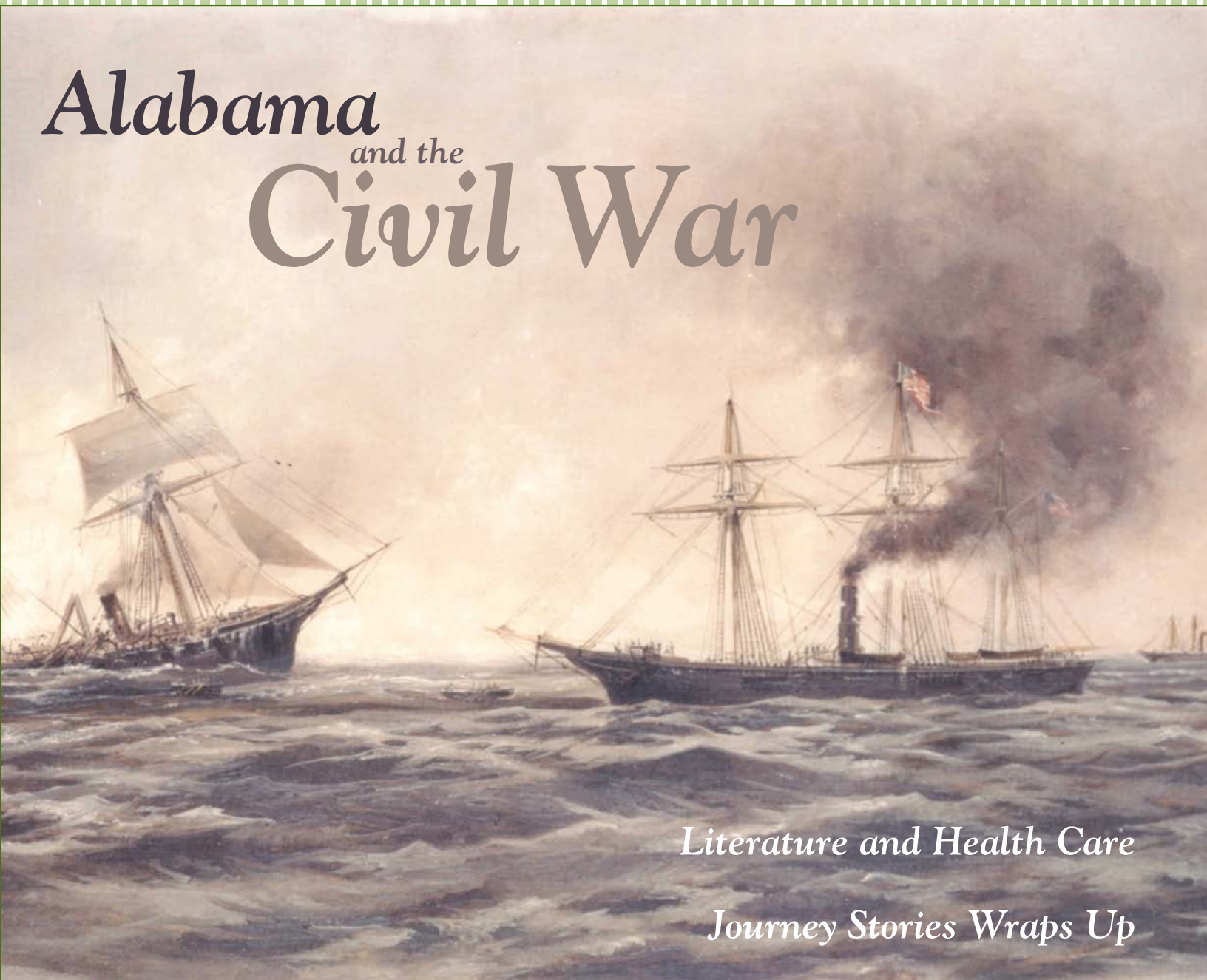


Winter / Spring 2012

MOSAIC

The magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation

Alabama *and the* *Civil War*



Literature and Health Care

Journey Stories Wraps Up



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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.

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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Please direct all Mosaic comments, questions or concerns to Paul Lawson at plawson@ahf.net or (205) 558-3992.

Humanities Highlight

New Road Scholars

The New Year brings new offerings. AHF has added some new speakers and presentations to our Road Scholars Speaker's Bureau. If you are interested in booking a speaker to visit with your civic group, please contact Thomas Bryant at tbryant@ahf.net.



Richard K. Dozier, AIA, D. Arch
rdozier@mytu.tuskegee.edu, (334) 724-4258
Dean, Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Science, Tuskegee University
Tuskegee A Place In Time: Historic Homes And Their Builders

The talk skillfully weaves architectural, social and economic history as well as the cultural landscapes into a visual archive of Macon County architecture. It uncovers and illustrates many little-known or seldom-explored cooperative relationships. Expectation is to expand throughout the state an increased appreciation of people and their architecture, primarily homes, of Tuskegee, Macon County and the Alabama Black Belt. Reading lists, NPS Tuskegee, Macon County and Black Belt tourism information and contacts will be available for audiences. The presentation will appeal to both a lay and professional audience of ages from 16-96.

Scotty E. Kirkland, M.A.

scotty.kirkland@cityofmobile.org,
(251) 208-7246
Curator of history, Museum of Mobile

The Politics Of Voting Rights: Alabama's Boswell Amendment

The Boswell Amendment was a short-lived amendment to the Alabama Constitution designed to prevent African Americans from registering to vote after World War II. It was introduced in response to the Supreme Court's 1944 ruling in *Smith v. Allwright*, which outlawed the common practice of holding "white's only" primaries in southern states. The Boswell Amendment required potential voters to "understand and explain" any section of the U.S. Constitution to the satisfaction of a county registrar before being allowed to register. The Boswell Amendment ignited the state's Dixiecrat Revolt, an event that transformed party politics in the American South after World War II. African Americans' response to the amendment also highlighted significant contrasts between the state's grass-roots civil rights groups and national organizations like the NAACP,

differences that would become even more pronounced in the decades to come. This presentation will trace the history of the amendment from its inception by a Mobile attorney to its ultimate defeat by the U.S. District Court in January 1949.

Helen Gibbs Daniel and Dr. Robert Hill Couch

rcouchauburn@charter.net, (334) 887-7348
Helen Keller: An Amazing Life

The team presentation of "Helen Keller: An Amazing Life" uses photos, snippets of the 1955 Oscar award-winning movie on the life of Keller, and Gibbs Daniel playing the role of Helen Keller as an adult. Adorned in a severely tailored suit topped with a variety of period hats, Gibbs Daniel offers quips and quotes taken directly from Keller's own words. The role-play illustrates the five major topics covered in the presentation by Couch. Keller is described as: beautiful, humorous, as an early entrepreneur, and as an advocate and lobbyist. Following the presentation questions are invited and a general discussion is held.

Julie Hedgepeth Williams, Ph.D.

joldnews@bellsouth.net, (205) 939-3215
Past president of the American Journalism Historians Association and professor of journalism at Samford University

Wings Of Opportunity: The Wright Brothers In Montgomery, Ala., 1910

Williams gives an entertaining PowerPoint slideshow on the Wright Brothers' flying school, held in Montgomery, Ala., in 1910. The show features many photographs of the school, drawn from her book, *Wings of Opportunity* (NewSouth Books, 2010). The speech focuses on the city of Montgomery's attempts to raise its public image half a century after the Civil War. The effort was getting nowhere, until Wilbur Wright unexpectedly appeared in town with a goal of starting the nation's first flying school for civilians. Montgomery scrambled to take advantage of this windfall, as the focus of world attention

was on aviation. It was almost a comedy of errors as Montgomery leaped on the opportunity to ride the "aeroplane" into public consciousness, while the Wright Brothers and their crew resisted the role of publicists for the town. In the end, though, everyone was happy, and the first night flights in history were flown in Montgomery.

