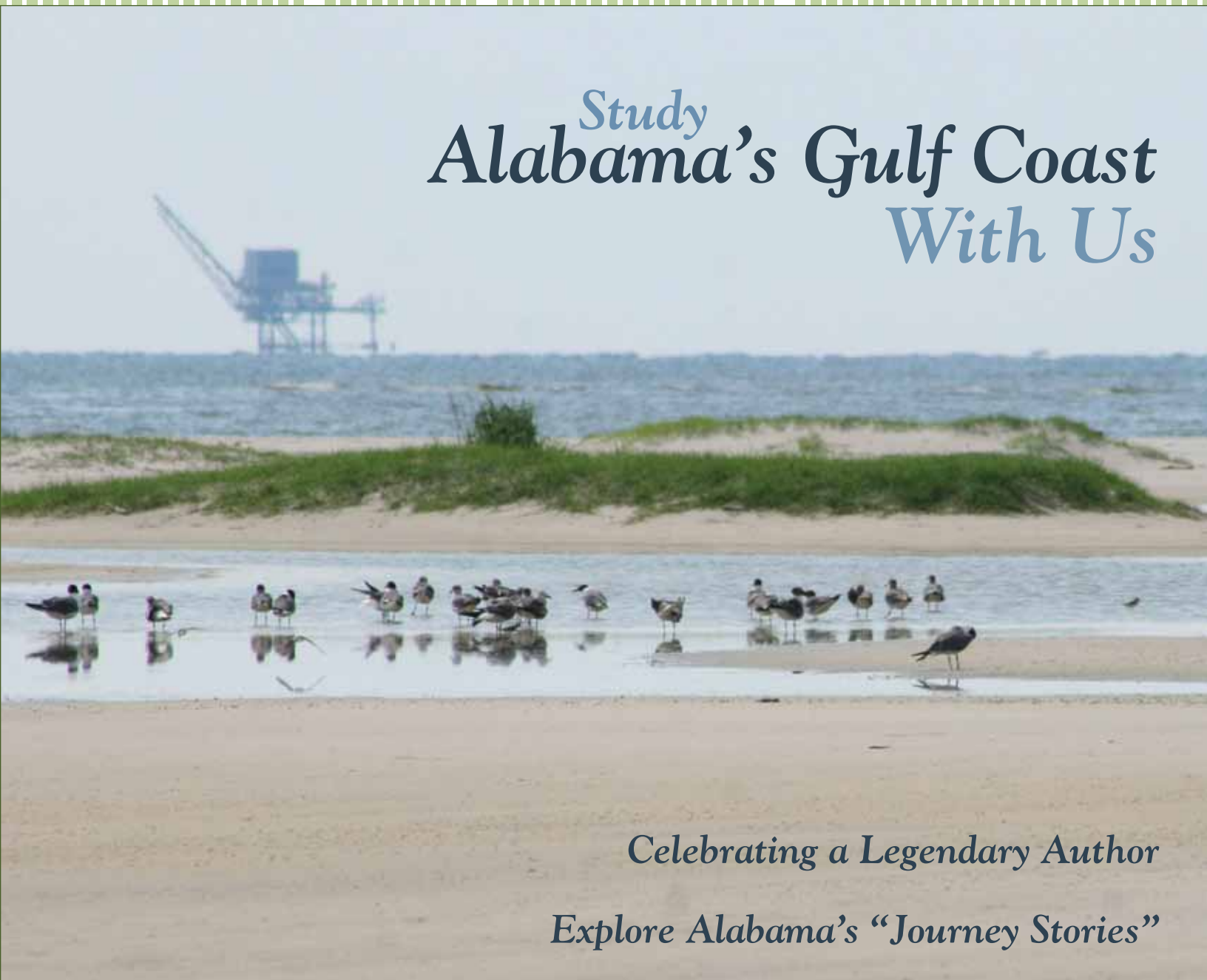


Winter / Spring 2011

MOSAIC

The magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation

Study Alabama's Gulf Coast With Us



Celebrating a Legendary Author

Explore Alabama's "Journey Stories"



ahf.net

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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



Reflections

Past Grants and Programs

A Moving Capital

Cultural Crossroads, a symposium on Alabama history, focused on "Alabama's Capital on Wheels" with scholarly talks on St. Stephens, Huntsville, Cahawba, Tuscaloosa and Montgomery. Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center in Auburn and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts co-sponsored the annual conference. Leah Rawls Atkins began with a survey of when, where and why Alabama's five capitals moved. Mary Ann Neeley, co-founder of Cultural Crossroads with Kathryn Braund, talked about Montgomery's effort to "capture the capital," the opening and burning of the first capital, the rebuilding and its role in the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. Jonathan Matthews, assistant site director of Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, discussed the history and myths about Cahawba, "Alabama's famous ghost town." Altogether, the scholars' presentations told a fascinating story of Alabama through the history of its capitals. — Susan Perry 🌱

At right:

Inauguration ceremony for Jefferson Davis in Montgomery on February 18, 1861.
Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama



Oakleigh's Cox-Deasy House was once the home of Eugene Walter.
Historic Mobile Preservation Society

Literature in Prog

Present Grants and Programs

Follow the Trail

The Southern Literary Trail celebrates the writers and their places in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. In Mobile, Trailfest 2011 features a homes tour with an examination of Albert Murray and a "sneak preview" of the documentary film about Augusta Evans Wilson by New York filmmaker Robert Clem. Also, Broadway actor Joel Vig and scholars John Hafner and Sue Walker will read Eugene Walter's writings about Mobile porches on the porch of the Oakleigh's Cox-Deasy House where the writer lived.

In Demopolis, the local theatre will produce "The Glass Menagerie" to celebrate the 100th birthday of Tennessee Williams. The 45th anniversary of Truman Capote's *Black and White Dance* will be the topic of Monroeville's program by Don Noble, John Hafner and Ralph Voss. In Montgomery, Frances and David Robb will discuss Tallulah Bankhead, who appeared in plays by Tennessee Williams and pushed her way onto the exclusive guest list of Capote's dance.

Among "often overlooked" writers, Jim Haskins of Demopolis will be the subject of a retrospective program with jazz music from the University of West Alabama. Hartselle will recognize the challenges faced by journalist/novelist William Bradford Huie, who covered the Civil Rights struggle.

Visit the trail website southernliterarytrail.org for specific dates and locations for these literary programs. — Susan Perry 🌱

Looking Ahead

Future Grants and Programs

Coming Right Up

Road Scholars Speakers Bureau Presentations

March 3, 2011

"At Home Between the Earth and Sky: Voices from Chandler Mountain" with Dolores Hydock 2324 Cumberland Lake Drive (Pinson)
Sponsored by the NLAPW Pen Women of America
10:30 a.m.
Bettye Howell: (205) 681-3580



Dolores Hydock

March 29, 2011

"Footprint on the Sky: Memoiries of a Chandler Mountain Spring" with Dolores Hydock Irondale Library (Birmingham)
Sponsored by the Irondale Public Library
6:00 p.m.
April Wallace: (205) 951-1415



Joyce Cauthen

March 7, 2011

"At Home Between the Earth and Sky: Voices from Chandler Mountain" with Dolores Hydock Hoover Library (Hoover)
Sponsored by the Friends of the Hoover Public Library
10:00 a.m.
Pat S. Bendall: (205) 823-2891

April 14, 2011

"Fiddlers, Banjo Players, and Strawbeaters: Alabama's First Pop Musicians" with Joyce Cauthen First Presbyterian Church (Prattville)
Sponsored by the Friends of the Autauga-Prattville Public Library
6:30 p.m.
Jan Earnest: (334) 365-3396

Winter / Spring 2011

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

MOSAIC



On the Cover: Birds flock to the sandy beaches of Alabama's Gulf Coast as an imposing oil rig can be seen in the distance. Learn about our SUPER and SES institutes that will explore this surviving region of our state on pages 12-13. Photo courtesy of Jenny Newberry

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Truman Capote spent a number of his formative years in Monroeville, Alabama, running around with Nelle Harper Lee, sharpening his skills on a typewriter. Here, we examine his life, his connection to Monroeville and his notorious novel In Cold Blood, 45 years later.

From the Board Chair

Even one month later, still in the glow of the post-holiday season, people often find themselves confronting important questions—both practical and philosophical.

Can I return this reindeer fur fedora without a receipt?

Does my great aunt really expect me to display in our living room this oil painting of her beloved Pekingese that she gave us?

And why do I keep getting these copies of Mosaic?

I can't help you with the first two questions. The answer to the third, however, is considerably easier. You receive *Mosaic* because we at the Alabama Humanities Foundation believe that you share our belief that the study, appreciation and enjoyment of the humanities in Alabama is as important as ever.

But a follow-up question promises to be much more difficult: Just what are the “humanities”?

I'll share my own definition with you. The humanities are those fields of study that enrich and enhance our lives by helping to define, explain and celebrate what it means to be human. A recitation of the fields of study of the humanities—the classics, jurisprudence, theatre and art history, film studies, literature, history, languages, philosophy and ethics, to name a few—probably provides further clarity.

I admit that my definition encompasses a lot of territory. Perhaps even more troubling, that broad definition lacks a sense of immediacy and urgency. At times, it probably even invites ridicule. It certainly did at West Point in my younger and thinner days.

Back then, my fellow cadets and I were grouped into two academic tracks. Although all cadets labored through a punishing core curriculum (where else, for example, is a history major required to take electrical engineering?), cadets were either MSE (math, science, and engineering) or HPA (humanities and public affairs). I selected the HPA track, which was disparagingly called “House Plants and Animals” by the slide rule-wielding cadets of the MSE track.

