

Spring 2013

## The Path Forward



Alabama marks  
50th anniversary  
of key moments  
in the Civil Rights  
Movement



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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.*



*archaeology*



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

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# INSPIRE, ASPIRE AND BE INSPIRED

From Executive Director Armand DeKeyser

One of the questions I am often asked by friends is along the lines of, “What are the humanities, or what do the humanities do?”

I learned quickly that defining the humanities is no easy task. Immediate Past Chair of Alabama Humanities Foundation Jim Noles knows all too well. “An easy answer would be to say that the humanities are the study of languages, history, literature, the classics, ethics, jurisprudence, philosophy, theatre and art history, and film,” he said in a civic group talk. “But I worry that reciting a laundry list of college courses risks your thinking that such a list defines our end game. I like to say that we traffic in inspiration. Language, literature, art, theatre, philosophy, history – those are vehicles by which men and women are inspired and through which they, in turn, inspire others.”

I would have to agree with Jim. We do inspire. AHF broadens our impact as the visible, dynamic public humanities organization across our state. While virtually all AHF programs and services are provided at no charge, their value is priceless. They inspire conversations and discoveries that lead people to a more engaged understanding of their history and culture.

We aspire, too. Challenges are a way of life and our board and staff aspire to embrace daily demands of serving Alabamians statewide, offering opportunities for life-long learning. AHF supports efforts to explore and analyze questions through programs that facilitate and advocate strengthening public humanities in ways that give meaning and purpose to individual and community lives. We serve as the bridge between scholars and communities, inspiring knowledge and understanding.

In turn, we are inspired. Ensuring the ongoing livelihood of the humanities in Alabama is a commitment we gladly accept. Our state is richly blessed with innumerable humanities treasures. Internationally revered authors, larger-than-life music artists and historical events and settings that have changed the world all have Alabama as their common bond. We cherish them and proudly develop



and present programs to ensure continued statewide access to all citizens, regardless of geographic or economic conditions.

The relevance of what we do and the impact of what we have done has never been clearer. Just ask citizens of the six rural communities who are eagerly preparing for the arrival of a Smithsonian Institution exhibit made possible through an AHF partnership, *Museum on Main Street*. Talk to Alabama teachers who don't just lecture on the message of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, they reach their students through new insights gained through AHF's SUPER Teacher Institutes. Or read the writings of SUPER Emerging Scholars, young students who are honing their analytical thinking skills by digging deeper into issues surrounding them.

AHF annually invests hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants in public humanities projects that yield far more than dollars and cents. Our Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarships for K-6<sup>th</sup> school teachers rewards excellence in teaching, helping them guide their students toward understanding with innovative ways to make history come alive. In Alabama colleges, non-tenured humanities schol-

ars benefit from the Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award, as they further studies to develop their potential as teachers and strengthen their legacy.

In 1974, AHF's founders inspired us to serve as Alabama's catalyst for bringing communities together to face the future.

The 21st century should be a time when we again embrace the humanities, encouraging exploration of the human experience.

Science, technology, finance and commerce introduce constant change into our lives. Our humanities should inspire us to focus on how to use those tools, aspiring to enhance our own experiences and inspiring the larger humanities community.

Because of my experience with AHF's work, defining the humanities in Alabama is now a much simpler matter. When asked what do the humanities mean or what do they do, my answer has become so much easier. The humanities inspire us, the humanities cause us to aspire to greater good, and the humanities leads us to be inspired.

It is as simple and as powerful as that.

Armand DeKeyser  
AHF Executive Director



AHF Poster

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

# MOSAIC



**About the Cover:** Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was at the heart of one of the pivotal moments in the Civil Rights Movement in 1963 as was The Children's March, and they started the path forward. Church photo by Jerry Martin. Children's March by The Birmingham News. Concept by Graham Hadley.

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For more on the Alabama Humanities Foundation, go to our website [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org)

# MUSEUM on MAIN STREET

## Six Alabama cities slated for exhibit visit

By Thomas Bryant

Red Bay, Ashland, Andalusia, Fairhope, Northport and Wetumpka. No, they aren't stops along the old Silver Comet's train route, but they are destination points for an historic traveling exhibit from Washington, D.C.

All six Alabama towns and cities have been chosen for *The Way We Worked* exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution in 2013-14 as part of the Museum on Main Street project.

Beginning Sept. 14, 2013, and running through July 6, 2014, *The Way We Worked* will be featured for more than a month at each stop, giving thousands of residents and students in those small or rural cities an opportunity they may not have had otherwise.

Through a partnership between Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Smithsonian begun in 1997, Museum on Main Street is able to offer small communities with average populations of 8,000 a quality education experience with community programs and activities in conjunction with the exhibit.

Dr. John F. Kvach, an assistant professor of history at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, will spend much of the next year visiting those towns as a key figure in the program.

The exhibit will focus on how Alabamians worked over time and place and highlight the work experiences of Americans as part of the nation's story. Kvach will supplement the traveling exhibit with teacher workshops and public lectures as well as an oral history project that will record the voices of state residents.

The oral history project will train public school teachers and high school students to conduct interviews with local residents. Kvach hopes that the oral history component of the exhibit and the exhibit itself will allow students to engage their community's history and encourage the public to help preserve Alabama's historical legacy.

Plans in each of the towns and cities are already under way, officially kicked off in February with an orientation and overview conference at AHF. There, host site participants were able to hear about how the program works and what is expected of each site. They also heard a first-person account from Katy Norton, president of the Arab Chamber of Commerce, who was a project director for Museum on Main Street's 2011-12 tour.

And in return, they shared what this national exhibition means to their community back home.

Councilwoman Becky Boddie of Ashland, who along with husband Jerry, are spearheading plans in Clay County, said it was important to "acknowledge and celebrate our past while forming a bridge to the future. This project allows us to do just that."

"Just the word, 'Smithsonian,' was enough to make me say, 'We need to do this project,'" said Barbara Tyler, grants coordinator for Andalusia. "For a small town, rural area to have the opportunity to host museum quality information, exhibits and activities is priceless."

Stephanie Sickler of the Friends of Northport couldn't agree more. "Many residents will never be exposed to cultural experiences such as the Smithsonian... Educational opportunities abound as a direct result of this program, which will inevitably trickle down throughout our entire community."

In Red Bay, it is much the same story with Rosalyn Fabianke as she talks about the impact on her community. She sees it as an opportunity for the city to rediscover its "strength and spirit."

As a selected site in a competitive process, she is grateful for

## *The Way We Worked*

Museum on Main Street, a partnership project of the Smithsonian Institution and the Alabama Humanities Foundation



## *Exhibition Tour Dates*

### **Red Bay:**

Friday, September 14 – Saturday, October 25, 2013

### **Ashland:**

Saturday, November 2 – Saturday, December 25, 2013

### **Andalusia:**

Thursday, January 2 – Sunday, February 9, 2014

### **Fairhope:**

Saturday, February 15 – Sunday, March 30, 2014

### **Northport:**

Saturday, April 5 – Saturday, May 17, 2014

### **Wetumpka:**

Friday, May 23 – Sunday, July 6, 2014

Red Bay's role. "We so appreciate the consideration as we are honored to have the Smithsonian coming to our 'main street.' We look forward with great anticipation to *The Way We Worked* and this unique mission to engage, educate and inspire." ■

# GRANTS

From Florence to Mobile, Hartselle to Troy and cities and towns in between, Alabama Humanities Foundation made the impact of the humanities felt across Alabama through its grant program in 2012.

In the final quarter, total grants awarded for the year rose to \$128,552, funding lectures, television series, documentaries, readings, symposiums, music and theatre events, a book festival, exhibits and literary programs.

It all was a part of AHF's continuing quest to promote and raise awareness for the humanities in every corner of Alabama.

Following is listing of what AHF grants made possible throughout the state:

## ***Journey Proud***

Alabama Public Television,  
Birmingham  
\$10,000 Matching

"Journey Proud," a southern colloquialism describing excitement prior to a trip, is a television series documenting cultural folk practices among different communities in Alabama. The series will be available for video streaming in Alabama and nationally through APT's video services for viewers and the PBS COVE system.

## ***Science of the Delta***

Alabama School of Math  
and Science, Mobile  
\$2,243 Matching

This documentary project will enhance the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center's experience highlighting the environmental importance and the biodiversity of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Featuring many of the upper delta locations, geographic and historical, it demonstrates why conservation of this unique ecosystem and understanding the region's history is critical for future generations and would be a positive educational experience for years.

## ***The Passion of Miss Augusta***

Mobile Public Library  
\$10,136 Matching

This project, previously given matching funds by the Alabama Humanities Foundation in 2010, will create a permanent online educational and cultural resource on Mobile author Augusta Evans Wilson (1835-1909) and complete a one-hour documentary film on Wilson for presentation on public television. Wilson was one of the most famous American writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and is one of two women in Alabama's Hall of Fame.

## ***First Lady of the Revolution***

Spark Media, Montgomery  
\$12,990 Matching

*First Lady of the Revolution* is a 60-minute documentary portrait of Henrietta Boggs, a born-and-bred Southern Belle,

whose unconventional desire for social change at home led her into a whirlwind of revolutionary change abroad. As an eyewitness to the tumultuous events that forever transformed Costa Rica and the region, her unique perspective offers a rare look at how the country's ground-breaking political reforms were shaped. After 10 years of marriage, Boggs returned home to Alabama with her children. Rebuilding her life in Montgomery, she focused her energies on making a difference.

