County Heritage Museum



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On the Cover: Boo Radley's gifts for Scout and Jem—two Indian-head pennies, chewing gum, soap dolls, a rusty medal, a ball of twine and a broken watch and chain—were small enough to fit in the trunk of a tree. But Harper Lee's gift to the ages, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, will remain a universal treasure for generations to come.

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Feature

Still Learning from <i>Mockingbird</i>	17
<i>As the state's most prized novel celebrates its 50th birthday, AHF looks at how To Kill a Mockingbird, through our programs and grants, continues to move us.</i>	

Letter from the Board Chair

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on. Brian Wren's prophetic hymn opens with an appropriate maxim as the Alabama Humanities Foundation sets its course for 2010. As board chair, it is tempting to dwell on past accomplishments—but instead it's time to remember (briefly) and move on.

While we say farewell to the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street exhibition "New Harmonies" (see page 12), which focused on music in American culture, plans are already under way to host the Smithsonian's "Journey Stories" exhibit in 2011, which highlights the role of migration and transportation in our nation's development. In addition, in 2010 almost 1,000 Alabama schools will display free, permanent collections of 40 high-quality prints of American art that provide intellectual pathways to understanding our nation's history and culture. (For more on "Picturing America," visit page 23.)

Looking ahead, the AHF Board welcomes six newly elected directors, whose outstanding qualities are profiled in this issue on page 22. I am extremely impressed with their dedication to volunteering time, energies and resources toward serving a mission greater than themselves. They will contribute ideas and directions to the new programs already on the drawing board for this year. One new initiative is eMosaic, an online newsletter aimed at keeping our constituents aware of humanities happenings. I invite you to use this new medium to stay in touch with AHF and to contribute to the ongoing discussion of humanities through the Kudzu Twines Journal blog, at ahf.net/blog. You may also now easily make your financial contributions online by visiting ahf.net/give.

Only a year ago, AHF faced challenges precipitated by the worldwide financial crisis. With your help, we trimmed our sails and weathered the storm without serious damage to our craft. Fortunately, Congress continues to support the National Endowment for the Humanities—under the leadership of new Chairman James Leach—and the state humanities councils. While the funding issue still looms large, there arose a more serious challenge to the quality of life in our country—incivility. In this time of increasing public incivility, the rational voices that address ambiguity, doubt and skepticism in our culture must rise above the political clamor. Those voices represent the humanities, the reservoir from which we renew ourselves.

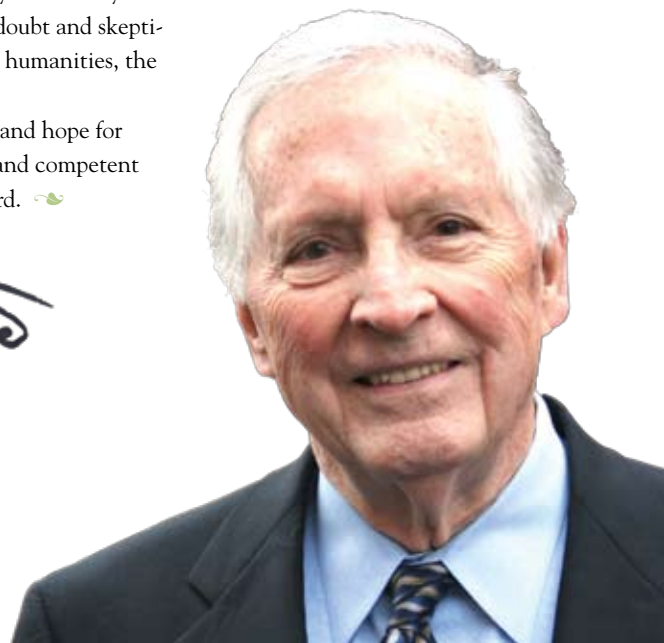
I am pleased and honored to welcome each of you to a new year full of promise and hope for improving the quality of life for citizens of Alabama. The AHF Board of Directors and competent staff stand ready to direct our energies to further AHF's mission. Let us move forward. 🌱



Bob Whetstone, Chair
AHF Board of Directors



Whetstone visited the "New Harmonies" exhibition opening in Troy.



Empowering Communities

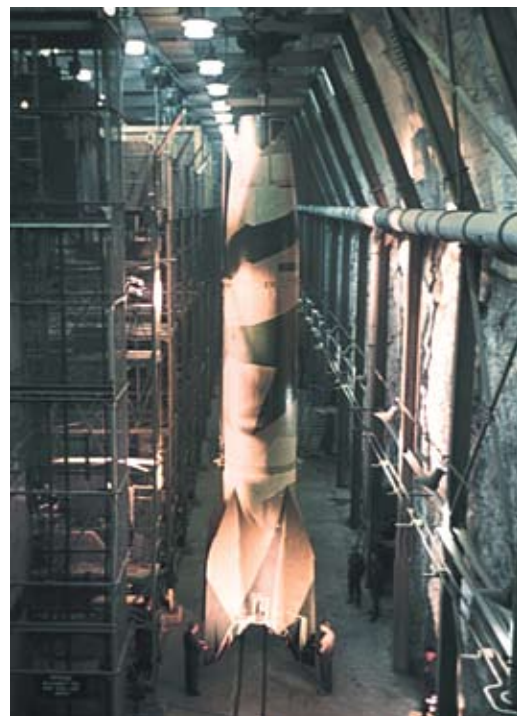
Featuring statewide programs and projects supported by AHF grants.

Funding Focus



Huntsville's V-2 exhibition is a first for the United States.

“Dora and the V-2: Slave Labor in the Space Age,” an exhibition on display at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) from Feb. 21 to March 12, explores the history and meaning of slave labor in the construction of the V-2 missiles during World War II at the Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp and underground factory near Nordhausen, Germany. The photographs, artwork, posters and artifacts come from two European museums and have substantial material never-before-shown in the United States. A UAH music professor will also compose and perform an original score for a recital held during the exhibition.



Mittelwerk underground V-2 factory.
Hanns-Peter Frentz/Amicale des déportés de Dora-Elrich

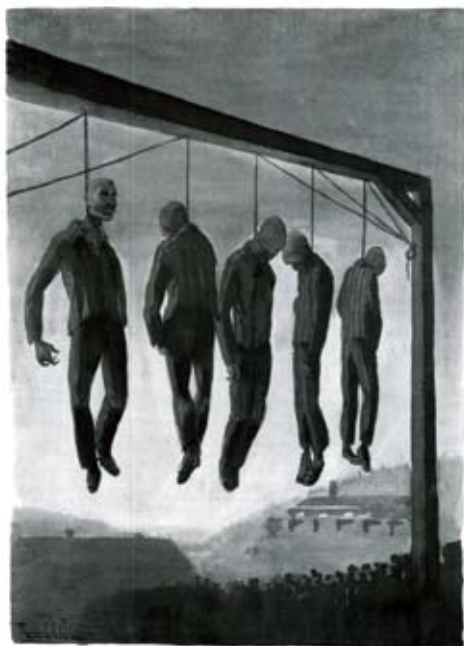
The concentration camp and missile factory at Mittelbau-Dora had unique features. The Mittelbau camp, better known by its code name Dora, produced V-2 missiles in the world's largest underground factory. Unlike camps that used Hitler's racial victims, the Dora slave workers were mostly prisoners of war, political dissenters and criminals. Of the 60,000 slave workers, one-third died. Unique in the history of weapons, the production of the V-2 cost more lives than the missile took when used against its targets. Mittelbau-Dora also was unique in that it literally disappeared from sight. Local people scavenged its buildings for lumber after the war, but the Soviet Union sealed the tunnels in 1947 and the world forgot about the site. During the Cold War, the V-2 became the technological forerunner of the military and space rockets of the United States, including the Redstone and Saturn rockets developed in Huntsville. After the Cold War, Europeans and Americans rediscovered Dora.