To some extent, I can see the other cadets' point. After all, wasn't it engineers and scientists that raced the world to build the Panama Canal, raced death to find a vaccine for polio, raced the Nazis to build the atomic bomb and raced the Soviets to put a man on the Moon? It wasn't poets, authors, artists or history professors.

At the same time, however, I think back to what Winston Churchill (perhaps apocryphally) said when his government was urged to cut funding for the arts in Great Britain during the Second World War.

“Then what are we fighting for?” he supposedly retorted.

I'm enough of a lawyer to be skeptical when I can't find a source, and I'm afraid that I can't source Sir Winston's observation. But that doesn't mean I don't endorse the message.

That's why I like to think that, somewhere along the line, the once and future George Goethals, Jonas Salks, J. Robert Oppenheimers and Werner von Brauns of the world might have found moments of inspiration for their scientific and engineering goals, their struggles and their triumphs in—dare I say—the humanities? Maybe they made such discoveries in a book, a poem, a painting or even a philosophical conversation that, perhaps only subconsciously, inspired and steeled their souls for the challenges to come. Furthermore, now that I think about it, perhaps such moments occurred in our own home state. After all, both Goethals and von Braun once called Alabama home.

As I type these last few words, I'm left realizing that the humanities are as much a catalyst as a conclusion, as much an impetus as an accomplishment, and as much a means as an end. And that's why the humanities are important, why we on the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors devote so much time to the foundation's work, and why you're holding this copy of *Mosaic*.

Best wishes for an inspiring and fulfilling 2011. 🌱



Jim Noles co-chaired AHF's 2010 To Kill a Mockingbird events. Here, he and his wife, Elizabeth, purchased “Camellia from Courthouse” by Annie Butrus at an auction at Wynfield Estates.

Jim Noles

*Jim Noles, Chair
AHF Board of Directors*



Empowering Communities

Humanities news and events from across the state.

Take a Journey With Us



Alabama's next Museum on Main Street exhibition, "Journey Stories," will examine the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move. The stories are diverse and focus on immigration, migration, innovation and freedom. "Journey Stories" will use engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society.

The exhibit is a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institute and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. It will tour Alabama

during the following dates at six selected host sites. Each community will develop a local exhibition and public programs to tell their journey stories.

June 25-August 7, 2011 — Jasper
August 10-September 26, 2011 — Alexander City
September 28-November 14, 2011 — Marion
November 16, 2011-January 2, 2012 — Mobile
January 4-February 20, 2012 — Eufaula
February 22-April 8, 2012 — Arab

The first host site, Jasper, will house the exhibit at the Bankhead House & Heritage Center, the former home of William B. Bankhead, a U.S. representative and speaker of

Left: A girl and her family migrate from Florida to New Jersey in search of work, 1940. *Courtesy of the Library of Congress*

Right: Migrant workers walk along a North Carolina road, 1940. *Courtesy of the Library of Congress*

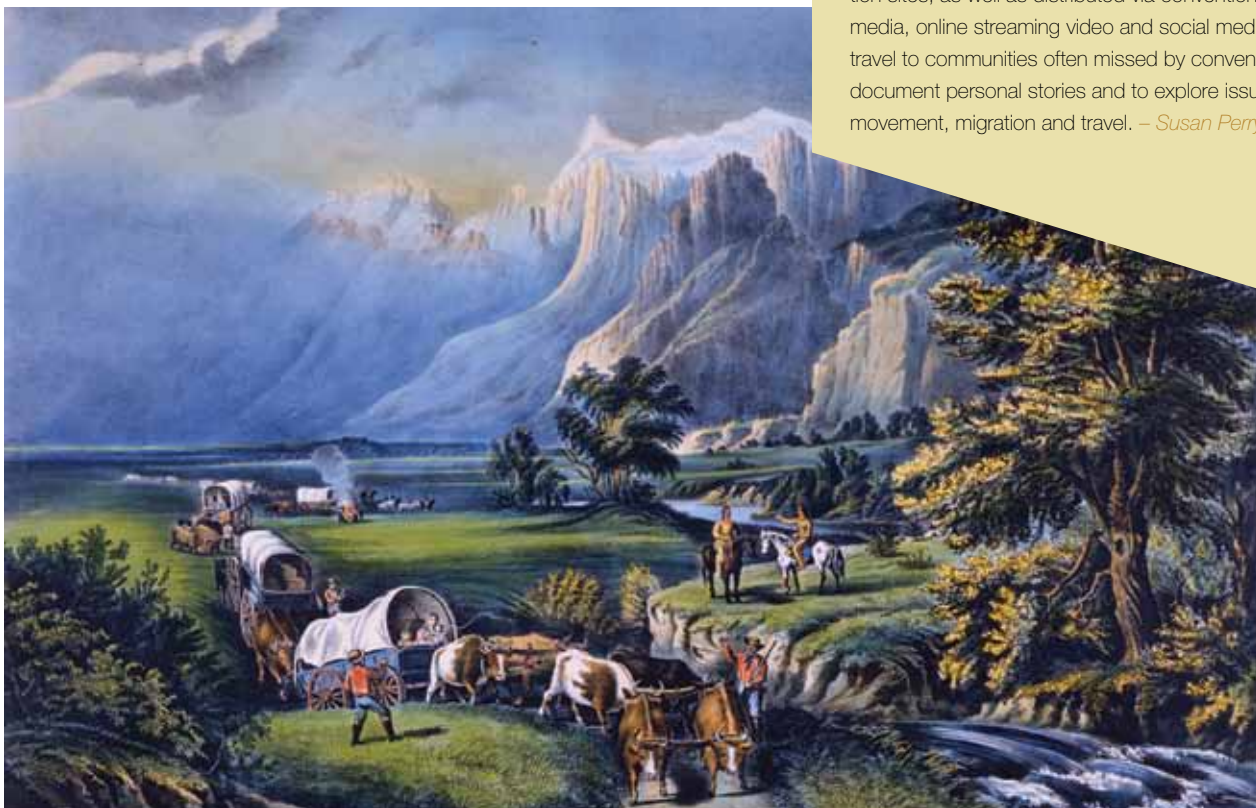
the house in the 1920s and 30s. Organized by the Walker Area Community Foundation and the Walker County Arts Alliance, the site's team also includes the Chamber of Commerce of Walker County and the Jasper Public Library, among others. Already, plans are underway for the accompanying exhibit highlighting Jasper's own "Journey Stories," including its location along the Bankhead National Highway.

"We want to reach out into the community to reach many different types of people and fulfill our mission to bring the arts to Walker County," says Beth Sargent, executive coordinator for the Walker County Arts Alliance. Their hope, Sargent says, is to create lasting exhibits at several locations throughout Jasper that will remain even after "Journey Stories" has moved on to the next site.

One such exhibit is a public art project titled the Walker County Arts Alliance 20 Mule Team. The alliance plans to erect 20 life-size mules that will be painted or decorated in some fashion by local artists or organizations. These mules will help create excitement for Jasper's own story of movement since mules were used in the area for mining, farming and in the lumber industry. "I think it will expose so many members of the community to history and something so professionally handled [as "Journey Stories"]," Sargent says. "It could inspire people to look at things with a different perspective."

For more information about the "Journey Stories" exhibits, please check ahf.net in the coming months. — *Jennifer Dome* 🌿

The Rocky Mountains: Emigrants Crossing the Plains, by Currier and Ives, 1866.
Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley



Stories from The Box

The Smithsonian exhibition "Journey Stories" has inspired Alabama to capture contemporary stories from those who moved to Alabama to put down new roots, and from those who returned to the homeland of grandparents who left for new lives in the north. Reminiscent of the old-fashioned photo booth, The Box, produced by the University of Alabama Center for Public TV & Radio, will travel "to targeted places to explore the stories found within what some might consider homogenous communities: the Cambodian and Vietnamese members of a Mobile Buddhist temple, the Pentecostals of the Sand Mountain settlements, the inmates at Tutwiler Prison for Women, the Jewish congregants of Dothan who advertised nationally to recruit new members to their community, the descendants of the German rocket scientists who inspired Huntsville's 'Operation Paperclip,' and others." According to Executive Producer Elizabeth Brock, the familiar environment of the old-fashioned photo booth will encourage participants to "bear witness" to a video camera with no interviewer.

The Box will also record journey stories in the six host communities for the traveling exhibition. These communities have diverse transportation stories—from wagons, stage-coaches, steamboats and trains to automobiles and airplanes. People in these communities have expressed concern that the individual stories of their older citizens are being lost. A video presentation will be screened at the "Journey Stories" exhibition sites, as well as distributed via conventional broadcast media, online streaming video and social media. The Box will travel to communities often missed by conventional media to document personal stories and to explore issues related to movement, migration and travel. — *Susan Perry* 🌿

Empowering Communities *(continued)*

Grants Awarded

AHF awarded grants totaling \$145,000 in fiscal year 2010.

Southern Outsiders Film Series

English Department, Auburn University

\$1,975 outright

The film series and scholarly discussion examine the concept of "outsider artist," inspired by the exhibition "Reverend Howard Finster: Stranger in Paradise."

Troy University Black History Month Lecture Series

Troy University-Dothan

\$1,975 outright

To celebrate Black History Month, Mike Searles of Augusta State University will talk about black cowboys in the American West and Tonya Baxter will share her poetry based on her experiences as a prison guard.

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought

Friends of the Alabama Archives

\$1,911.50 outright

The monthly lecture series complements the Alabama Tourism Department's Year of Alabama Music and the Becoming Alabama initiative to commemorate the legacy of the War of 1812/Creek War, Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.

