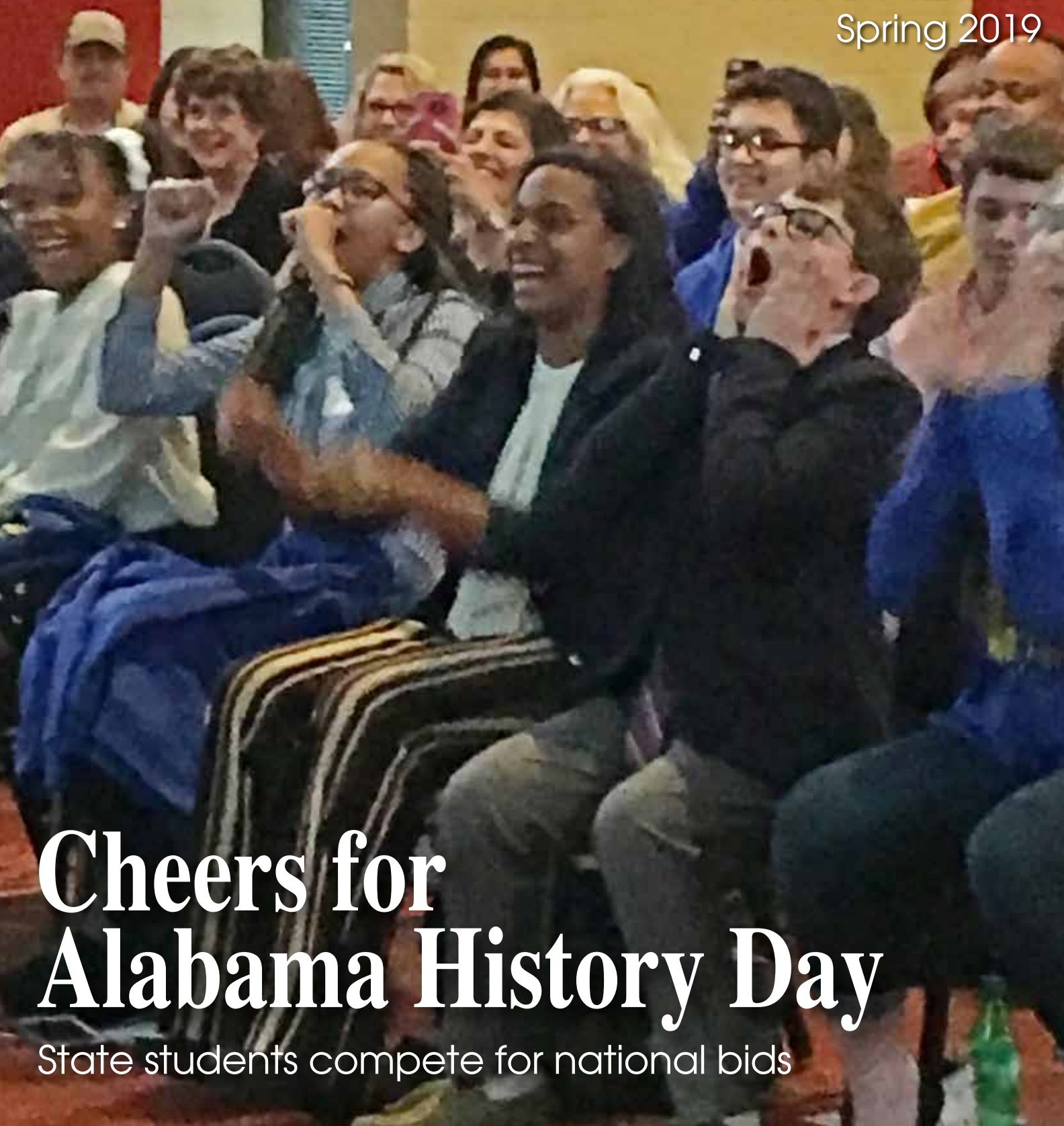


PHILOSOPHY
LITERATURE
ETHICS • HISTORY
JURISPRUDENCE
HISTORY OF THE ARTS
ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
FOUNDATION
LANGUAGES

MOSAIC

MAGAZINE

Spring 2019



Cheers for Alabama History Day

State students compete for national bids

Learn about the woman who became a movement.



More than sixty years ago, Rosa Parks' simple act of bravery became an important symbol of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, you can step back in time and experience the sights and sounds that forever changed our country. Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum is a state-of-the-art, interactive facility that honors one of America's most beloved women. Visit today and learn all about this freedom warrior firsthand.

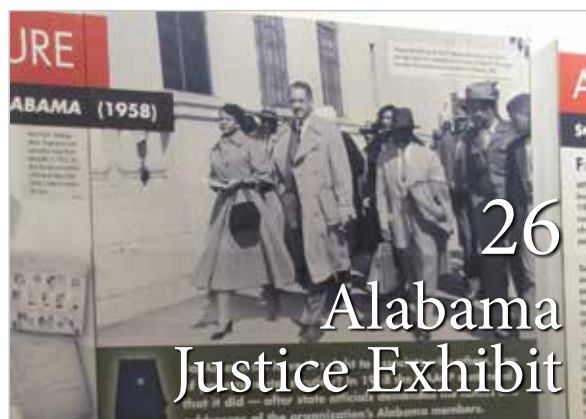


For ticket information and hours, visit troy.edu/rosaparks.

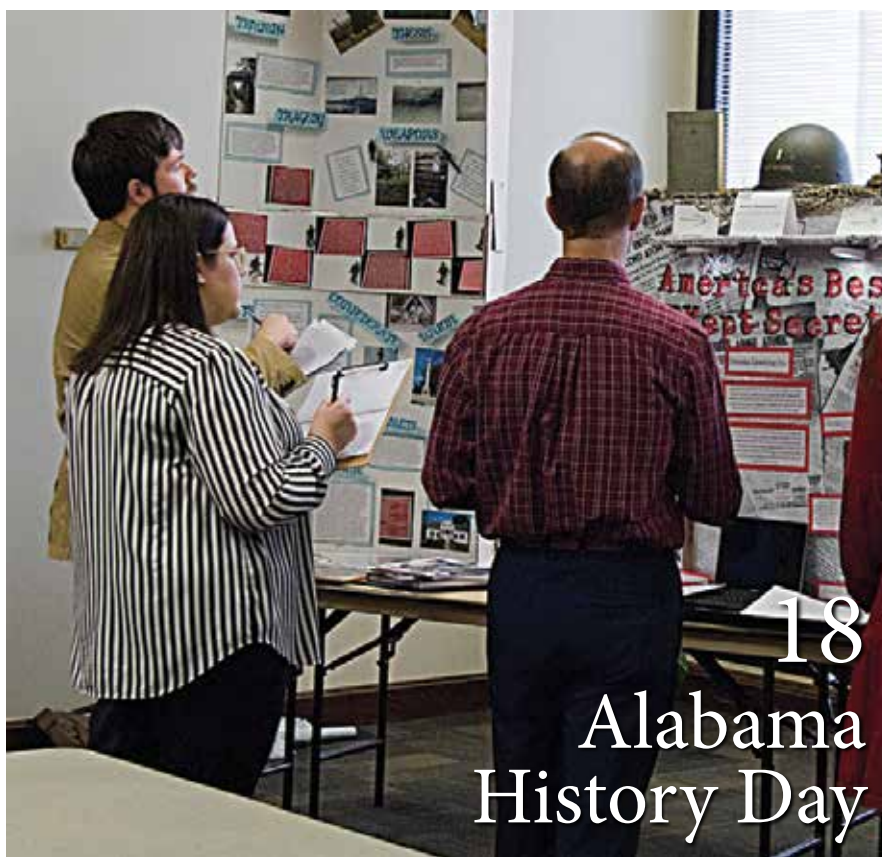
MOSAIC



16
Anabranh



26
Alabama
Justice Exhibit



18
Alabama
History Day

ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

About the Cover:

Students from across Alabama root for their favorite schools at the awards ceremony of Alabama History Day at Auburn University in Montgomery. Medals were presented to winners who are now eligible to compete in National History Day in College Park, Maryland. Alabama History Day is a partnership of Alabama Humanities Foundation and AUM.

Photo by Susan Wall

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

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* Denotes Gubernatorial appointments



MISSION STATEMENT:

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



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AlabamaHumanities



Alabama Humanities

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

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Behind Mosaic

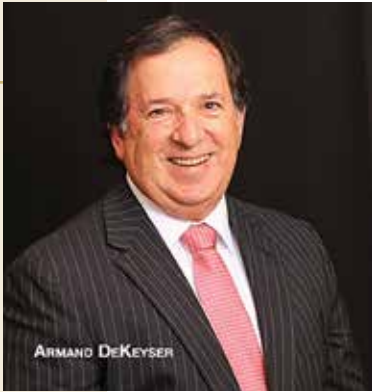
Editor: Carol Pappas • Partners by Design

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Please direct all Mosaic comments, questions or concerns to
Laura Anderson at landerson@alabamahumanities.org or (205) 558-3992.

VALUE OF HUMANITIES: A LESSON WORTH LEARNING, SHARING

By Armand DeKeyser



In early March, I represented Alabama at the annual Humanities on the Hill meeting in Washington, DC, to promote and raise awareness among the state's congressional delegation about Alabama Humanities Foundation's contributions

to education, quality of life and development of leaders in business and government.

In meetings with members of the Alabama delegation (photos posted on our website), I am glad to report that we were very well received, including that third point – developing business and governmental leaders.

You might question the humanities' role in that arena, but the facts illustrate that conclusion. Prior to the visit, attendees like me were given various briefing papers and background documentation to help us with our congressional meetings.

One document created by the Congressional Humanities Caucus made that very point for members and their staff about leadership in critical sectors to our nation. Take, for instance, that 60% of the United States' CEOs have a degree in the humanities. How about the statistic that the majority of our CIA analysts, State Department officials and diplomats and staff at embassies across the world are graduates with humanities degrees?