Twenty recently discovered, rare-color documentary photos taken by Walter Frentz capture slave workers on the V-2. Frentz was a protégé of Nazi filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, a friend of armaments minister Albert

Huntsville native U.S. Army Lt. John Rison Jones, a liberator of the Dora camp.
UAH Salmon Library



Speer and the favorite photographer of Hitler. Speer arranged for Frenzt to take carefully staged photos to convince Hitler that slave laborers could make an advanced weapon. The other part of the exhibition consists of 63 digital scans of drawings as well as some photos created by both victims and perpetrators at Mittelbau-Dora. They made the works during or immediately after the war, depicting the hardship and cruelty of the camp and tunnels. Neither the Frenzt photos nor the prisoner drawings have ever been exhibited in the United States. A traveling poster exhibit from Germany provides historical context as well as information about individual commanders, engineers, guards and prisoners. The 33 artifacts include a prisoner uniform, wooden clogs, a wooden gag with barb-wire ties used in hanging, and rocket parts. This exhibition is one important product of Germany's attempts to address its past and feelings of national culpability through disclosure, truth telling and scholarly research. 🌱



Survivor's drawing of the hanging of five prisoners.
Drawing by Maurice de la Pintièrre, courtesy
Mme de la Pintièrre



The exhibition **"From Factory to Field,"** opening April 1 at Vulcan Park and Museum, examines the phenomenon of America's favorite pastime in Birmingham. The exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of Rickwood Field (pictured above), America's oldest operational ballpark, and dispels the common myth that baseball made its way south through former Confederate prisoners of war, who learned the sport from Union captors. "From Factory to Field" argues that Birmingham, in fact, embraced baseball for the same reasons that northern industrialized cities in the late 1800s did. Rail lines probably brought the idea of baseball to Birmingham, and the sport took hold because the game appealed to time-clock-based industrial society, which included immigrants and rural transplants who needed outdoor recreation in an urban setting as a means of assimilation and socialization. Baseball's blend of teamwork and individualism, two characteristics also applicable to an effective factory worker, reflect industrial work patterns. The industrial league system became a pool of talent for the town's two professional ball teams: the Barons and the Black Barons. Baseball mirrored segregated life in Birmingham at the time. There are anecdotal reports of black and white teams playing one another and players being arrested in violation of city code. The great Mobile-born pitcher Satchel Paige, who played for the Black Barons from 1927 to 1929, went on to play for the Cleveland Indians in 1948 at the age of 42, making him the game's oldest rookie. Fairfield's pride and joy, Willie Mays, went from playing for Fairfield's industrial league team to eventually playing for the New York Giants. "From Factory to Field" celebrates these African-American players and others and discusses how they advanced civil rights in the city. The exhibition concludes with the desegregation of baseball and the modern-day Barons. Baseball is a compelling lens through which to view the social changes in Birmingham's history.

Read more about the history of baseball in Alabama, beginning on page 24.

Empowering Communities *(continued)*

Grants Awarded

AHF awarded grants totaling \$124,000 to date in fiscal year 2009.



Eating Alabama Amalgamation Films \$2,500 matching

The documentary film explores the history of Alabama agriculture and food culture.

Peanut harvesting in Autaugaville.
Ken Blackwell

New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music, Macon County Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center \$1,000 outright

The local exhibition and programs explore the music heritage of Macon County.

Roots and Fruits: A Musical Legacy of Tuskegee and Macon County Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center \$4,000 outright

The local exhibition and programs explore the music heritage of Macon County.

New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music, Washington County Washington County Museum \$1,000 outright

Cultural events about local music traditions complement "New Harmonies."

New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music, Fort Payne Big Wills Arts Council \$1,000 outright

Fort Payne celebrates its local music with exhibitions, programs and the Boom Days Heritage Celebration.

Red Mountain Reading Series Jefferson State Community College \$1,719 outright

Wendy Reed, Jeanie Thompson and Norman McMillan give public readings of their works for the community.

Daniel Wallace for the Big Read Shelby County Arts Council \$2,000 outright

Shelby County's Big Read project culminates with Daniel Wallace's reading discussion and workshops.

The Chronicles of Up From Slavery Tuskegee University \$1,376 outright

The oral history project and public lecture presents historical information about Booker T. Washington.

Magnolia Springs Lecture Series Magnolia Springs Community Association \$2,000 outright

The lecture series focuses on literature, music and history.

Opportunistic Architecture Symposium Centre for the Living Arts \$2,000 outright

The symposium on contemporary architecture focuses on the changes in the historical, cultural and environmental issues in Alabama coastal communities.

New Perspectives: Alabama and the WPA Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities \$5,000 outright

The lecture series in Auburn and five rural communities presents an overview of the WPA programs in Alabama.

Dora and the V-2: Slave Labor in the Space Age University of Alabama in Huntsville \$7,620 outright

The exhibition explores the history and meaning of slave labor in the construction of V-2 missiles during World War II at Dora concentration camp and underground factories in Germany.

Voices of the Holocaust: Learning from the Past to Protect the Future Alabama Holocaust Commission \$5,380 outright

Public lectures and teacher workshops in four communities recall the history of the Holocaust.

From Factory to Field Vulcan Park and Museum \$4,000 outright

The exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of Rickwood Field and the history of baseball as a reflection of the social changes in Birmingham.

Alabama Book Festival Fiction Venue Troy University—Montgomery \$4,000 outright

The fiction venue at the Alabama Book Festival features author readings and discussions.

Alabama Book Festival Nonfiction Venue Old Alabama Town / Landmarks Foundation \$4,000 outright

The nonfiction venue at the Alabama Book Festival features author readings and discussions.

Alabama Book Festival Poetry Venue and Teacher Workshop Alabama Writers' Forum \$4,000 outright

The poetry venue at the Alabama Book Festival features author readings and discussions.

Red Mountain Park Oral History Project Red Mountain Greenway and Recreational Area \$2,000 outright

Local oral histories will inspire the public discussion programs and an exhibition at Birmingham's Red Mountain Park.

Our Story, Our Song: Celebrating Our Heritage of Hymns Lurleen B. Wallace Community College \$2,500 outright

The conference features scholars on folk hymn traditions and hymnody.

Slash Pine Poetry Festival Slash Pine Poetry Festival / Slash Pine Press \$600 outright

The poetry festival features 40 national and regional writers in five venues in the Tuscaloosa and Northport areas.

Billy G. Hinson Lecture Series University of Mobile \$800 outright

Eric Walther, Ph.D., of the University of Houston will talk about Alabama's role in the presidential election of 1860.

Montevallo Literary Festival

Montevallo Literary Festival

\$900 outright

The festival celebrates the literary arts with readings of poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

Selma-Dallas County Reading / Discussion Series

Selma and Dallas County Public Library

\$800 outright

Nancy Anderson, English professor at AUM, leads the monthly reading/discussion sessions at the public library.

A Place for All: Religion in Antebellum Alabama

Landmarks Foundation

\$900 outright

The symposium with featured scholars focuses on the historical development of religion on the frontier and within the burgeoning state from both orthodox and unorthodox perspectives.

Southern Voices 2010 Conference: Window to the World

Hoover Public Library

\$800 outright

The conference presents authors of global and Southern perspectives, from the poet Billy Collins to columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson, and novelists Ridley Pearson, Ad Hudler, Todd Johnson, Masha Hamilton and Diane McWhorter.

Foot Soldiers for Democracy

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

\$700 outright

The public program series highlights the importance of civic engagement in the civil rights movement and American life.

Humanities and the Environment

Alabama State University

\$700 outright

The multidisciplinary program explores the environment through the perspectives of history, art history, philosophy, architectural history and media studies.