Staged Reading and Discussion

The Cloverdale Playhouse

\$1,600 outright

Scholars lead a discussion of the play "Juliette's Journey" about the librarian Juliette Morgan and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Red Mountain Reading Series

Jefferson State Community College

\$1,850 outright

Writers Rick Bragg and Anita Garner present public readings.

2011 Alabama Book Festival: Nonfiction Venue

Landmarks Foundation/Old Alabama Town

\$3,500 outright

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

2011 Slash Pine Poetry Festival

University of Alabama

\$4,000 outright

The Poetry Festival brings together more than 40 national and regional poets for public readings.

Alabama Book Festival Fiction Tent

Troy University

\$3,000 outright

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

14th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium

Alabama Southern Community College

\$5,000 outright

The theme for the symposium is "Literary Gumbo: Stories, Song and Characters that flavor Alabama Literature."

Visiting Authors & Storytellers Series

Shelby County Arts Council

\$3,500 outright

Robert Inman, Dolores Hydock, Bobby Horton and Teresa Thorne talk to various groups in Shelby County.

The Passion of Miss Augusta

Mobile Public Library

\$12,000 matching

The documentary film explores the role of women in the 19th-century South through the life and novels of Mobile author Augusta Evans Wilson.

Journey Stories from the Box

UA Center for Public TV & Radio

\$8,500 outright

A traveling video booth captures contemporary stories about the movement of Alabamians.

UNA Storytelling Festival

University of North Alabama

\$3,000 outright

The festival celebrates the art of storytelling.

Community Wide Read: Madison County Reads

Wicked City by Ace Atkins

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

\$5,000

The community-wide reading project promotes *Wicked City* by Ace Atkins and reaches out to young professionals in Madison County.



Courtesy of Old Alabama Town and the Alabama Book Festival

Alabama Book Festival

The Alabama Book Festival is a fun celebration of reading on Saturday, April 16, at Old Alabama Town in Montgomery. The festival promotes literacy and reading to Alabamians of all ages. This statewide collaborative project is organized by Landmarks Foundation and Troy University, Montgomery Campus, with support from the Alabama Writers Forum, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Public Television, Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, and Montgomery Library System as well as the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Bring your family to meet and hear from their favorite authors, including Rick Bragg, Rheta Grimsley Johnson, Mark Childress, Joslyn Jackson, Sena Jeter Naslund, and numerous poets and writers for young readers. Visit alabamabookfestival.org for more information. —Susan Perry 🐦

6th Annual Alabama Book Festival Poetry Tent

Alabama Writers' Forum
\$3,500 outright

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

The Southern Literary Trail: Alabama Trailfest 2011

Marengo County Historical Society
\$8,500 outright

The tri-state literary journey celebrates the impact of place upon literature.

Southern Culture: The AUMLAC Conference

Auburn University at Montgomery
\$2,500 outright

The interdisciplinary forum focuses on Southern literature and Civil War history.

Listen to the Wise Ones: Exploring Narratives of the Ancestors

University of South Alabama
\$1,550 outright

The teachers' workshop and guide provide background information to prepare students for the historic drama "Hear the Voices Ring," taken from WPA interviews with former slaves.

Folk Art/Folk Music

Vulcan Park and Museum
\$4,800 outright

The art exhibition highlights the role of traditional music and migration from rural Alabama to Birmingham.

William Bradford Huie

William Bradford Huie Library
\$1,000 outright

Hank Klibanoff talks about the Civil Rights Movement from his experiences as a newspaper reporter and editor.

Cultural Crossroads

Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery
\$1,200 outright

Scholars discuss "Alabama's Capital on Wheels," including lectures on St. Stephens, Huntsville, Cahawba, Tuscaloosa and Montgomery.

Bringing the World to Alabama

Alabama World Affairs Council
\$500 outright

Two lectures focus on "The Future of Korea" from a historic perspective and the role of religion in international affairs.

Montevallo Literary Festival

University of Montevallo
\$1,000 outright

The literary festival features poetry, fiction and nonfiction readings by writers.

Mobile African-American Heritage Trail Teacher Seminar

Mobile Historic Development Commission
\$1,600 outright

The teacher seminar provides resources on African-American history for fourth-grade teachers covering Alabama State History.

Selma-Dallas County Reading-Discussion Series

Selma-Dallas County Public Library
\$700 outright

The library offers a monthly reading-discussion with the scholar Nancy Anderson.

Spiral: Perspectives on an African-American Art Collective

Birmingham Museum of Art
\$800 outright

Artist Richard Mayhew provides personal insight into the Spiral Art Collective.

Southern Voices 2011: Striking a Chord

Hoover Public Library
\$1,000 outright

The theme of the annual conference is archetypal images in literature and art.

At the Dark End of the Street: Rosa Parks & Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement

Troy University
\$800 outright

Danielle McGuire discusses Rosa Parks as an advocate for equal rights.



Augusta Evans Wilson, Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

The Passion of Miss Augusta

The Mobile writer Augusta Evans Wilson (1835-1909) is a neglected figure in American literature. The documentary film "The Passion of Miss Augusta" by filmmaker Robert Clem brings to life this author through dramatization of scenes from her 1866 novel *St. Elmo* about an ambitious, impoverished writer like Wilson herself. This popular novel sold more than 1 million copies. Educating herself, publishing her first novel at age 16, Wilson proudly proclaimed she would never marry but would pursue her dream of being a professional author. Wilson, who married Col. Lorenzo Wilson in 1868, would become one of the bestselling authors of the 19th century. Some critics see her romantic style as dated, but others consider her an early feminist. The film explores all perspectives and the life and career of a significant Mobile author. — Susan Perry 🐦

Strengthen your connection to humanities in Alabama by going online.

Online Calendar

Each month, AHF presents numerous activities for you to enjoy and learn more about the various humanities disciplines. One event may be a presentation by one of our Road Scholars on the necessity of collecting oral histories and how to do so. Another event may be a museum exhibit, the result of a grant we at AHF awarded. But no matter what, there is something educational and engaging for everyone.



february | humanities events

Please visit ahf.net/newsroom/eventcalendar for a list of our state-wide events, plus listings focusing on your region of Alabama only. Or, if you would like to receive our eCalendar via email each month, please contact Jennifer Dome at jdome@ahf.net to be added to our email list. — Jennifer Dome 🐦

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 book a talk, contact Jennifer Dome, public relations and publications manager, at (205) 558-3991 or jdome@ahf.net. 🐦

Web Speak

AHF is excited about the progress we've made in using social media tools, and elements on our website such as our blog (ahf.net/blog) to communicate with our constituents and bring more people into the exciting world of the humanities. From gaining dozens of Facebook friends and Twitter followers, to engaging our board members and staff in posting blog posts, the use of Internet tools is alive and well at AHF, and it's continuing to expand our reach.

Here are a few tools we use to reach our audience. Sign up and join in the conversation!

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 "liking" our Facebook page.

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.

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.

Be Heard

What would you like to see on our website that is currently not available? How can we make our website easier to navigate?

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

Giving and Receiving

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

Aiding Alabama's Elementary Educators



Rob Riley, Keri Smith (on behalf of Mary Elizabeth Lee), Takisha Durm, Beverly Robinson, Minda Riley Campbell, Patsy Riley, Diane Henderson, Cheryl Evans Hall, Gerri McDonald and Edgar Welden

Six elementary teachers received the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship at the 2010 Alabama Humanities awards luncheon. 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. Jenice's dedicated passion for teaching and devotion to her community helped ensure a quality education for our state's youth.

One recipient, Diane Henderson, a fourth-grade teacher at East Lawrence Middle School in Trinity, plans to teach her students about patriotic music to help teach American and Alabama history. "We will soon be to our unit about pioneers in Alabama and will learn some folk songs from that era," she said in an email written last fall. "Also, coming up, we will be talking about the slavery era and learning some of the spirituals that were sung by slaves." – *Susan Perry* 🐦

AHF is now accepting applications for the 2011 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 education 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 visit ahf.net for an application and application guidelines, or contact AHF Grants Director Dominique Linchet at dlinchet@ahf.net or (205) 558-3993 for more information. **The deadline for applications is Friday, May 27.**

Takisha Durm

Sixth-grade teacher at PACE Alternative Education, Huntsville

Takisha Durm will purchase equipment for her students to record oral histories of famous Alabamians as historians in training.

Cheryl Evans Hall

Third-grade teacher at Lacey's Spring School, Lacey's Spring

Cheryl Hall believes in teaching history through hands-on activities, so she will purchase Burritt on the Mountain Traveling Trunks and Social Studies Resources to create Social Studies Teaching Centers in her classroom. Third-grade students will create "shirt-book" biographies of famous Alabamians, paper quilts and American history plays.

Diane Henderson

Fourth-grade teacher at East Lawrence Middle School, Trinity

Diane Henderson will use patriotic music to teach American and Alabama history. She will purchase a keyboard, autoharp and videos about American Cultural Heritage to incorporate music history into the classroom experience.

Mary Elizabeth Lee

Sixth-grade teacher at New Market Elementary School, New Market

Mary Lee's students will use *Where Were You* picture books, Photo Story Technology and primary documents in the Archives to research Alabama and American History.

Gerri McDonald

Third-through-eighth-grade teacher (gifted) at Perdido Elementary/Middle School, Perdido

Gerri McDonald proposed two projects: one on "Economics, It's all in the Choices You Make" and "Serving Those Who Served." Students will study WWII, interview local veterans and raise funds to send a WWII veteran on the Honor Flight South Alabama.