## ***Red Mountain Reading Series***

Jefferson State Community  
College, Birmingham  
\$1,980 Outright

Spring 2013 readings will be given at the Shelby Campus by fiction writers Irene Latham and Gin Phillips in February and April, respectively, and at the Carson Road Campus in March by fiction writer and artist Dori DeCamillis.

## ***Turning Points in Becoming Alabama***

Landmarks Foundation  
of Montgomery  
\$2,000 Outright

The last decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century saw the opening of the Federal Road into a new and vast American territory. The streaming migration of American settlers into Indian lands resulted in sharp divisions and increasingly high tension between the native people and American settlers. This symposium will discuss some of these issues and the events and actions that propelled all involved closer to a bloody showdown.

## ***Wiregrass Blues Fest***

Troy University Dothan  
\$2,000 Outright

The two-day Wiregrass Blues Fest in Houston County will provide an educational tribute to the significance of blues music and to Big Mama Thornton, the legendary Blues singer who was from the Wiregrass region, through public discussions and educational performances.

## ***Theatre in the Mind***

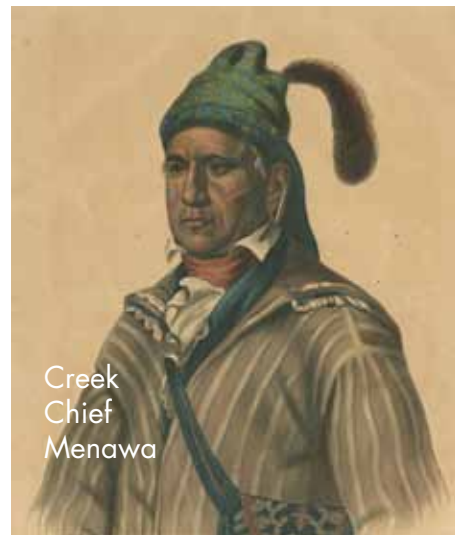
Alabama Shakespeare Festival,  
Montgomery  
\$2,209 Outright

Theatre in the Mind offers ASF theatergoers and all interested Alabamians a year-long series of public humanities programs on the issues, eras and authors of plays in ASF's current season. In addition to the proven Saturday scholarly lectures, short pre-show talks and lobby print materials, 2013 will include high-quality podcasts and website audio postings, so Theatre in the Mind will bring some of Alabama's finest scholars to the stage of ASF and to the computers of citizens statewide.

## ***Role of Radio in Civil Rights***

Birmingham Black Radio Museum  
\$5,000 Outright

A three-hour public discussion at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) on Saturday March 30, 2013, from 9 a.m. to noon on the role of radio in the struggle for civil rights in the South, with particular attention paid to the Birmingham experience. Public discussion will feature Dr. Brian Ward as keynote speaker.



Creek  
Chief  
Menawa

Alabama Dept. of Archives  
and History, Montgomery, AL

## ***ArchiTreats***

Friends of the Alabama Archives,  
Montgomery  
\$4,762 Outright

This project will fund humanities speakers for a well established, popular monthly public discussion series sponsored by the Friends of the Archives at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Topics will be diverse, from agriculture and industry to natural history. More than half of the programs will complement the *Becoming Alabama Initiative* to explore the legacy of the Creek War and War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Civil Rights Movement. Many of the presenters are nationally known and award winning authors and speakers.

***2013 Alabama Book Fest: Non Fiction***  
Landmarks Foundation, Montgomery  
\$4,250 Outright

The project is focused on the non-fiction genre of the 8th Annual Alabama Book Festival, one of five major venues at the statewide event to be held April 20, 2013, at Old Alabama Town in Montgomery. The Alabama Book Festival is a not-for-profit event hosted annually downtown. This statewide collaborative project is spearheaded by Landmarks Foundation/Old Alabama Town and Troy University Montgomery.

**Thornton Dial Exhibit**  
Museum of Fine Art, Montgomery  
\$5,600 Outright

Since the early 1990s, Thornton Dial of Birmingham has produced a rich body of lyrical works on paper, often engaged with themes of gender and human relationships. Focusing on the very earliest of those drawings, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is showcasing an exhibition organized by the Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from Jan. 12 through March 17, 2013. The Museum has compiled humanities programs in support of the exhibition, including a discussion with Dial, a lecture and gallery talk with Bernie Herman, a film screening, outreach programming to at-risk youth that focuses on Dial's work, and guided tours to the public.

**Visiting Writers Series**  
Shelby County Arts Council  
\$3,500 Outright

Featuring writer Robert Inman, this series of programs will include a five-day writers residency, including daily multi-group workshops (one for adults and one for youth) which will include group discussions of each participant's manuscript with an emphasis on applying storytelling elements. Participants will also be coached on the practical aspects of publishing with an overall goal of providing support, guidance and professional feedback. Participants will also have a one-on-one session to delve more deeply into the individual's writing and to discuss future goals. A public reading followed by a Q&A will allow readers, future writers and fans to enjoy the storytelling skills and insight of a favorite author and playwright.

**2013 Alabama Literary Trailfest**  
Southern Literary Trail, Birmingham  
\$8,500 Outright

Trailfest 2013 begins and ends in Alabama. In February, Trail organizers will present an exhibit of never-seen photos from the Scottsboro Boys Trial at the Carnegie Arts Center in Decatur. The trial influenced the work of Ralph Ellison and Harper Lee. Trail Fest will conclude with Monroeville's production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" through May 2013. On May 4, in conjunction with the Alabama Center for the Book, the Trail will present a program at the Old Monroe County Courthouse that examines Lee's little-known articles for the "Rammer Jammer" at The University of Alabama. Her campus journalism portends the themes in "Mockingbird." During the interim, from February to May, Trailfest 2013 will present Alabamians with a full slate of surprising and engaging humanities events to attend.

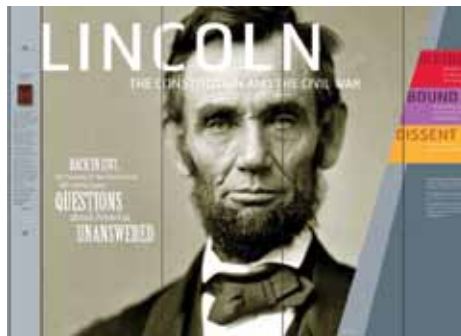
**2013 Alabama Book Fest:**  
**Fiction and Poetry**  
Troy University – Montgomery  
\$3,000 Outright

The 2013 Alabama Book Festival will feature at least 10 novelists and/or short-

story writers and another 10 poets combined in both single-author readings and panel discussions. This year's prospective authors include Emily Giffin, Karin Slaughter, Jessmyn Ward, Ace Atkins and Inman Majors. Each session will again feature a moderating scholar who will introduce authors and lead a concluding Q&A.

**University of North Alabama Writers Series**  
UNA — Florence  
\$2,461 Outright

The University of North Alabama's Writers' Series has been in continuous existence for 30 years. The goal of the Series has always been to bring together the community of readers and writers in the area to hear both emerging and established writers. The 2013 program is built around the poetry of Nikki Giovanni and the scholarship of Trudier Harris, both of whom will be presenting at the conference.



**Lincoln: The Civil War and the Constitution**  
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library,  
Florence  
\$2,000 Outright

An exhibit and lecture series that will be hosted at Florence-Lauderdale Public Library in April and May 2013. The exhibit, provided by the American Library Association and National Constitution Center, explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war – the secession of the Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties. In conjunction with the exhibit, the library will host an interdisciplinary series of discussions that explore the themes of the exhibit. Scholars of literature, history and law will lead discussion on topics such as slavery narratives, the lives of poor Southern families during the Civil War and Constitutional law during the war. The project is co-sponsored by the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

**Paper Clips: Changing the World**  
**One Class at a Time**  
Troy University – Troy  
\$1,400 Outright

This lecture and discussion series will introduce middle school children in Troy, Dothan and Montgomery to the Paper Clip Project started in Whitwell, TN in 1998. The Paper Clip Project, created to teach students the importance of tolerating and

respecting different cultures, was born from discussion of WWII and the Holocaust. Middle school teacher and PPCP co-founder, Sandra Roberts presented a series of lectures and workshops on perseverance, empathy, tolerance and understanding to middle school students. Teachers received numerous teaching resources.

**William Bradford Huie Lecture Series: The Scottsboro Boys Outside the Protective Circle of Humanity**  
William Bradford Huie Hartselle Public Library, Hartselle  
\$950 Outright

Part of the 2013 Southern Literary Trail, this public discussion series will address how the famous case of the Scottsboro Boys affected writing in southern literature. The Morgan County Commission received 43 never seen before photographs of the Scottsboro Boys Trial. It opened with an exhibition and scholar-led discussion of these photographs on followed by a "lunch and learn" discussion program on the novels, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Invisible Man*. Dr. Dan T. Carter, award winning author of *Scottsboro, a Tragedy of the American South*, spoke to several English classes at Hartselle High School followed by a lecture in the evening.

**Centennial of Marcel Proust's In Search of Lost Time**  
Mountain Brook Library Foundation,  
Birmingham  
\$2,000 Outright

Production of a 45-60 minute digital film about the centennial (2013) of *Swann's Way*, the first novel in Proust's multivolume masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time* (formerly known as *Remembrance of Things Past*). The film will serve to establish the importance of Proust's novel as one of the world's greatest humanistic texts.