"New Perspectives: Alabama

and the WPA" is a lecture series

developed by the C.M. Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities and individually in Anniston, Fayette, Notasulga and Sylacauga. Elizabeth Broun, the Margaret and Terry Stent Director at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, will discuss the Public Works of Art Project, the specific artists and the significance of a nationally supported art program. Bert Hitchcock, professor emeritus of English at Auburn University, will consider



the contributions of the Federal Writers' Project writers and native Alabamians Margaret Alexander, Ruby Pickens Tartt and Zora Neale Hurston. Susana Morris, also of the English department at Auburn, will examine the slave narratives that came out of the Federal Writers' Project. Finally, Nick Taylor, who recently published *American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA—When FDR Put the Nation to Work*, will give an overview of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration and its impact on the country. The study of WPA projects seems especially poignant in light of the recent economic downturn. 🌱

As Shelby County's Big Read project, along with the Alabama Department of Tourism's theme of the Year of Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns, well-known Alabama writer **Daniel Wallace** will conduct a two-day residency, April 18–19, with reading discussion programs at Vincent High School and surrounding schools, the Pelham Public Library and the Harrison Regional Library in Columbiana. "Daniel Wallace for the Big Read" grant program involves the entire Shelby County community in events by targeting diverse age groups, ethnic groups and socioeconomic groups. This literary project showcases the talent of a Southern writer to inspire pride in the community's common Southern heritage. Wallace will use humor, local dialects and folksy wisdom to illustrate the quintessential Southern experience with readings from his books. 🌱

13th-Annual Alabama Writers Symposium: Literature on Location, Muse of Place

Alabama Center for Literary Arts / Alabama Southern Community College

\$7,000 outright

The literary conference features readings and discussions by writers, poets and scholars.

Author Rick Bragg speaks at the 2009 Alabama Writers Symposium in the Old Courthouse in Monroeville.



Strengthen your connection to humanities in Alabama by going online.



eMosaic

In October, the Alabama Humanities Foundation launched its first-ever e-newsletter, eMosaic. We heard from many of you and are thankful for your feedback and suggestions. AHF is happy to report that eMosaic was a success, and will be sent to constituents' inboxes five times a year. Look for it in February, April, June, October and December of 2010.

To sign up to receive eMosaic, visit ahf.net/blog/contact, or call or e-mail Katie Crawford, public relations and publications manager, at (205) 558-3991 or kcrawford@ahf.net.

Get to know your state humanities council!

Schedule an AHF Humanities Happening talk for your next luncheon, meeting or seminar.

Talks include:

- Overview of the humanities disciplines and their importance
- Discussion on the AHF mission, its purpose and goals
- Presentation of the Foundation's beneficial public programs
- Highlighting of AHF-funded statewide grant projects
- Introduction to available humanities resources, including a look at the AHF regional calendar of events and Alabama's comprehensive web-based reference guide, the *Encyclopedia of Alabama*

Humanities Happening talks are provided at no cost to nonprofit groups and are led by AHF Board and staff members. Talks are separate from AHF's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau presentations.

To learn how to book a talk, contact Katie Crawford at (205) 558-3991 or kcrawford@ahf.net.

Web Speak

For those involved in the area of humanities, it is easy to be torn between two sides of an ongoing debate: are Internet networking outlets—such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs, to name a few—tainting our culture?

Luckily for AHF, we have found ways to advance humanities education by utilizing these tools. In fact, we've noticed a lot of nonprofits in our state doing the same. While we recognize it's not essential to jump on board the social media bandwagon, we're excited about the success we've seen so far.

Twitter

What is it? A free service that allows users to send and read other users' updates, which are text-based posts of up to 140 characters in length.

How is AHF using it? Twitter is used to drive traffic to ahf.net, send links to humanities information and alert followers of upcoming events.

How do I get involved? Follow AHF on Twitter by going to twitter.com/ahf. Sign up and receive daily AHF updates.

Facebook

What is it? A free-access website in which users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, region and interest to connect and interact with other people who share their same interests.

How is AHF using it? Facebook is primarily used to promote the Foundation's mission, statewide programs and projects, and to serve Alabamians who have specific interests in the humanities.

How do I get involved? Visit facebook.com/alabamahumanities. To become fully involved, join Facebook and connect to us by becoming our Facebook friend.

Flickr

What is it? A free image- and video-hosting site that allows visitors to view, print and download photos of all sizes.

How is AHF using it? Photos from AHF programs, grant projects and other humanities events are uploaded to and featured on Flickr.

How do I get involved? Check Flickr frequently for AHF images by visiting flickr.com/photos/alahumanities. Images are arranged by category on the right side of the page.

Be Heard

How can internet technology hurt the humanities, how can it improve them, and where is the balance?

Let us hear from you! Send your name, location and response to kcrawford@ahf.net. All responses will be featured on the AHF blog.

Giving and Receiving: Readily Giving

Highlights of Alabama Humanities council-conducted and donor-supported programs.

Enabling Alabama's Elementary Educators



(Left to right) Rob Riley, Janet Leffard, Fredna Grimmert, Carol Murphree, Patsy Riley, Melissa Elliott, Rebecca Campbell, Susie Criswell and Edgar Welden

The 2009 Alabama Humanities awards luncheon recognized six elementary teachers receiving the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will support their professional development and classroom enhancements in history and civics. Generously funded by Edgar and Louise Welden of Birmingham, the scholarships honor the memory of Jenice Riley, the late daughter of Gov. Bob Riley and his wife Patsy, whose passion for teaching and devotion to community helped ensure a quality education for our state's youth.

Rob Riley presented the awards, and emphasized the need for teaching excellence in the classroom. He stated he enjoyed speaking about his late sister and her love for children, and thanked the recipients of the awards, adding that they are often not thanked enough.

"I consider it to be an honor and a privilege for my project to have been selected for a Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship," said Janet Leffard, 3rd–5th grades teacher at Dodge Elementary School in Mobile. "I think it is very important for Americans and Alabamians to appreciate and to help preserve our nation's and our state's history." 🌿



Students at Auburn's Richland Elementary School enjoy a program supported by 2008 recipient Lorie Johnson's scholarship.

Rebecca Campbell

4th-grade teacher, Uniontown Elementary School, Uniontown

The 4th-grade students will receive books and resources about Alabama history, create a book about the history of buildings in Uniontown, and visit Montgomery as the culminating event in their study of Alabama history.

Susie Criswell

3rd–5th grades teacher, Wrights Mill Road Elementary School, Auburn

Students will learn about the life histories of residents in a retirement community, adopt a tree on the nearby History Tree Trail with the seniors, research historical heroes and create two scrapbooks with a DVD for the school and retirement center.

Melissa Elliott

5th-grade teacher, Lynn Fanning Elementary School, Meridianville

The 5th-graders will research and rescue a "forgotten" cemetery in the Huntsville area to learn about local history and the Civil War from several different points of view.

Fredna Grimmert

5th-grade teacher, Ogletree Elementary School, Auburn

In collaboration with the music, art and language arts teachers, Grimmert, a social studies teacher, will use the 2010 Alabama gubernatorial race to teach citizenship and responsibility in the democratic election process.

Janet Leffard

3rd–5th grades teacher, Dodge Elementary School, Mobile

Leffard's work will focus on "Schools for Our Ship," a real-world learning experience concerning the USS Alabama Battleship, a National Historic Landmark and Alabama monument to veterans of World War II. Her students will create traveling "footlockers" with lesson plans, replicas of WWII memorabilia and a DVD to enhance classroom lessons in other schools.

Carol Murphree

6th-grade teacher, Russellville Middle School, Russellville

The 6th-grade students will learn about Alabama's contributions to history through the "Wall of Fame Books," a classroom resource center.