Beverly Robinson

Fourth-grade teacher at Crossville Elementary School, Crossville

Beverly Robinson will teach local and Alabama history through oral history interviews and class books. For the majority of her students, English is their second language.

Giving and Receiving *(continued)*



SES students will explore the survival of Alabama's Gulf Coast communities after such trials as Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.
© M.O.C., Adrian Overstreet

SES is Three for Three

AHF's newest program, SUPER Emerging Scholars, will kick off its third year with three institute locations. In 2011, AHF will continue its partnership with Alabama State University and also partner with Auburn University and the University of South Alabama to offer this year's institutes.

SES is a weeklong pre-college development program designed to offer specialized academic enrichment in the humanities. The institutes assist upper-level high school students in the development of skills necessary for success in secondary and postsecondary education.

The SES institutes are comprised of three major components: academic and collegiate

enrichments, technology in academia, and college mentorship and guidance. The academic enrichment component will expose students to researching and writing for the higher-education environment. The technology in academia component will prepare students with the technology skills used in the humanities. The third component of college mentorship and guidance will give SES participants the opportunity to interact with current undergraduate and graduate students and recent alumni who will offer guidance on how to successfully navigate and negotiate the college landscape.

This year, student participants' critical thinking, research and writing skills will be engaged by using different humanities disciplines at each of the three SES institutes.

Jenny Newberry



Jenny Newberry



University of South Alabama • Mobile • June 19-25

University of South Alabama Assistant Professor Kern Jackson will lead this institute and focus on the discipline of history and folklore. Particularly, students will examine the survival stories of the Grand Bay and Bayou La Batre communities. Students will be assigned into teams to conduct their own oral narratives on how residents of both communities have survived since the recent impacts of Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf Coast oil drilling disaster.

Auburn University • Auburn • July 17-23

This institute, led by Auburn University Associate Professor Kevin Roozen, will focus on the English discipline by studying rhetorical principles in education. Students will explore this topic by closely examining readings and films that detail learning philosophies from ancient Greece to contemporary America.

Alabama State University • Montgomery • June 12-18

Led by Bertis English, an Alabama State University associate professor, this institute will focus on the history discipline by examining the history of economic injustice in Alabama and across the Deep South. Students will explore this topic by closely engaging in readings, films and lectures that offer an indepth look at how economic injustice has been a fact of life for many Americans across the South.

Each institute has space for 16 students and there is no cost to attend. However, interested junior and senior high school students need to submit an application in order to be accepted into one of the three institutes. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please visit our SES Web page at ahf.net/programs/SES, or contact Michael L. Chambers, II, programs coordinator, at (205) 558-3999 or mchambers@ahf.net for more information. — *Michael L. Chambers, II* 🐾

Jenny Newberry



Attend SUPER This Summer

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the SUPER teacher program. SUPER has served more than 4,000 teachers from every county in Alabama, and enriched the education of more than 500,000 students. The following institutes will be offered in 2011.

The Alabama Coast: A Sense of Place

July 10-15, Spring Hill College

Directed by University of South Alabama Writer-in-Residence Frye Gaillard, this institute will explore the history and culture of the Alabama Gulf Coast, with special attention to the recent BP oil spill. The coastal disaster of 2010 has left a cloud of uncertainty over the economy, the environment and the way of life in this part of Alabama. But there is also a deep sense of place that sustains its people, and this institute will examine the components of that identity – the history, literature, music, food, and coastal economy that have tied the residents of lower Alabama to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the vast river delta so critical to the life of the region. The oil spill, which followed a rash of powerful hurricanes, now threatens that time-honored way of life; but the residents of lower Alabama seem determined to carry it on. Relying on a combination of historians, anthropologists, scientists, environmentalists, fishermen, writers, artists and chefs, this institute will explore that commitment in the context of these recent crises. The primary purpose of this institute will be to understand this important part of our state. But it is also hoped that the participants will apply these lessons to their own communities, exploring with their students the ingredients of their own sense of place. The great Mississippi writer Eudora Welty once said, “One place understood well helps us understand all places better.” With that as the guiding theory of the discussions, participants will take a hard and first-hand look at the rich history and culture of the Alabama coast.

Mexico and Guatemala in Crisis: An Ethical and Literary Perspective

June 6-8, University of Montevallo

Led by Leonor-Vasquez-Gonzalez, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish at the University of Montevallo, this institute, a language immersion program for Spanish teachers, will explore the discourse that “failed” societies have become more and more recurrent to describe the social phenomena experienced by countries such as Guatemala and Mexico. The three-day institute will explore the causes of some current issues within this multifaceted crisis. The purpose of this activity is to provide teachers in the state of Alabama with a deeper understanding of the causes of some of the most pressing issues faced by these societies. The program will be particularly helpful to Spanish teachers who are interested in broadening their

knowledge of the Hispanic culture, improving their own linguistic skills and finding the connections between the current situation in Mexico and Guatemala and the high rate of immigration in the U.S. and Alabama.

Vietnam, Vietnamese-Americans and Vietnam at War

June 19-25, Troy University

Led by Noel Harold Kaylor, Jr, Ph.D., professor of history at Troy University, this institute will allow participants to investigate the social, political, cultural and historical foundations of modern Vietnam and the effects of the Vietnam experience upon the United States. Vietnam is of great interest in the State of Alabama because of its growing importance for educational, economic and cultural interactions with U.S. institutions, corporations and individuals. Since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam in the early 1990s and subsequent visits to Vietnam by U.S. presidents, a culture of mutual respect and cooperation has emerged in which admiration has replaced animosity on both sides. Presentations will allow participants to explore Vietnam’s search for independence from colonial domination, the Vietnamese Revolution, geopolitical Cold War context, the intervention of the United States, and various cultural topics.

Transcendentalism Light and Dark: Strategies for Teaching the Writings of Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Dickinson, and Whitman

June 28-30, AHF offices, Birmingham

Directed by Gale Temple, Ph.D., associate professor of English at University of Alabama Birmingham, this three-day institute will impart practical and engaging strategies for teaching the writings of Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Dickinson and Whitman. The primary focus of the sessions will be on connecting the works of these important antebellum writers to the social and political debates and discourses that were prevalent in antebellum America and that, in many cases, continue to resonate in the lives of Americans today. As such, participants will focus less on how the transcendentalists praised nature or idealized self-reliant individualism than on how their writings were fundamentally connected to the politics of reform in the middle decades of the 19th century.

–Thomas Bryant 🐦

Wrapping Up SUPER 2010

This past July, AHF hosted two weeklong, residential SUPER teacher institutes. Mobile’s Spring Hill College was the location for “The Freedom Rights Movement in Alabama: From the 13th Amendment Through the Voting Rights Act of 1965” on July 11-16. Sixteen middle and high school teachers of history, social studies and literature from across the state participated in this intensive, multidisciplinary program directed by University of South Alabama history department chair Clarence Mohr, Ph.D. The program focused on the struggle for racial equality in Alabama during the century after emancipation and the cities most central to the story—Montgomery, Anniston, Birmingham, and Selma—as well as lesser-known, but no less important, history of the movement in Mobile.

Auburn University Montgomery was the host site for “Humanities and Human Rights” on July 18-23. Directed by AUM associate professor of English Nancy Grisham Anderson, sixteen teachers from around the state came together with scholars to cover some difficult human rights issues in various fields of the liberal arts. They studied how genocide, war policies, civil rights, sexual and gender issues, and art and literature are connected from the perspective of the humanities. The aim was to make the participating teachers aware of, and develop sensitivity to, major human rights issues so that they are informed when confronted with controversial subjects in their classes. – Thomas Bryant 🐦

The deadline for these institutes is April 4, 2011. For complete information and to apply, visit ahf.net or contact Thomas Bryant, AHF Director of Programs and SUPER Manager, at (205) 558-3997 or tbryant@ahf.net.

Giving and Receiving *(continued)*

Many Thanks

With the economy in the midst of a long slump, it was understandable when Giving USA Foundation recently reported that charitable giving dropped 3.6% in America last year. This was the largest decline in charitable contributions by Americans since Giving USA Foundation began recording gifts in 1956.

But thanks to the leadership of the volunteer AHF Board of Directors, combined with the many individuals, corporations and foundations identified on pages 15-16, our educational programs have been growing both in size and in reputation. The mission

of AHF has never been more important than it is now. Notice the words of our mission: **to create and foster opportunities to explore human values and meaning through the humanities.** The state of Alabama needs these opportunities.

Your gifts support this mission and mean two things: 1) they define who you are and how you want to make a difference in Alabama, and (2) they provide the energy by which others put your plan into action!

We hope you enjoy the articles in this edition of *Mosaic* and, as we begin 2011, please consider adding your support to the mission of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. 🌱

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



One of You: Mary Louise Tucker

To many, Mary Louise Tucker has always been involved with the work of the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

"She has been an outspoken supporter of our mission for many years, especially in Monroeville and southwest Alabama," said Bob Stewart, AHF's executive director. "She has a special gift of seeing a need in the community and matching it with a vision on how to make that happen."

Mary Louise Tucker graduated cum laude from Central College, in Pella, Iowa, in 1949 with a dual major in history and English. She was one of the first African Americans to attend Central College. In 2009, the school honored her with the Alumni Achievement Award for her life and professional accomplishments.

Tucker earned a master's degree in history from Atlanta University and an AA certification from Troy University. After marriage in 1954, she moved to Monroeville where she and her husband John A. Tucker raised four children. She taught in the public schools of Monroe County and at Alabama Southern Community College.