Daniel L. Haulman, Ph.D.

Chief, Organizational Histories Branch, Air Force Historical Research Agency
dhaulman@charter.net, (334) 953-2296, (334) 271-6339

Facts And Myths About The Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen were important figures in American and military history, and much can be learned from their training at three airfields around Tuskegee during World War II. The presentation will address the deployment and early performance of the 99th Fighter Squadron, the first black flying unit, in North Africa, Sicily and the mainland of Italy, followed by a description of the 332nd Fighter Group and its three squadrons in Italy. The highlight of the talk will be the combat performance of the 332nd Fighter Group after the 99th Fighter Squadron was assigned to it, and after it began flying long-range bomber escort missions for the 15th Air Force from the summer of 1944 through April 1945. Also addressed will be the 477th Bombardment Group, the only black bomb group in World War II, and that group's resistance to segregated officers' clubs where it was based. The discussion will address several myths that have grown up around the Tuskegee Airmen, including claims that they "never lost a bomber," that Lee Archer was the only black ace, that the Tuskegee Airmen were the first American military pilots to shoot down German jets, that they sank a destroyer by strafing alone and that they robbed a train to get the fuel tanks they needed for their longest mission. The audience will have a better appreciation of what the Tuskegee Airmen did and did not do.



Nicholaos Jones, Ph.D.

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Professor of philosophy at the University of Alabama-Huntsville

Civility, Sincerity And Ambiguity

We live in a pluralistic society. Persistent disagreement is inevitable. The source of this disagreement is an abundance of fundamentally different evaluative perspectives. Each perspective, reflecting a unique history,

culture and tradition, prioritizes values and guides our actions toward realizing those values in ways that diverge, often with dramatic effect, from the priorities and guidance of competing perspectives. Absence of common purpose manifests itself as absence of consensus. The virtue most often mentioned as fostering harmony when present and permitting discord when absent is civility. But when society's fragmentation means that ex-

ercises of political power favor some values at the expense of others, when the very fate of our country seems to hang in the balance, obstinacy and integrity sound good, too. We are left to wonder: Is civility a good thing, or is only the appearance of civility what matters? Why engage opposing points of view, rather than disenfranchise them, when more involvement means more compromise? Why favor civility over obstinate integrity?

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: The CSS Alabama fell to the USS Kearsarge on June 19, 1864, off the shores of Cherbourg, France. Learn more about moments during the Civil War at this year's reading and discussion series (see page 18). Courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command

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From the Chairman

With the presidential primary season well underway, it is easy to find myself thinking about our government, its proper role in our national and personal lives and how to finance the implementation of whatever that role might be. Personally (and let me emphasize the use of the term *personally*!), I think those issues revolve around (or, logically, *should* revolve around) a central question of “just what are the core functions of government?”

I realize that this is a dangerous line of thought for me to ask from the precarious pulpit of the Alabama Humanities Foundation — an organization that benefits greatly from, in addition to our generous individual, corporate and institutional donors — the federal National Endowment for the Humanities. After all, if that particular question — “What are the core functions of government?” — is asked, does anyone really expect the answer to somehow include the paraphrased mission of AHF: “To create and foster opportunities . . . for scholars and the public to interact and explore human values and meanings through the humanities”? Frankly, I sort of doubt it.

But to simply stop the inquiry there would be incredibly shortsighted. Instead, I encourage you to broaden your frame of reference. Instead, think of the two documents that, in my simple view of things, stand as the twin pillars of that same government I’m contemplating. Think of the Declaration of Independence and of our Constitution. And, when you think of those documents, think of the wonderful concepts and marvelous turns of phrase embodied within them. For example, pause to take a fresh look at the Declaration of Independence’s second sentence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

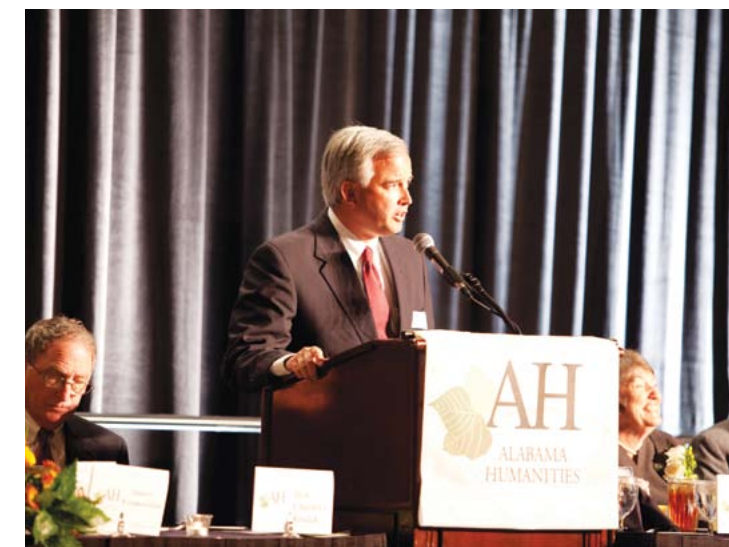
Or recall the preamble to our Constitution: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . .”

Similarly, think about the governmental framework created by the Constitution — a government, to quote a later statesman, “of the people, by the people, [and] for the people.”

And remember the recognition and expression of human and legal rights embodied within the Constitution’s Bill of Rights, protecting the free exercise of religion, speech, the press, assembly and petition.

In light of such things, is it too far afield to argue that, when our founding fathers conceptualized, debated and articulated such concepts, they were cutting to the very core of the human values and meanings that we all treasure? In other words, weren’t our founding fathers using their pens to honor what we understand the humanities to be?

So, perhaps the study and advancement of the humanities are not a core function of government. Fair enough. But never forget that, at the same time, a profound appreciation of what the humanities’ mean is at the very core of our chosen form of government. And isn’t that worth something? 🌱



Jim Noles, AHF chairman, speaks at the 2011 awards luncheon.



Jim Noles, Chair
AHF Board of Directors

Strengthening Alabama's Communities Through The Humanities

Museum on Main Street's Successful Tour Journey Stories, 2011-2012

Museum on Main Street's *Journey Stories* has been a fruitful tour for AHF and co-sponsors, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, the Alabama Power Company Foundation and Norfolk Southern Railroad Foundation. The six-site, statewide tour began at Jasper's landmark Bankhead House & Heritage Center, where 1,500 people, including general public and school children, visited between June 24-Aug. 6. Complimentary AHF grant programs on the history of Jasper and Walker County took place in Jasper and nearby Cordova, an area hit very hard in the April 27 tornado outbreak.

From Aug. 13 through Sept. 23, approximately 1,400 people visited Alexander City's two-part *Journey Stories* exhibit at the Main Street Alexander City space and City Hall,

which featured an accompanying, local exhibit of historic photographs and artifacts from Tallapoosa and Coosa counties. An additional 1,800 4th-, 5th-, and 6th-graders from the Alexander City School System, the Tallapoosa County School System and the Coosa County School System took advantage of this unique learning opportunity.

Marion's newly restored Old Marion Train Depot, part of the Perry County Chamber of Commerce, was the picturesque site of *Journey Stories* Sept. 28-Nov. 10, bringing in 952 visitors from 19 states representing 119 Zip codes. Students from the Department of Education at nearby Judson College developed special educational programs to enrich the experiences of visiting students from across Perry County. A plethora of associated public programming complimented the exhibit, including the three-part, AHF-grant-funded "Perry County



Students listen to a presentation about the exhibit at Main Street Alexander City.