Critical thinking skills developed through the humanities are vital to those in leadership and analytical roles in companies, organizations and agencies throughout our nation.

This is not a debate regarding the merits of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) versus humanities. There is a place for both education concepts. But being involved in the process of congressional visits made me realize how our country was founded by leaders with vast humanities experience.

A solid foundation in humanities was a vital component to our early political history. As Richard Broadhead, president emeritus of Duke University said, "The founders of this country were trained humanists and could not have written our founding documents without their training in the classics, ethics, history, law and political philosophy."

So, how do we encourage our education and political leaders to more fully emphasize the humanities when there are so many competing demands? Our resources, especially financial, are limited while the demands are ever growing. Yet AHF

proudly reaches constituents in all 67 counties with our limited resources.

We encourage their support by showing them that over 1.3 million Alabamians are exposed to a humanities experience. We tell them about our nearly 1,100 events in 2018 that involved a humanities line-up. The numbers ably underscore the relevance of humanities in our everyday lives.

We in the humanities community face constant threats to our financial stability, but only through our wide-ranging efforts to promote our value to community leaders can we overcome the claims of those opposed to supporting our mission.

While the financial instability is a persistent worry, the lack of connection or commitment to the power of the humanities can be even more challenging. Without that understanding of the value of our mission, we will not be able to exert moral leadership on those from whom we need support.

Your Alabama Humanities Foundation is working throughout the state to promote humanities programs and concepts, not just at the theoretical level, but at the practical level.

Our Alabama History Day brings hundreds of middle and high school students together to demonstrate their learned prowess while competing to attend the national competition.

PrimeTime Family Reading offers families across the state the opportunity to read and discuss humanities concepts through age level appropriate books in many libraries and schools, helping meet the challenges of the literacy problem facing Alabama.

Our many SUPER (School and University Partners in Educational Renewal) programs provide subject matter experts to deliver working classroom teachers the latest in research and practical application of needed materials. They, in turn, take what they have learned back home to their classrooms, enhancing the learning experience for thousands of students statewide every year.

Our offerings are diverse and widespread across Alabama and we at AHF are proud to tout our successes. Of course, we cannot do it without you. We need your help in spreading the word. Please let your friends and colleagues know the value of the humanities.

You are our best public relations team!

AHF Executive Director

New leadership elected for AHF

U.S. District Court Deputy Clerk **Trey Granger** of Pike Road, a longtime advocate for the arts and humanities, is the new chair of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors.

A native of Alexander City and graduate of The University of Alabama School of Law and a cum laude graduate of Birmingham Southern College, Granger serves as deputy clerk of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. He previously served as general counsel for the Alabama Secretary of State's Office.

Granger created the acclaimed Art for Democracy Project. Along with his work with the Alabama Humanities Foundation, he serves on the Alabama Historical Commission, as well as the board of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He also serves on the administrative board of the First Methodist Church of Montgomery.

During Granger's tenure on the Alabama Humanities Foundation, he and other board members have streamlined the Foundation's annual signature event, now billed as The Colloquium, into a statewide day to honor the impact of the humanities in the state, region and nation.

Headliners have included CNN's Kamau Bell, U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson, MSNBC correspondent Joyce Vance, architect and designer Bobby McAlpine, Nall, the Artist, and Samford University President Andrew Westmoreland.

The Colloquium is a project that Granger intends to help grow into a nationally-recognized event that underscores the meaningful impact of the humanities upon every individual, regardless of where they live.

He also wants to do the same for Alabama Humanities Foundation.

"I hope to nudge Alabama Humanities Foundation into more urban neighborhoods and rural communities. We should not rest until every young Alabamian has an opportunity to participate in National History Day," Granger said. "We must all call upon our local, state and national leaders to join the Alabama Humanities Foundation in opening the doors of history, a rich Alabama history that will inspire the next Harper Lee, Frank M. Johnson, Jr., Tim Cook or a budding Condoleezza Rice."

The humanities take on added significance in this, Alabama's bicentennial.

"During the year of our state's bicentennial, I hope we can lift high the humanities across Alabama and across our nation. We have so many wonderful individuals and communities that underscore the cultural wealth of Alabama.

"As we celebrate this the 200th year of our state, let us celebrate locally and across the state, but also remind the nation and world about the rich culture of the arts and humanities in Alabama,"

Granger says. "Many that have contributed so beautifully to our nation's cultural fabric, call or once called Alabama home." Granger previously served on the Board of Leadership Montgomery, as a community advisor to the Junior League of Montgomery, the Board of Landmarks Foundation, and as an advisor to the PEW Charitable Trust.



Dr. Carmen Burkhalter

of Florence, vice chair.

Burkhalter serves as professor of Communication and the Dean of Arts and Sciences for the University of North Alabama.

Burkhalter earned a B.A. at

Columbia College, as well as an M.S. and Ph.D. from The University of Alabama.

Prior to her arrival in the Shoals area, she spent 20 years at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. While at UA, she was a faculty member in the Department of Communicative Disorders, senior associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and director of Technology for the College of Arts and Sciences.

She is originally from Columbia, SC. Her degrees are from Columbia College and The University of Alabama.



Velma Tribue of Dothan, treasurer.

Tribue is a graduate of Ohio State University and has been a State Farm agent since 1988. She serves on the board of trustees for Alabama A&M University and is a graduate of Leadership Alabama.

Tribue is a former chair of the board of directors for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. She has been serving on AHF's board since 2017.



David Rains of Ft. Payne, secretary.

Rains is a retired DeKalb County Circuit Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, having served for 32 years.

A graduate of The University of Alabama and The University of Alabama School of Law, he was

selected by the Alabama Circuit Judges' Association to serve on the Alabama Court of the Judiciary, a nine-member court established by the Alabama Constitution to hear and decide charges of judicial misconduct.

Rains has served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Alabama Archives and the Fort Payne Depot Museum. The DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce recognized him for his professional and civic contributions by honoring him with the 2017 V.I. Prewett Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been serving on the AHF board since 2018.

Welcome New AHF Board Members



Darren L. Hicks, Birmingham, vice president for Human Resources, Vulcan Materials Co.

Hicks serves as vice president of Human Resources for the Corporate Office, the Southern and Gulf Coast Division and Mexico Operations. He has more than 20 years of human resources management experience with the company, the leading aggregate producer in the U.S.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Human Resources and an MBA from The University of Alabama. He is active in his community and serves

as a member of the board of directors for The Literacy Council. He is also a member of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and Leadership Birmingham 2013.

Hicks joined Vulcan in 1994, and he has held a variety of positions in human resources. Prior to returning to Birmingham in 2011, he served as director of human resources for the Southwest Division based in San Antonio, Texas.

Earlier roles at Vulcan included manager of human resources/safety and health in the SGC Division and human resources specialist at the corporate headquarters in Birmingham.



Dr. Elliot A. Knight, Montgomery, executive director of Alabama Council on the Arts. An Opelika native, Knight serves on the Montgomery Public Art Commission, Montgomery Art Guild, The University of Alabama Community Affairs Board of Advisors and Montgomery Museum of Fine Art Junior Executive Board.

He is a Blackburn Institute Fellow and co-founded and developed the nationally recognized Black Belt 100 Lenses Program, a participatory photography and arts program that worked with high school students in 12 Alabama Black Belt counties from 2007-12.

Knight developed and taught several courses at The University of Alabama in the Department of Art History, the Honors College and Department of American Studies. He also served as director of the Arts Living Learning Community at The University of Alabama.

Prior to being named executive director of the council, he served as deputy director. In his first five years at the council, he served as the visual arts program manager and director of the Georgine Clarke Alabama Artists Gallery.

Knight earned three degrees from The University of Alabama including a bachelor's degree in visual communication, a master's in American Studies and a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Studies.



Ed Mizzell, Birmingham, executive vice president, managing director, Luckie & Co.

A Goodwater native, Mizzell earned his undergraduate degree from Auburn University in 1976, then went on to earn an MBA from Samford University.

Mizzell began his career with Novartis in the pharmaceutical industry, where he managed a sales network in the retail, institutional and primary care channels. He then advanced to marketing management stints in South Africa and Venezuela, where he was responsible for launching new products out of research and introducing American legacy brands to international markets.

He returned stateside in 1981 and joined Luckie & Company, a Birmingham advertising and marketing agency. Having served in many capacities during his lengthy tenure at Luckie, he now helps guide agency operations and maintain the agency's longtime reputation for fiscal responsibility and strategic growth. He continues to foster high-level relationships with a variety of clients and offer advice and guidance from his position on the board.

He has worked with multiple brands, spanning a range of industries: McKee Foods' Little Debbie Snacks, AT&T, Regions Bank, Alabama Tourism Department, Express Oil Change, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Alabama Power, Gulf Power and ALFA Insurance. Most recently, Mizzell guided the development and launch of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

Mizzell is a member of the Luckie & Company Board of Directors, and his civic and community involvement includes United Way Campaign 2011, Birmingham Sunrise Rotary Club, Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Canterbury United Methodist Church and The Monday Morning Quarterback Club.



Dr. Mark D. Nelson, Tuscaloosa, professor of Communication Studies and Dean of the College of Communication & Information Sciences at The University of Alabama. Nelson joined the university in 1991.

He provides consulting services for numerous organizations and governmental agencies throughout the Southeast. His training repertoire includes such topics as Public Speaking, Listening, Interpersonal and Group Dynamics, Leadership Development and Team Building. His research interests include leadership, interpersonal communication competence, communication education and diversity.

He is the co-author of the book, *Applied Organizational Communication* (now in its fourth edition), and has authored numerous papers for publication and presentation at national and regional conferences. Nelson has received several awards, including The University of Alabama Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award, the Lambda Pi Eta National Advisor of the Year Award, and the Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Most recently, he received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award in recognition of excellence of character and service to humanity.

Nelson earned his undergraduate degree from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, as well as his master's and doctorate from The University of Alabama.