Tucker is an 18-year member of the Monroeville Kiwanis Club and in 2000 was named Monroeville citizen of the year. A favorite community activity of hers is serving on the Monroe County Heritage Museum Board. She traveled twice to Hull, England, when the museum presented the play "To Kill a Mockingbird." She also serves on Monroeville's Preservation Commission and on the advisory board of HIPPY, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters.

Tucker served two terms on the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board. She has four children: Cynthia, of Washington, D.C., a 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner and keynote speaker at the 1997 AHF awards luncheon; Karen Tucker of Atlanta; Sheryl Tucker Vazquez of Houston; and J. Kevin Tucker of Boston. In her spare time, she enjoys chatting on Skype with her granddaughters, Maria Irene Vazquez of Houston and Carly Robbins Tucker of Washington, D.C. — Paul Lawson 🌱

Leaving Its Mark: The Daniel Foundation of Alabama

Hugh Daniel was always quick to respond when asked about his personal keys to success. He cited hard work, not for the sake of work, but well-directed, efficient work; fairness, being fair in everything you do; and delivering what you say you will deliver. These simple attributes allowed Hugh Daniel to rise from humble beginnings to become a man who spearheaded one of the nation's largest and foremost construction corporations; a man who provided the impetus to propel his corporation to world prominence in its industry; and a man who silently, without regard for personal gain and notoriety, instituted needed influence into programs designed for the good of the community.

For more than 33 years, the Daniel Foundation has taken a leadership role in supporting a variety of community needs across Alabama. From education to services for the homeless to helping children get a good start in life, the Daniel Foundation has helped many nonprofits face the future. The foundation's stated vision includes strengthening communities and improving the quality of life, with a primary focus on quality educational programs,

arts and culture, civic and community programs, and medical care and research. "The vibrant nonprofit community of Alabama provides us with so many innovative and effective opportunities to enhance the lives of Alabamians," says Maria Kennedy, executive director of the Daniel Foundation of Alabama.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation in particular has received grants in support of the multiple educational programs that support the mission. "With today's challenging economy, this is the kind of support that allows us to provide top quality programs to improve the quality of education in Alabama," says Bob Stewart, AHF executive director.

The Daniel Foundation takes seriously its role as a catalyst for other funding. Recently, organizations such as the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham Museum of Art, Children's Hospital of Alabama and the Birmingham Zoo have been able to leverage the generosity of the Daniel Foundation of Alabama in securing additional gifts for major projects. — *Paul Lawson* 🐦



Give to AHF

AHF 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.

You will be pleased to know that giving to humanities is just as easy as learning about them. Our 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

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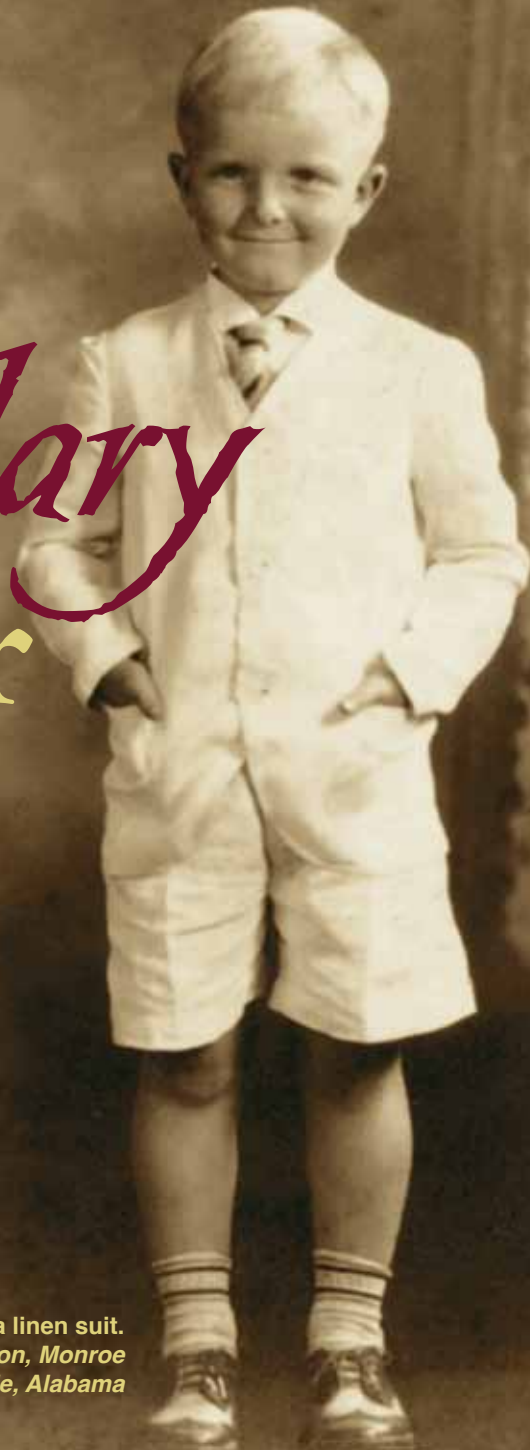
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Celebrating a Legendary Author



Four-year-old Truman Capote in a linen suit.
Courtesy of the Jennings Faulk Carter Collection, Monroe
County Heritage Museum, Monroeville, Alabama

Truman Capote spent a number of his formative years in Monroeville, Alabama, running around with Nelle Harper Lee, sharpening his skills on a typewriter. Here, we examine his life, his connection to Monroeville and his notorious novel *In Cold Blood*, 45 years later.

Truman Capote: A History

As excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Norman McMillan

World-renowned author and popular-culture icon Truman Capote (1924-1984) was born in New Orleans and raised in the northeast, but his true sense of identity and the literature he produced were rooted more in Alabama than anywhere else. Both of his parents were Alabamians, and his extended visits with Monroeville relatives and close friendship with Harper Lee greatly influenced his writing and his worldview. Capote's flamboyant public persona and battles with substance abuse brought him as much attention as his literary output and made him a symbol of the artistic excesses that characterized New York's literati in the minds of the public during the 1960s and 1970s.

Capote was born Truman Streckfus Persons in New Orleans, Louisiana, on September 30, 1924. His father, Arch Persons, was a well-educated ne'er-do-well from a prominent Alabama family, and his mother, Lillie Mae Faulk, was a pretty and ambitious young woman so anxious to escape the confines of small-town Alabama that she married Arch in her late teens. Capote's early childhood with Arch and Lillie Mae was marked by neglect and painful insecurity that left him with a lifelong fear of abandonment. His life gained some stability in 1930 when, at age six, he was put in the care of four elderly, unmarried cousins in Monroeville, Monroe County, Alabama. He lived there full-time for three years and made extended visits throughout the decade. Capote was most influenced by his cousin Sook, who adored him and whom he celebrated in his writings. He also forged what would become a lifelong friendship with next-door neighbor Nelle Harper Lee, who later won the Pulitzer Prize for her book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Capote appears in the novel as the character Dill.

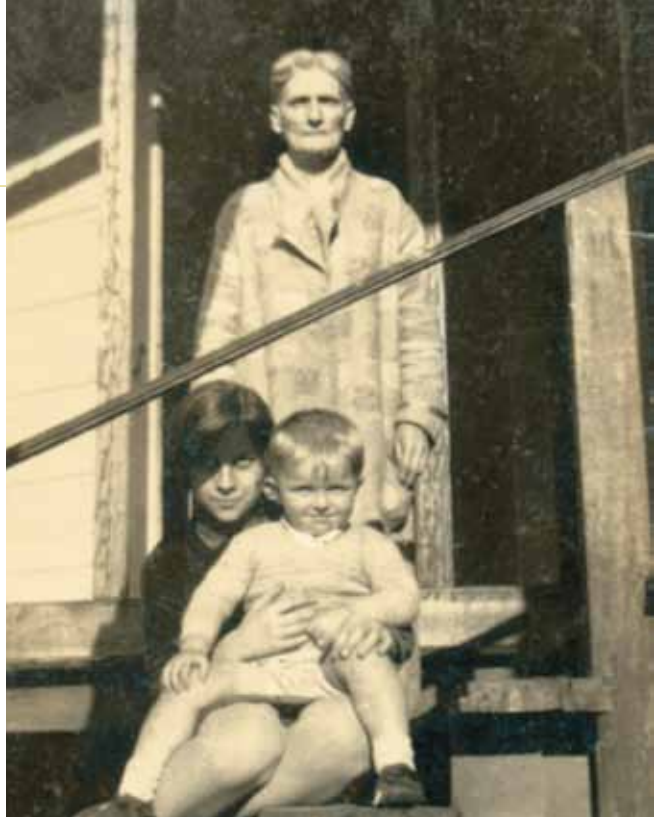
The Move to New York

In 1931, Lillie Mae left her husband and moved to New York, never again to live in the South. She changed her name to Nina, divorced Arch and, in 1932, married a wealthy Cuban immigrant named Joe Capote. The following year, Truman moved in with them and, in 1935, Joe Capote officially adopted him. Truman Streckfus Persons was now Truman Capote...

Beginning in Writing

As a child, Capote showed a great interest in writing. In Monroeville, he was permitted to use the household typewriter and did so enthusiastically. At Greenwich High School, in Connecticut, he developed a clear sense of his vocation, nurtured by English teacher Catherine Wood. While attending the Franklin School, an elite private school on New York's Upper West Side, Capote was hired as a copy boy at *The New Yorker* magazine. There he developed and refined some of the personality traits that would later become his trademarks: eccentric and flamboyant behavior and dress, a high-pitched lisping voice, and extreme outward self-confidence. He also cultivated friendships with influential people, especially women. Unlike several other famous gay people of the time, Capote was very open and public about his sexual orientation.