AHF is now accepting applications for the 2010 Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship

Scholarships may be used for attending an institute or seminar; traveling to libraries, museums or archives; offering an innovative school program; or providing new educational opportunities for students. Selection will be based on the teacher's commitment to encouraging students' pride in Alabama and America, helping students to understand history, instilling awareness and appreciation of our forefathers and heritage, building civic pride, and teaching the value of public service. Please contact **Susan Perry**, grants director, at (205) 558-3993 or sperry@ahf.net to receive a copy of the application, or visit ahf.net. **The deadline for applications is Friday, May 28.**

Giving and Receiving: Readily Giving *(continued)*

Museum on Main Street



“New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music,” the traveling Smithsonian exhibition sponsored by AHF, closed on Jan. 8 in Tuskegee after traveling to six Alabama towns in 2009. Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Tuscumbia will become the permanent home for the companion traveling exhibition “Heroes, Hymns, Hard Times and Good Times: The Roots of Traditional Music in Alabama” (pictured above), curated by writer Fred Fussell and created by artist Ted Whisenhunt.



Each host site created its own exhibition and public programs that told the story of its local music heritage.

■ Tuscumbia featured “New Harmonies and Muscle Shoals Music: Early Traditions to Rhythm and Blues,” an extensive collection showcasing the Muscle Shoals famous recording studios and traditional music history. A live concert at the historic Ritz Theatre (pictured left) opened the Smithsonian exhibition for the state.

■ Livingston’s local exhibit (pictured right, with “New Harmonies” scholar Alan Brown) focused on the rich history in folklife of West Alabama and the Black Belt region, highlighting Ruby Pickens Tartt, the WPA projects of the 1930s and information from folklorists such as Alan Lomax.



■ Chatom transformed its public library into a juke box with a local exhibition, and featured the famous Sullivan Family, a guitar collection and an opening with Winky Hicks and Frontier Bluegrass Band.

■ Fort Payne showcased its own music hall of fame. More than 1,200 students in DeKalb County saw the exhibition. The Pap Baxter Heritage Gospel Singing School encouraged the younger generation to appreciate traditional music.



■ Troy's opening (pictured above; and top, opposite page) included "New Harmonies" scholar Alan Brown's lecture on Alabama's music icons, including W.C. Handy and Hank Williams, and an event at the Band Directors Hall of Fame.

■ Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center concluded the "New Harmonies" tour with the "Roots and Fruits: A Musical Legacy of Macon County" exhibition and programs highlighting sacred music and the Booker T. Washington High School marching band. 🌿



Black History Month

Book an AHF scholar for your Black History Month event.

**"Keep the Faith, Baby!":
The Life and Legacy of
Adam Clayton Powell Jr.**

Presented by J.D. Jackson

**Revisiting Uncle Tom:
Booker T. Washington and the
Politics of Race, Economics and
Education in the South**

Presented by Bertis English

**Martin Luther King:
Letter from Birmingham Jail**

Presented by Robert Schaefer

**A Sense of Place: The African-
American Women of Sloss Quarters**

Presented by Karen Utz

Nat King Cole

Presented by Daphne Simpkins

**Rock in a Weary Land: The Black
Church in 19th-Century Alabama**

Presented by Richard Bailey

**To Treat and To Train: Tuskegee's
John A. Andrews Clinic**

Presented by Thomas Ward

Tuxedo Junction in Ensley

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**"The Iron Finger of Love":
The Journey of Clifton Taulbert
from Mississippi's Black Belt**

Presented by Nancy Anderson

**Mother's Day 1961:
The Freedom Rides in Alabama**

Presented by Laura Anderson

**Fiddlers, Banjo Players and
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Presented by Joyce Cauthen

For further information on how to book a scholar, please contact AHF Programs Coordinator Michael Chambers at (205) 558-3999 or mchambers@ahf.net. Full presentation descriptions and the entire 2010–11 Road Scholars Speakers Bureau catalog are available for viewing online.



Find out more: ahf.net/speakersbureau 🌿

Giving and Receiving: Grateful to Receive

A focus on our generous givers.

Many Thanks

In this issue of *Mosaic*, we are delighted to salute the individuals, corporations and foundations that provided support for the humanities in Alabama throughout 2009. You have helped open the gate for ongoing good works, and have been persistent and determined that AHF organize and provide significant educational programs and services to Alabamians.

To read about the events your funding directly supported in 2009, see pages 11–13 for the “Readily Giving” section, where we highlight how AHF is giving your money back to our state.

As we begin 2010, we turn to the generous individuals, foundations and corporations who have financially supported our mission. Please use the enclosed response envelope to make a gift today, or visit us online at ahf.net/give. 🌱

Written by Paul Lawson, CFRE
AHF Director of Development and Public Relations



William G. Gantt

One of You: William G. Gantt

William G. Gantt not only supports AHF as a donor, but he is also an AHF grant recipient and an avid promoter of humanities in Alabama. A Birmingham attorney, Gantt maintains his hometown attachments to Demopolis, a town that attracted the immigrant ancestors of playwright Lillian Hellman to America during the early 1800s. Demopolis was also home to Albert Tallichet, a Swiss immigrant and the great-grandfather of actress Margaret Tallichet, who became Mrs. William Wyler.

These remarkable Alabama connections to Lillian Hellman and William Wyler, thanks to Demopolis, were celebrated in March 2007 with the Hellman Wyler Festival, chaired by Gantt and supported by the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Wyler brought Hellman's plays *The Little Foxes*, based upon her Demopolis banking family, and *The Children's Hour* to the screen over the course of his distinguished and Oscar-laden career.

The Hellman Wyler Festival proved so popular that it helped to launch the Southern Literary Trail (SLT), another AHF project chaired by Gantt. In March 2009, the SLT

Trailfest featured humanities programs, plays and film screenings in towns associated with important fiction writers in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Plans are under way for the second Trailfest in March 2011, and Gantt continues to direct SLT for all three states.

The Trail sponsored a reception after a screening of *The Little Foxes* in Hollywood's vintage Egyptian Theater on June 15, 2009, to a packed house of Hellman and Wyler enthusiasts. Gantt introduced the film and credited AHF for its support of both the Hellman Wyler Festival and the Southern Literary Trail during his talk.

In 2004, the Marengo County Historical Society awarded Gantt with its Francis Strother Lyon Award for his contributions to the society's work. He also serves on the Demopolis Old School Board, currently dedicated to transforming the city's oldest school building into a regional destination for the performing arts. Gantt also served on the board of Birmingham Festival Theatre and produced its presentations of the plays *Intimate Apparel* and *I am my Own Wife*.

The humanities in Alabama have benefitted greatly from Gantt's tireless work and leadership. 🌱

Leaving Its Mark: Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation

Long involved in community activities in various ways, Wachovia, now a Wells Fargo company, has been a true corporate citizen and valuable partner to the Alabama Humanities Foundation. In 2009, the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation provided a significant grant for AHF's SUPER Teacher Program. For a number of years, prior to reaching an agreement to merge with Wachovia in 2004, SouthTrust Bank provided significant support and served as a vital partner of AHF programs and services.

In addition to helping AHF, Wachovia has a history of helping nonprofits throughout Alabama. The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation has been a multimillion-dollar contributor to hundreds of nonprofits throughout the state. Wachovia also supports the community through team-member volunteerism. In 2008, Alabama Wachovia team members logged 11,262 hours in volunteer time with local nonprofits—the equivalent of \$219,721 at a rate of \$19.51 per hour. Through their Reading First initiative, Wachovia employees read aloud to nearly 1,700 schoolchildren.

Across Alabama, Wachovia provides banking and other financial services at more than 170 locations, including 142 community banking stores. It has the No. 2 market share in Alabama with \$9 billion in deposits, and it provides some 2,700 jobs.

Wachovia became part of Wells Fargo in late 2008, retaining a major presence in Birmingham, its headquarters for operations in Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi. With the merger, Wachovia customers now have access to the most extensive financial services network in the U.S., with 6,600 bank stores and 12,000 ATMs in 39 states. The company is the nation's leading small business lender, mortgage producer and agricultural lender among commercial banks. It is the No. 2 full-service brokerage and family-wealth provider.

At the same time, the combined company is striving to be the best local bank in its Alabama communities, and it places a strong emphasis on local decision making. In shifting to Wells Fargo, it is also hiring community bankers across Alabama.