Dr. Cèsar Roca, Mobile, board-certified practicing Orthopaedic surgeon who has practiced medicine in the Mobile area since 1991. He specializes in arthroscopic surgery of the shoulder and knee.

Currently in practice at the Alabama Orthopaedic Clinics in Mobile, Roca has served as a board member and vice president for the Mobile Opera for several years.

Roca earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of New Orleans and a master's degree in biochemistry from Tulane University. He went on to graduate from Tulane University Medical School, where he completed his residency in orthopedics.

He lives in Daphne with his wife of 30 years, Dr. Theresa Pryor Roca, and four daughters. The Rocas have always emphasized the importance of the arts and the humanities to their children.



Brett Shaffer, Birmingham, head of Community Relations, senior vice president, Regions Bank. Shaffer also serves the Community of Lights campaign for the Junior League of Birmingham. He previously served on the board of Birmingham AIDS

Outreach, Positive Maturity, Inc., and the Sidewalk Film Festival. He continues to serve in an advisory role to those organizations.

Shaffer is head of community relations and Senior Vice President for Regions Bank. His team serves as the liaison between Regions Market Executives and the bank's nonprofit community partners. This team manages corporate contributions and sponsorships and offers guidance on aligning local community investments with Regions' strategic priorities.

Shaffer started his career at Regions in 2005 working every position in the branches before moving into management in 2010.

Through his career, he has been recognized for sales performance, associate engagement and community involvement.

Before moving to Community Affairs, he was a consumer banking manager, responsible for overseeing 14 branches in the Birmingham metropolitan area.



Andy Weil III, Montgomery, Realtor and former president and COO of Weil Brothers – Cotton Inc. Weil is a Realtor with John Hall & Co., following a 31-year career in international cotton merchandising with his family's company, Weil

Brothers Cotton, Inc. From 1995 through 2009, he served as president and chief operating officer of the company.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for River Bank & Trust, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama, Hospice of Montgomery, Temple Beth-Or, and AlaTrust, Inc.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Charleston and a Master of Business Administration degree from The University of Alabama.

AHF awards nearly \$70,000 in latest round of grants

Grant giving is at the heart of Alabama Humanities Foundation's mission, helping foster learning, understanding and appreciation of our people, communities and cultures. Across Alabama, groups, schools and organizations benefit from grants to facilitate wide-ranging projects – from documentaries and workshops to lectures and humanities-based festivals.

In the latest round of grant giving, AHF awarded \$69,217.16 in mini and major grants.

Recipients are:

*Mentone through the Years:
A Video Time Capsule*

**Mentone Bicentennial Commission–
Town of Mentone**

Mentone (DeKalb)

The Mentone Bicentennial Commission will produce *Mentone through the Years: A Video Time Capsule*, a 25-minute video history of the town of Mentone. The documentary will celebrate and commemorate the town's rich history and heritage in conjunction with the state's 200th anniversary.

UNA-Limestone Prison Programming Initiative
**University of North Alabama College of Arts
and Sciences**

Florence (Lauderdale)

The University of North Alabama College of Arts and Science will administer two humanities-based programs at Limestone Correctional Facility: the IF Project Writers' Workshop and the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. The IF Project uses expressive writing and creative truth-telling to help incarcerated men explore their feelings and life experiences surrounding incarceration. The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program brings UNA students to Limestone to study literature alongside incarcerated learners.

*Shakespeare in Schools
2018-2019*

Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Montgomery (Montgomery)

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival will tour its production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* to 21 schools throughout Alabama. Each performance will be followed by a question-and-answer session and an interactive, educational workshop. The educational activities are designed to foster students' critical thinking and analytical skills.



*Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative
Concert Featuring the Alabama Symphony
Orchestra*

Alabama Symphony Orchestra

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) will collaborate to perform a concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King and his impact on the civil rights movement. This concert, to be held on the anniversary of his death, will include a reading of "Letter from Birmingham Jail" set to music, a pre-concert lecture, lobby display, and additional education opportunities at the BCRI following the concert.

Magic City Poetry Festival
Alabama Writers Conclave

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Magic City Poetry Festival works to cultivate a love of contemporary poetry to the Greater Birmingham Area through community-focused, free programming. Last year, the Alabama Writers Conclave hosted open mics, a community conversation and keynote panel, featured poetry readings, and a community poetry showcase. This year's programming will include more neighborhoods and bring in poets of national prominence. Every event is free and open to the public.

Food for Thought 2019
Friends of the Archives

Montgomery (Montgomery)

Food for Thought is a monthly Alabama history lecture series held each month at the Alabama Department

of Archives and History (ADAH). Food for Thought presentations feature humanities scholars discussing a wide variety of topics relating to the state of Alabama followed by question and answer sessions with audience discussion. Presentations are recorded and are available online through ADAH's website and YouTube channel.

Writing Our Stories 2019 **Shelby County Arts Council**

Columbiana (Shelby)

Writing Our Stories is a proven anti-bullying creative writing program taught in 7th grade English classrooms. The program was developed by The Alabama Writer's Forum and is administered to the schools through The Shelby County Arts Council at no cost to the student or school. A published poet and teaching writer will guide students through a 10-week session, at the end of which they will receive bound anthologies of their own poems.



Wade Hall Traveling Tourism Postcard Exhibit **Troy University Libraries**

Troy (Pike)

Troy University Libraries will produce a third traveling postcard exhibit based on the Wade Hall Postcard collections held at Troy University Libraries' archives. Two exhibits have previously been produced based on this collection with funding from AHF and are on display around the state through the beginning of 2020. Interest in hosting the exhibits has been so enthusiastic that a third exhibit will be created to match demand.

2019 Alabama Book Festival **Troy University Department of English**

Montgomery (Montgomery)

The Alabama Book Festival will celebrate the pleasures of reading with its annual day-long festival that draws 2500-3000 attendees to Montgomery's Old Alabama Town. Featuring a mixture of panels across all genres, the event is a family-oriented affair that appeals to readers of all ages and tastes. This year's festival will be part of a three-day celebration of the humanities designed to promote the state's bicentennial commemoration, ALABAMA 200.

Partnership Workshop between Cultural Institutions and Special Education Teacher **Sloss Furnaces National Historic Site**

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Sloss Furnaces seeks to form a network of mutual support between special education teachers and cultural institutions of the Greater Birmingham Area. The partnership workshop will serve teachers by showcasing how cultural institutions can support both them and their students. The workshop will also serve the cultural institutions by holding an open discussion with teachers to learn about, implement, and strengthen practices for access and inclusion in their facilities.

Alabama Black Belt Blues **Alabama Public Television**

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Alabama Black Belt Blues, a production of Alabama Public Television with independent filmmaker Robert Clem, will be a one-hour film telling the stories of the culture and music of Alabama's Black Belt during the 1930s and 40s, as documented by WPA historian Ruby Pickens Tartt and recorded by WPA folklorists father and son, John and Alan Lomax. Archival photos and historical film combined with current footage will tell the story of the Black Belt's contribution to the nation's cultural heritage.



Andrew Jackson and His Legacy: A Workshop for K-12 Teachers

Northeast Alabama Community College Learning Resources Center

Rainsville (DeKalb)

The Northeast Alabama Community College Learning Resources Center will produce a humanities workshop entitled “Andrew Jackson and His Legacy: A Workshop for K-12 History Teachers.” Two dynamic presenters will provide local K-12 teachers with materials and pedagogical ideas related to Pres. Andrew Jackson. A traveling exhibit on loan from the Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee, will also be available.

Intergenerational Voices of Birmingham: Oral History and Podcast Project

Episcopal Place

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Episcopal Place and Samford University will lead an intergenerational oral history project with millennials (college students) and members of the greatest generation (Episcopal Place residents). The project will create a space for discussion between the two generations and preserve life histories that may otherwise be lost. Students and residents will explore how world events, cultural influences, and social expectations have shaped and continue to shape their lives.



Bill Traylor: Chasing Ghosts

Breakaway Films, Inc.

Co-Sponsored by Capri Theater

Montgomery (Montgomery)

Breakaway Films will present an inventive documentary capturing the vivid life of artist Bill Traylor, who was born into slavery in 1853 on a cotton plantation outside of Benton, Alabama. Traylor worked as a farm laborer until his mid-70s when he moved

to segregated Montgomery. Living on the street in his mid-80s, Traylor began drawing his eyewitness accounts and memories to produce over 1,000 pieces of art between 1939 and 1942.

Red Mountain Reading Series

Jefferson State Community College

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Red Mountain Reading Series will host vibrant writers and scholars in conversation with students and the public at Jefferson State Community College. Through lectures, workshops, performances, and discussions, participants will explore tools for critical thinking and the making of meaning, using the humanities as common ground. All activities are designed to show the power and importance of the literary arts, as well as their utility in opening minds and sharing imaginative experiences.

Restoring and Preserving Abandoned Cemeteries

Mobile Public Library

Mobile (Mobile)

Mobile Public Library will lead a two-part program about cemetery restoration. The program will include a lecture discussing preservation guidelines and ethics, Alabama laws concerning abandoned cemeteries, records research, and current community efforts to restore Oaklawn Cemetery. The lecture will be followed by a hands-on workshop at Oaklawn Cemetery, including instruction on resetting headstones, proper headstone cleaning methods, and landscape maintenance.

We've Got Soul in Our Soil! How the Muscle Shoals has Fed and Changed the World: The Next Generation

International Fertilizer Development Center

Muscle Shoals (Colbert)

The University of North Alabama (UNA) and the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) will host a public discussion as part of the 5th Sustainability Conference. Discussions will focus on both global and local issues related to food poverty in communities and world food poverty, which is projected to face ten billion people by 2050. The conference will take place at UNA on April 17, 2019.