Fired by *The New Yorker* for offending poet Robert Frost by walking out on one of his readings, Capote began to work on his writing in earnest. During his early twenties, he published several stories in *Harper's Bazaar* and *Mademoiselle*, and in 1948, at 24, he published an autobiographical coming-of-age novel, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*. The book received great praise for the excellence of its prose and earned national attention because of a



Truman Capote developed an abiding affection for his cousin Sook Faulk, whom he made the central character in two of his most popular short stories, "A Christmas Memory" and "The Thanksgiving Visitor." Here, Sook watches over Capote, held by Lucille Faulk, Capote's mother's youngest sister.

Courtesy of the Jennings Faulk Carter Collection, Monroe County Heritage Museum, Monroeville, Alabama

provocative photograph of the author posing seductively on a couch. Henceforth, Capote, like his literary contemporaries Norman Mailer and Gore Vidal, was known as much for his public persona as for his writing...

Mixing with the Upper Crust

Capote loved to surround himself with the rich and famous, and he became a friend and confidant to numerous well-known people, including designer and photographer Cecil Beaton, playwright Noel Coward, and movie stars Marilyn Monroe and Montgomery Clift, as well as President John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy, and her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill. He was the darling of a group of very rich women—he called them his "swans"—who entertained him aboard their yachts and at luxurious resorts throughout the world. He also gained even greater fame across the country as a frequent guest on television talk shows such as the *Johnny Carson Show* and the *Dick Cavett Show*.

Despite his heavy socializing, Capote maintained a rigorous writing schedule for most of his life. In 1949, he published *A Tree*

Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* at 45: A Retrospective

By Ralph F. Voss

of *Night*, a collection of stories, followed in 1950 by *Local Color*, a collection of travel essays. *The Muses Are Heard*, his comic satire of his travels in Russia with the cast of the George Gershwin musical *Porgy and Bess*, came out in 1956 and, in 1958, he published one of his best-known works, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, a short novel set in New York. Three years later, Paramount Pictures released a highly acclaimed film version starring Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard.

Two of Capote's works were produced for the stage on Broadway. Although no expense was spared in their production, *The Grass Harp*, based on life in the Monroeville house where he stayed as a boy, was only moderately successful and *The House of Flowers*, a musical about two rival brothels in Haiti, was generally considered a disaster. Capote also wrote for the screen: in 1953 he co-authored the United Artists comedy *Beat the Devil* with director John Huston and, in 1960, he adapted the Henry James' short story "The Turn of the Screw" into a script for the successful 20th Century Fox movie *The Innocents*. 🐦

To read more about Truman Capote, visit encyclopediaofalabama.org.

January 2011 marks the 45th anniversary

of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, which was the publishing event of 1966, but which also became much more than that: It is one of the most significant books in American cultural history. On its most basic level, it tells a captivating tale of multiple murders followed by pursuit, capture, trial, conviction and execution of the killers—all with the allure of Capote's noisily persistent claims of absolute truth. But over the years, the excellent story within the book has been dwarfed by the larger cultural stories around it; that is, the tales of Capote and how he created *In Cold Blood*, how his life changed afterwards and how the book influenced popular culture have become more important than the book itself. Since its publication, there have been at least 17 separate creations about Capote, almost all of them focusing primarily on *In Cold Blood*: two films of the basic *In Cold Blood* story, two biographical films about Capote while he was writing the book, three documentary films about Capote and the book, two conventional novels and one graphic novel about Capote and the book, one standard biography of Capote's life, one oral biography about Capote's life, three one-actor plays about Capote's life, and one collection of Capote's letters. There has even been an opera inspired by *In Cold Blood*.

None of this could be foreseen on November 14, 1959, when four members of the Herbert Clutter family were murdered in tiny Holcomb, Kansas. Within days after the crime, before the killers were caught, Capote arrived in Holcomb with his longtime Alabama friend Harper Lee, who had just finished writing *To Kill a Mockingbird*. As the two strangers in town pursued the story that Capote at first envisioned only as an article exploring the shock in the community, Lee proved invaluable as a



research assistant whose graciousness and tact helped the flamboyantly gay Capote overcome the Kansans' natural reluctance to speak to strangers (particularly one as off-putting to them as Capote) during the fearful time. After the killers were captured, Capote realized there was a larger story to tell, a story that was perfect for his longtime desire to write an account about actual people and events. His research was exhaustive, and he used his abilities as a novelist to tell the factual tale—what he, in a catchy publicity-oriented phrase, called "a nonfiction novel."

Pre-publication interest was phenomenal, so much so that the book became an instant bestseller. Similar publicity surrounded the starkly realistic successful film that followed in 1967. Interest in ordinary best-selling books and subsequent films would normally have faded after such splashy attention, but there was nothing ordinary about this work. Attention to *In Cold Blood* began to expand extraordinarily because of public fascination with its creator and his knack for calling attention to himself and how he got his story—the story of the story, so to speak.

That story begins with Capote's nonpareil self-promotion. Already a successful writer of gothic tales set either in his native South (*Other Voices, Other Rooms*) or his adopted New York City (*Breakfast at Tiffany's*), Capote ambitiously wanted more, and he believed this factual story of crime and punishment would bring him the atten-

continued on page 21



Truman Capote with his aunt Mary Ida Faulk Carter during a visit by Capote to Monroeville in April 1963 while working on *In Cold Blood*.

Photograph by Jennings Faulk Carter, Monroe County Heritage Museum, Monroeville, Alabama

Capote's Ties to an Alabama Town

By Jennifer Dome

Arriving in Monroeville the day after the town's official Christmas fruitcake sale, it's clear just how much this town embraces its literary giants. The tradition stems from Truman Capote's beloved short story, "A Christmas Memory," and the sale takes place at the Monroe County Heritage Museum, where an exhibit titled "Truman Capote—A Childhood in Monroeville" is housed.

Approaching the town's picturesque square, a historical marker declares: "TRUMAN CAPOTE (1924-1984) On this site stood the home of the Faulk family of Monroeville, relatives of the writer Truman Capote." The home site is little more than a short, low wall of bricks now, but standing back, closing your eyes, you can almost imagine the house that once stood here. The house that was just doors down from where Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

and Truman's childhood friend, lived.

Capote moved to Monroeville to stay with his four elderly, unmarried cousins when he was six years old. According to Nathan Carter, a relative of Capote's, it was a strange household consisting of one bachelor brother and three sisters. There were no other children in the house when Capote lived there. But Capote formed a strong attachment to one cousin in particular, Sook. It is Sook, who called Capote "Buddy," who Capote based at least two of his characters on, in "A Christmas Memory" and "The Thanksgiving Visitor."

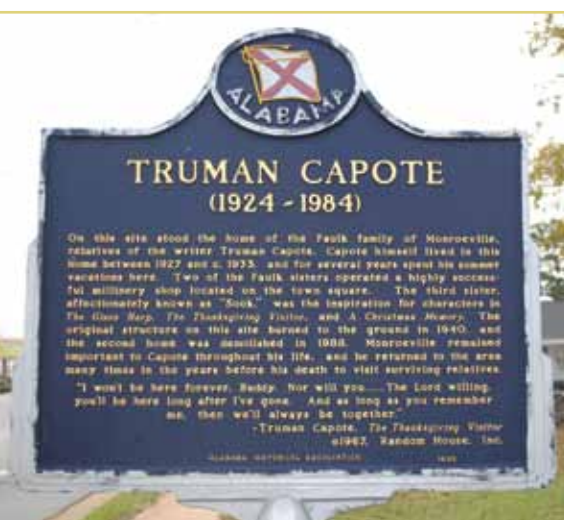
Capote himself appeared as a character in his childhood friend's book *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Carter says both Capote and Lee were taken with writing stories, even at a young age. But it was Capote who pushed them to write, and to write every day, much to Lee's chagrin at times. Lee's father had given Capote a pocket dictionary, which he carried around, and gave him an extensive vocabulary for a boy so young. It was also from the Lee family that the children gained possession of a typewriter, which Carter says they used to lug back and forth from one house to another. "They were both different from the norm," Carter says about Capote and Lee. "She was a tomboy and he was the exact opposite and they were very, very smart and precocious."

Although Capote only lived in

Monroeville for three years, he visited many times throughout the years. His friendship with Lee lasted for some time; Capote enlisted her help in 1959 when he began research for his book *In Cold Blood*. According to Carter, both Capote and Lee were "attracted to the macabre." Capote felt he could tell this true story of the murder of the Clutter family and their killers, Dick Hickock and Perry Smith, in a way that read like a fiction book, though it was nonfiction. Lee accompanied him on his research trips to Kansas because "she had a knack for drawing a portrait of people really quickly with words," Carter says.

Capote's relationship with Lee, and his hometown and relatives, is evident in the collection of photos, letters and other memorabilia on display at the Monroe County Heritage Museum. From a letter Truman wrote to his aunt about putting off a visit to Monroeville because he had to go to Hollywood and work on the film version of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, to his baby blanket, the collection gives insight to this remarkably talented, eccentric author. 🐦

For more information on the Monroe County Heritage Museum, visit tokillamockingbird.com or call (251) 575-7433.



The Monroe County Heritage Museum

Alabama Celebrates Capote

The Southern Literary Trail has planned an event focusing on Truman Capote for Trailfest 2011.