The company's leaders have stressed that they are putting customers and employees first as they combine Wachovia and Wells Fargo. Signs will change to Wells Fargo, but not until the conversion occurs in Alabama within about a year.

The company's vision is to help its customers achieve financial success and to provide all of their financial needs. Through service to customers and communities, it is seeking to be known as one of America's—and Alabama's—great companies. 🌱

About the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation

The mission of the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve quality of life and make a positive difference. It is a private foundation providing grants to eligible 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support these focus areas: education, community development, health and human services, arts and culture, the environment, and civic life.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation is appreciative of Wachovia's continued support.



Giving Just Got Easier

The Foundation appreciates your interest in and support of the humanities in Alabama. To keep you informed of where your gifts are going, AHF regularly updates its website, ahf.net, with photos and information, and online forms and applications, that deal with our many programs, events and grant projects.

AHF is pleased to announce that giving to humanities is now just as easy as learning about them. Our new giving site, ahf.net/give, provides you with an easy opportunity to give at the click of a button.

Please consider giving online today—and while you're at our site, browse around. You may learn something you didn't know about the state and its rich humanities.

ahf.net/give

Giving and Receiving: Grateful to Receive *(continued)*

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The *To Kill a Mockingbird* mural in Monroeville.

Still Learning from *Mockingbird*

Harper Lee's classic tale turns 50

Half a century after its first publishing, *To Kill a Mockingbird* remains one of the most important tales ever told. Join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the acclaimed novel—and highlight how the book teaches us even today.

Unless otherwise noted, narrative portions of this article were excerpted from the full article *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Wayne Flynt, on EncyclopediaOfAlabama.org.

Simple Truths

*The following perspective was written by former AHF Board member Wayne Greenhaw of Montgomery. The author of 22 books, Greenhaw's most recent novel, *Fighting the Devil in Dixie*, will be published in 2010. The book covers the Ku Klux Klan wars beginning in the late 1950s and ending in the 1980s.*

Recently, I reread *To Kill a Mockingbird* for the 14th or 15th time; I've lost count of the times. Each time I find something new that thrills.

Harper Lee's famous novel resonates, both for the insight it offers into human nature and its illustration of the importance of the rule of law and its beauty as a story.

I first read it as a 20-year-old student at the University of Alabama. I was immediately impressed with its clarity of characters, the simplicity and economy of style, and its brilliant depiction of small-town Alabama in the early 1930s. I had grown up in small towns like Maycomb. I knew people like the Haverfords, "a name synonymous with jackass;" Walter Cunningham, who didn't have money for lunch but who was too proud to take a handout; and Burris Ewell, who has been going to the first day of the first grade and then dropping out for years.

In each town we had a ghost house not unlike the Radley place that intrigued us endlessly. For each, we had a cadre of stories woven by our imaginations.



Wayne Greenhaw

My brother, our friends and I were carried into Birmingham on Saturdays. We attended double-feature Westerns sandwiched between melodramatic serials. Returning home, like Scout and Jem and Dill, each would take a part to act out in grand style.

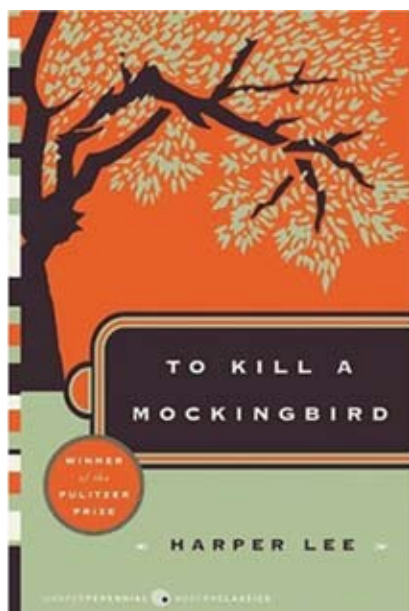
I knew boys like Jem. My younger brother, Donnie Lee, was one. He was always getting skint-up or having his arm broken or ankle sprained. I remember even a few braggarts from the city, not unlike Dill, based on Harper Lee's neighbor, Truman Capote, who visited older cousins in Monroeville near the Lee home on South Alabama Street.

The author described Dill: "Beautiful things floated around in his dreamy head. He could read two books to my one, but he preferred the magic of his own inventions. He could add and subtract faster than lightning, but he preferred his own twilight world, a world where babies slept, waiting

to be gathered like morning lilies." The language itself is magic.

But I especially love Atticus Finch's statement to his son, Jem, that yes, he was "an N-lover" in the Jim Crow South, because, he says, "I love everyone."

Reading this profound book, I remember my creative writing professor Hudson Strode saying: "Simplicity is greatness." It is because of the simple truths of the people, the story and its riveting message that *To Kill a Mockingbird* continues to gain popularity with each new generation, even as it continues to ring with greatness to us of "a certain age."



The Beginnings

Written by Nelle Harper Lee, a native of Monroeville, the story told in *To Kill a Mockingbird* parallels two court cases that took place in Alabama but was not based directly on them: the Scottsboro Boys' trial of 1931, in which nine black youths were tried for allegedly raping two white women on a train in north Alabama; and a November 1933 incident in Monroeville, in which Naomi Lowery, a poor white woman, alleged that Walter Lett, a black former convict, sexually assaulted her.

Lee began work on what would become the novel in 1956 while living in New York City. Originally a short story entitled *Go Get a Watchman*, she later retitled it *Atticus* and finally settled on the title *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Her agent, Maurice Crain, and her editor at Lippincott Publishers, Tay Hohoff, played important roles in transforming the initial short story into a finished novel. The work was published in 1960 to critical acclaim and public enthusiasm and won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.





Harper Lee at the film's opening in Monroeville with two unidentified men.

Photo by Max McAlley, Aaron White Photography Collection

Making it Big

In 1962, Universal Pictures released a film adaptation featuring Gregory Peck in the starring role, Robert Duvall as Boo Radley, and Birmingham natives Mary Badham as Scout and Philip Alford as Jem. Renowned playwright Horton Foote wrote the screenplay, and Elmer Bernstein composed the memorable musical score. In 1963, the film was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won three: Gregory Peck for best actor; Horton Foote for best screenplay; and best art direction. British playwright Christopher Sergel adapted the book into a play that is widely produced, including an annual May performance at the Monroe County Courthouse in Monroeville and periodic performances at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery.

A set from the 1962 film *To Kill a Mockingbird* in Monroeville.

Ken Blackwell



Harper Lee with Gregory Peck, who portrayed Atticus Finch in the film, at the Wee Diner in Monroeville.

Photo by Max McAlley, Aaron White Photography Collection



Still a Success



The novel's popular acclaim has increased with the passing decades. A 1989 poll of required reading in Catholic, public and private American high schools listed the novel in fourth, fifth and seventh places, respectively, and pollsters estimated that three out of four high-school students were required to read it. (Lee was the only living author on the list, and only William Shakespeare, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mark Twain ranked higher.)

In 1991, the Library of Congress asked 5,000 patrons to name the book that had made the biggest difference in their lives. *To Kill a Mockingbird* came in second, after the Bible. In 1999, American librarians voted the book the best novel of the 20th century. In the same year, the members of the American Film Institute rated the film the 34th best ever made and four years later voted Atticus Finch the greatest hero of American cinema. Also in 1999, *TV Guide* rated the movie fifth among its top 50 films. According to the Library of Congress, the novel is the country's most popular selection for citywide reading programs, in which residents of a community read a common novel over the course of a year.

Perhaps even more astounding, the novel is required reading in many schools in Ireland, Great Britain, Australia and Canada, as well as in many non-English-speaking countries. The novel has been translated into more than 40 languages.