The Piedmont Historical Society Museum Development Project

Piedmont Historical Society

Piedmont (Calhoun)

The Piedmont Historical Society and Piedmont City Schools are partnering on a museum development project that will include recorded oral history interviews and the creation of local history curriculum for Piedmont City Schools. The project also aims to develop movies about Piedmont's history, refurbish historical markers and monuments and create a monument tour, and restore Cross Plains Cemetery, followed by a cemetery stroll with student actors

From Fiction to Film

Northeast Alabama Community College English Department

Rainsville (DeKalb)

Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) will host three authors to participate in a panel discussion regarding films based on their fiction at the college's

annual Arts and Humanities Speakers' Forum on March 14, 2019. Authors Robert Inman, Terry Kay, and Daniel Wallace will serve as panelists and Dr. Don Noble, host of the APT series *Bookmark* will moderate. Each author will also have the opportunity to speak prior to the panel discussion, which will be followed by a book signing.

Sidewalk Reader/Screeners Series
Alabama Moving Image Association

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Sidewalk Reader/Screeners Series is a monthly film and book club where participants read an assigned book related to a film, and then convene to watch the film and engage in a guided discussion and critique. The series is intended to cultivate basic, entry-level interest in film critical studies and to encourage participation in the film experience beyond simply viewing a movie. The series creates opportunities for engagement with experts in the field, authors, and filmmakers.



Associate Professor of English Emily Friedman and her team of undergraduate researchers are preserving never before published fiction manuscripts from 1750–1900 through digitization. The resulting online database will keep these stories alive for future generations of scholars and fiction enthusiasts around the world. Our faculty are defining humanities scholarship in the 21st century.



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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

Bicentennial Update

Alabama Public Television gives MAKING ALABAMA a Montgomery home

Alabama Public Television and Alabama Humanities Foundation have partnered to locate *Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit* in a welcoming Montgomery setting accessible to tours by appointment. APT's studio and office building, located on Madison Avenue just beside Paterson Field, provides a visitor-friendly venue for the signature exhibit, which is installed on the first floor.

School groups by the hundreds typically tour Montgomery historic sites in April and May, taking in classic destinations, as well as a growing number of new attractions. Family reunions and vacations occur throughout the summer.

Ample parking at Paterson Field for buses and cars means that many of these tourists land on the APT site already. As the visitor season ramps up, AHF and APT are thrilled with the opportunity that this partnership offers the public to take in the state's official bicentennial exhibit while in the state's capitol.

"Alabama Public Television is proud to celebrate our state's bicentennial," said APT Executive Director Roy Clem. "Our team is producing 200 Alabama Legacy Moments that honor the history, people and places of Alabama. Students across our state and nation are learning about Alabama as they participate in APT's Live Interactive Digital Field Trips that we call Learning Adventures. And teachers are benefitting from APT's on-line and in-person professional learning classes that focus on the bicentennial.

"Now," continued Clem, "the Alabama Humanities Foundation has given APT the honor of sharing *Making Alabama* with students, teachers and visitors. As the nation's first educational television network, APT is fortunate to host this striking reminder of our state's history – a striking reminder that allows everyone to walk through time and a striking reminder that remembering Alabama's people, places and history can create the dreams of the future." ■

For more information about touring *Making Alabama* in Montgomery, call Laura Anderson at 205.558.3992.



A few examples of the varied and unique ways individual counties celebrated the touring exhibit.



Bicentennial exhibit heads into final stretch

In March 2018, Alabama Humanities Foundation began an ambitious journey, touring *Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit* in all 67 counties in the state over 18 months.

So far, the exhibit has reached 48 counties and will continue to the remaining 19 counties throughout 2019.

Making Alabama has been on exhibition for younger and older audiences alike, giving those who tour an in-depth, interactive look at Alabama's history and its hopes for the future.

"Two hundred years of statehood is great cause for celebration," said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser, "and we are honored that the Alabama Bicentennial Commission chose us to present this exhibit to our state. The exhibit's ability to expose each of us to Alabama's storied history is quite a feat. And we hope that when the official exhibit tour ends in November, it will begin a new chapter, traveling the state once again to continue enlightening communities about this place we call home."

Editor's note: For more information on *Making Alabama*, go to <https://www.makingalabama.org/>

ALABAMA

SCHEDULE FOR EXHIBIT TOUR

May

Escambia, The Club, Atmore
Macon, George Washington Carver Museum, Tuskegee
Jefferson, Hoover Public Library, Hoover

June

DeKalb, Coal & Iron Building, Fort Payne
Madison, Huntsville Botanical Garden, Huntsville
Pike, Pike County High School, Brundidge

July

Lawrence, Historic Moulton Middle School Auditorium, Moulton

August

Greene, Venue TBD, Eutaw
Shelby, Shelby County Arts Council Complex, Columbiana

September

Franklin, venue TBD, Red Bay
Lamar, Vernon City Complex, Vernon
Crenshaw, John D. Harrison Cultural Center, Luverne
Sumter, Black Belt Museum, Livingston

October

Elmore, Elmore County Museum, Wetumpka
Etowah, Gadsden Museum of Art, Gadsden
Walker, Bankhead House and Heritage Center, Jasper
Washington, Washington County Public Library, Chatom

November

Morgan, Alabama Center for the Arts, Decatur
Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa Public Library, Tuscaloosa



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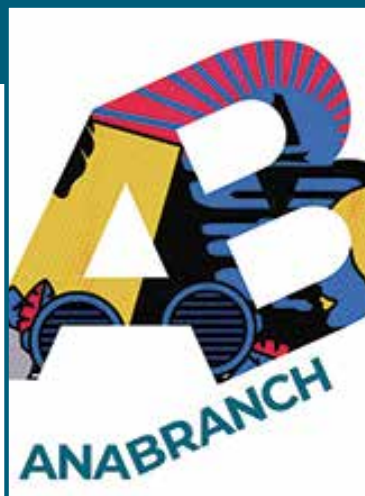


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Anabranch has successful launch, broad appeal

Story by Marcy Miller | Photos by Bill Schaum Photography



Imani Perry



André Holland

Anabranch premiered on Thursday, April 11 – Saturday, April 13, in Montgomery. This exciting new event was developed as an extension to the Alabama Book Festival and was a collaborative project between Old Alabama Town, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, Troy University and the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Adding various events helped create a three-day festival at which *Anabranch* delivers on its mission to be “Alabama’s celebration of literature and the humanities.”

Anabranch began at the Capri Theatre with a welcoming reception, then moved to the stage to feature two distinguished Alabama natives, scholar Imani Perry and actor André Holland. Perry and Holland reminisced about their ties to Alabama, their careers and how the humanities play a large role in their lives.

This enlightening conversation was a mix between lessons learned while growing up in Alabama and how the past plays a role in the present. Perry discussed how important her family visits to Alabama (Perry moved to Massachusetts with her mother when she was young) have always been to her, and her southern roots taught her about hard work and perseverance.

As Holland spoke, his words made it clear that his family, all still in Bessemer, are the center of his world. He mentioned his mother on several

occasions and credited her with opportunities he was given to embrace humanities and art programs as he grew up attending “everything my mom could find” for him to explore new ideas. Holland’s mother, sisters and nephew beamed from the front row.



Perry and Holland share their Alabama stories

Day two of *Anabranch* was filled with educational opportunities for the public and provided Continuing Education Unit opportunities for educators. Six free workshops were conducted at Troy University’s Montgomery campus by well-known authors with Alabama ties, and each workshop provided in-depth presentations on subject matter that related to the culture and history of Alabama.



Oldham and Penn



Anabranck kickoff with DeKeyser, Perry and Holland



AfricaTown presentation



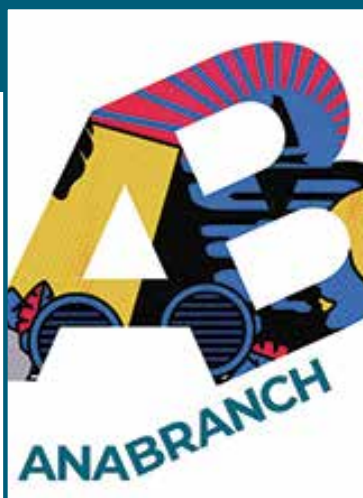
Authors table



Above: Producers, directors of AfricaTown



To Right: Actual photo of the slaveship wreck-



The Clotilda and AfricaTown – Natalie Robertson, author of *The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Making of AfricaTown, USA: Spirit of Our Ancestors* introduced participants to the story of the Alabama-based ship and the geographic and cultural origins of the West African captives aboard it. This workshop created lively discussion and interactive activities for the participants. As the workshop closed, participants were inquiring on when they could sign up to continue the momentum of learning and discussion.

"I attended the AfricaTown presentation and Randi Pink. In each workshop, I gained knowledge, ideas, and activities that I can share with the teachers at my school. I am thankful that this workshop was possible and open to all. I hope that this continues to be something that happens next year as well. I thought everything was well organized, and a lot of thought was put into the type of presenters and topics."

– **Betty Weeden, instructional coach, Pick Elementary School**

*Writing for Young People I: Irene Latham & Charles Waters** – Collaborators Irene Latham and Charles Waters described how they created *Can I Touch Your Hair?* (2018), a dialogue for young people about the inevitable "mistakes" we make when learning about people unlike ourselves. Their message was one of writing your truth and being steadfast in developing unlimited versions of each piece that you write. They championed the idea of how rejection and revisions can help you become a better writer and more committed author.



Bethany Hegedus,
Alabama Spitfire



Collaborators Irene Latham and Charles Waters,
Can I Touch Your Hair?

*Writing for Young People II: Bethany Hegedus** – Best-known as the author of *Alabama Spitfire: The Story of Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird* (2018), provided a detailed presentation to participants about how each of them can achieve his/her goals in writing. Her points centered on the power of language, developing plot narratives, characters and scenes to tell your story.

**These writing workshops were attended by educators as well as an amazing group of students from Bullock County.*

Alabama Story – This workshop, offered by Alabama Shakespeare Festival, introduced participants to the little-known true story, on which a play called *Alabama Story* is based. Participants said they were thrilled with the outstanding instruction quality of information provided.