**16th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium**  
Alabama Southern Community College – Monroeville  
\$3,196 Outright

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.

# GRANTS: *First Lady of the Revolution*

By Carol Pappas

## Documentary uncovers little known story



Henrietta Boggs, a young Southern belle who grew up in Birmingham, took a ride on the back of a motorcycle in Costa Rica in the 1940s and rode it right into history.

Her little known story is now the centerpiece of a documentary being produced by Washington, D.C.-based Spark Media as *First Lady of the Revolution*. And 2013 marks the second year that Alabama Humanities Foundation has helped support the filmmaking through its grant program.

Project Director Andrea Kalin calls it “an extraordinary story” of romance, vision and revolution.

In the film’s trailer, Boggs – now 94 – recalls her desperation to leave home, to leave her native South. “Too much segregation, too much family pressure to conform, too narrow a horizon over which to spread my wings,” she says.

An aunt and uncle had settled in Costa Rica, and she traveled to this exotic paradise to escape from the stranglehold she felt from the times and the geography.

Once there, she met and accepted a motorcycle ride from Jose ‘Don Pepe’ Figueres, married him and supported the vision he had for a new Costa Rica, one he was convinced could not happen without an armed revolt.

He led the revolution in 1948 and became the first president of this new Costa Rica, and she, its first lady.

Together, they would preside over revolutionary ideas of what the country could become with rights and privileges for women and minorities never dared to be dreamed before.

“It’s a remarkable story, not just a romantic story,” said Co-Producer James Mirabello, the film’s project director. He contrasts the transformation of Costa Rica with strides not yet made by the United States to this day. Voter turnout for the presidential election four years ago was an historic high for the US – about 60 percent, he said. In Costa Rica’s 2010 presidential elections, 70 percent voter turnout was considered significantly low.

“Costa Rica elected its first woman president before we did,” he added. “It’s very regional from an American perspective and a woman’s point of view. It is a good story and a compelling one.”

Director Kalin agrees. “It is an extraordinary story. She could see beyond the scripted world she came from and was dropped in the middle of a revolution.”

Together, she and Figueres had a “shared purpose, a stubborn vision,” Kalin said. “It is exciting to find a story with so many levels of interest. The story hits all the key spots.” It is a story of transformative outcomes, strength, courage and wisdom, and it is an unforgettable love story.

Their marriage ended. It was able to survive the revolution but not the years that followed in Figueres’ rise to power. She moved to Montgomery with her children, and she still lives and works there today. “She was determined to carve out a life for herself, and she has stuck to it to the age of 94,” Kalin said. She owned a magazine and sold it, but she still writes every month.

Boggs’ story, Kalin said, underscores the notion, “In a sleepy suburb of Montgomery, Alabama, you never know who your next door neighbor might be and the life they led.”

View the trailer online at [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org)

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

## Engaging young professionals in the humanities

By Theodore Foster

In May 1963, thousands of African American children in Birmingham marched through the streets of the city en route to the mayor's office to talk about civil rights and were met with the now iconic images of the fire hoses and police dogs meant to deter these courageous youth. Fifty years later, their inspiration is our legacy.



Theodore Foster

As members of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Young Professionals Board, we are provided a unique opportunity throughout the state to develop and extend the impact of the humanities to our peers.

Entering our second full calendar year, the Young Professionals Board is excited about 2013 and the potential it brings to engage the city and state in this momentous anniversary. Many institutions and organizations throughout the city of Birmingham and across Alabama are engaging in commemorative events to celebrate the actions and sacrifices of countless individuals who participated in the seminal events of the Civil Rights Movement during 1963.

As part of this 50th commemorative year, the AHF Young Professionals Board plans to contribute through innovative programming that young professionals in the city and state should enjoy. Birmingham will also be the site of the 2013 National Humanities Conference in November, and the Young Professionals Board looks forward to developing programming related to the theme, "Reflection, Reconciliation and Renewal."

Focusing on renewing the charge that so many brave and local footsoldiers fought for in 1963, the Young Professionals Board asks its peer community, "What's Your Legacy?"

In 2013, we live in a world drastically different than the images that defined



Inspired by 1963 Children's March, YP Board is planning anniversary event.



Back Row (left to right): Conrhonda Baker; Gretchen Frizzell  
Front Row (left to right): Ruby Brown; Theodore Foster, III;  
Danielle Hines (Chair)

Birmingham in 1963. The dehumanizing experience for people of color during that time forced men and women, young and old, to activate their communities in profound ways that led to fundamental change.

Through the spoken word, literature and music, the humanities were not only present throughout the movement in Birmingham, they had a powerful impact

as a catalyst for that change.

As a board, we hope to build off the 50-year legacy of the Birmingham Campaign by engaging the youth of the city and state in reflecting and renewing our charge on the anniversary of this pivotal point in our nation's history. We hope to capitalize on our successful inaugural year, and we invite you to join us in this effort along with AHF, the city and so many others. ■

## SUPER Emerging Scholars contribute to book

If you want to envision how education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century should look, ask a student. It seems a simple premise, but all too often, those who are affected by it most, are left out of the discussion.

That was not the case when more than a dozen students from across the state gathered at Auburn University for a week-long SUPER Emerging Scholars Institute, where they became the centerpiece, the visionaries and the catalyst for change all in one.

Their work and their words are now compiled in a book prepared through the university's Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for Arts and Humanities. Called *Education for Today, Preparation for Tomorrow -- Emerging Scholars' Perspectives of Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, it is a compelling example of how young people from different walks of life can come together to create a guide to critical thinking about the future of education.

"It seemed only fitting that this institute, the 2012 SUPER Emerging Scholars program at Auburn University, allowed students to critically reflect on what we seek to foster through our programs and a primary issue in our society – an education for the 21st Century," Alabama Humanities Programs Director Dionne Clark wrote in the book's foreword.

When she coordinated the institute, she said she did not realize "the remarkable influence" it would have on their awareness of their education and theory of learning. "As I immersed myself in the instructional sessions, and watched the students and scholars engage in critical dialogue, I began to see the process of education evolve before me," she wrote. "The power of learning (the process of securing, negotiating, and mastering information), and the charge and gift of teaching is a dynamic process that makes education as meaningful and culturally fundamental as breathing."

James Adam Manasco, intern at the Center, agreed in his preface to the book. "Instead of just reading about problems with education and how it needs to be fixed, I actually got to hear the problems from those who are most affected and often overlooked: the students. It was amazing to sit and listen to what students from different parts of Alabama had to say about education, their teachers, and the assigned readings.

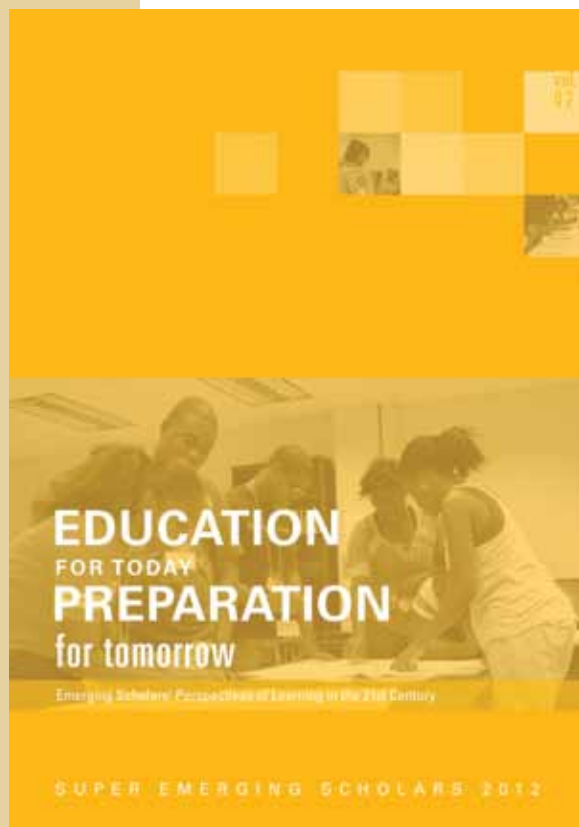
"I had my doubts that high school students would enjoy sitting in a classroom in the middle of June instead of being on the football field or at the pool; I was proven wrong and was glad to be. They were eager to share their thoughts and ideas on certain readings and what they thought would make a good education for the 21st Century. The willingness to collaborate with each other in order to find a solution was very inspiring."

And that is precisely what planners of SUPER Emerging Scholars intended when the program was created four years ago. It was to be Alabama Humanities Foundation's link to a younger audience to foster and build a better understanding of the humanities and their impact on everyday life.

Each year, students throughout Alabama apply to be a part of this program that unites diverse groups of students with university professors and educators. They are challenged to think critically and reflect, through research, writing essays and engaging in thought-provoking discussions. Through these exercises, they are able to see how various cultural expressions have helped shape their understanding -- not only of themselves, but of other cultures and ethnic groups.

As they delved into the complexities of education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, their words reveal the kind of understanding that is at the very heart of SUPER Emerging Scholars.