April 2, 2011

Capote: 1966: A Year in Black and White

In 1966, Truman Capote celebrated the publishing of *In Cold Blood* with a Black and White Masked Dance at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Now 45 years later, scholars Ralph Voss, John Hafner and Don Noble will discuss Capote's successes and failures. The film "With Love From Truman" by Albert Maysles and David Maysles will also be shown.

**The Old Monroe County Courthouse, Monroeville
4 p.m.; program and film are free**



For more information, visit southernliterarytrail.org.



In November 1966, Capote, known for his eccentricity, threw a lavish Black and White Masked Dance at New York's Plaza Hotel. Above, native Alabamian Tallulah Bankhead's mask worn at the dance. Courtesy of the Bankhead House & Heritage Center. At right, a gown worn to the dance by New York socialite and author Brooke Astor. Photograph by Steven Bluttal, Museum of the City of New York, Costume Collection



continued from page 19

tion he seems to have craved since youth, when he was largely abandoned by his parents to be raised by relatives in Monroeville, Alabama. Soon after he began *In Cold Blood* in earnest, he also began promoting the project at every opportunity, giving interviews and public readings of excerpts, culminating in the story's serialization in *The New Yorker* at the end of 1965. At no time did he affect modesty. "I'm sure I have it all perfectly," he said; "the book will be a classic." Prior to and well after its publication, he made numerous appearances on network television, promoting both book and film. He embraced the role of celebrity writer, recognized not only for his books (especially *In Cold Blood*) but also for his opinions about crime and punishment as well as his tendency to share outlandish, gossipy remarks about people and topics of the day. He became, in his words, "famous for being famous." His became a life of excess abetted by substance abuse; though he claimed to be writing another nonfiction book, a gossipy exposé about the lives of rich and famous people he knew, he never finished it before his death in 1984. *In Cold Blood* remains his best-known and most important book, but it is even more remarkable that the book and its creator have left such an influential legacy in popular culture.

One lasting influence of *In Cold Blood* is today's popularity of "true crime" literature. Though Capote didn't invent the genre, his success helped line bookstore shelves with "true crime" books by such writers as Vincent Bugliosi, Joe McGinniss, Ann Rule, Robert Graysmith and others. Though critics still debate whether such a thing as a "nonfiction novel" is even possible, several successful books have been written and marketed as nonfiction novels, such as John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and John Grisham's *An Innocent Man*. *In Cold Blood* is still taught in high school and university classes in subjects as diverse as American literature, journalism, criminology and social studies. It is often cited in arguments about capital punishment. The belief of many that Capote fell in love with one of the men who killed the Clutters prompted questions about the role of homosexuality in the crime story itself and Capote's writing of it. Lee's longtime friendship with Capote, his appearance in *To Kill a Mockingbird* as "Dill" Harris, and her research collaboration with him in Kansas caused enduring and irresolvable speculations about whether they may have written parts of each other's books. Clearly, *In Cold Blood* continues, at 45, to attract attention to itself and to its author. 🐦

Spotlight On...

SUPER Emerging Scholars: Where Are They Now?

Now that our growing SES program is entering its third year, let's look back and find out how some of the program's graduates are doing...



Bria Gilmore, Midfield, Ala.

Q: Where are you in school and what are you studying or planning to major in?

A: I am majoring in business finance at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Q: What important lesson(s) and/or skills did you take away from your week with SES?

A: SES certainly prepared me in several areas. However, one of the most practical lessons learned was developing an independent mindset. SES was one of the few programs that actually gave us free reign. It was our responsibility to wake up on time, to complete our assignments, and to ask questions to the professors. This is EXACTLY how my college experience has been. I thank SES for giving us the freedom to choose, and I encourage them to continue with this approach.

Q: Tell me about a challenging assignment you faced during your first year of school. How did what you learned in SES help you tackle this challenge?

A: Well, term papers are assigned quite frequently. Every time that I sit down to write a paper I recall Dr.

Karen Gardiner's lesson in SES. I always remember to be mindful of the "pathos, logos and ethos." SES was the first time I had heard these terms and, since I've stepped foot on Howard's campus, that is all that I hear. Considering these things in my writings allows me to develop Grade-A papers every time.

Q: Why would you recommend the SES program to other students?

A: I would certainly recommend the SES program because this program goes far above its written objectives. It is designed to strengthen students intellectually while engaging them in the areas of humanities and African-American studies, but I received much more than that. It develops soft skills that you cannot learn anywhere but through experience. Also, the people that I met were awesome. I have an established relationship with Mr. Chambers and I have friends who I met in SES, and I still talk to them today. This is definitely an opportunity that I would recommend to all rising juniors and seniors in high school. It is challenging, but truly worth it! – *Jennifer Dome* 🐦

Checking In With Our SUPER Teachers

Dozens of teachers across Alabama attend AHF's SUPER institutes every summer and bring what they've learned back to the classroom. Here, we learn how they've been influenced by AHF's scholars.

According to Karen Wilksman, her mother knew her daughter was always destined to be a high school teacher. During Wilksman's college days at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, one of her history professors and an English professor pointed her in that direction as well. As they say, the proof is in the pudding because years later, this A.P. English teacher has been selected as Huntsville's teacher of the year for 2010. "I give freely, my materials or methods," Wilksman says about the teamwork between teachers. "You always learn from others. You grab whatever you can from everyone else."

It is this camaraderie that brings Wilksman back to AHF's SUPER institutes year in, and year out. The most recent institute she attended, "Humanities and Human Rights" led by Nancy Anderson at Auburn University-Montgomery, taught her lessons she was easily able to bring back to her classroom. For the institute they read *Nickel and Dimed* and *Outcasts United*,

among other titles, focusing on people who have low-paying jobs, are refugees, or face religious persecution. Both these books related well to her recent lesson on *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Being able to tie the classics included in her curriculum to current works helps her students see the everyday lessons that can be learned in literature. "A lot of my students have told me how well they're doing in college," Wilksman says.

Her favorite institute thus far was the "America Between the Wars" course, led by Rich McGraw of the University of Alabama. "I teach American Literature, so there's a lot I can bring into the classroom," Wilksman said of the history course. Whether it's specifically an English-related institute or not, it's the professional development she gets from SUPER that makes her recommend it to other teachers she meets. "It's a learning vacation," she says. "I could be a student forever." – *Jennifer Dome* 🐦



Karen Wilksman

Daring to Defend Our Rights

The AHF Faculty Development Awards and Humanities Forum are initiatives of the Alabama Humanities Foundation to offer Alabama scholars the opportunity for professional development and improvement of their teaching competencies. Each dean of arts and sciences in Alabama was invited to nominate the most outstanding, promising humanities scholar at his/her institution to participate in a forum. Each scholar submitted a paper on "Civility: What Does Civility Mean in the 21st-Century Debate" to present at the forum.

In partnership with the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, the forum "Daring to Defend Our Rights: A Discussion of Civility in Alabama Public Life," based on the official motto for Alabama, will be an opportunity for the general public to discuss the topic of civility on Friday, March 25, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. The author of the most outstanding paper will open the forum. A panel with a teacher, student, journalist, historian and community leader will respond to the scholar's presentation on civility and encourage a public discussion. Dare to defend your rights and join us on March 25. — *Susan Perry* 🌿

Welcome to AHF's Newest Staff Member!

In January, **Dominique Linchet** joined the AHF team as the new grants director. She most recently served on the faculty at Birmingham-Southern College as a professor of French for 16 years.

Linchet was born in Bastogne, Belgium, and grew up in La Roche, a picturesque town in the Ardennes forest. After earning her master's degree in romance philology from the University of Brussels, she moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where she has family. She taught French and Spanish at Charlotte Country Day School for four years. She then pursued a doctorate degree at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and moved to Birmingham in 1993. She taught French as a lecturer at the University of Alabama Birmingham for a year prior to beginning her term at BSC.

In 1998, she was elected to the board of the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers (AAFLT) and served as vice president and president of AAFLT for three years. In 2001, she was recognized by her peers and was awarded SCOLT's (Southern Conference on Language Teaching) Outstanding Teaching Award, post-secondary. She has also provided translation and consulting services to the Birmingham Museum of Art, to the theatre and dance faculty at BSC and to Community Health Access International, a humanitarian relief organization with which she traveled to Haiti in October. More recently and since the end of her tenure at BSC, she has served as development and communication volunteer at ¡HICA! (Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama) where she has helped the organization grow its individual donor base.

Dominique lives in the Highland Park area of Birmingham with her husband, Jay Bender, and their two daughters, Sarah (16) and Laure (14).

Welcome, Dominique! — *Jennifer Dome* 🌿



Road Scholars Speakers Bureau: Call for New Submissions

AHF is seeking new Road Scholars to make presentations throughout the state of Alabama on a selected topic, usually speaking for 50 minutes and then answering questions for 10 minutes. Road Scholars typically speak three times a year and receive a modest honorarium for each engagement.

Road Scholars speak on topics in the humanities, including history, philosophy, language, literature, law, art history, archaeology, or anthropology. AHF will consider any topic in their field, but demand is particularly strong for presentations on Alabama history, folklore and literature.

AHF is especially interested in the following topics:

- Immigration History and Stories
- Civil War
- Civil Rights Movement in Alabama
- Immigration and the ever changing face of America
- Alabama Immigration (Germans, Greeks, Southeast Asians etc.)
- Inter-migration of African Americans
- America's Westward Expansion
- Music History (Rock 'n Roll, Country, Hip-Hop, Jazz)
- Mark Twain, Truman Capote and other celebrated Southern authors
- Alabama's Native American history and heritage
- The Trail of Tears
- Helen Keller
- War of 1812 and removal of Creeks from Alabama
- International Affairs
- China and the rise of East Asia

Anyone interested in becoming a Road Scholar should submit a proposal with the following:

Cover Letter: Include your name, home and office addresses, home and office phone numbers, fax number and email address.