Waters, Hegedus and Perry share a moment during
Anabranch

The Festival

On Saturday, the 14th annual Alabama Book Festival provided a full day of author panels, book signings, activities, music and a film screening on the grounds of Old Alabama Town.

Highlights were:

Authors

- Bob Zellner, whose book, *The Wrong Side of Murder Creek: A White Southerner in the Freedom Movement*, is being filmed in Montgomery. The movie is called *Son of the South*.
- Jeremy W. Gray, author of *The Infamous Birmingham Axe Murderers: Prohibition Gangsters & Vigilante Justice*, discussed his book and the history of violence that accompanied prohibition.
- Authors Jim Buford, *The House Across the Road and Other Stories*, and Laura Hunter, *Beloved Mother*, discussed how southern life and communities influence their writing.
- Imani Perry discussed her research and writing of *Looking for Lorraine* and how the strength and persistence of Lorraine Handsberry influences her and many other people today.

Panels

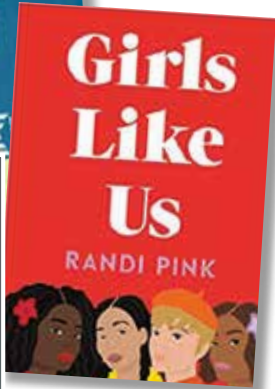
- Environmentalism – Authors Joe Cuhaj, William G. Deutsch and Craig Guyer discussed their books and knowledge surrounding Alabama rivers, reptiles and recreation.
- Sports – Authors Lars Anderson and Jim Noles discussed famous coaches and games in their panel titled, *Sports: Risen Heroes and Fallen Stars*.
- Southern Culture was expressed by two panels titled, *Pop Borne & Southern Bound: Two Epic Novels* and *Elvis in Fiction: Comedy and Espionage*.

Songwriting

- Spooner Oldham is best known from his early work with Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan and his decades of contributions to Neil Young.
- Dan Penn is an American songwriter, singer, musician and record producer who co-wrote many soul hits of the 1960s with Spooner Oldham. These talented musicians discussed their music and provided insight into their experience performing in the south and being integral parts of the Muscle Shoals sound.

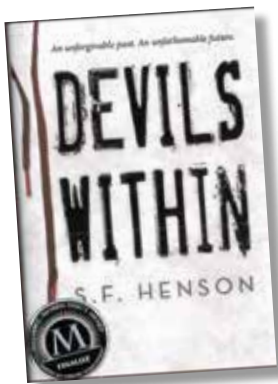
Film Screening

- *Whitman, Alabama*, “an experiment in using documentary and poetry to reveal the threads that tie us together – as people, as states and as a nation.” Filmmaker Jennifer Crandall came to Alabama in 2013 as the Artist-in-Residence for Alabama Media Group. Mesmerized with her surroundings, Crandall went on an epic adventure for two years as she traveled across the state to capture the people who make up this great state. Her platform? A camera and words of Walt Whitman’s *Song of Myself*. What resulted were intimate stories and insights from the people she met. The series was an Emmy finalist in 2018.



Randi Pink,
Girls Like Us

Young Adult Writing I: Randi Pink – Pink has been one of the bravest Young Adult authors in the South when it comes to exploring sensitive concerns. Her first novel, *Into White* (2016), asks what happens when a black girl wakes up one day to discover she’s suddenly white. Her forthcoming novel, *Girls Like Us* (this September), promises to spark even more conversation. Participants noted they were intrigued with the honesty and openness of the presenter and subject matter.



S. F. Henson,
Devils Within

Young Adult Writing II: S. F. Henson – Described as a “teen American History X,” S. F. Henson’s *Devils Within* recently won the Alabama Library Association Young Adult Award. Hers is the gripping and timely story of a teen-aged white supremacist desperately trying to disassociate himself from the hatred and violence that he was raised to wreak upon the world. One participant commented that the workshop provided “great exercises for thinking about and processing key information when writing.”

HISTORY DAY

History Day prepares Alabama students for next step

Story by Carol Pappas

Photos by Susan Wall

At its heart, Alabama History Day is a mosaic of discoveries and understanding. It is one of those rare opportunities for students across Alabama to take what they learned and actually illustrate its impact in unusual and innovative ways.

The path to be named the best in Alabama has not been an easy one. And the road to the national title will be an even greater hurdle. But these students – 144 of them in all, representing 22 schools – showed little sign of the jitters an opening night might bring to a performer.

Their confidence comes through a sturdy foundation – research, knowledge, understanding and engagement.

It was the second year Auburn University in Montgomery and Alabama Humanities Foundation partnered to give students a vehicle by which they could learn. But more important, it gave them opportunities to impart that knowledge, only limited by their own imagination.

As judges made their way around exhibits, pored over papers, watched performances, scrutinized documentaries or delved into the intricacies of websites, it could not escape notice that all these forms of expression told a story of cause and effect.

Triumph and Tragedy in History was the topic, and Alabama students delivered the lessons of both in thought-provoking ways.

A chorus of students dressed in black, with only a display of iconic scenes and narratives from key, divisive moments in history accompanying them on stage chose a simple message. In acapella, they sang a powerful and moving, *One Voice*.

Dressed in period costume, another student dramatized Prohibition, playing various roles of key characters in the history of that period.

Phillips Preparatory student Matthew Ngo developed his project idea from an Alabama bicentennial field trip. “It inspired me to do something that happened in my hometown.” He researched the topic, and the end result was an impressive display of *No Way But Forward, The Battle of Mobile Bay*.

It marked the third year of competition by students from Mary G. Montgomery High School in Semmes, and Sonja Hadder, Katylin Thornton and Megan Griffin demonstrated their experience as they explained their project, *America’s Best Kept Secret*, to judges.

They spoke passionately of the Manhattan Project and the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. Triumph and tragedy were clearly illustrated through what was seen as triumph of the U.S. in winning the war and the tragedy of Japan, where so many people lost their lives.

A turning display of newspaper headlines told stories of all facets leading up to the attack, the bombing itself and the

“History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

--David McCullough, author

“We are not makers of history. We are made by history.”

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



aftermath. The rightness or wrongness of it all would be left up to debate. “There’s really no answer,” one student said.

“You have to look at both sides. It left an impact on me.”

“War is not a pretty thing, no matter what you’re trying to do,” her project partner concluded.

It was just the beginning for another. “After county (competition), we needed to learn more. We needed to know more. We never stop researching.”

And that’s precisely what this program is all about – that quest for knowledge, interpretation and understanding.

“The students are who this is all about,” said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser at the awards ceremony. “You’ve done a great job,” he told them as he prepared to hang medals around their necks, signifying their achievements.

AHF Board Chair Trey Granger talked of the inspiration of teachers who inspired and continue to inspire.

One of them, Prattville Junior High eighth grade teacher Courtney Spencer couldn’t contain her excitement over her students placing in three of four categories entered – individual website, group exhibit and individual documentary.

She talked about the evolution of these students along the way. From the beginning of the year, she sees their skills go from “zero to 100. They find reliable sources, significant primary and secondary sources. They are better equipped for college.”

Spencer gives them the theme, and it is up to them to choose a topic.

They become “the defense attorney, and I’m the prosecutor on why their topic is significant.” She pointed to one student’s project in particular, Serbian Genocide. “I would have never thought of that. I see their critical thinking skills on these projects. It’s amazing.” ■

Editor’s Note: First and second place winners are eligible to compete in National History Day in June in College Park, Maryland. This year, AHF is financing the cost of registration for each participant along with half their meals and housing expenses.



A Price Had To Be Paid exhibit



Judges viewing spectacular submissions



Mobile Bay themed exhibit

New specialized awards given at Alabama History Day

Alabama History Day 2019 offered two new award categories for students from around the state.

In addition to the regular medal awards, two organizations stepped forward to create specialized competitions with monetary awards.

The Interstate Character Council and the Medical Museum of Mobile each presented students with cash awards.

Character Awards

Winning Alabama Character Awards for their essays were: Zoi Moon, Prattville Jr. High School, Prattville, and Daisey Ferrell, Mattie T. Blount High School, Mobile.

The award was made possible by the Interstate Character Council, Inc., the Montgomery-based nonprofit, whose mission is to promote, encourage and support character building in schools and communities worldwide.

The organization's vision is to foster a better society built on strength through compassion and to encourage kindness to one another by connecting education and community stakeholders nationwide to promote character ideals.

The Interstate Character Council, Inc. promotes character principles included in the Alabama Character Education Mandate of 1995 and other southern character education mandates. They are: courage, patriotism, citizenship, honesty, fairness, respect for others, kindness, cooperation, self-respect, self-control, courtesy, compassion, tolerance, diligence, generosity, punctuality, cleanliness, cheerfulness, school pride, respect for the environment, patience, creativity, sportsmanship, loyalty and perseverance.

Judges for the contest were: Hannah Holcomb and Brian Massey, Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Transformation; Jessica James, Montgomery's Episcopal Church of the Ascension Communications Director; Ken Selvaggi, Grey Television general manager in Louisville, KY, former Raycom WSFA general manager and the Interstate Character Council priorities chairman and Tana Sheeley, Auburn University Lowndes County Extension Service Coordinator. Mary Anne Martin, Interstate Character Council interim president, organized the judges.

Medical History Awards

The Mobile Medical Museum and the Eichold Family Foundation Fund awarded the inaugural Samuel Eichold II Prize in Medical History, which is given to an outstanding entry in any category, junior or senior division, that demonstrates academic excellence while exploring a topic in the history of medicine.



Alabama History Day Character award recipients (above)



Medical Museum award winners (right)

This year's Junior Division winner was Dakota Perry from Dunbar Creative Performing Arts School in Mobile, who competed in the Individual Documentary category. Her project title was *Yellow Fever Epidemics in Mobile, Alabama*.