To Kill a Mockingbird 101

The novel is set in the fictional Alabama town of Maycomb, between the summer of 1932 and Halloween night of 1935, during a time of economic depression when many blacks and whites shared a common poverty. The plot is simple: three young children—Jean Louise “Scout” Finch, her older brother, Jem, and their friend, Dill—spend their summer holidays trying to learn more about their reclusive neighbor Arthur “Boo” Radley and soon become caught up in the unfolding drama of the trial of Tom Robinson, a black man accused of raping Mayella Ewell, the daughter of a poor white man, Robert E. Lee “Bob” Ewell. Scout narrates the story from adulthood as a reminiscence of her childhood. She is six when the novel begins and nine when it ends.

Essentially a coming-of-age novel about lost innocence, Scout learns that her otherwise decent and fair-minded white neighbors ignore the evidence when judging a black man accused of a violent crime. She also discovers that the black members of her town are complex people, some ignorant and evil and others wise and good. She learns the same lessons about the middle-class white residents of Maycomb, and about the poor but proud Cunningham family, and the poor but not-very-proud Ewells. The hero of the story is Scout's lawyer father, Atticus Finch, who agrees to defend Tom Robinson. The case is hopeless from the beginning despite Finch's best efforts, and it exposes him and his family to the anger and ostracism of Maycomb's white people, violent retribution by Bob Ewell, and the admiration of the town's black population.



The Old Monroe County Courthouse. The Hollywood set of the 1962 film adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* was modeled after the courtroom in the Old Courthouse.

Above: Ken Blackwell
Below: Aaron White



AHF Plays a Role

A Tool for Learning

Over the years, AHF has continued to provide grants and programs that utilize *To Kill a Mockingbird* and its themes.

■ During the **2010 Alabama Book Festival**, Don Noble, emeritus professor of English at the University of Alabama, host of Bookmark on Alabama Public Television and a former AHF Board member, will discuss his recently released book **Critical Insights: To Kill a Mockingbird**.

■ For more than a decade, AHF has supported the **Alabama Writers Symposium** in Monroeville. Along with the Alabama Tourism theme of the Year of Small Towns and Downtowns, this year's symposium, April 28 to May 1, pays homage to the 50th anniversary of the book. The **Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer** and the **Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar** are presented at the symposium.

■ **Our Mockingbird** is a one-hour documentary film about the influence of Harper Lee's novel after 50 years. Interwoven through the documentary is the story of two high schools, Mountain Brook and Fairfield, who come together to create a co-production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* (pictured right). How these two groups of students are thrust together and learn about the struggles in their hometown and the larger meanings of the story expresses the lasting impact of the novel. From a scholarly perspective, Wayne Flynt explains how *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a moral compass for students as they come of age.



■ The University of Alabama, the Alabama State Council on the Arts and AHF are co-sponsoring a commemoration of the anniversary of *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a statewide call for Alabamians to donate financially to their local libraries.

A Topic for Discussion

In 2010–11, the following AHF Road Scholar Speakers Bureau presentations will focus on the novel:

To Kill a Mockingbird: Successes and Myths

Presented by Nancy Anderson

The World of Childhood: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, To Kill a Mockingbird and The Kite Runner

Presented by Nancy Anderson

The Rise and Fall of Atticus Finch

Presented by Christopher Metress

For further information on how to book a scholar, please contact AHF Programs Coordinator Michael Chambers at (205) 558-3999 or mchambers@ahf.net. Full presentation descriptions and the entire 2010–11 Road Scholars Speakers Bureau catalog are available for viewing online.

Find out more: ahf.net/speakersbureau



Nancy Anderson



Christopher Metress

AHF Joins in the Celebration

Make plans to join the Alabama Humanities Foundation this May in Montgomery for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of Alabama's own *To Kill a Mockingbird*. More information is coming soon, and the event will feature many special guests and opportunities that you won't want to miss. Be sure to regularly check ahf.net for more details, and look for an announcement in an upcoming eMosaic.



Around Alabama

Humanities news and events from across the state.

Tidbits

The Alabama Humanities Foundation is pleased to welcome six new members to its board of directors.

Cathy Crenshaw

Cathy is president of Sloss Real Estate Company in Birmingham, a commercial real-estate firm focused on urban development and revitalization. Her company, among other projects, developed Pepper Place and co-developed the HOPE VI mixed-use, mixed-income project in downtown Birmingham. A graduate of Wofford College, she attended Harvard University in 2007 and 2008 as a Loeb Fellow and visiting scholar at the Graduate School of Design. Cathy serves on numerous local, state and national boards. She was named *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2002 "Woman of the Year."



Carolyn Reed

Carolyn is a very active civic and community volunteer in Birmingham. She has a special interest in cultural organizations, having served on the boards and advisory councils for Alabama Operaworks, Junior Women's Symphony Committee, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University, C.M. Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, and Birmingham Music Club. She has also served on the boards of the Auburn University Foundation and the Baptist Health System Foundation. A graduate of Auburn, in 1992 Carolyn was named one of Auburn's 200 Most Outstanding Women Alumnae.



Dafina Ward

Dafina is coordinator of the Alabama Community AIDS Fund for Aids Alabama, headquartered in Birmingham. In this capacity, she manages the development of a statewide fundraising campaign in partnership with the National AIDS Fund. An attorney by training, Dafina has practiced law in Birmingham and served as a legal intern at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery and with a private firm in Philadelphia. She has actively participated as a consultant or advisor to the Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham, the Birmingham Museum of Art and the Alys Stephens Center for the Performing Arts. She received a B.A. with honors from Clark Atlanta University and a J.D. from Temple University School of Law.



Robert Olin

Robert is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Alabama. He joined UA after serving for 25 years on the faculty of Virginia Tech, including six years as chair of the mathematics department. Under his leadership, the UA College of Arts and Sciences has added numerous buildings and programs, and has significantly increased its undergraduate enrollment and endowment. Through the College, he provided substantial financial support to the *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, and he has encouraged UA participation in AHF grants, events and programs. He holds a B.A. in mathematics from Ottawa University in Kansas and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Indiana University.



Nancy Sanford

Nancy has served as executive director of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library since 2004, which serves a county population of 88,000 and the entire northwest Alabama Shoals Region. She is a graduate of the University of North Alabama in dramatic arts and speech. Prior to joining the library, Nancy held administrative, public relations and teaching positions at Sheffield City Schools and Helen Keller Hospital. She has served on numerous Shoals-area organizations, including serving as president of the Sheffield Rotary Club, Tennessee Valley Art Association and Colbert County Red Cross. Nancy works closely with the Music Preservation Society.



Wyatt Wells

Wyatt is professor of history at Auburn University—Montgomery, where he served as department chair from 2005 to 2008. He is the author of numerous books and articles on business and economic history, including *The American Economy Since 1945*, *Antitrust and the Formation of the Postwar World*, and *Economist in an Uncertain World: Arthur F. Burns and the Federal Reserve, 1970–1978*. He also served as assistant editor of the *Andrew Jackson Papers* at the University of Tennessee. Wyatt earned a B.A. with honors in history at Vanderbilt University, as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. in American history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.






Students at Vincent Elementary School show off artwork from the "Picturing America" collection.



Vincent Elementary School art teacher Mari Newton and students hang artwork from "Picturing America."

"Picturing America," an initiative presented by the National Endowment for the Humanities, of which AHF is the state affiliate, brings reproductions of American art masterpieces into classrooms and libraries nationwide, free of charge. The program uses art as a catalyst for the study of America—the cultural, political and historical threads woven into our nation's fabric over time. "Picturing America" was awarded to 984 schools and libraries in Alabama.

 **Find out more:** picturingamerica.neh.gov 

Mix a smidgeon of Paul Finebaum, a little of William Carter and a dose of Warren St. John and what do you get? A wonderful **AHF awards luncheon** hailed by many in the audience of more than 450 as the best ever. The event, held Sept. 14, 2009, celebrated the Foundation's 35th anniversary. 