Pathways," which looked at the significant position of Perry County in Alabama's Baptist history, Civil Rights history and Native American migration.

Mobile's National African-American Archives and Multicultural Center was the fourth leg of the tour. Between Nov. 16-Dec. 27, 1,478 visitors from 36 states and four countries (Canada, Germany, South Africa

and Sweden) toured the exhibition. The exhibit was held in the center's historic main building, the former Davis Avenue Branch of the Mobile Public Library. Constructed in 1931 to serve the needs of the African-American community, it is a smaller-scale version of the city's landmark Classical Revival Main Library..

The final sites of the *Journey Stories* tour will include Eufaula's 1892 Freight Depot at the James S. Clark Center, Jan. 6-Feb. 15, and the Arab's Hunt School Building at the Arab Historic Village, Feb. 24-April 5.

— Thomas Bryant

For more information, visit
www.ahf.net/journeystories.



The Marion leg of the *Journey Stories* tour was held in the Old Marion Train Depot.

Project Turn The Page Books Delivered

Throughout November and December, the Alabama Humanities Foundation delivered more 2,000 books to six schools and three public libraries as part of Project Turn the Page. These schools and public libraries were damaged during the storms of April 27, 2011 and include:

- **Ragland Public Library**, St. Clair County
- **Hackleburg Elementary**, Marion County
- **Phil Campbell School**, Franklin County
- **Plainview School**, Rainsville, DeKalb County
- **Pratt City Public Library**, Birmingham
- **Alberta, Holt and University Place Elementary Schools**, Tuscaloosa
- **White Hall Public Library**, Lowndes County

Funded by a Chairman's Emergency Grant from National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jim Leach, as well as a generous donation from Florence businessman Joel Anderson, Project Turn the Page is designed to assist educational and cultural organizations affected by the devastating April 2011 tornadoes. Most of the funds are being used for book purchases, although AHF also awarded a small grant from its NEH funds to the Walker Area Community Foundation in conjunction with the "Journey Stories" exhibition in Jasper. The Community Foundation used the grant to develop an exhibition of historical photographs for the devastated Walker County town of Cordova. Originally scheduled to participate in "Journey Stories" but unable to do so after the storms, Cordova will display the exhibition in its town hall when it is rebuilt in the near future.

In selecting books for the libraries, AHF followed an approach that it used to assist the Bayou la Batre Library after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In both instances, AHF selected humanities-related texts — mostly history and other nonfiction titles related to Alabama topics — to strengthen the libraries' holdings. The University of Alabama Press provided



AHF Executive Director Bob Stewart discusses books donated to Plainview School in Rainsville.



Students in Tuscaloosa are all smiles when they receive new books from AHF's Project Turn The Page

adult-level books on Alabama subjects, while Sea-coast Publishing of Birmingham provided fourth-grade level Alabama biographies. Both publishers offered generous discounts. Since Project Turn the Page would be serving elementary schools as well as public libraries, AHF turned to the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) to recommend high-quality young adult books (Caldecott and Newbery award winners). The schools and libraries were able to select from more than 100 young-adult titles, mostly fiction such as the popular *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, purchased by AHF at a deep discount from Books-a-Million.

Beginning in October, the schools and libraries were each allowed to select up to \$2,000 in books from any of the three lists. When the books began arriving in early November, AHF staff organized and boxed them for delivery. Then the staff and AHF board members, including Board Chairman Jim Noles (who coined the title for the project), together with former executive director Bob Stewart, who had visited some of the schools and libraries earlier in the summer and fall, personally delivered them.

"We are so grateful to the humanities foundation for giving us so many titles which we could not otherwise provide for our students. It was especially important to us that we could choose the titles most appropriate for our patrons," Plainview School librarian Judy Ayers said.

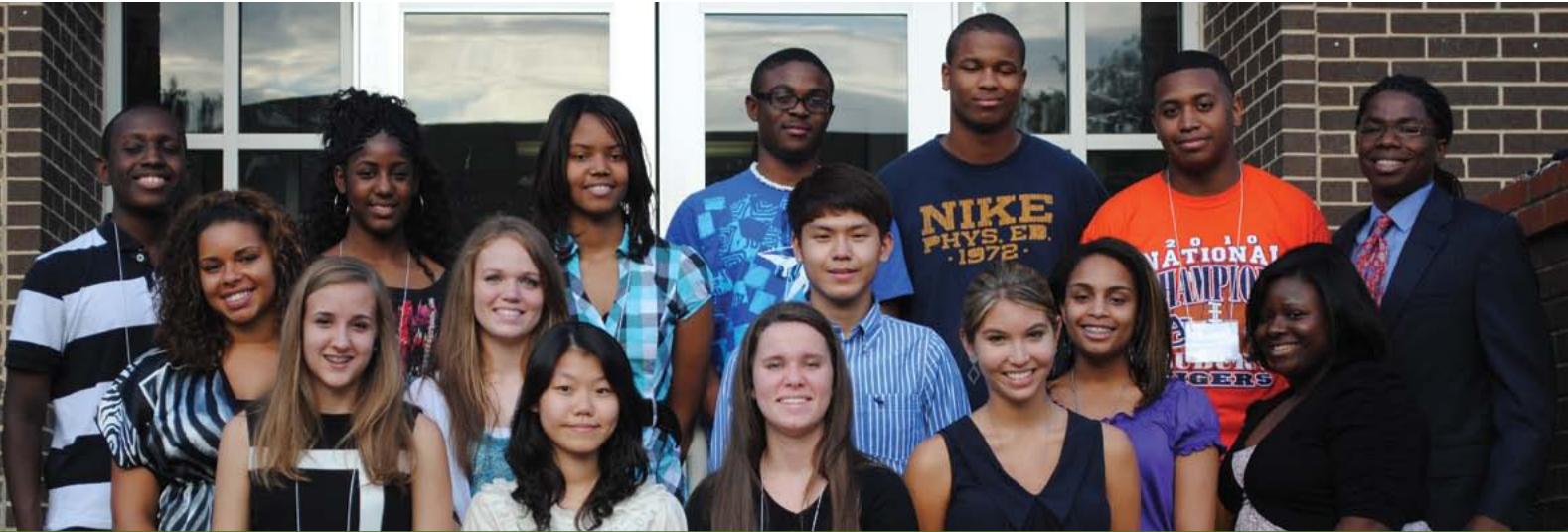
Stewart said he was especially touched by his experiences at Hackleburg Elementary and White Hall Library. "The K-12 school symbolizes Hackle-

burg's hopes for the future and is a special focus for community rebuilding," Stewart said. "Even though the school is operating in portable classrooms, as are many classes in the Phil Campbell and Plainview Schools, the Hackleburg students have adapted well to their new surroundings and appeared as eager to be there as students anywhere. Perhaps the school is a daily refuge for many of them."

The White Hall Library is housed in a trailer next to the town hall in this small Lowndes County community. White Hall is home to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Ethel Williams, a retired school librarian in Montgomery, staffs the library on a volunteer basis. "After meeting Ethel Williams and seeing her boundless energy for books and learning, I was impressed with the possibilities for the library reemerging as a vital community center for adults and kids in the area," Stewart said. "It was very gratifying to be able to contribute more than 200 books to its collection."

In 2012, AHF will continue using both NEH and private funds to support communities and organizations in tornado-damaged areas. This may include additional book purchases, as well as humanities grants or programs for affected communities.

Join Us For SUPER Emerging Scholars 2012



Students at the SES 2011 institute at Auburn University show how diverse the program is – not only in subject matters, but also in participants.

SUPER Emerging Scholars (SES) will kick off its fourth year with two institute locations. In 2012, AHF will partner with the University of Alabama College of Arts & Sciences and Auburn University’s Outreach.