The Senior Division winner was Elizabeth Rhonemus from Huntsville High School in Huntsville, who competed in the Individual Documentary category. Her project title was *The Launch of Skylab: How Teamwork Triumphed and Prevented Tragedy on America's First Space Station*.

Founded by Dr. Samuel Eichold II in 1962, the Mobile Medical Museum preserves and exhibits medical artifacts and archives to commemorate Mobile's prominent place in the history of medical education and public health in the state of Alabama and the Gulf Coast. The Museum's collections and exhibitions provide the public with a broad understanding of the evolution of the art and science of health care.

The Museum's collections include over 5,000 medical artifacts and documents from the past 300 years that can be used as primary sources. The Museum also houses the J.L. Bedsole Archives and Ben May Library, which together contain over 50 cubic feet of letters, doctor's registers and photographs as well as thousands of rare books. ■

Alabama History Day winners top competition

Those taking top spots in the Alabama History Day competition were:

Junior Division – Paper Category

1st Place

Ryker Gignlliant,
Hampton Cove
Middle School
“History of the Battle of Trafalgar, 1801”

2nd Place

Isabella Myers,
Hampton Cove
Middle School
“America Makes a Decision That Affects All: The Triumph and Tragedy of Japanese Internment Camps”

3rd Place

Rita Tran,
Clark-Shaw Magnet School
“The Tet Offensive: The Surprise Domino Effect”

Junior Division – Individual Documentary

1st Place

Inman Hebert,
Prattville Jr. High School
“Genocide in Srebrenica: Triumph & Tragedy of Ethnic Nationalism in Yugoslavia”

2nd Place

Grayson Morgan,
Burns Middle School
“Enterprise, Alabama: Rising from the Ashes”

3rd Place

William Mackenzie,
Hampton Cove
Middle School
“Japanese American Internment, America’s Worst Mistake?”

Junior Division – Individual Exhibit

1st Place

Wesley Hunt,
Clark-Shaw Magnet School
“The Winter War: A Finnish Triumph and a Soviet Failure”

2nd Place

Eli Stapler,
Hampton Cove
Middle School
“Apollo 11: A Game Changer”

3rd Place

Brik Finley,
Phillips Preparatory
Middle School
“James Herbert Finley: A Price Had to Be Paid”

Junior Division – Group Exhibit

1st Place

Matthew Prine,
Brooklyn Rowell, &
Edward Sullivan,
Semmes Middle School
“In the Madhouse: The Tragedy of Nellie Bly”

2nd Place

Serenity Collins &
Landone Girlie,
Prattville Jr. High School
“Salem Witch Trials: How Fear Led to Tragedy”

3rd Place

Patsy Cole &
Fynley Isaak,
Burns Middle School
“USS Indianapolis”

Junior Division – Individual Website

1st Place

Marlan Zha,
Phillips Preparatory
Middle School
“Chernobyl: The Worst

Nuclear Power
Generation Disaster
in History”

2nd Place

Lana Somera,
Prattville Jr. High School
“77 Hours: The Triumphant
Bloodless Philippine
People Power
Revolution of 1986”

3rd Place

Richard Pham,
Burns Middle School
“1918 Influenza
Pandemic”

Junior Division – Group Website

1st Place

Sarah Bailey &
Alyssa Rodgers,
Bernice J Causey
Middle School
“James Reese Europe”

2nd Place

Addison Byrd &
Campbell Myers,
Phillips Preparatory
Middle School
“The Clotilda: Where
It All Ends”

Junior Division – Individual Performance

1st Place

Starlyn Fistein,
Phillips Preparatory
Middle School
“The Legacy of Cudjo
‘Kazoola’ Lewis:
How the Hatred and
Heartbreak of a
Transatlantic Slave Trade
Tragedy Led to the
Cultural Triumph of
Africatown”

2nd Place

Rain Williams,

Dundbar Creative
Performing Arts School
“Ode to Serena Williams”

3rd Place

Olivia Rice,
Clark-Shaw Magnet School
“The Dry Years of the
Prohibition”

Junior Division – Group Performance

1st Place

Kennedy Bazor,
Cooper Irby, &
Saniya Manassa,
Dunbar Creative
Performing Arts School
“Birmingham Church
Bombing”

Senior Division – Paper

1st Place

Abby Bradshaw,
Sparkman High School
“Triumph & Tragedy:
James A. Garfield and
the Pendleton Civil
Service Act”

2nd Place

Jessica Mixon,
Murphy High School
“Hurricane Katrina”

3rd Place

Annabella Bradford,
Murphy High School
“Development of
Africatown”

Senior Division – Individual Documentary

1st Place

Elizabeth Rhonemus,
Huntsville High School
“The Launch of Skylab:
How Teamwork
Triumphed and Prevented
Tragedy on America’s
First Space Station”



Senior Division – Group Documentary

1st Place

Brelyn Crutchfield,
Sofia Khan, &
Jessica Reese,
Baker High School
“SNCC: Through the Eyes
of Bob Zellner”

2nd Place

Mary Kathryn Bryant &
Maggie Mosby,
Loveless Academic Magnet
Program High School
“British Women in World
War I”

Senior Division – Individual Exhibit

1st Place

Ashlea Fuller,
Springwood School
“The Triumph & Tragedy
of Mary Edwards Walker:
A Feminist Surgeon &
Prisoner of War”

2nd Place

Gabrielle Mosley,
Murphy High School
“Christopher Columbus:
A Story of Triumph &
Tragedy”

3rd Place

Jessie Guy,
Government Street
Christian School
“The Triumph through
the Tragedy of the Siege
of Vicksburg”

Senior Division – Group Exhibit

1st Place

Megan Griffin,
Sonja Hadder, &
Kaytlin Thornton,
Mary G. Montgomery
High School
“America’s Best Kept
Secret”

2nd Place

Maya Melgar &
Jordan Werneth,
Murphy High School
“Latino Immigration
from 1965-1975”

3rd Place

Spencer Dice &
Samuel Styes,
Sparkman High School
“Division through
Unification”

Senior Division – Individual Website

1st Place

Chloe Duren,
Murphy High School
“Violence, Vice, & Voting
Rights”

2nd Place

Kellia Love,
Murphy High School
“Rwandan Genocide”

3rd Place

Kyle Ackerman,
Daphne High School
“The Tragedy of the
Tuskegee Study”

Senior Division – Group Website

1st Place

Payton Hudson,
Megan Jordan,
Tithalia Lockett, &
Amber Rose Porteous,
Murphy High School
“Father vs. Son: The Fall
and Restoration of
Polytheism in Ancient
Egypt”

2nd Place

Timmy Bradshaw &
Hunter Goffinett,
Sparkman High School

“Through the Darkness to
the Stars”

3rd Place

Anna Claire Kinsey &
Peyton Mann,
Daphne High School
“The Scottsboro Boys:
A Tragedy that Changed
America Forever”

Senior Division – Individual Performance

1st Place

Daisy Ferrell,
Mattie T. Blount High
School
“The Greenwood District:
A True Triumph and
Tragedy”

Senior Division – Group Performance

1st Place

Darien Bailey,
Amaya Barnes,
Kamryn Barnes,
Demetrius Chambers,
Jr., & Ariyana Wytch,
Ben C. Rain High School
“One Voice: A Musical
Tribute to the American
Spirit”



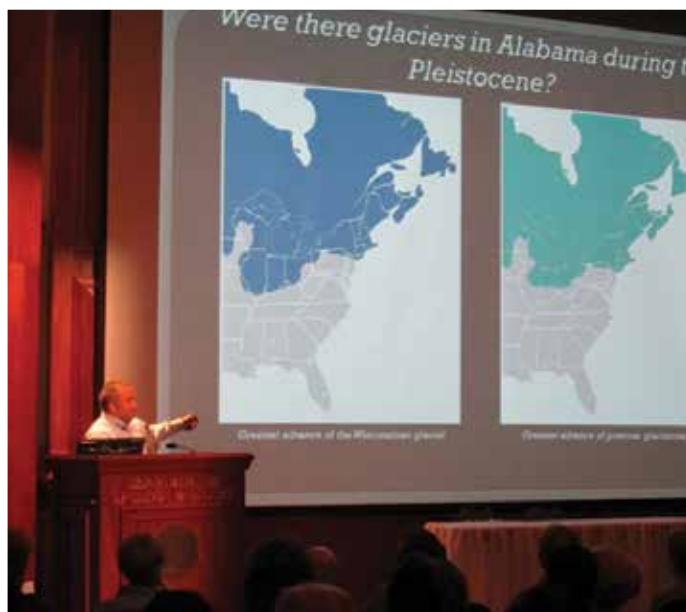
30

YEARS OF FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Alex Colvin

Food for Thought, the flagship public program of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, turns 30 this year. On March 23, 1989, the Archives premiered the noontime lecture series, at the time called *ArchiTreats: Food for Thought*, with its first presentation, “Alabama’s Gardening History,” by George Stritikus. That year, the monthly talks encompassed a wide range of topics, including the Freedom Rides, architecture, folk music, Christmas traditions, and graveyards of Alabama. In 2016, the program’s name officially changed to *Food for Thought*.

The purpose of the series was twofold: to connect historians with the public and to tell Alabama’s story. Former Archives assistant director Debbie Pendleton explained that the original idea for the series was to “get current research to the public” before it was published. Since 1989, the program has offered interesting and timely topics about Alabama history with financial support from the Friends of the Alabama Archives, Alabama Humanities Foundation, and other funders.



ArchiTreats: Food for Thought Program

Over the past three decades, each *Food for Thought* program has highlighted an aspect of Alabama’s past, from prehistory to the present, from Jun Ebersol’s 2012 program on the Ice Age Mammals of Alabama to Bill Taylor’s 2013 “Cars Fell on Alabama,” an exploration of the state’s current and future place in the global automotive industry.

Food for Thought has hosted several prominent archaeologists and historians who described the history of Alabama’s indigenous peoples and expanded our understanding of who should be included in Alabama history and when its story began.