Special thanks to our generous luncheon sponsors: Vulcan Materials Company, the Birmingham News and the Hoover Public Library.



- 1.** Musician and music historian Bobby Horton led the national anthem at the 2009 Alabama Humanities awards luncheon.
- 2.** AHF celebrated 35 years with anniversary cakes.
- 3.** William Carter, Ph.D., received the 2009 Alabama Humanities Award.

Coming Right Up

2010 SUPER Emerging Scholars Institutes

Tuscaloosa, University of Alabama
June 7-12

Montgomery, Alabama State University
Dates to be determined

2010 Three-Day SUPER Teacher Institute

The Last Good War: Teaching World War II Through Art, Music and Literature

Location: Birmingham, Alabama
Humanities Foundation

Lead scholar: Alan Brown, Ph.D.,
University of West Alabama

SUPER Teacher Institutes

Note: dates for SUPER are to be determined. Check ahf.net for regular updates.

The Humanities and Human Rights: A Global Perspective

Location: Montgomery, Auburn University—Montgomery

Lead scholar: Nancy Grisham Anderson, Ph.D., Auburn University—Montgomery

The Struggle for Human Rights: From Emancipation to World War II

Location: Mobile, Spring Hill College

Lead scholar: Bertis English, Ph.D., Alabama State University

2010 One-Day SUPER Teacher Workshops

Exploring Brittany: Language Immersion for Teachers of French

Location: Birmingham, Alabama
Humanities Foundation

Lead scholar: Catherine Danielou, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham

Exploring 20th-Century Latin American Literature: Language Immersion for Teachers of Spanish

Location: Montevallo, University of Montevallo

Lead scholar: Leonor Vazquez-Gonzales, Ph.D., University of Montevallo

AHF is now accepting nominations for the Alabama Humanities Award, given annually to an individual who has made an exemplary contribution to the public understanding and appreciation of the humanities.

Eligibility

Native Alabamians or Alabama residents who have made substantial contributions to the humanities—or other living persons who have made substantial contributions specifically to the humanities in Alabama—are eligible nominees.

Nomination Procedure

Individuals, groups or organizations may submit a letter of nomination. The letter should not exceed three pages in length and should describe the contributions of the person nominated. A vita must also be included. Self-nomination is permitted. Nominations remain active for one year.

Send nominations to: Alabama Humanities Foundation, 1100 Ireland Way, Ste. 101, Birmingham, Alabama 35205. **The deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 25.**

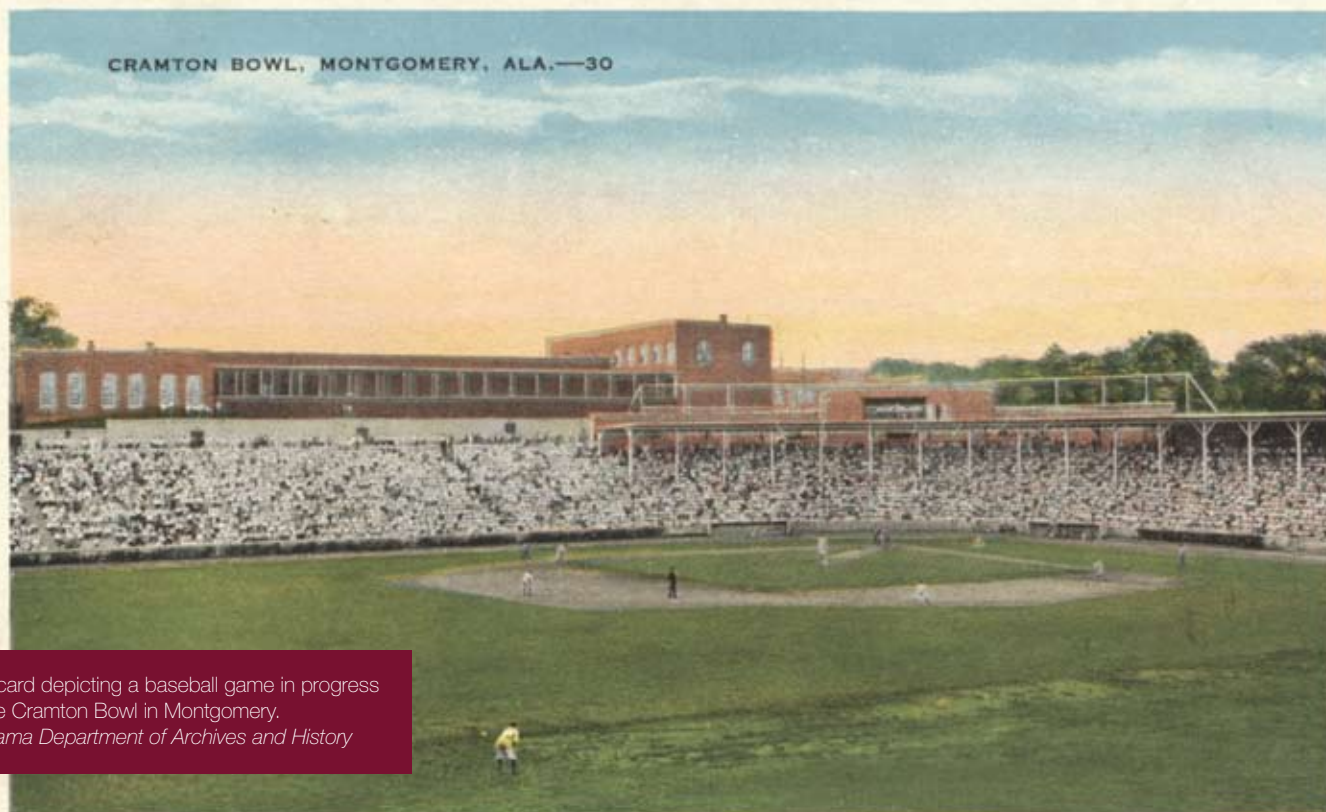
For more information on SUPER, contact Thomas Bryant, programs director and SUPER manager, at (205) 558-3997 or tbryant@ahf.net. For more information on SUPER Emerging Scholars, contact Michael Chambers, programs coordinator, at (205) 558-3999 or mchambers@ahf.net.

Telling Our Story

An overview of the Encyclopedia of Alabama and a showcasing of its content.

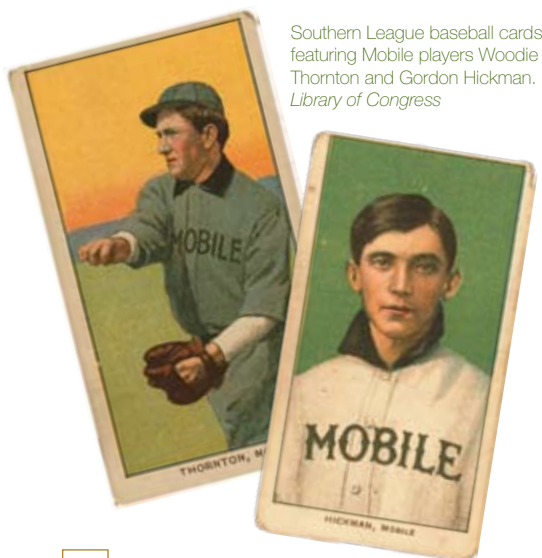


The 22nd State and Baseball



Postcard depicting a baseball game in progress at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery.
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Industrial Baseball Leagues in Alabama



Southern League baseball cards featuring Mobile players Woodie Thornton and Gordon Hickman.
Library of Congress

Industrial league baseball was a form of semi-professional baseball that developed during the late 19th century and became commonplace in Alabama during much of the 20th century. Companies sponsored the leagues to enhance employee loyalty and provide entertainment for their workers and families, forming teams made up of players from their own payrolls and supplemented with some professionals.