SES institutes are weeklong, pre-college development sessions designed to offer specialized academic enrichment in the humanities. Institutes will 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 enrichment, 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 utilizing different humanities disciplines at each of the two SES institutes.

University of Alabama • Tuscaloosa • June 3-9

This summer’s SES program in Tuscaloosa will revolve around the theme of identity. Students will use works from the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at the University of Alabama to explore notions of the self as they relate to visual representation and, more generally, the discipline of art history. Because the works amassed by Mr. Paul R. Jones — into one of the largest collections of American art in the United States — question the role of the individual in society, articulate diverse notions of community and, importantly, compel viewers to actively question their own senses of self, they are a perfect fit for investigation by high school students, who, at this pivotal age, are asking themselves, consciously or not, questions like *Who am I? What are my hopes and dreams for my life? And How can I achieve them?*

Auburn University • Auburn • June 24-30

This institute, led by Auburn University Associate Professor Kevin Roozen, will focus on “Global Issues in Our Local Communities.” This study will invite SES participants to examine, through text and media, the many ways that their local communities here in the state of Alabama contribute to and are impacted by a variety of global issues both in the present and the near and distant past.

Each institute has space for 16 students and there is no cost to attend. However, interested sophomore, junior and senior high-school students need to submit an application by April 27, 2012, in order to be accepted into one of the two institutes. If you, or someone you know, is

interested in applying, please visit our website at www.ahf.net/programs/ses, or contact Tom Bryant, director of programs and SUPER manager, at (205) 558-3991 or tbryant@ahf.net for more information. — *Michael Chambers II* 🐦

SUPER 2012: Learning Opportunities For Teachers

AHF has taken a leading role in the professional development of Alabama teachers with SUPER — School & University Partners for Educational Renewal — since 1991. This summer, AHF will offer three institutes for teachers across the state free of charge.

Vietnam, Vietnamese-Americans and the Vietnam War

June 17-22, Troy University
Lead scholar: Noel Harold Kaylor Jr., Ph.D., professor of English, 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 rapidly growing culture of mutual respect and cooperation is emerging. In the present period of unprecedented global communication and economic interdependence, not only do students need to have a familiarity with rising giants such as China and India, but also dynamic, smaller nations like Vietnam. Teachers and their students will be well-served by an increased and broadened knowledge of America’s extensive historical ties to the country, the steadily growing Vietnamese-immigrant population since the U.S.-Vietnam War, the sizeable Vietnamese-American community in Alabama and resulting cultural ties.

This six-day residential institute will allow participants to explore Vietnam’s search for independence from colonial domination, the Vietnamese Revolution, geopolitical Cold War context, the intervention of the U.S., and past and present perceptions of each other. Participants will also be introduced to key works of Vietnamese literature, American literature of the Vietnam War era and Vietnamese-American literature.

Support for this institute provided by Troy University.



The Creek Indians in Alabama, 1813-1838

July 22-27, Auburn Montgomery and Alabama Department of Archives and History
Lead scholar: Christopher D. Haveman, Ph.D., associate professor of history, University of West Alabama; and Kathryn Braund, Ph.D., professor of history, Auburn University

The 18th-century Creek Indians were a powerful multi-ethnic, multilingual society that controlled much of present-day Alabama. Through land cession treaties and a costly war (1813-1814), the Creek domain by 1825 had shrunk to about five million acres in east Alabama. The purpose of this institute is to examine the forces that contributed to the disintegration of the Creek Nation in the east and the removal of the Creek Indians to present-day Oklahoma. Participants will get a better understanding of the complexities of Creek society and how the divisions within the Creek Nation ultimately led to their forced removal westward. The institute begins with the First Creek War, caused by the expanding American frontier, the growing gap between rich and poor and a reactionary religious movement, among other things. When Jackson defeated the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend in 1814, he demanded

a sizable tract of Creek land as a penalty. The period after the Creek War was one of relative calm. But this was broken in 1825 when William McIntosh ceded all Creek land in Georgia and a large portion of Creek land in Alabama to the federal government in exchange for equal parts land in Oklahoma, kicking off the removal period. Over the next decade the Creeks suffered from disease, starvation and the pressures brought on by American squatters.

Participants will learn about the voluntary removal period, the devastating 1832 Treaty of Washington, the land frauds, as well as the Second Creek War and removal. The process of removal will also be studied, including the experiences of the Creeks as they traveled west, the removal routes and life in the west during the first year of resettlement.

Exploring Argentina: History, Literature and Popular Culture Spanish Immersion

July 8-13, Birmingham, Birmingham-Southern College
Lead scholar: Barbara Domcekova, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, Birmingham-Southern College

Argentina has recently lost two of the country’s cultural icons — the writer and artist Roberto Fontanarrosa and the singer Mercedes Sosa. This institute will provide teachers of Spanish language with an opportunity to explore the work of these artists within the context of Argentine culture. Roberto Fontanarrosa, the beloved short story writer, novelist and comic strip author, died in 2007. The institute will include examples of his work such as short stories, samples of the comic strip *Inodoro Pereyra*, as well as his contributions to the group of comedians *Les Luthiers*. Mercedes Sosa, on the other hand, as a folk musician, represents music of Argentina beyond tango, the music we tend to associate with Argentina. Her death in 2009 saddened her fans far beyond the borders of Argentina. The institute will focus on some of the classic themes by Sosa and particular attention will be paid to her love of Argentine folklore.

For foreign language teachers, in-depth cultural information as well as the immersion in the language they teach is of great importance. In order to make sure that this new information, as well as the refreshed communication skills, finds its way to the classroom, one session each day will be dedicated to pedagogy; participants will develop activities designed to help increase students’ proficiency in all four language skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking. Additionally, a couple of sessions will be dedicated to what has been known as the stumbling block for most Spanish students on the road to proficiency — the communicative function of narration in the past and the proper use of the preterit and the imperfect. Finally, participants will receive a hands-on introduction to the resources on Argentina’s popular culture and beyond.

For information on how to apply for the 2012 SUPER institutes (deadline May 1, 2012), please visit www.ahf.net/programs/superpages, or contact Tom Bryant, director of programs and SUPER manager, at (205) 558-3991 or tbryant@ahf.net.

Grants Awarded

Major Grants Awarded

15th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium
Alabama Southern Community College
• \$5,000 outright • **April 26-27, 2012**
(Monroeville, Alabama Southern Community College)
The annual Alabama Writers Symposium, held in Monroeville, is a weekend of readings by authors, panel discussions, reader's theatre, live music, art exhibits, book signings, awards presentations, and a Thursday night banquet and a Saturday brunch each featuring a well-known Alabama writer. The 2012 Alabama Writers Symposium explores the ways in which Alabama writers are affected by their "placehood," the ways in which Alabama as a place informs their literary efforts.

2012 Community Read – Madison County Reads A Gathering of Old Men by Ernest Gaines
Huntsville-Madison County Public Library • \$4,000 outright • **April 7-26, 2012**
(Huntsville, Huntsville Madison County Public Library, system libraries TBA)
A Gathering of Old Men will be the first book by an African-American author chosen for the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library's annual community read. In addition to discussions regarding the selected title, there will also be a series of book talks that focus on works by minority authors from the South (women and people of color).

Creek Indian History Lectures 2012
Lowndesboro Landmarks Foundation, Inc.
• \$3,500 outright • Tentative dates: **March 8, April 5, and May 10, 2012** (Lowndesboro, historic CME Church)
Lowndesboro Alabama is steeped in history from the early formative days of the state of Alabama through the days of the War of 1812/Creek Wars. The Holy Ground Battlefield site is less than 10 miles from Lowndesboro and soon the 200th anniversary of that event will be observed. This project will include three lectures that will give the audiences a better understanding of how the Creek Indians and the settlers lived, fought and died.