Food for Thought presenters have explored the full breadth of Alabama’s story, its economy, wars, and culture, reflecting on the state’s triumphs and confronting its difficulties.

Some of its most popular topics relate to the Civil War. Bob Bradley, the Archives’ chief curator until his retirement in 2015, spoke to over 200 people for his 2009 presentation, “The Civil War in Alabama.”

Other popular programs about the topic included John H. Napier’s “Montgomery during the Civil War,” in 1991, which provided a local viewpoint and Kim Darby’s 2000 lecture, “Emancipation Agenda: Black Women in the Civil War,” which illustrated a different aspect of the conflict.

Cultural topics have always been crowd-pleasers, including Alabama’s love of collard greens, barbecue, religion, and college football. While most speakers talk about the past, a few highlighted Alabama’s present and future, including James Hansen’s 2008 discussion about the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, the popular golf courses that boosted tourism.

Interestingly, the three most highly attended *Food for Thought* programs all concentrated on personal memories. Musician Jett Williams’ 2011 reflection, “My Father, Hank Williams,” had 244 attendees, while the late Kathryn Tucker Windham’s 2009 presentation on her memoirs, “Spit, Scarey Ann and Sweat Bees: One Things Leads to Another,” had 273.

In 2007, a record 345 attended Rheta Grimsley Johnson’s presentation, “The South Did This to Me,” in which she recounted her favorite places and stories from her travels as a newspaper columnist.

Overall, *Food for Thought* reflects the core mission of the Alabama Archives: to make history accessible to everyone.



Carolyn McKinstry

Susan Dubose, a former Archives education curator and the current education coordinator for the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, observed that the diversity of topics in the series illustrates that “everyone’s story is important.” Her hope is that audience members hear these programs and become inspired to discover their own story and place in Alabama history.

The success of this program rests on the outstanding support and attendance of its patrons. Approximately 33,500 people have attended *Food for Thought* since its inception. Jean Murray, a loyal attendee, said that she “lives for these programs, because you can get mired in your day-to-day life, and you need (to learn about) something outside of yourself.” She further explained the program’s importance to her, saying, “we want to keep our history alive” and need to understand Alabama’s story in both a local and global context.

The *Food for Thought* series would not be possible without the support of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, which has been a consistent partner throughout the program’s long history.

“I cannot recall a more steadfast or more productive programming relationship than the one we enjoy with the AHF in bringing *Food for Thought* to the public,” said Archives Executive Director Steve Murray. “This monthly series has been an ideal vehicle for advancing the missions of both organizations, bringing enjoyment



Christopher Haveman



Joshua Rothman

and education to thousands of Alabamians.”

Presented every third Thursday at noon, this year’s lectures promise to build on the last three decades by examining a wide variety of topics, including space travel, civil rights, historic bell towers, Creek Indians, and the expanding craft brewing industry in Alabama—all facets of the complex narrative of the Yellowhammer State as it marks its bicentennial year. ■

Editor’s Note: The full 2019 *Food for Thought* schedule can be found at www.archives.alabama.gov. Dozens of previous *Food for Thought* programs can be viewed on the Archives’ YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/AlabamaArchives.

Justice exhibit befitting Alabama's landmark cases

Story and photos by Carol Pappas

When Dr. Steven Brown was a graduate student at the University of Virginia en route to becoming a constitutional law professor at Auburn University, he made a discovery: Many landmark cases and rulings that helped shape the course of a nation had a single thread tugging at them all – they originated in Alabama.

From the familiar as household names, like the Scottsboro Boys, to some you may never have heard of, like Sharron Frontiero, they are rooted deeply in Alabama soil with lasting implications that have spread nationwide. And Brown, with the help of partners, has put them all together in a striking traveling exhibit that is making its way through the state during this, Alabama's bicentennial year.

Alabama Justice: The Cases and Faces That Changed a Nation opened in Auburn and was on display at Vulcan Museum as its first stop through early May, an exhibition made possible in part through the Birmingham Bar Foundation and Birmingham Bar Association.

This interactive, multimedia exhibit resulted from collaboration with Brown, a professor of Political Science at Auburn University, Alabama Bicentennial Commission and Backstory Educational Media. It tells the stories of eight Alabama-based, landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases and profiles three U.S. Supreme Court justices from the state.



Dr. Brown views exhibit overview

The exhibit's highlighted cases cover civil rights, equal protection, city zoning and prayer in public schools.

"We deal with all these cases in my classes, but when students see it all together like this," the impact is unmistakable, Brown said. The heart of the cases themselves is not unique to Alabama, "but the fact they happened here, and the people here challenged it and took it all the way," are the lessons of enlightenment he hopes are the takeaways from the exhibit. "They (key players in those cases) sacrificed a good bit. Then, they prevailed." The cases include well-known ones, like the Scottsboro Boys and Ollie's Barbecue, but delves into lesser-known cases involving Mobile County Public Schools, Maxwell Air Force Base and Tuskegee. All these cases had national implications in the interpretation of federal law, which still endures today.

The exhibit had its beginnings as an idea verbalized by Brown to former Alabama Humanities Foundation Grants Director Thomas Bryant. As he began to tell Bryant about his idea, "Thomas was all over it," Brown recalled. Bryant helped put AHF's support behind it, which "signaled to other organizations that this was a bonafide project. Without him and AHF, it wouldn't have happened. We needed a serious partner early on, and they certainly were." Others did indeed follow suit, including ALABAMA 200,



Entire exhibit on display in Auburn

Alabama Department of Archives and History, Vulcan Museum, Birmingham Bar Foundation and Birmingham Bar Association, and Auburn University. As more funding and partners became involved, they were able to hire Phillip Ratliff to create the displays. "It all came together," Brown said.

After its showing at Vulcan, the exhibit will continue traveling into through 2020, he said

The Exhibit

In iconic photographs, words from the people themselves, oral arguments in audio and an ability to delve deeper into the cases through computer technology, the exhibit enlightens and engages with an ideal blending of resources.

It is commonplace for a student to read about historic cases in textbooks. It is groundbreaking to actually hear the arguments or rulings, but that is exactly what this exhibit offers – an opportunity to actually experience these pivotal moments in history.

Take for instance, Ollie's Barbecue, challenging the Civil Rights Act's constitutionality so that it could deny African Americans the right to eat in the restaurant. It is illuminating to hear the actual arguments from then US Attorney General Archibald Cox.

In that case, the nation's high court unanimously ruled that the "Civil Rights Act of 1964 applied to restaurants because the food they served had traveled in commerce." It would pave the way for similar rulings finding in favor of civil rights.

Sharron Frontiero isn't a household name, like Rosa

Parks, but women across the country today benefit from her 1970s court battle, *Frontiero v. Richardson*. Frontiero, an Air Force lieutenant, sued Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, later replaced by Eliot Richardson, for denying her husband spousal benefits. The law allowed benefits for dependents, but required that at least half of the husband's material support had to come from his wife for him to be considered a dependent.



AHF Grants Director Graydon Rust tests interactive feature



School Prayer and the first amendment



Dr. Brown explains exhibit to AHF Grants Director Graydon Rust

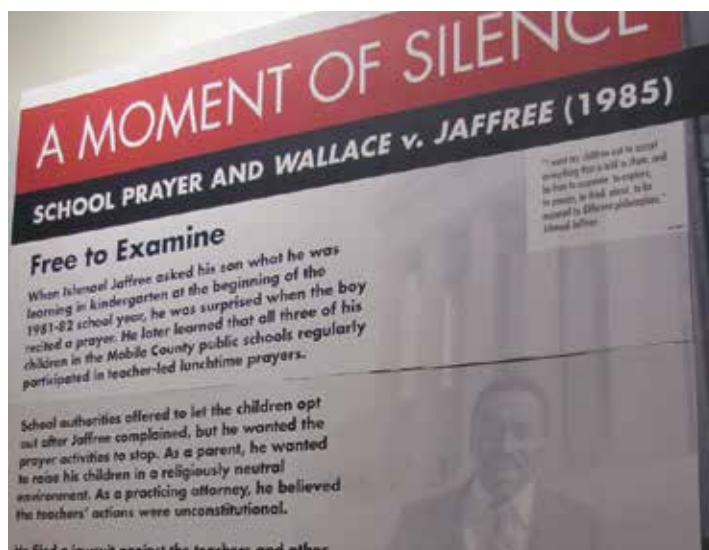
Justice exhibit

In an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court found in favor of Frontiero, for the first time in American history, invalidating a federal law based on gender. *Alabama Justice: The Cases and Faces that Changed a Nation* examines eight cases, each with its own gripping story to tell about Alabamians fighting for principles in which they believed.

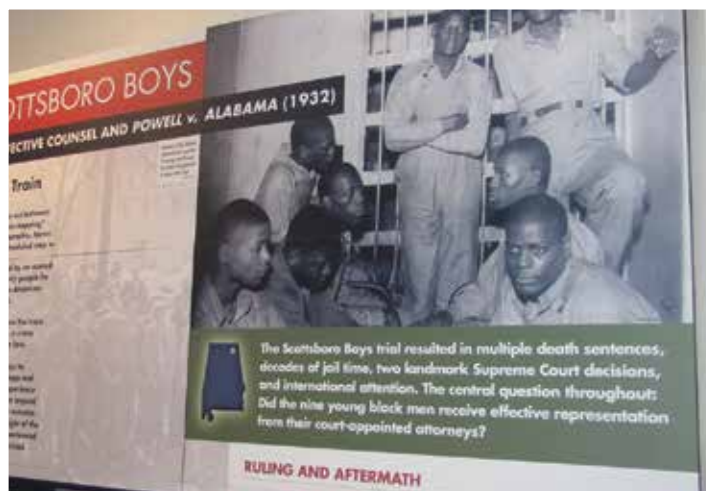
And while Alabama's connection in landmark cases is evident from plaintiffs and defendants, the exhibit goes on to illustrate the critical roles played in the nation's history by those Alabamians who sat on the Supreme Court – John McKinley of Florence, John Archibald Campbell of Mobile and Hugo Black of Ashland. Some of their thoughts, ideas and rulings still guide the Court to this day.