In their own voices, here is what they had to say:



*The secret to successful education in the 21st century is the ability to gain knowledge while using your interests to obtain success at a higher level. Not only do the liberal arts fit with the time that we are in now, they also provide the education of the future. We have to prepare ourselves to shift into that next gear because times are rapidly changing and if we do not move with them, we will find ourselves stuck in a deeper hole than we are already in.*

**Secret Phillips - Anniston**

*Before we can begin to identify the most effective education for the 21st century, it is important to understand what qualities make up the most effective member of the workforce and citizen in today's society... We can summarize the identity of the effective 21st employee: proficient in the use of technology, culturally aware, sociable, possessing a varied skill set, able to learn quickly and effectively, flexible, able to innovate and solve problems. From this identity, we can prepare an educational plan that encompasses the needed components in a hierarchical format. To produce the individual who successfully incorporates the above capabilities, we might be most effective by beginning with an extensive liberal arts education--an educational foundation based upon broad concepts that involve higher level thinking, problem solving skills, knowledge of other cultures, and knowledge about people themselves. Such a foundation should form the first tier, the most important tier, of the hierarchy of education preparation, as it is most relevant.*

**Justin Smith - Auburn**

*In order for us to understand the world we live in we must know the history of the world we live in. That means that we must know how our world came to be and how our and other countries were and where they are. I am not saying all of our students have to be social studies and civics teacher or historians, but I am saying that everyone should know some history to understand the world that they live in...*

*History tells a unique story about our past. At the same time, history is a blueprint for the future.*

**Daphne Calhoun - Tuskegee**

*Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character -- that is the goal of a true education." In my opinion I think the most effective education for the 21st century is the concept of the liberal arts, technology, character, and intelligence.*

**JeNarria Dupree - Auburn**

*Pay is not based on just one's knowledge of how to perform a job; it is based on one's ability to apply the knowledge and come up with a solution.*

*A liberal education teaches sensitivity to aesthetic experience. It offers to rid the mind of bias. It teaches not only tolerance of difference but appreciation of diversity.*

**Michaela Allen - Mobile**

*Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefits for everyone and greater strength for our nation.*

**Ebony Frazier - Loachapoka**

*In his article titled, "The Democratic Framework," author Steven Cahn states that "such a broadened vocational preparation is not only the use of the future worker himself; its benefits to society [are] apparent to anyone who has ever been forced to deal with the mechanized mind of a bureaucrat" (204). What I believe the author is implying is that liberal arts are not just*

## 2013 SUPER Emerging Scholars Program

Alabama Humanities Foundation is busy making plans for the 2013 SES institutes. First in the planning is *The "Me" and "We": Civic Responsibility, Participation, and Engagement*, a 3-day (June 3-5, 2013), non-residential institute in Montgomery at the Rosa Parks Museum

This three (3) day, non-residential institute will engage students in academic, critical discussions on the history and concept of civic participation, responsibility, and engagement. The program will build upon the students' general ideas of civic knowledge and seek to build cognitive civic engagement and engender participatory civic skills (such as collaborative decision making and deliberation).

The institute will also provide students with a brief historiography of social movements, and engage them in critical discussions surrounding the major issues and problems at the nexus of these historical moments. Students will be able to take advantage of the institute's location, Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery.

Apply online at [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org).



*benefits for society by providing people who can think for themselves intelligently and creatively. This quote deals with equilibrium in your life because in order to have a balance, you have to have a both creativity and intelligence.*

**Taylor McGee - Hoover**

*Only a curious mind has the capability to learn and apply knowledge in a constructive way.*

**Dy'Mond Frazier - Tuskegee**

## Far reaching in its quest



To put a program's effectiveness and reach in perspective, nothing tells the story better than the numbers and the participants.

For more than two decades, School and University Partners for Education Renewal, commonly known by its acronym, SUPER, has been conducting one-day workshops to weeklong residential institutes in the summer and in-service programs led by members of AHF Speakers Bureau. During its 21-year history, SUPER has served more than 4,000 teachers of the humanities, social sciences and arts in each of Alabama's 67 counties and reached more than 500,000 students.

Teachers have described their experiences and what they gained as "fresh knowledge," "rewarding" and "energizing." It is the kind of renewed vigor they can return to their classrooms.

Within the program are intensive residential institutes and one-day workshops that bring together prominent university scholars and 4th-12th-grade school teachers in a unique learning environment to provide content-rich, graduate-level professional development.

Since 1991, AHF has taken a leading role in the advancement of Alabama education with the SUPER Teacher Program. This program provides graduate-level, content-rich, professional development of the highest quality to outstanding 4th-12th-grade public and private school teachers, school librarians and administrators who wish to expand and deepen their knowledge of a particular subject or theme within the humanities. Places in the program are awarded on a competitive basis.

SUPER is provided to Alabama educators entirely free of charge. To apply for a SUPER Teacher Institute, you may do so online at [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org).

### Why *SUPER*?

- SUPER is the only graduate-level, content-centered professional development program available to teachers statewide at no cost to them or their school systems. The content in these programs directly addresses the Courses of Study as mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- SUPER offers educators the invaluable opportunity to work closely with peers from around the state and noted scholars from higher education institutions, exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, developing professional networks, expanding their knowledge and increasing their confidence and effectiveness in the classroom.
- The benefits of attending a SUPER program are carried directly into the classroom, enriching the education of thousands of students year after year.
- SUPER participants represent every teacher demographic. Teachers come from public and private, urban, suburban and rural schools. Participating teachers represent every ethnic demographic found in Alabama: Native-American, European-American, African-American, Asian-American and Hispanic teachers.
- SUPER Teachers institutes and workshops take place all over the state, from the major metropolitan centers of Birmingham, Mobile, Huntsville and Montgomery, to college towns, including Tuscaloosa and Auburn, to small, rural communities, such as Camden, the county seat of one of the poorest counties in the country and Thomasville, a relatively isolated community in the heart of Alabama's timber region.

### 2013 SUPER Institutes

To date, these institutes have been scheduled or planned for 2013. Check online at [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org) to learn more as the year progresses.

#### Traditional India, Diasporic India, and India in Today's World

June 10-13, Troy, Troy University

Lead scholar: Priya Menon, Ph.D and Noel Harold Kaylor, Jr., Ph.D

*The proposed institute, "Traditional India, Diasporic India, and India in Today's World," will allow participants to investigate the social, political, scientific and technological, educational, economic, cultural and historical foundations of modern India and the effects of the dynamic position of India in the world today. Presentations will allow participants to explore India's independence from British colonial domination, the rise of Modern India, Education in India, Science and Technology developed by India's scientists and various cultural and literary topics in an effort to deliver a balanced and comprehensive understanding of India's past, present, and aspirations for the future.*

#### The African-American Experience and the South: Themes in Race, Culture, Politics and Identity

July 22-25, 2013 (Tentative location: Auburn, Auburn University)

Lead scholars: Larry McLemore, Ph.D., Auburn University, and David C. Carter, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Auburn University

*Teachers who participate in this institute will explore the experiences of African Americans in the South with an emphasis on themes of race, culture, politics and identity that will offer ways to enrich the teaching of history and literature. From the slavery period to Reconstruction and life in the Jim Crow South and after, this institute will focus on the roles blacks have played in the creation of their own history in a region and nation whose culture and history is interwoven with their own. This institute will examine familiar topics in new ways as well as new topics in the literature and history of the South and African-American life.*

#### Mockingbird Moments: A Study of the Novel and the Film

June 23-26, 2013, Monroe County Museum and Alabama Southern Community College

Lead scholar: Nancy Grisham Anderson, Associate Professor of English, AUM

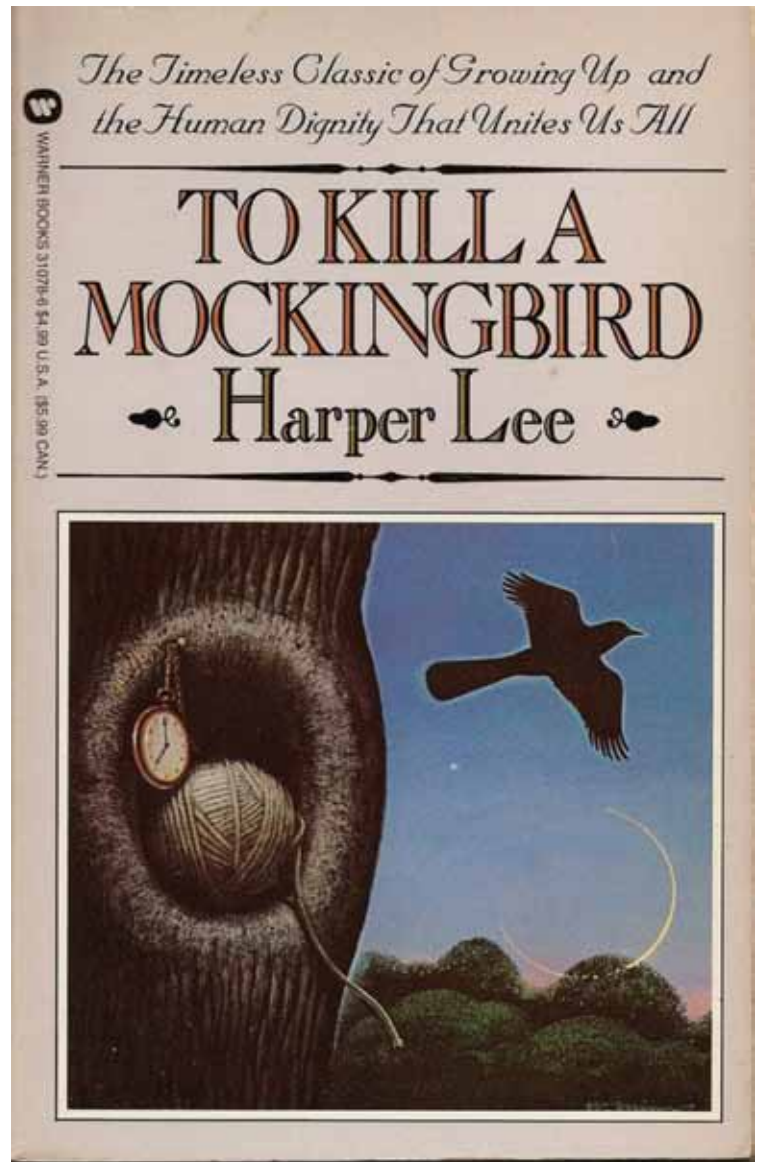
*Teachers are invited to spend three days in historic Monroeville, Alabama, to study *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the novel and the movie. In addition to enjoying the atmosphere and sites of the town on which Maycomb, Alabama, is based, participants will attend sessions led by scholars (literature, history and film) to discuss the origins and legacy of this masterpiece. A highpoint of the teacher institute will be viewing the movie in the courtroom of the Monroe County Courthouse.*