La Lucha: The Struggle
Spark Media • \$5,000 matching • **December 1, 2011 – November 1, 2012** (production in various locations in Alabama)

The documentary film, *La Lucha*, will be the portrait of Henrietta Boggs, whose unconventional desire for social change at home in Depression-era Alabama led her into a whirlwind of sociopolitical change abroad. A dramatic story unknown to American audiences, Boggs traveled to Costa Rica in the 1940s during a break from Birmingham-Southern College and met and eventually married Jose 'Don Pepe' Figueres, a man destined to transform the country. Boggs became a rare eyewitness to the political upheaval that culminated with Pepe's democratic victory. Boggs later returned to settle in Montgomery and, now at 93, continues her lifelong efforts toward social improvement.

Alabama Book Festival: Fiction and Children's Book Tent
Troy University • \$2,500 outright • **April 21, 2012** (Montgomery, Old Alabama Town)
The 2012 Alabama Book Festival will feature 20 novelists and/or short-story writers combining both single-author readings and panel discussions, as well as eight children's/young-adult authors. This year's prospective authors include Bobbie Ann Mason, Fannie Flagg, Sena Jeter Naslund, Marshall Chapman, Tom Franklin and Susan Gregg Gilmore. Each session will again feature a moderating scholar who will introduce authors and lead a concluding Q&A.

Alabama Book Festival: Nonfiction Venue
Landmarks Foundation/Old Alabama Town • \$2,500 outright • **April 21, 2012** (Montgomery, Old Alabama Town)
This project is focused on the nonfiction genre of the 7th Annual Alabama Book Festival, one of five major venues at the book festival.

Becoming Alabama: Immigration and Migration in a Deep South State
Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities • \$7,000 outright • **January 20-12, 2012** (Auburn, Center for the Arts and Humanities)
This conference is one of the statewide Becoming Alabama efforts to explore the anniversaries of several major historical events, including the Creek War, the Civil War and Emancipation and the Civil Rights era. It is the second in a series that approaches Becoming Alabama from a thematic perspective, the first considered the history of the

press. The 2012 conference will look at historical diversity in the state, its impact on culture, politics and identity, and follow with an examination of the issues surrounding the current Hispanic/Latino influx.

Bringing the World to Alabama
Alabama World Affairs Council • \$2,450 outright • **February 7 and March 6, 2012** (Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts)
The purpose of this program is to promote the widest possible public awareness of the human, moral, historical and philosophical bases of American foreign policy and international interests. The forum takes the form of an early evening lecture/discussion series to educate community leaders on the issues associated with U.S. national interests abroad in the context of economic and cultural globalization. The Alabama World Affairs Council (AWAC) will put on six programs of a public discussion series with nationally and internationally known experts/scholars/diplomats who have not only observed but have also helped shape contemporary history.

Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place
Alabama Folklife Association • \$8,000 outright • **June 1-July 15** (Tuscumbia, Tennessee Valley Art Association) • **August 1- September 15** (Fort Payne, Little River Canyon Center) • **October 1-November 15** (Auburn, Center for the Arts and Humanities) • **December 1, 2012-January 15, 2013** (Dothan, Landmarks Park) • **February 1-March 15, 2013** (Mobile, University of South Alabama, location TBA) • **April 1-May 15, 2013** (Thomasville, Kathryn tucker Windham Museum)
This traveling exhibit will feature the traditional arts of five regions in the state of Alabama with contextual information. The exhibit will visit six locations around the state, remaining at each location for approximately six weeks. Based on the fieldwork of participants in the Alabama Community Scholars Institutes of 2004, 2006 and 2008, and the research completed to produce products for presenting Alabama at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, this exhibit will demonstrate Alabama's folkways as cultural expressions of the local context.

Visiting Author Series
Shelby County Arts Council
• \$4,500 outright • **February, March, April 2012** (Shelby County, various schools and libraries, TBA)
The Shelby County Arts Council, in cooperation with the Harrison Regional Library System, will provide a series of programs to promote an appreciation of the arts and the humanities in Shelby County. These programs feature author Robert Inman. In order to reach as large an audience as possible, the programs range from readings and open discussions designed to encourage learning and allow access to a celebrated and prolific writer with experience in a variety of genres: playwriting, novel and screenwriting.

The Impact of Greek Immigration on Birmingham's Culture and Cuisine
Vulcan Park Museum • \$5,000 outright • **April 19, June 3** (Birmingham, Vulcan Park and Museum) • **TBA spring 2012** (Birmingham, Holy Trinity-Holy Greek Orthodox Church)
This program focuses on the ways the Greek community has defined and transformed regional cuisine. The exhibition also weaves in background information on patterns of immigration and settlement, religious and cultural practices and significant contributions in other areas of endeavor.

Minor Grants Awarded

Southern Voices
Hoover Public Library • \$1,000 outright
This is the 20th anniversary of the Southern Voices literary conference. This conference will be a celebration of writing, music and art. This year's conference will feature national and local authors.

Archi-Treats
Friends of the Alabama Archives • \$1,000 outright
This project will fund humanities speakers for a well-established, monthly public discussion series at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Many of the topics complement the Becoming Alabama initiative. A few speakers that will be featured are: Glenn Eskew, Harvey Jackson and Ben Severance.

Montevallo Literary Festival
University of Montevallo • \$745.50 acknowledgement status
This festival is a celebration of Alabama literary arts that will take place on April 13, 2012. The festival will feature poetry and prose readings by award-winning writers from the state and region.

My Anniston and A Conversation With Rachel Hawkins
Troy University-Dothan • \$1,150 outright
Troy University will present two programs on its Troy and Dothan campuses. The first program, "My Anniston," will consist of a documentary screening and discussion of the 1961Freedom Riders' bus burning by the Ku Klux Klan in Anniston. The second program, "A Conversation with Rachel Hawkins," will be a workshop and discussion program. Rachel Hawkins, a New York Times best-selling novelist will discuss the creative process involved in writing.

The Power and the Glory: The Beauty and the Influence of the King James Bible
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library • \$1,650 outright
This series celebrates and explores 400 years of the King James Bible. Scholars will discuss its importance from multiple perspectives related to the humanities, including history, literature, pop culture and language. The series will take place in April 2012 and consist of five free public events.

Selma and Dallas County Public Library Reading Discussion Program
Selma-Dallas County Public Library • \$1,000 outright
This grant funds a yearlong reading discussion program for the Selma-Dallas community. The sessions are led by Nancy Anderson and will be held monthly.

Steps to Becoming Alabama
Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery, Inc. • \$1,500 acknowledgment status
A symposium at the Alabama Department of Archives and History designed to engage the public through the scholarship of various experts ranging from the Civil War to World War I, the Great Depression and other significant events that shaped Alabama.

The Unlikely Survival of the Art of Bill Traylor (1854-1949)
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts • \$2,000 outright, \$2,000 in matching
The museum will host a one-day symposium devoted to the history and meaning of Traylor's drawings within the cultural context of the United States and the South in the 1930s and will include presentations from various humanities scholars, such as Mary Anne Neely, Lowery Sims and Harvey Jackson. This symposium will coincide with an exhibition of Traylor's works.

Wiregrass Blues Fest
Troy University • \$1,200 outright
Troy will conduct two blues workshops, one targeting the general public and the other elementary school groups. The funds will be used to bring in scholar Debbie Bond to discuss legendary blues guitarist from Dothan, Eddie Kirkland. Troy will also use this support to create display panels that chronicle Kirkland's life.