Lecture Description: Provide the title and a two-page summary (12 pt. font, double-spaced) of your presentation. Please also explain what humanities disciplines the presentation encompasses, why the topic is important and interesting to the general public and/or teachers, and how you will engage the audience in dialogue, for example, through thought-provoking questions, hand-outs, A/V materials, photographs, artifacts, suggested readings, etc.

Curriculum Vita: Provide a condensed CV (12 pt. font, two pages max). Include information about what qualifies you as an expert on your presentation topic as well as information about your public speaking experience outside the classroom.

References: Provide the names and phone numbers of at least two professional references who can attest to your speaking abilities.

Submit all required proposal content via email to mchambers@ahf.net or to: Alabama Humanities Foundation, c/o Michael L. Chambers II, 1100 Ireland Way, Suite 101, Birmingham, Alabama 35205. To download the full RFP and complete guidelines, please visit ahf.net or contact Michael L. Chambers II, 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.

MUSIC TOUCHES OUR LIVES

Music is as important to our lives as Alabamians as rainfall is important to a cotton farmer. From hymns that echo off the walls of small country churches, to the sounds of The Temptations on radios all over the world, Alabama is known for its musicians. Our music comes from everyday life – from the sounds of workers on the railroads to traditional music coming from immigrants from afar. Learn more about the Music of Alabama in these excerpts from the *Encyclopedia of Alabama* (encyclopediaofalabama.org).

Railroad Bill

Based loosely on the exploits of an African-American outlaw known as “Railroad Bill,” tales of his brief but action-filled career on the wrong side of the law have been preserved in song, fiction, and theater.

Gandy Dancer Work Song Tradition

“Gandy dancers” was a nickname for railroad section gangs in the days before modern mechanized track upkeep. The men were called dancers for their synchronized movements when repairing track under the direction of a lead workman known as the “caller” or “call man.”

Benjamin Lloyd’s Primitive Hymns

The *Primitive Hymns*, a hymnbook first published in 1841 in Wetumpka, Elmore County, is still in use by Primitive Baptist congregations across the country. During the late 1820s and early 1830s dissension had arisen among Baptists over various theological issues and practices, including the use of music during worship. This eventually led congregations to withdraw from the main body and join with other like-minded congregations under the name “Primitive” Baptists to identify them with the practices of the early church.

Ruby Pickens Tartt

One of the foremost chroniclers of folklore, folk music and slave narratives in rural Alabama, Ruby Pickens Tartt (1880-1974) helped to fill the manuscript and music collections of the Library of Congress and preserve the culture of Sumter County, Alabama.

Traditional Music

Folksong collectors have long considered Alabama a state rich in traditional music. This is particularly a result of the waves of Scots-Irish and African peoples that populated the region during the 19th century, whose musical traditions were sustained by the enduring agricultural economy and by their relative cultural stability.

Notable Grammy Award Winners

Lionel Richie
Blind Boys of Alabama
Jimmy Buffett
Emmylou Harris
Alabama

Alabamians Sing on Screen

Nell Carter
Nat “King” Cole
Jim Nabors
The Speer Family

Songwriters from Alabama

Julia S. Tutwiler
Her poem “Alabama” is immortalized as the official state song.
Hank Williams, Sr.
Arthur Alexander
Jimmy Buffett
Delmore Brothers
Louvin Brothers
Donnie Fritts
Wallace Daniel Pennington
Edward C. “Eddie” Hinton

Religious Music in Alabama

Blind Boys of Alabama
One of the best-known African-American gospel groups in the world.
The Speer Family
One of the most popular gospel groups in Alabama.
Benjamin Lloyd’s Primitive Hymns
A hymnbook first published in 1841 in Wetumpka; is still in use by Primitive Baptist congregations across the country.



1. Hank Williams, Sr.
2. Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton
3. Nat "King" Cole & William "W.C." Handy
4. The Temptations
5. Erskine Hawkins
6. Nat "King" Cole

Courtesy of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame

5 Big Names in Alabama Music

1. Hank Williams, Sr.

Few performers in the history of country music can compare with Hank Williams, Sr. (1923-1953) in terms of importance and influence. A key figure in the development of modern country music, Williams personified the musical genre's shift from a regional, rural phenomenon to nationwide, urban acceptance in the late 1940s. Revered by fans drawn to the sincerity of his songs and his singing, and glorified by an industry that once ostracized him, Hank Williams, during his brief 29 years, was instrumental in turning "hillbilly" music into "country" music.

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Jeffrey J. Lange, University of St. Francis

2. Jimmy Buffett

3. William "W.C." Handy

A native of Florence, Lauderdale County, W. C. Handy (1873-1958) was a songwriter, arranger, music publisher, and folklorist who became known as the "Father of the Blues" for his contributions to that musical genre. Among the most important American songwriters between the years 1910 and 1925, Handy introduced blues into the mainstream of

popular culture by writing down and combining fragments of melodies and words, turning them into complete written compositions, and disseminating them via sheet music, performances, and recordings. His boyhood home in Florence now operates as a museum and library in his honor.

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Elliott S. Hurwitt, New York City

4. Emmylou Harris

5. Nat "King" Cole

Nat "King" Cole (1919-1965) was a leading figure in American popular music in the 1940s and 1950s. A jazz pianist, composer, and singer, he was widely beloved for his smooth, silky voice. He was the first African American artist to host his own television program and fought for civil rights in a determined but understated manner. He remains one of Alabama's most famous sons. Cole was inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1985 and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2000.

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Tina Spencer Dreisbach, Hiram College

Telling Our Story *(continued)*

Alabama's Rock and Roll Hall of Famers

Nat “King” Cole

Wilson Pickett

Percy Sledge

Spooner Oldham

Eddie Kendricks (first lead tenor for the Temptations)

Eddie Kendricks (1939-1992) was the first lead tenor for the Temptations, one of the most popular rhythm and blues (R&B) vocal groups of the 1960s. After lending his voice to a number of hit songs by the group, Kendricks went solo in 1971 and recorded other hits for Motown Records, including the dance floor classics “Keep On Truckin’” and “Boogie Down.”

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Bill Dahl, Chicago, Ill.

Dennis Edwards (a lead singer for the Temptations)

Donna Jean Godchaux (vocalist with Grateful Dead)

Blues from Alabama

W.C. Handy

Willie Mae “Big Mama” Thornton

Willie Mae Thornton (1926-1984) was an influential African-American blues singer and songwriter whose career extended from the 1940s to the early 1980s. She was called “Big Mama” for both her size and her robust, powerful voice. She is best known for her gutsy 1952 rhythm and blues recording of “Hound Dog,” later covered by Elvis Presley, and for her original song “Ball and Chain,” made famous by Janis Joplin. Thornton’s compositions include more than 20 blues songs.

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Tina Spencer Dreisbach, Hiram College

Adele “Vera” Ward Hall

Considered by many music fans to be the foremost blues singer.

George “Wild Child” Butler

Noted blues performer and harmonica player in Chicago’s blues tradition.

Bo McGee

Blues performer, songwriter, and harmonica player.

All That Jazz

Nat “King” Cole

Erskine Hawkins

Musician and Birmingham native Erskine Hawkins (1914-1993) was a prominent African-American trumpeter, bandleader, and composer during the Big Band era of the 1930s and 1940s. Known as the “Twentieth-Century Gabriel” (after the angel Gabriel, who is often depicted with a trumpet) for his flamboyant style and ability to hit high notes, Hawkins gained fame as a member of the ‘Bama State Collegians, one of the finest college bands of its time. His Erskine Hawkins Orchestra was a popular dance band in New York City, and with it he recorded “Tuxedo Junction” (1939) and several other hits.

Excerpted from the full Encyclopedia of Alabama article by Jeff Wanser, Hiram College Library

James Reese Europe

A key figure in the transformation of orchestral ragtime into jazz.

Herman Blount (Sun Ra)

A visionary musician whose jazz styling and personal mythology left a lasting impression on modern music.

Albert Murray

Not a musician, but contributed to American writing by creating a unique style using elements of black cultural traditions—the rhythms of black southern speech, folklore, cultural heroes, the blues and jazz—that influenced him during his coming of age in Alabama.

Who knew?

The Top 10 Music Articles in 2010 at encyclopediaofalabama.org

1. Hank Williams, Sr.
2. Jimmy Buffett
3. Nat "King" Cole
4. Emmylou Harris
5. Alabama
6. Vera Ward Hall
7. Traditional Music
8. "Railroad Bill" Lyrics
9. Gandy Dancer Work Song Tradition
10. Benjamin Lloyd's Primitive Hymns



On the Web, In the Know

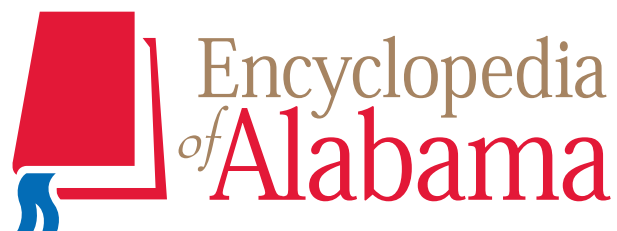
Stats as of December 2010:

- More than 3,140,000 page views and 1,301,000 visitors
- Visitors came from more than 220 Alabama communities and 200 countries and territories
- A total of 1,123 articles have now been posted on encyclopediaofalabama.org

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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Permit 3379
Birmingham, AL

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.

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