#### Breton History and Culture

TBA, Workshop, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Lead scholar: Catherine Daniélou, Ph.D

*The objectives of this SUPER program are for teachers to further develop their understanding of Breton history, culture and literature and enhance their speaking skills and fluency in French. This SUPER will give K-12 teachers the opportunity to further develop their appreciation for French culture and its rich diversity. ■*



## New officers, board look to a bright 2013

New faces and added synergy marked the final months of 2012 and the beginning of 2013. A new chair of Alabama Humanities Foundation, new officers, executive committee and our newest board members have assumed their roles as leaders of our organization.

### *Meet our 2013 leadership:*

**John Rochester** of Ashland, retired Circuit Judge for Alabama's 40th Judicial Circuit, began serving as AHF Board Chair on Jan. 1. Judge Rochester has served on the board since 2009 and is known for making the humanities a part of alternative sentencing punishment/reform.



Judge Rochester received a bachelor's from Auburn University, a J.D. from Cumberland Law School at Samford University and has completed programs at New York University and The University of Alabama. He has participated as a speaker for AHF, the Alabama Press Association and has spoken at seminars at Harvard and Yale law schools. He is involved with the State of Alabama Health Coordinating Council and the Friends of the Alabama Archives.

In September 2012, Judge Rochester received the first Wayne Greenhaw Service to Humanities Award at the Alabama Humanities Awards luncheon. The award is named in honor of the celebrated author, journalist and former AHF board member, Wayne Greenhaw, who died in 2011.

Serving in an executive capacity along with Rochester are:

- **Guin Robinson**, Vice Chair, Director, Institutional Development, Jefferson State Community College (Birmingham)
- **Bob Olin**, Treasurer, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)
- **Nancy Sanford**, Secretary, Executive Director of Florence-Lauderdale Public Library (Florence)
- **Dafina M. Cooper Ward**, Executive Committee Member, Attorney, (Birmingham)
- **David Donaldson**, Executive Committee Member, Vice President, Vulcan Materials Company (Birmingham)
- **Jim Noles**, Immediate Past Chair, Attorney, Balch & Bingham (Birmingham) Foundation (Birmingham)

### *AHF's newest board members are:*

**Beth Wise** of Huntsville, former president and CEO of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and retired government executive.

"How excited and honored I am to be invited to join this amazing group of Alabamians," Wise said. "I consider serving in this capacity both a privilege and a serious responsibility and look forward to active involvement in AHF's activities."

Wise headed the Huntsville Symphony in 2007-08. Retired from the Department of the Army after a 37-year career, she served in several positions during that time, rising to director of Business Management for Program Executive Office, Tactical Missiles.



With more than 42 years of volunteer service in the community, she has held leadership roles in Huntsville Botanical Garden, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild, Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, Junior League, Randolph School Board of Trustees, The Arts Council and various other boards and organizations.

Wise is a graduate of Auburn University, holds a Master's degree from The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and completed the Columbia Senior Executive Program from Columbia University in New York.

**James McLeMore** of Montgomery is an attorney and shareholder in the law firm, Capell & Howard, P.C. His legal background includes general civil practice, commercial litigation, administrative law in the fields of environmental, health care and public utilities. He also served as law clerk and staff attorney to the Hon. Robert E. Varner, Chief Judge for the United States District Court.



"I have long enjoyed the work and programs of AHF. I look forward to switching roles and serving the Board to help enrich the lives of all Alabamians concerning our unique and fascinating culture," McLeMore said. "I believe that this mission is as important as any in the development of our state."

He graduated magna cum laude from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Commerce. He earned his law degree from The University of Alabama School of Law.

McLeMore's civic involvement includes leadership roles in the Montgomery Rotary Club, Easter Seals Alabama, Montgomery Area Food Bank, The Children's Center School for special children, The University of Alabama Libraries Leadership Board, The University of Alabama Capstone Council, Alabama Writers' Forum and Montgomery Symphony Orchestra Board.

**Lajuana Bradford** of Birmingham is senior vice president, Corporate Responsibility for Regions Financial Corp. Bradford serves as director of Corporate Social Responsibility in External Affairs for Regions Financial Corp., a top U.S. bank-holding company headquartered in Birmingham. She directs programs in diversity and inclusion, sustainability, economic development, volunteer programs and charitable response to disasters that together promote a broader definition of social responsibility.



Bradford holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Rhode Island College and is a graduate of the Wachovia Executive Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School. She also completed Boston College's Management Development Program in Corporate Community Involvement.

Her civic work includes being a board member of YWCA of Central Alabama, Alabama Region of the American Red Cross and Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. She is a graduate of Leadership Birmingham and a member of the Children's Hospital Committee for the Future.

"I am proud to be a part of an organization that focuses on enriching the lives of Alabamians," Bradford said. "I see the

appreciation of arts, culture and the humanities as an integral part of the work that I do in promoting diversity and inclusion at Regions.”

**Sage Bolt** of Mobile is a community volunteer who is involved with many charities across Alabama. In addition to other volunteer work, she serves on the boards of Wilmer Hall Children’s Home and the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery.

She previously worked seven years with American National Bank/AmSouth and 11 years in Independent School Development, most recently serving as director of Development at St. Paul’s Episcopal School.

She is married to Preston Bolt and has three grown children, Weathers, Edward and Sarah. She is a 1979 graduate of The University of Alabama and is a member of Christ Church Cathedral.

“There are many opportunities to make a difference in our communities that are met by generous foundations such as Alabama Humanities Foundation. I am honored to be a part and look forward to being on the other side of grant writing process,” Bolt said.

**Christina Hall Nettles (Crissy)** of Monroeville is a writer who formerly owned Beehive Coffee and Books, an independent bookstore in Monroeville that celebrated local authors and in 2010 received the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation’s Small Towns and Downtowns Award.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Louisiana State University and a master’s degree in English from the University of Mississippi. She has served as president of the American Medical Association Residents’ Alliance at the University of South Alabama and is currently on the board of the Alabama Southern Community College Scholarship Foundation.

**Al Head** of Montgomery has worked in the arts field for more than 40 years and is executive director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

He began his career in 1972 with the Fine Arts Council of Florida and continued through executive director positions with the Stephen Foster Folklife Center, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. He has served his home state for the past 20 years as the Council’s director.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Troy State University in art history and aesthetics, and his Master of Liberal Arts, with a concentration on Southern literature, from Auburn University at Montgomery. He received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in 1974 to attend Harvard’s Arts Administration Institute.

Head served two terms on the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies board, has been a member of the South Arts board (previously Southern Arts Federation) for 35 years and is a former chair and vice chair of that organization. He has served on numerous panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and has chaired the Folk Arts and Arts in Education panels.

He received the Gary Young Award presented by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies for his leadership and achievements in promoting the arts nationally. In 1999, he received Alumni of the Year from the National Troy University Alumni



Association and in 2008, he earned The Distinguished Leadership Award for exemplary dedication and service to the University.

Head is the only state arts director to start folk arts programs in three states: Florida, Louisiana and Alabama.

“I was very pleased to be appointed by Governor Bentley in June 2012 to serve on the board of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. The Alabama State Council on the Arts had enjoyed a long-standing relationship with AHF, having a great deal in common regarding mission, programs and the constituency we serve. My being on the board will heighten opportunities for collaboration and maximizing the impact of our agencies’ mutual resources.”

**Dr. Donald DeVore** of Mobile is associate professor of History at the University of South Alabama, where he specializes in American history and African-American studies. Dr. DeVore holds a bachelor’s degree from Southern University at New Orleans and a master’s degree from the University of New Orleans. He earned a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University.

“I have always had an interest in extending knowledge in the social sciences and humanities beyond the traditional classroom,” DeVore said. “Serving on the board of the Alabama Humanities Foundation will allow me to play a small role in providing humanities programs to the citizens of Alabama.”