Alabama Rosenwald School Traveling Exhibit
Alabama Historical Commission • \$2,000 outright
The historical commission plans to modify and customize several panels of an existing exhibition to emphasize Alabama's role as the origin of the Rosenwald School program. The exhibit will be finalized in time for the national conference on Rosenwald Schools scheduled in Tuskegee, Alabama, June 14-16, 2012. After the conference, the exhibit will travel to small and rural communities throughout Alabama that were once served by Rosenwald Schools.

Humanities news and events from across the state.

Elaine Hughes and Wells Fargo Honored at 2011 Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon

The annual Alabama Humanities Awards luncheon has informally assumed the role as the fall kickoff for the cultural calendar across Alabama. On Monday, Sept. 26, more than 450 people attended the luncheon at the Wynfrey Hotel, which featured keynote speaker General Charles Krulak, president of Birmingham-Southern College. Krulak was introduced by Samford University President Dr. Andrew Westmoreland. The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the 2011 Alabama Humanities Award to Elaine Hughes. Wells Fargo was honored as the Charitable Organization in the Humanities Award.

For the past 35 years, Elaine Hughes has been a professor of American literature at

the University of Montevallo, with a specialty in contemporary literature. She has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in Southern literature and in Alabama literature. She has delivered more than 200 lectures to varied audiences — from high-school honors students to retirees in UAB's New Horizons — in many locations. In 1998-1999, she received the Carnegie Foundation CASE Professor of the Year Award for Alabama and was the 2007 Recipient of the Eugene Current-Garcia Distinguished Scholar Award. Dr. Hughes has been involved with the Alabama Humanities Foundation since 1978 and chaired the board of directors from 2004-2006. She holds the honor of professor emerita from the University of Montevallo.

Last year Wells Fargo contributed more than \$3.9 million to 500 organizations across Alabama. Wells Fargo employees volunteered more than 10,000 hours throughout the state.



Elaine Hughes, winner of the 2011 Alabama Humanities Award.

Also recognized at the luncheon were six Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship winners. The \$1,000 awards are presented to elementary school teachers to enhance their teaching tools in the classroom. The 2011 winners were: Rebecca J. Davis, Cahawba Christian Academy, Centreville; Debbie Redden and Tammy Quillin, Montgomery Catholic Preparatory, St. Bede Campus; Mallory Richardson, Edgewood Elementary School; and Stephane Nicole Singleton, Harlan Elementary School, Florence. — Paul Lawson



Birmingham-Southern College President General Charles Krulak (left) and Samford University President Dr. Andrew Westmoreland.

Welcome To The New Young Professional Board Members

Last year, AHF launched its new junior board. The board held its first meeting Dec. 6, 2011. The board will support the organization in three key areas: fundraising, promotions and programming. The junior board is comprised of a dynamic group of young individuals from various professional organizations and industries. The

new members include: Conrhonda E. Baker, Roderick Barge, James L. Cartee III, Katie Crawford, Brandon Davis, Jennifer Dome, Lindsay Elliot, Theodore R. Foster III, Gretchen Frizzell, Danielle D. Hines, Ebony Jordan, Marie T. King, Anna McFall, Brandan Stuckey and Nadria Tucker.

Coming in 2012: Literature and Health Care

AHF launches its pilot Literature and Health Care program at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration Medical Center Feb. 16. This reading and discussion program is based on the Maine Humanities Council's national award-winning, hospital-based, scholar-led humanities program for health care professionals, *Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care*®, which benefits both medical personnel and their patients.

The three-month program, facilitated by Alan Brown, Ph.D., professor of English at the University of West Alabama, will encourage participants to connect the worlds of health care and life experiences, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their professional roles and their relationships with colleagues and care recipients through short stories, poetry, fiction and personal narratives in a small-group setting where they can share their reflections and experiences with colleagues. Humanities-based programs for health care workers have proven to have a significant effect on the way participants understand their work and their relationships with patients and with each other.

Health care professionals can no longer rely on what they know from their own lives to understand their patients, who may be of different religious, socio-economic or cultural backgrounds.

Literature, however, offers vicarious experiences of worlds outside that of the reader, supplying full-bodied accounts of illness, death and human relationships in all places and among all peoples. This is why the field of medical humanities is growing nationally.

AHF's program will focus on a particular health care demographic: Veterans Administration hospitals, initially the Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration. As Alan Brown notes, "While stress is a fact of life for doctors and nurses in all hospitals, medical personnel in V.A. hospitals face even more challenges. V.A. facilities are often underfunded and understaffed. They are also seeing a marked increase in patients, resulting from aging baby-boomers, and the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terror. Also, the patient population is increasingly diverse, in terms of ethnicity, age, education level and religious background. The physical strain of trying to meet the needs of these patients is compounded by an extremely large number of patients with post-traumatic stress disorder, and the fact that so many veterans never seem to get well, especially those suffering from chronic pain and substance abuse. Frustration and despair are facts of life for injured veterans and those caring for them."

The ultimate beneficiaries of the Literature and Health Care program will hopefully be the patients themselves, as participants should grow to have a much better understanding of and empathy for the behavior of their patients.

This program is made possible by generous support from The Hill Crest Foundation and The Reese Phifer Jr., Foundation. For more information, contact Thomas Bryant, director of programs and SUPER manager, at (205) 558-3991 or tbryant@ahf.net. — Thomas Bryant



The Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Giving thanks to all those who contribute to the humanities statewide.

One of You: Dr. David Campbell



If you were to ask people exactly what the chairman of a nonprofit board actually does, many would need a few minutes to think it over. If you were to mention that Dr. David Campbell was the particular chairman you had in mind, the quick answer would be “virtually everything.” Dr. Campbell has served as president of Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) in Rainsville, Ala., since 2001. His nonprofit work includes serving two terms on the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board.

He was elected chairman of the AHF board in 2007 and 2008. Dr. Campbell has been named a national Exemplary Leader by the Chair Academy, Citizen of the Year by the Greater Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Scottsboro Daily Sentinel, and Educator of the Year by the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce and Fort Payne Times Journal. He is a graduate of Leadership Alabama, Class XIII, and is on the board of directors of the Community Colleges of Appalachia. He is vice president of the Alabama Community Colleges System Presidents’ Association. Campbell is active in education throughout the South, serving as a chair of evaluation of accreditation committees throughout the region. Under Dr. Campbell’s leadership, NACC has doubled its enrollment and in 2009 was identified by *Community College Weekly* as one of the fastest growing community colleges in the United States. Dr. Campbell has taken a business-like approach to the management and operation of the college, including assuming the college ownership of the campus bookstore, expanding financial aid, and emphasizing college marketing

and promotions. “Of course, we are a nonprofit agency,” Campbell says. “But to be effective, to serve students, and support faculty and staff, college personnel should take a business approach to management. This benefits everyone.” “Dr. Campbell is an extraordinary administrator and humanitarian,” said long-time administrative assistant at Northeast Community College Pat Wildman. “He has helped our area and the state more during the 30 years I’ve worked with him than most people know...mostly quietly behind the scenes. Under Dr. Campbell’s leadership, the college has expanded the educational technology available to students and staff. The college community is served by the latest technological equipment and now has wireless Internet access throughout campus. “Technology adds an entirely new dimension to education,” Campbell says. “This technology doesn’t replace the traditional educational process, it just enhances it and brings forth more learning opportunities.” Dr. Campbell is no stranger to northeast Alabama. He is a native of Jackson County; his family settled in DeKalb County in the 1840s. He is a graduate of Auburn University (B.A.), Florida State University (M.A.) and the University of Texas at Austin (Ph.D.). He also has done post-doctoral studies at the University of Alabama. Dr. Campbell’s graduate studies were in American Studies, with emphasis given to the analysis of American government policy. His academic work includes a case study of the Skyline Farms Project, a community development project conducted in the 1930s and 1940s by the federal government. He also produced a documentary film on the late Alabama Congressman Robert E. “Bob” Jones.