In Alabama, the trend developed along two lines—industrial leagues in urban areas and company teams (coal mines, cotton mills and so on) in more isolated rural areas—with both limiting their competition to teams that were geographically close. The strongest industrial league in Alabama was the Birmingham Industrial League, composed of companies working mostly in Birmingham's iron and steel industry. Reflecting the segregated society of the day, many companies financed separate white and black teams to reach out to both segments of the community.

*Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Larry Powell,
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Birmingham Black Barons

From the 1920s to the 1940s, the Birmingham Black Barons were among the most successful baseball teams in the Negro Leagues, featuring such all-time greats as Leroy “Satchel” Paige, Leon “Piper” Davis and Willie Mays. With players from Birmingham’s Industrial League, the team was organized in 1920 by club officer Frank Perdue as part of the Negro Southern League. That same year, player and manager Rube Foster organized the Negro National League: the first true major league for black baseball players. The Birmingham Black Barons were among the first eight teams invited to join.

The Black Barons played at Birmingham’s historic Rickwood Field, the oldest ballpark in use today. The park was built by A.H. “Rick” Woodward, who rented it out to the Black Barons and to white teams in the area. Seating was segregated, with a designated section for black fans when the white teams played. Baseball and local churches served as the two biggest factors in the social life of Alabama’s African-American communities at the time. The Black Barons played home games at Rickwood on alternate Sundays and at other times when the white Barons were not playing at home. Local preachers often dismissed their congregations before noon when the Black Barons were in town, telling their parishioners that they would meet them at the game. Indeed, the success of the teams became a point of community pride.

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Larry Powell, University of Alabama at Birmingham



Unidentified African-American baseball player in 1940s Birmingham.
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Henry “Hank” Aaron

Baseball icon Henry Louis “Hank” Aaron first honed the skills that ultimately led him to a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame while growing up in Alabama. He is best known for breaking Babe Ruth’s record of 714 home runs, ultimately hitting 755, a record that stood from 1974 to 2007, although he achieved other baseball milestones as well. Aaron was known as “Hammerin’ Hank” and “Bad Henry” during his playing career because of his considerable skills as a batter.

Aaron was born Feb. 5, 1934, in Mobile, one of Herbert and Estella Aaron’s eight children. His brother Tommie would also play for the Atlanta Braves. The Aarons grew up in a low-income section of Mobile, known as “Down the Bay.” Aaron grew up hitting cross-handed (meaning that although he batted right-handed, he placed his left hand higher on the bat) and was a standout football player at Mobile’s Central High.

Aaron’s first tryout with a major league team was in 1949 at the age of 15 with the Brooklyn Dodgers, but he failed to make the team. His first paying job, at the age of 17, was as a shortstop in the Negro Leagues with the Mobile Black Bears, earning \$10 a game. He began his professional career as a shortstop in the Negro American League, playing for the Indianapolis Clowns, leading the team to a 1952 Negro League World Series. A few months into his career, the Boston Braves of the National League bought his contract, and he played for the Braves’ minor-league affiliate in Eau Claire, Wis. In 1954, Aaron was brought up to the major leagues as the right fielder for the Braves, who had moved the franchise to Milwaukee, Wis., in 1953. Soon, the Mobile native would become one of baseball’s most

Telling Our Story *(continued)*

skilled all-around players. In 1956, Aaron's third major league season, he led the National League in hitting with a .328 average; and in 1957 he was voted the league's Most Valuable Player. Teaming with future Hall of Fame stars, including third baseman Eddie Matthews and pitcher Warren Spahn, the Braves won the National League pennant and faced the perennial champion New York Yankees in the World Series.

In 1963, Aaron had his best overall season, leading the National League with 44 home runs and 130 runs batted in. He finished third in batting, with a .319 average, narrowly missing the coveted Triple Crown (in which a batter leads the league in home runs, RBIs and batting average.) Aaron, however, stole 30 bases that year, becoming only the third player ever to have 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases in a season. The Braves relocated to Atlanta for the 1966 season, and in 1974, Aaron became the all-time baseball home-run king when he hit number 715, which occurred April 8, 1974. Traded at the end of the 1974 season, Aaron played his final two seasons for the Milwaukee Brewers. He concluded his remarkable career with 755 home runs. After retiring as a player, Aaron returned to Atlanta to serve in the Braves' front office. He has been an executive with the team ever since.

*Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama
article by Steve Townsend, Birmingham*



Mel Allen

Mel Allen delivered the radio play-by-play for the New York Yankees for 25 years at the height of the team's success. He had one of the most recognizable voices in sportscasting for six decades, and his style and approach to calling the games have served as a model for baseball announcers of the present day. Allen was also an important figure in the early days of television broadcasting of sports events, providing the play-by-play for numerous college football games as well as Yankees games.

Allen was born Melvin Israel in Birmingham on Feb. 14, 1913, to Jewish immigrants Julius and Anna Israel, whose families had fled persecution in czarist Russia. His journalism career began at the University of Alabama as a writer for the *Crimson White*, the campus newspaper. He caught the attention of Alabama football coach Frank Thomas for his work as a public-address announcer at Crimson Tide home games. When a local radio station asked the coach to recommend a play-by-play announcer, Thomas misunderstood the request and recommended Allen for the job. Allen quickly made the most of the opportunity.

He began broadcasting University of Alabama and Auburn University football games over a network of radio stations in 1935 while attending law school at Alabama. He intended to go into law practice and taught speech classes for a year at the university, but as he later said, his avocation became his vocation. In 1937, Allen left Alabama for a successful audition with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) in New York, taking his father's middle name as his new on-air last name when the network suggested that he change his name to something "less Jewish." He broadcast news shows, entertainment shows and game shows and handled a variety of sports assignments, including the 1938 World Series for CBS, Washington Nationals baseball, and New York Giants baseball, before taking the job with the Yankees in 1939 that made him famous.

Allen developed a broadcast style that became a model for subsequent generations of radio sports broadcasters. Audiences enjoyed Allen's ability to create word pictures that allowed them to visualize the action on the field. He developed catch phrases that often incorporated the names of cigar and beer sponsors, such as a "White Owl wallop" or a "Ballantine blast," which described home runs. Other Allen phrases, delivered in a smooth, Southern drawl, have become part of the general sports lexicon, including the famous "How about that!" and "Going, going, gone."

*Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama
article by Keith Cannon, Wingate University*

1. Early 19th-century Alabama baseball players.
2. Men playing baseball at the Air Corps base at Roberts Field in 1920s Birmingham.
3. Men on a baseball team at the Air Corps base at Roberts Field in 1920s Birmingham.

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Who knew?

In 1964, Henry “Heinie” Manush became the first native Alabamian inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. He was also the first Alabamian to lead both major leagues in hitting. From Tuscumbia, Manush (1901–1971) began his 17-year Major League Baseball career in 1923 with the Detroit Tigers. He later played for the St. Louis Browns, the Washington Senators, the Boston Red Sox, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Pittsburgh Pirates. Manush is also a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.



On the Web, In the Know

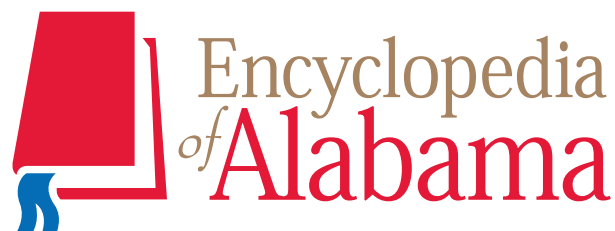
Stats as of November 2009:

- **More than 1,600,000 page views and 618,000 visitors**
- **Visitors came from 215 Alabama communities, all 50 states, and 203 countries and territories**
- **Faculty, staff and students from more than 2,100 colleges and universities visited**

About EOA

The **Encyclopedia of Alabama (EOA)** is a comprehensive, online reference tool that tells the story of the state. For more information and a complete list of EOA sponsors, visit **EncyclopediaOfAlabama.org**.

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Mosaic is the magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation and is printed in August and January. 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 ahf.net.



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

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