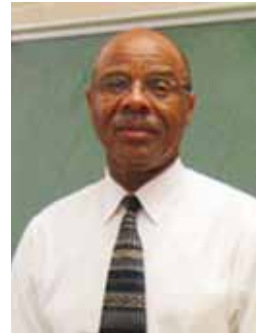
**Margret Martin** of Birmingham is originally from Washington, DC. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Government with a minor in English from the College of William and Mary and a master’s degree in International Relations-Foreign Policy from Georgetown University. She worked for 12 years on Capitol Hill before moving to Alabama with her husband, Gordon Martin.

“I’m a firm believer in using the humanities to help instill the lessons of history in our children so they learn that actions have consequences and affect generations,” Martin said. “I appreciate not just the great work the AHF does, but also the approach the organization takes. Its impact on our culture can be felt across Alabama, but it does not beat its own drum. It has its priorities in order.”

**Anna Gramberg** of Auburn earned a Ph.D. in German with an emphasis on Business from Michigan State University. She joined Auburn in 1992, rising to full professor and chair of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department. As dean, Dr. Gramberg has strengthened the College of Liberal Arts by implementing Programs for Excellence in Research and Creative Work and establishing the Civic Engagement Initiative. She also serves on the Executive Board of the Alabama Germany Partnership and is a member of the Committee on Research Universities of the Council for Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

“I have always believed that the humanities provide a nurturing environment in which the creative spirit meets the needs of an engaged citizenry.

“I am honored to have an opportunity through AHF to further my commitment to creating and sustaining the finest intellectual environment within our state”. ■



# Humanities Conference heading to Birmingham



Alabama Humanities Foundation officers, board members and staff traveled to Chicago in November to host a reception at the national conference of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. It was their chance to offer a sneak preview of what is in store for the 2013 conference when humanities leaders from around the country head to Birmingham.

In a folksy, “Come on Down” reception, a tourism-themed display featured Alabama mainstays — from Milo’s Tea to Dale’s Seasoning — and AHF delegates were met with great excitement and energy from those planning to travel to Birmingham for the National Humanities Conference. Approximately 400 delegates from the nation’s 56 councils are expected to come on down to Birmingham in November.

AHF Vice Chair Guin Robinson is leading the effort to plan hosting events. “Obviously, we are very excited,” he said. Tentatively planned is an opening ceremony at the 16th Street Baptist Church, symbolic of the pivotal moments of the Civil Rights Movement. “It is incredibly powerful to open in the 16th Street Baptist Church,” Robinson said. “What it means to the Civil Rights Movement can never be understated.”

At the core of planning will be break-out sessions in every area and realm of the humanities as they relate to the Civil Rights Movement.

Civil Rights leaders will be featured on panels, offering thought-provoking insights into that time and in the years since. “Some saw the events play out personally, and some were involved in all areas of the movement,” Robinson said.

The theme for the conference is “Reflection, Reconciliation and Renewal,” which Robinson called “significant. That’s what this conference is trying to showcase — where are we now, where do we go from here. We want to try to show the lessons learned from the past.

“Having the conference here is really a milestone for our foundation,” he said. “We hope it also will be a milestone for the national organization.”

“We chose Birmingham as the site for the 2013 National Humanities Conference because it seemed unthinkable, in this very important anniversary year, to be anywhere else,” said Esther Mackintosh, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. “Fifty years ago, events in Birmingham forever



**FEDERATION OF  
STATE HUMANITIES  
COUNCILS**

changed the course of Civil Rights in the United States. It is a privilege to be able to gather in this city at this time to reflect on those events and on how we can draw on the humanities to help shape a future of equality and mutual responsibility.”

Remarking on the plans, she noted, “The conference program in Birmingham will include voices that will inspire us with stories of past struggles and triumphs, poetry drawn from contemporary life, and visions of the cultural and educational landscape of the future. It will include a lively exchange of ideas and information about state humanities council programs and partnerships. And it will offer once-in-a-lifetime tours of Civil Rights landmarks from Selma to Montgomery to Tuscaloosa.”

AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser also sees the hosting as a chance to showcase Alabama’s role in the Civil Rights Movement and its path forward from 1963. “Having the 2013 Conference in Birmingham will allow us to highlight Alabama and Birmingham’s remarkable opportunities for the casual traveler as well as the focused historian who wants to visit some of our nation’s most important sites in the civil rights struggle of the 60s.

“Birmingham and Alabama have so much to offer our visitors in this, the 50th anniversary of the events of 1963. What we take for granted as residents is so unique and often awe-inspiring to people from other parts of the country.”

As part of the conference, the Federation has scheduled as keynote speakers Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, who is a Birmingham native and took part in the Children’s March, and world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator Nikki Giovanni.

“The acclaim of these two speakers underscores exactly what this conference is designed to convey,” Robinson said. “It think it’s very powerful.” ■

# Monroeville: Small town ascends to cultural icon

By Carol Pappas

With a population of barely 6,500, it may seem odd that a town the size of Monroeville could attract five times that number within its borders every year.

But Monroeville, Alabama, isn't just any place. It's a literary capital, a civil rights catalyst, home to the second best selling book of all time and a cultural icon all rolled into one tiny town that proudly rolls out its welcome mat to the world.

At the heart of it all is a book called *To Kill a Mockingbird* and a museum that showcases Monroeville's place in its history.

Stephanie Rogers serves as the museum's executive director, and she describes her work more as a passion than a job. She grew up in Monroeville and from her lifetime vantage point of seeing the impact of the book, its author and native daughter, Harper Lee, and the town's place in history, she understands what it means to the 30,000 people from around the world who visit each year.

A visitors' log at the museum reveals a 50-50 split between domestic and international visitors. "We have a very high occurrence of international visits," she said. Monroeville is generally a stop for international visitors who tour Savannah, Atlanta, Montgomery and Mississippi for their civil rights connection. "It speaks volumes of what we do have." Many consider *To Kill a Mockingbird* "synonymous with the Civil Rights Movement. We believe her book helped start the Civil Rights Movement. I don't think anybody would deny that," Rogers said.

"I am awed by the love the people have for this book. It's the second most popular printed book behind the Bible. Every time I read it, I get something new out of it," she said. "I see the justice and humanity — humans being decent to other human beings like we're supposed to be. It reaffirms all the toil, all we do to keep it going, so that it can leave a lasting impact."

For visitors to be able to see the sites of Lee's house or Truman Capote's next door, to see the library that was once a hotel and where the Wee Diner was across the street, a favorite of Gregory Peck's during filming of the movie classic, "it put a little town like this on a world map," she said.

And it is why her job is no 9 to 5 effort. She recollects the stories of just how important Monroeville is to those who flock there. She talks of the visitors from the Philippines who have made Monroeville a tourist stop on a Saturday afternoon only to find the historic courthouse was closing. She reopened, not wanting to let them go home without seeing it.

Or, perhaps it's Sunday after church, and she and her husband happen to drive by as visitors show their obvious disappointment at trying a locked door. "You have the keys, let them in and at least see it," her husband would say on more than one occasion.

With \$3 million in private funds, Monroeville turned the old courthouse built in 1903 into today's museum, restoring it to the 1930s appearance devotees have come to associate with the film and described in the book. "It was just as Harper Lee would have watched her father try a case. It is the most significant link to Harper Lee," she said. An exhibit, "In her own words," is a powerfully moving centerpiece and monument to Lee's historic novel.

The museum's attention to historic details is well documented in the other properties it owns as well. The Alabama River Festival, which is the only museum on the Alabama River, and Rikards Mill, an 1845 grist mill with old millstones, are two examples. Living history events are presented at both sites. A church, a marker and a 1924 Spanish-Mediterranean-style home round out the museum's list of historical preservation efforts.

Of course, the courthouse is its best known link to the past. It is where the play, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, is performed each year by townspeople from April 18 through May 18. The first act



is performed outside the courthouse, an area made possible by Georgia Pacific. Then, the audience is able to step inside to step back in time for the second act in the now famous courtroom. "There is nothing like seeing the performance in this courthouse," Rogers said.

Monroeville's cast, though, has shared this play with the world, touring with stops in Chicago and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., England, Jerusalem and Hong Kong.

Back at home, Monroeville Museum continues to be a mecca for literary and historical partnerships. Its kinship with Alabama Humanities Foundation is a strong one, she said, noting that *Mockingbird Moments* is AHF's SUPER Teacher Institute held there through the efforts of partners Auburn University at Montgomery, Alabama Southern Community College, Alabama Center for Literary Arts and Monroe County Heritage Museum.

Twenty-two teachers from across Alabama are able to spend three days there gaining new insight to the book and its meanings so that they can bring them back to a new generation — their own students throughout the state.

Monroeville Museum partners with Alabama Southern and AHF in conjunction with the production to host the Alabama Writers Symposium. "It gives the writers something to do while they are here," Rogers said.

This past May, the museum held an outdoor event on the courthouse lawn — a party after the performance — complete with tents, tables and chairs. Although there was what Rogers describes as nothing short of a "monsoon" of a rain storm, "no one wanted to go home. The people loved it."

Just like they love Monroeville. ■

# Agreeing to disagree

## Rekha Nath wins Whetstone-Seaman Award

Rekha Nath concedes that we live in a polarized nation. As an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Alabama with work in political philosophy and ethics, she is well aware that ideology has caused deep division in the country.

But is that always bad? “The mere fact that people sometimes disagree, even strongly, does not in and of itself seem to be cause for concern,” she says, summarizing her winning essay for the Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award.