Dr. Campbell is married to Carole Hodges Campbell and they have one son, Jeremy Campbell, who works as a television newscaster in Tampa, Fla. – *Paul Lawson* ~ 🌱

Leaving Its Mark: The Hill Crest Foundation, Inc.

For more than 20 years, The Hill Crest Foundation has been a loyal partner of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Beginning with a 1992 gift in support of SUPER through a recent gift for AHF’s new program Literature and Health Care, The Hill Crest Foundation has remained passionate about supporting a wide range of AHF programs. “The Hill Crest Foundation has touched our state on so many levels and in so many ways,” said Lisa Paden Gaines, community volunteer. “This state is blessed to have their board supporting important and varied projects that are changing lives. It is an amazing partnership which has existed between the AHF and the Hill Crest Foundation, and the positive results are incalculable.” The Hill Crest Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1967 as a tax-exempt organization set up for the

sole purpose of building and running a charitable psychiatric facility named Hill Crest Hospital. In 1983 the foundation sold the hospital to a private organization for \$10 million. The foundation used the funds from the sale to begin a new direction and purpose by investing the funds and providing annual gifts to charitable organizations throughout Alabama with a focus on the greater Birmingham metropolitan area. Due to impressive investment returns and strong leadership from six trustees, Hill Crest has donated \$32 million while maintaining assets of approximately \$38 million. With a focus on the field of mental health, the foundation has endowed a chair in the Psychology Department at Birmingham-Southern College and provided support to the School of Social Work at the University of Alabama. It has also constructed a research floor at the Civitan International Research

Center at UAB, the primary mission being the prevention and treatment of mental retardation and development disabilities. Support has also been provided to help inner city children through the early reading and motivational programs of Better Basics, Inc. A grant was provided to help build the Human Genetics Building at UAB. The foundation responded to the ongoing need to improve the education of the citizens of Alabama by helping to construct the Challenger Learning Center at the McWane Science Center. It also provided financial support in the construction of two resident houses at Troy University for students who pledge to commit themselves to wellness and the avoidance of alcohol and drugs. The foundation has also funded several projects at Auburn University, the most recent a grant to the School of Pharmacy. – *Paul Lawson* ~ 🌱

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Executive Director Bob Stewart Retires After 25 Years



Bob Stewart presents a Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship to Diane Henderson as Minda Riley Campbell looks on prior to the 2010 awards luncheon at the Wynfrey Hotel.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation said goodbye this January to its leader.

Bob Stewart, AHF executive director for the past 25 years, was raised in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and earned a bachelor's degree at Amherst College in Massachusetts, a master's degree at Boston University and an MBA from Emory University in Georgia. Before becoming the executive director of the foundation, Stewart was the deputy director of the Huntsville Museum of Art from 1985-87. He and his wife Lida, married 31 years, have two children — Jonathan, 21, a junior at the University of Alabama, and Lisa, 19, a sophomore at Loyola University-Chicago. As he looks forward to time to write and travel during his retirement, he says it will be the friendships and collaborative relationships across the state, and with other humanities councils in the country, that he misses most.

Here, Stewart recalls some of his favorite projects, moments and endeavors while at the helm of AHF.

My Favorite Moments At AHF

According to Bob Stewart

1 Encyclopedia of Alabama.

EOA — found online at www.encyclopediaofalabama.org — represented an ambitious project undertaken by AHF. Launched in 2008, EOA is one of only a handful of online state encyclopedias completed in the last dozen years. NEH originally encouraged these projects in the late 1990s, envisioning them as a 50-state interconnected network. EOA was created through a collaborative effort between AHF and Auburn University, but it enjoyed substantial financial and other assistance from the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences. Today EOA has more than 1,200 articles and more than 1 million page visits each year.

2 Awards luncheon.

The Alabama Humanities awards luncheon has become one of the most successful events on the state's cultural and educational calendar. It attracts more than 400 attendees each fall from across the state to honor an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the humanities. Past honorees have included Emory Cunningham, Odessa Woolfolk, Jim Wilson, Wayne Flynt, Leah Atkins, Kathryn Tucker Windham and Harper Lee. It also features a national guest speaker. Speakers of note have included Cynthia Tucker, Roger Rosenblatt, Rick Bragg, Cullen Murphy and Douglas Brinkley. In 1995 guest speaker Charles Kuralt attracted more than 700 attendees. For the last nine years the luncheon has also included the presentation

of the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships to elementary history and civics teachers.

3 Toni Morrison lecture.

To mark AHF's 25th anniversary in 1999, Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison spoke at UAB's Alys Stephens Center. More than 800 patrons heard her read from and speak about one of her early editorial projects—a family memoir about their roots in south Alabama. Morrison makes very few public presentations, so AHF was extremely fortunate to secure her for this special occasion.

4 SUPER.

SUPER (School and University Partners for Educational Renewal) has served thousands of history, English, foreign language, government

and art history teachers for more than 20 years. Scholars from across the state and beyond have conducted week-long institutes and shorter workshops on topics ranging from World War II, southern literature, East Asian studies, Spanish and French language immersion, the Alabama Black Belt, Islam and the American West, among many others.

5 “In View of Home” exhibition and reading-discussion program.

Funded by an NEH Exemplary Award in 1989, the project featured a major exhibition of historic and contemporary Alabama photography, curated by Frances Robb of Huntsville. It traveled to art museums in Huntsville, Montgomery and Mobile, as well as the Anniston Museum of Natural History. The project also included a reading-discussion program on the landscape in southern literature, which was held in eight small public libraries. There were two major outcomes of the project: (1) Robb went on to become the leading scholar of Alabama photography; (2) The project received the 1990 Schwartz Prize from the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

6 Project Turn the Page.

Project Turn the Page was funded initially by an NEH Chairman's Emergency Grant and focused primarily on providing books for public libraries and schools that were affected by the devastating April 2011 tornadoes. Additional funding from Florence businessman Joel Anderson allowed for continued assistance to communities and institutions in the affected areas.

7 “Glimpses of Community” exhibition.

This exhibition grew out of the presentation by Alabama photographer, sculptor and storyteller William Christenberry at the 1994 awards luncheon. Disposable cameras were distributed to all 500 attendees at the luncheon. They were encouraged to use the cameras to photograph the “assets and liabilities” of their communities across the state. Nearly 100 cameras were returned to AHF, from which an exhibition of 63 images was created. The exhibition circulated around the state for a few years

and discussion programs about the issues the images raised were held.

8 “From Fields of Promise” film.

AHF supports innumerable documentary films, including ones produced by both in-state filmmakers and organizations, as well as national or regional ones. “From Fields of Promise,” produced by Bruce Kuerten and John DiJulio of Auburn Television 1993, drew national attention to the tiny African-American community of Gee's Bend in Wilcox County. Gee's Bend later became known for its legendary quiltmakers. The film blended well-researched history of the community from its days as a slave plantation, its survival through the Depression and the New Deal, and its role in the Civil Rights Movement. It then added an important contemporary element by focusing on the strong family bonds that still exist between the residents today and those who left the community for jobs and education.

9 Fairhope Institute.

The Fairhope Institute, conceived and developed by Larry Allums (who taught English at Spring Hill College and the University of Mobile), was based on a model created by the acclaimed Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. The institute engaged secondary teachers in rigorous explorations of novels, plays, short stories, essays and poetry from the classical period to the modern era. Allums only offered the institute for a few years, until he left to become director of the Dallas Institute in 1997, a position he still holds. Many SUPER institutes have reflected the Fairhope model, even if they did not draw directly from its texts.