In the top paper for 2013, *‘Overcoming Polarization: Why and How?’*, Nath outlines ways polarization can be helpful and harmful, but she points toward a notion of shared responsibility as key to overcoming it.

There is value in disagreement, she points out. “Where perspectives clash, the parties to a disagreement may engage in a process of collective learning and profit from their differences,” she writes. There is also a price to pay for polarization. “Where people come to feel a total lack of understanding for one another, disengagement frequently follows, blocking off hope of moving forward.”

While it may not be an easy solution, she argues, “...responsibility for overcoming polarization is more productively seen as a shared enterprise rather than one falling directly on individuals.”

Finding common ground and working in concert with one another while respecting the differences is the way to navigate through the entanglements, she concludes. “We must focus our attention on the ways in which social structures can enable meaningful engagement between those who disagree.”

The essay she wrote for the AHF competition is part of a larger research project in which she explore issues concerning individuals’ responsibilities to promote social justice. “In my research and teaching, I have taken steps to integrate philosophical theorizing about social justice with ongoing practical concerns that face our society. To this end, I have recently worked on developing a service-learning course — giving students the opportunity to work with a community organization in addition to a more traditional classroom experience. I will use the grant money to support my continued research and curriculum development on topics in social and political philosophy. Given the pressing nature of polarization in our society, I am very excited about the opportunity to present my ideas on the topic as set out in my essay to a public symposium.”

Nath joins runners-up whose essays will be published in AHF’s online journal, *Alabama Humanities Review*. They are: James McNaughton, first runner-up, assistant professor of English at The University of Alabama; Walter Ward, second runner-up, assistant professor of History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; Barbara Baker, third runner up, executive director of the Women’s Leadership Institute at Auburn University, where she is a member of the graduate faculty, teaching courses in the Honors College, Community and Civic Engagement and Women’s Studies. ■

### About Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award

Open to all, full-time non-tenured humanities faculty at Alabama colleges and universities.

Winner receives \$3,000; runner-up receives \$1,500.

Submissions due in October of original, unpublished essays no more than 5,000 words long.

Winner is invited to present his/her essay at a public symposium.

Top papers are published in AHF’s online journal, *Alabama Humanities Review*.

Winner invited to participate in the AHF Road Scholars Speakers Bureau.

Dr. Bob Whetstone and his sister, Janet Seaman, fund the biennial award given through AHF to engage emerging scholars in the state and involve them in more of AHF’s work in Alabama.



James  
McNaughton



Walter  
Ward



Barbara  
Baker

# Jenice Riley Scholarship making a difference in Alabama classrooms



From left, Shea Thompson, Regina Everett, Janice Cardenas and Fredna Grimmert.

More than 800 students at Forest Hills Elementary School in Florence benefited from the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship one of its teachers shared with the entire school.

Encouraged by the aim of the scholarship — excellence in teaching — Jessica Shea Thompson, a kindergarten teacher, applied for the \$1,000 award through Alabama Humanities Foundation.

She was one of four winners, and she chose two projects to enhance students' learning experience at her school. The scholarship covered readers for her classroom and "Be at Your Best" character education program that was able to be presented to the entire student body.

"Mark Seymour came to our school and performed his music and drum show to an audience of over 800 students," Thompson said. "It was a high energy, motivating, fun performance packed with positive messages for students to carry with them throughout the school year."

Her principal, Ann Behel, was thankful for Thompson's ability to share her scholarship with all the students at her school. "The Be At Your Best program was a wonderful experience for our students. It was engaging and provided an excellent message about character and responsibility. We would love to have the program presented to our students in the future."

Back in her own classroom, Thompson is eager to report on the success of the readers the scholarship provided as well. "My students have loved the nonfiction-leveled readers. They are just now able to read them independently. We are planning on putting together a play and performing for parents after reading all our nonfiction social studies book collection."

Thompson and three other teachers across the state were able to use their scholarship winnings to do as the scholarship's creation intended — reward teachers who make a difference in their classrooms through innovative programs and projects. It provides that 'extra' that otherwise may not be affordable in cash-strapped education budgets.

Janice Carden, a teacher at Vernon Intermediate School in Lamar County, used her scholarship for an oral history of the county and to have her students visit a museum. In Auburn,

Fredna Grimmert at Ogletree Elementary addressed voter apathy with comprehensive study of the presidential election and a goal of inspiring lifelong voters.

Regina Everett at Mobile County's Saraland Elementary was able to make history come alive for her students with hands-on projects like, sifting for gem stones, simulating Native American life through dress and other activities, and witnessing a Civil War reenactment. Her class also was able to visit historic sites as part of the scholarship proceeds.

Created in memory of the late Jenice Riley, daughter of former Gov. Bob and First Lady Patsy Riley, the scholarship is meant to enhance education quality in Alabama. Jenice was a teacher, and Mrs. Riley said her passion for teaching brought out the best in her students.

The scholarship is that legacy. ■

## About the scholarship

- It is funded by community supporters, who worked closely with Jenice Riley, and awarded through the Alabama Humanities Foundation.
- Each scholarship is a \$1,000 award.
- It is open to all Alabama teachers in grades K-6, who want to further professional development and enhance their students' understanding of history and civics.
- Recipients are chosen from a pool of applicants based on how they will spend the funds to enhance their curriculum and create a more effective classroom environment.

Applications are available online at [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org)

# ROAD SCHOLARS TOP FIVE

## Storyteller captures audience, No. 1 spot



By Carol Pappas

Thirty people find their seat in a reading room in the back of the DeKalb County Library on a chilly Saturday morning in January.

And once the wait is over, acting and storytelling meet in a mesmerizing combination that is unmistakably Dolores Hydock, the most requested Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar year after year.

It does not matter that the audience is small, nor is it factored in that Ft. Payne lies at least an hour from Alabama's largest city. What transpires in that library reading room is precisely what Road Scholars means to towns and cities across the state: An opportunity to think, to learn and to understand the humanities in any form it takes from the top experts in their field, regardless of the size of your audience or your point on the map.

"Small towns across Alabama don't have tons of money to spend on speakers, but they have a yearning to learn, to understand," Hydock said. "AHF makes it possible for speakers to come in. It is a rich resource."

Her special brand of scholarly presentations "helps remind people about the humanity we all share."

She first came to Alabama as a student in American Studies from Yale University. She planned to do an in-depth paper on Alabama folklore. She traveled the state and "discovered everything from Mardi Gras to snake handling," she recalled.

She soon realized that she needed to whittle it down a bit to come up with the right size subject. She was told to go see Warren Musgrove, "the best liar in the state." That was a compliment, she quickly explained, meaning he was a good storyteller. He encouraged her to stay up on Chandler Mountain in St. Clair County, and she obliged.

After four months on the mountain, what she learned there brought her back to Alabama after graduation, settling in Birmingham. And the Yankee from Reading, Pennsylvania, by way of New Haven, Connecticut, found her sense of place and home in the deep South.

Like the quilt squares the ladies up on Chandler Mountain deftly piece together, she blends literary tools and her own personal memories to come up with her own signature style.

"Every single day is different," she said. In Vestavia, at the new library surrounded by woods, she did folk tales from the forest.

A few days later in Childersburg at the Ladies Book Club, it was women settling the American West.

"Every group is different. I love language, and I love history. I love stories about people who made it through and reminds of what the human spirit is capable of."

It all came naturally for Hydock. "I grew up loving language and

loving to perform." She and her older sister would check out plays from the library and learn all the parts. "I was always in plays, debate team, oratory."

She was able to take those skills and turn them into a career. These days, she also does regular acting and writes one-person plays.

"This is a wonderful place for me to have landed," she recalled about those early years after college. She worked with IBM, but something was missing. She called Kirkwood by the River retirement home and asked if she could come once a month and read stories to the residents. That was 1987. She's still doing it.

She started out with O. Henry, Twain and Thurber and then began to weave her own stories. Word of mouth led to literary and book clubs inviting her to do programs. "I had no idea people would like to listen to me tell stories. It grew and grew and grew."

She doesn't think of herself as a storyteller in the true Southern sense of "sitting on the porch lying." She describes herself as "more theatrical," although she did take a master's level course in storytelling at East Tennessee State University.

At one point, she changed jobs and was going to do her storytelling part time and work, but the balance shifted in storytelling's favor, and "I do it full time now."

As confirmation of what she was trying to do, she began writing her own story, but all she had was her academic paper from Yale. "I knew there was a story in there somewhere, and I had to get it out."

A colleague told her to concentrate on one image that stuck with her. And it was that of a woman on Chandler Mountain, her gait slowed by a limp, tossing feed to her "babies" — chickens, cows and calves. "Come on, babies," she would say as she plucked another handful of feed from a bowl her arm encircled, tossing the grains from her outstretched hand. It's an image she used to take the Ft. Payne audience high atop Chandler Mountain as if they had driven the winding road to the plateau themselves.

"That unlocked it," and the end result is *Footprint on the Sky: Memories of a Chandler Mountain Spring*, her story on CD.

She also has written a play, *In Her Own Fashion*, derived from stories told to her by fashion director Ninette Griffith from the old Loveman's department store when it was in its heyday in a thriving downtown Birmingham. The play features the Yankee interviewer and the quintessential Southern lady.

*Take a Ride on The Reading* is another of her works, which takes her back to a high school reunion and returning to personal shrines. It's a collection of stories.

Through the years and the volume of stories she has told, what is her favorite? "Whichever one I'm telling right then."

# Other Top Scholars

Road Scholars from every discipline of the humanities crisscross the state every year, bringing quality, affordable programs to organizations, large and small.

Rounding out the top five most requested scholars in the Alabama Humanities Foundation program are Daphne Simpkins, Christopher Lang, Marty Oliff and Bettina Byrd-Giles.

Their talks are as diverse as the state itself. Here is a sampling of who they are and what they do:

## **Daphne Simpkins**

*Daphne Simpkins has explored the “dark night of the soul” in her own memoir **The Long Good Night (Eerdmans)**. Her essays about growing up in the South have appeared in periodicals nationwide, including **The Chicago Tribune**, **The Atlanta Constitution**, **The Baltimore Sun**, **The Miami Herald** and **Northeast**. She has also written a biography of Nat King Cole for children, **Nat King Cole: An Unforgettable Life of Music**. She is a frequent speaker for writing groups and churches and teaches writing at Auburn University at Montgomery.*



Before there was Twitter, there was Will Rogers. In modern day terms, that is how Daphne Simpkins describes his style to her audiences in *Will Rogers: An American Original*.

“Will Rogers, in a very wry and pointed way, preceded Twitter and late-night talk show commentators by using keen insight delivered with a gentle punch line to nudge powerful politicians to respond to the plight of the citizens with greater speed and integrity,” she said. “He was also very funny.”

For the past 15 years, she has been using that kind of keen insight into her subject matter to enlighten audiences at libraries, clubs and churches across Alabama.

“Will Rogers sums it up for me about audiences I meet for the first time: ‘Strangers are just friends I haven’t met yet.’ After I meet a new audience through the Road Scholars program, I feel like we’re friends.”

She also speaks on legendary singer Nat King Cole. In “Alabama’s Own Nat King Cole,” Simpkins talks of the man and the voice. “In a very understated and elegant way, Nat King Cole integrated the world of music on an international scale and left behind a legacy of songs that shaped and recorded the American culture and the American dream.”

Being a Road Scholar to Simpkins “validates being curious. What bliss to follow one’s curiosity, and Alabama has so much history to explore. The presentations change out periodically, and while I am presently engaged in talking with great gratitude and delight about Cole or Rogers, I am reading ahead and planning possible future presentations about George Washington Carver and Jesse Owens.

“Alabama history is rich with material to be explored, and I am so very curious about all of it.”

## **Bettina Byrd-Giles**

*Bettina Byrd-Giles is a consultant, trainer and teacher. Her experience includes intercultural communication training, university administration, leadership development and writing. She is an intercultural consultant with the Byrd’s Nest, LLC and has been recognized on local and international levels. She was selected to Co-chair the Martin Luther King Conflict Resolution Conference Malawi (Southern Africa) sponsored by the Fulbright Foundation, The University of Malawi, Miles College and Diversity University. She was*



*honored by the Greater Birmingham United Nations Association for founding Diversity University, a cross-cultural program uniting cultures from six colleges and universities. She is an administrator and part-time instructor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.*

Bettina Byrd-Giles may be an expert in her field, but it is her audiences from whom she learns, and that has been the most rewarding aspect of being a Road Scholar for her.

“I have learned quite a bit from them,” she said. “I have also gone to places in the state that I otherwise would not have had the chance to visit.”

Audiences in turn, learn from her. She addresses globalization and a culturally diverse Alabama. “Audiences have the opportunity to expand their view of Alabama, which is often seen as bi-racial rather than multicultural,” she said.

At two years on the road for the program, she has seen the impact Road Scholars can have. “I think it is a great opportunity for the humanities topics to be shared around the state. Residents of Alabama are treated to cutting edge presentations. They have the opportunity to think critically about people, places and topics related to Alabama.”

## **Christopher Lang**

*Christopher Lang graduated from the College of Wooster, in Wooster, Ohio with a double major in history and art. He trained in furniture conservation at the Smithsonian Institution and the Conservation Laboratory of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. While at Colonial Williamsburg, he worked at the Anthony Hay Shop as a cabinetmaker and historical interpreter. He was the Master Cabinetmaker at the Walker Allen Cabinet Shop at Alabama Constitution Village in Huntsville and provided historical interpretation and demonstration of the early 19th-century customs and crafts. Lang also served as the Curator of Collections and Exhibits of the EarlyWorks Museums in Huntsville. His articles have appeared in **Magazine Antiques**, **Alabama Heritage** and **Chronicle of the Early American Industries**.*



In many ways, Christopher Lang talks with his hands. “As a cabinetmaker and furniture historian for 30 years, my background and training in furniture conservation and historical interpretation provide me with insights into the ‘art and mysteries’ of the cabinetmaking trade.”

His work at the Anthony Hay Cabinet Shop at Colonial Williamsburg, VA and the Walker Allen Cabinet Shop at Constitution Village in Huntsville “laid the foundation for my interest in the furniture making tradition in the South, especially here in northern Alabama. I offer several related slide shows about Southern furniture and the people who made and used them. I also studied antique restoration and conservation at the Smithsonian Institution, which has also influenced my interests.”

Lang’s topics appeal not only to woodworkers and antique collectors but to historical associations, historical properties, museums, communities and societies. “Several chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution have expressed repeated interest in my programs. I’ve spoken in Decatur at the Old Bank on a couple of occasions and have visited DAR chapters in Birmingham.”

His decade as a Road Scholar has been “a great opportunity to travel the state. The Road Scholar program brings the humanities to communities of all sizes across the state.

“In the past 10 years, I’ve been down to Mobile, Auburn and Tuscaloosa and over to Florence and Scottsboro, to name but a few. I enjoy sharing my knowledge about antique furniture and in turn, learning about our rich heritage.”

And the response has been rewarding. “Many people share photo-

# Top Scholars

graphs and the history of family heirlooms. Some folks have opened their homes for me to visit and explore,” he said.

Calling the Road Scholars program a rich resource, he noted that Alabama has an equally rich cabinetmaking tradition that needs to be preserved. “The Alabama Humanities Foundation enables us to do so.”

## Marty Oliff

Marty Oliff received his Ph.D. in US History from Auburn University in 1998. He served as assistant university archivist at Auburn from 1996 until 2002 when he became the founding director of the Archives of Wiregrass History and Culture and a member of the history department at Troy University, Dothan Campus. Although he has published numerous articles concerning American chefs, his principal research interests are in Progressive Era Alabama. He is the editor of *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie: Alabama in World War I*. His most recent work concerns the *Good Roads Movement in Alabama* during the first two decades of the 20th century.



Marty Oliff came to be a Road Scholar in an unusual route. From 2002 to 2008 he was a board member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation with a seat on the Programs Committee. He now travels the state lecturing in one of its most popular programs.

His lectures are on World War I from two perspectives — from the home front and from the images war produces.

In the home front lecture, “I cover an array of issues with which I became familiar when editing the essays in my book, *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie* (2008). I use image-heavy power point slides, open with background on World War I, then talk about the arrival of troops in Montgomery and Anniston for training, the growth of Alabama’s economy because of the war, the response of Alabama African Americans to the war, and finish with how the war affected progressive government in the state.”

His “Art of War” lecture is about photographs, postcards and posters on the Godwin Collection of images from the era held at the Wiregrass Archives, where he is director. “Irene Pierce, the future Mrs. Godwin, collected portraits and snapshots of young doughboys from her hometown of Tallassee along with Chicago Daily Mail postcards of war at the front. I also examine the poster artwork of the US Committee of Public Information. I’m particularly interested in examining the development of personal, commercial and propaganda ‘visual culture’ driven particularly by advancing technology and modernism.”

He calls his audience approach ‘edutainment,’ “which is, as the kids say, a mash up of classroom lecture and standup comedy. I try to merge infectious enthusiasm for the subject with intellectual stimulation that encourages thoughtful extension of the ideas I present.”

As a teacher of students in their 20s, he said he sees them have epiphanies in class. “This is particularly rewarding as a professor. Roads Scholars audiences are mellower than even non-traditional classes, so they sometimes have ‘Aha! Moments’ that, for me, are the most rewarding part.

“Also, the host site provides free refreshments,” he added, weaving in his own bit of comedy.

Turning serious for a moment, he notes, “Alabama is woefully short of the infrastructure it needs to connect humanities experts with the general populace. The state has a great infrastructure to provide that contact for those with a political, religious, or similar messages, and it has a number of subject-specific organizations that connect providers with motivated audiences.

“But humanities scholars and providers have few options to take not only their subjects, but also their approaches, to an intellectually curious audience. The Roads Scholars program provides a significant avenue for doing exactly this. It’s important to the providers, but the program also gives local groups a way to bring in recognized subject matter experts at low cost. This helps such groups build their reputations, gather audiences, and provide broader content than they might do otherwise. It’s a win-win situation for everyone involved—even the AHF, which foots the largest portion of the bills.” ■

*For more about the Road Scholars program  
or to access a speaker request form,  
go online at [www.alabamahumanities.org](http://www.alabamahumanities.org)*

# The Alabama

The Alabama Humanities Foundation gratefully recognizes the following people and organizations whose generosity helps sustain our mission. Our Honor Roll acknowledges the contributions, memorials and honorariums received by the Alabama Humanities Foundation in 2012. On behalf of the officers and directors of the Foundation, we express our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity.

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