10 The staff, board members and others.

The importance of the many individuals who have contributed to AHF's success over the last two-and-a-half decades cannot be overlooked. From board members, donors, volunteers, scholars, teachers, leaders of educational and cultural organizations to the general public that attends humanities programs and supports them. And, of course, the many staff members who contributed in so many ways to the foundation's outreach and prosperity. 🌱

Welcome John Rochester

Beginning Feb. 1, John E. Rochester assumed the role as executive director at the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Recently retired as the Presiding Circuit Judge for Alabama's 40th Judicial Circuit, Judge Rochester resides in Ashland. “AHF was incredibly fortunate to have John donate his services as executive director during this transition period. His commitment to this organization, its mission, its staff and its constituents is truly inspiring,” said Jim Noles, AHF Board chairman.

“I look forward to continuing to work with our dedicated board, excellent staff and generous supporters, to promote the humanities in every community of our state,” Rochester said.

For many years, Rochester has had an affinity for the humanities. He recently led the restoration of the Clay County Courthouse and is known for making the humanities a part of his alternative sentencing program.

Rochester has participated as a speaker for AHF, the Alabama Press Association, the Alabama Circuit Judge's Association and has spoken at seminars at the Harvard and Yale law schools. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Southeastern Council of Foundations.

Rochester received a bachelor's degree from Auburn University, a J.D. from Samford University and a Master of Laws from the New York University School of Law. He is the former chair of the State Health Coordinating Council and the Clay County Healthcare Authority.

Among his current activities, Judge Rochester serves as:

- Trustee, Southeastern Council of Foundations
- Board of Directors, Voices of Alabama's Children
- President, Martha Christian White Foundation
- President, Justice Hugo L. Black Memorial



Alabama and the Civil War

Essay by Ben H. Severance, Auburn University Montgomery



“A hundred and fifty years after the pivotal event in our nation’s history, we are still discovering its meanings.”

~ Edward L. Ayers, Civil War historian and president of University of Richmond

On Jan. 11, 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union and became the fourth of 11 states that eventually comprised the Confederate States of America. Although a significant minority objected to disunion, most Alabamians welcomed the quest for political independence from a country they believed had fallen into the supposedly tyrannical hands of a northern-only Republican party that espoused anti-slavery as its main plank. Within a matter of months, however, the excitement of secession gave way to the horrors of the Civil War, a conflict that Abraham Lincoln characterized as a “remorseless revolutionary struggle.” Over the next four years, Johnny Reb and Billy Yank killed each other with appalling savagery and frequency; 650,000 Americans perished in the war. In the process, Alabama and the rest of the South went down in fiery defeat. Beyond the physical toll, the war profoundly altered the role of government as the reality of centralized nationhood supplanted the ideology of states’ rights. And most obvious of all, the

war destroyed the peculiar institution of slavery. Central as a cause of the war, its abolition compelled Americans to wrestle for the next century with the notion of racial equality.

For their part, Alabamians confronted the challenges of war with a combination of valor and angst. The valor was most evident on the battlefield, where approximately 96,000 Alabamians served in the Confederate army (another 2,600 white Alabamians and about 5,000 freedmen from the state joined the Union army). These men fought in all of the major campaigns east of the Mississippi River with some 30,000 making the ultimate sacrifice. On the home front, Alabamians made similarly Herculean efforts to prevail. Alabama women could not don the Rebel uniform, but they helped make them through dozens of local sewing circles. Women also spearheaded efforts to expand military hospital facilities. At the executive level, the state’s three wartime governors—Andrew Moore, John Shorter and Thomas Watts—displayed tireless devotion to the Rebel cause. They mobilized

the state’s manpower, including enforcement of conscription, which accounted for nearly 15,000 of Alabama’s quota. They impressed private property, including thousands of slaves, for military labor. They implemented demanding fiscal policies, most notably the tax-in-kind that required farmers to give a tenth of their produce to the government. And they cooperated with Confederate authorities in transforming towns such as Selma and Tallassee into centers of arms production.

However essential and logical these administrative measures may have been, they were also highly controversial. And it is here that the state’s angst was most pronounced, for taken together the government’s sudden and forceful policies increasingly undermined the morale of many citizens. Big planters resented the appropriation of their chattel, while the more numerous small farming communities literally disintegrated under the never-ending calls for more men and more foodstuffs, measures made all the worse by mounting instances of profiteering. It is estimated that a third of the state’s population descended into poverty as a result of the war. Not surprisingly, nearly 20,000 Alabama soldiers deserted, not so much out of defeatism, but in order to care for suffering families. By 1865, the state was virtually bankrupt and on the verge of anarchy in many counties.

Internal fissures notwithstanding, it was ultimately the Union army that brought Alabamians to their knees. For much of the conflict, the state’s central location shielded it from war’s destructive campaigns, but the Yankee invader steadily crept into the Heart of Dixie. In 1861, the Union navy established a blockade along the Gulf Coast that culminated in the outright capture of Mobile Bay in August 1864. In 1862, Union forces overran much of the Tennessee Valley, turning that region into a violent tug-of-war for the duration. Beginning in 1863, Union cavalry units commenced a series of increasingly destructive raids through ever-larger swaths of the state. Finally in the early months of 1865, two huge Union armies, one from the bay area and another from the valley, gutted the now hapless state from top to bottom. In May, all Confederate military forces in Alabama officially surrendered.

While Alabama’s demise as a Confederate state is often shrouded under the romantic cloak of a lost cause, it is important to remember that 435,000 black Alabamians gained their freedom as a result of Union victory. For them, the outcome was not to be lamented but rather celebrated as day of jubilee. Nonetheless, regardless of one’s view, then or now, the Civil War stands as one of the most tumultuous and fascinating episodes in both Alabama and American history. 🌿

In concert with the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, AHF has partnered with Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery public libraries to host the “Making Sense of the American Civil War” reading and discussion series. Each of the respective libraries will host a free, five-part reading and discussion series led by “city scholars” affiliated with colleges or universities in each city.

To kick off this statewide program, AHF has also partnered with the Alabama Department of Archives and History. ADAH will serve as host for the kick off program and forum, which will occur on Feb. 25, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. – noon. The itinerary will be as follows:

1. Overview and introduction of Civil War reading and discussion program and library host sites.
2. Introduction of scholars
3. Introduction of core text/required readings
4. Civil War forum
5. Audience Q&A period

The program will feature a distinguished panel of historians, including Ben Severance of Auburn University-Montgomery, Victoria Ott of Birmingham-Southern College, Lonnie Burnett of University of Mobile, John Kvach of University of Alabama at Huntsville, Patience Essah of Auburn University, George Rable of University of Alabama and Bob Bradley of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Group discussion events will be held once per week at each library on the following works (see schedule below):

- March by Geraldine Brooks (Penguin, 2006)
- Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam by James McPherson (Oxford University Press, 2002)
- America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150th Anniversaries, an anthology of historical fiction, speeches, diaries, memoirs, biography and short stories, edited by national project scholar Edward L. Ayers and co-published by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Host Site and Branch	Scholar	Dates	Times
Birmingham Public Library Branch: Central-Downtown	Victoria Ott Birmingham-Southern College	March – 15 th and 29 th April – 12 th and 26 th May – 10 th	Thursdays 5:30 p.m.
Montgomery City-County Public Library Branch: Morgan Memorial Library	Benjamin Severance Auburn University - Montgomery	March – 8 th and 22 nd April – 5 th and 19 th May – 3 rd	Thursdays 6:00 p.m.
Mobile Public Library Branch: West Regional	Lonnie Burnett University of Mobile	March – 8 th and 22 nd April – 4 th , 11 th , 18 th	Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
Huntsville Public Library Branch: Main	John Kvach University of Alabama – Huntsville	**March -15 th and 29 th April – 12 th and 26 th May – 10 th	Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

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