“Every teacher wants learning to take place outside the classroom,” Brown said, “and that’s what we hope happens here.”

Editor’s Note: Content from the exhibit may be found online at: <http://alabama200.org/AlabamaJustice/> The exhibit is one of the dozens of grants AHF supports each year in its three grant cycles. To learn more, go to: <http://www.alabamahumanities.org/grants/>



School prayer and Wallace v. Jaffree



The Scottsboro Boys case examined effective counsel



Ollie's Barbecue, Katzenbach vs. McClung



NAACP case

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WIN with Alabama

WRITING OUR *Stories*

Students find their voice, value through poetry

by Paul South

"Poetry is not an expression of the party line. It's that time of night, lying in bed, thinking what you really think, making the private world public, that's what the poet does." — Allen Ginsberg

COLUMBIANA—

In the beginning of the *Writing Our Stories* curriculum, Elizabeth Birdsong asks for punch-in-the-gut honesty from her Columbiana Middle School students as she ferrets out their feelings on reading and writing poetry.

Their answers, scrawled on notecards aren't surprising, given that the seventh-grade year reaps a whirlwind of change – physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

"I hate poetry."

"I'm going to hate this."

"Poetry sucks."

Undaunted, Birdsong sets about the business of proving her students wrong, winning hearts and minds with the power of the word, helping children write what they really think.

At first, resistance grips her students. But after crafting their first verses, metamorphosis begins, Birdsong says.

"They're not very confident, but they're kind of having a little bit of fun with it, but they don't want to let you know they're having fun with it. They're actually liking it.

"As we continue to write, you see walls come down. They get a lot more into it. . . It really becomes a neat opportunity for them to express themselves in a way they haven't been asked or challenged to do with their poetry."

Tearing down walls and building bridges – between language and each other – is the mission of *Writing Our Stories*, an initiative of the Alabama Writers Forum and in Shelby County by the Shelby County Arts Council. A grant from the Alabama Humanities



Elizabeth Birdsong at the Columbiana Book Launch



MMS student reads from the poem he has written in class



Tony Crunk with student at Montevallo Middle School

Foundation helps fund the 10-week curriculum.

Currently, three Shelby County schools – Columbiana Middle, Montevallo Middle and Vincent Middle High School – are using *Writing Our Stories*. The goal is to expand the program to every school in the county and throughout Alabama.

Writing Our Stories is a 10-week program developed by the Montgomery-based Alabama Writers' Forum. Initially, the curriculum was



Tony Crunk with Student at Montevallo Middle School

“I didn’t invent this method of teaching creative writing to children. There were people all over the country doing this. But this is now the Forum’s version of teaching creative writing to children in Alabama,” she said. While the demands of the age of technology have piloted schools toward STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), *Writing Our Stories* trumpets the “soft skills,” verbal and written communication.

While teaching technology is critical in the 21st century, educators must also do a better job in the creative realm. *Writing Our Stories* plays a role in that. In Shelby County, the program is free, thanks to the partnership between the Alabama

Writers Forum, the Shelby County Arts Council and funders like the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Funding for the program from AHF goes to pay for the published books of the students’ writing and a teaching writer, who comes to the school to work with students. Tony Crunk was the first teaching writer, followed by Jerriod Avant and now, Daniel DeVaughn. Teaching writers are published authors who teach in the program and basically train the classroom teachers to implement it on their own if they choose.

Mrs. Birdsong implemented the program after having seen it performed by Crunk for several years.

designed for the Alabama Department of Youth Services in 1997 as an anti-violence program to teach youthful offenders to write about their lives as part of their therapy, an outlet to replace violent behavior, Jeanie Thompson, the Forum’s executive director, says.

The program was adapted in Shelby County in 2011 as a creative writing, anti-bullying initiative, teaching poetry and short story writing. Students work with teachers and professional writers and at the end of the program, students receive a printed anthology of their work. The course includes reading well-known poets like Edgar Allen Poe and poets known to the students themselves, whose work was part of previous *Writing Our Stories* programs.

The genesis

The seed for *Writing Our Stories* was planted when Thompson lived in New Orleans and taught in the *Poetry in the Schools* program operated by the Children’s Arts Council and outgrowth of the Summer in the City program. Thompson modeled *Writing Our Stories* after the Crescent City program, teaching writing a step at a time, just as teaching other art forms.

It took years, but the curriculum guide for it blossomed from the New Orleans experience. Thompson still has the black manuscript binder with details of her experience handwritten in longhand.



Student working on poem in class MMS



Student writing a MM

It was her initiative to provide the same opportunities for all her students.

“Young people are not presented with very many opportunities to express themselves in school because they have to study for and meet the standards of a test,” Thompson says. “Many teachers are wonderfully creative in getting around that and teach creative writing within language arts or find other ways for the students to express themselves. But because of the pressure on the teachers to achieve at a certain level so the school will be ranked a certain way, it’s hard to keep the creative side alive. It takes acquiring funding and building partnerships like we have done in Shelby County.”

Writing Our Stories transcends building students’ communication skills, reaching to society as a whole. The middle-school years are pivotal. Students will either get on track or fall between the cracks; in worst-case, scenarios, that means an encounter with the criminal justice system.

“Seventh grade is the pivotal year for young people to be at risk to become adult offenders,” Thompson says. “These things happen for many, many reasons.”

Writing Our Stories teaches a skill that helps keep them off a hardscrabble, dangerous road, reducing the potential for bullying or more serious criminal

behavior, as well as the growing tragedy of youth suicide.

“The students are receiving something they’re not going to get anywhere else. In no other classroom is somebody saying: ‘Let’s think about the five senses. Let’s think about what your room looks like. Let’s think about what your grandmother looked like. Let’s think about memory.’ What *Writing Our Stories* teaches them is empathy,” Thompson says. “If you’re teaching empathy, then you’re mitigating against criminal behavior. I’m less likely to stab you and take your wallet if I see you as another human being.”

That empathy is now being built among kids in Columbiana, Montevallo and Vincent thanks to what Thompson calls “a unique partnership” with the Shelby County Arts Council that has endured for nearly a decade. That partnership has embedded the writing culture into the tapestry of school life, just like the football team, the band or a science team.

“There’s a tremendous amount of trust,” she says. “There’s a tremendous culture of writing in these schools now. It doesn’t happen overnight.” She adds, “The exciting thing is to see a school system develop a culture of creative writing.”

A driving force

Bruce Andrews, executive director of the Shelby County Arts Council, runs the roads and works the phone to drum up dollars for *Writing Our Stories*. On his watch, the program has grown. He was hooked on the initiative after only one classroom visit.

“That was all it took,” he said. “The cathartic aspect of what they’re teaching, you don’t even have to know the definition of catharsis to know something good is taking place.”

In middle schools, there are jocks and science junkies, wallflowers and class clowns, rich kids and those from the rough side of the tracks. *Writing Our Stories* breaks down differences.

“The process of teaching them to bare themselves in a creative way through the process of writing poetry creates common ground like no other way.”

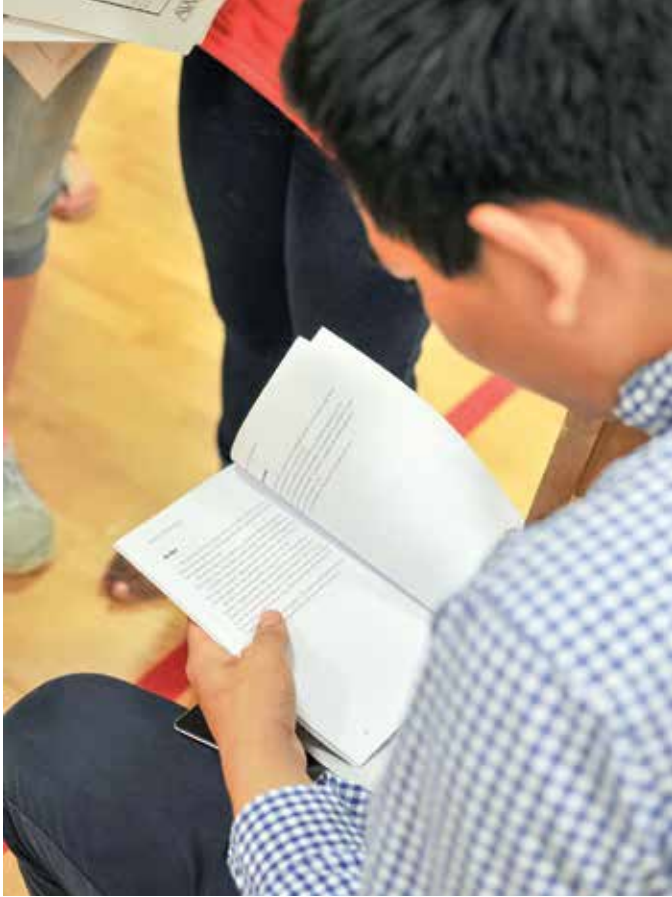
At the end of the unit, Birdsong repeats the same question she asked on its first day. Clearly, hearts and minds have changed about reading and writing poetry. Common ground is created.

“I’m so glad I did this,” writes one student.

“I really enjoyed this,” writes another.

“I’m really proud of myself for how I was able to write about this,” scribbles still another.

Elizabeth Birdsong has won over her



Student reads from just published poems at Columbiana Middle School

once-reluctant poets for another year. This year, close to 100 students will be part of what could be called a “Live Poets Society.”

“Seeing that and seeing the joy on their faces at the end of the year that puts their work together, that’s something that no one can take away from them,” she says. “Being able to provide the affirmation that ‘You can do this. You have value.’” shows them they do indeed have value and that they matter. That affirmation can happen through poetry.

“I love the kids, and I love this. They have a voice that they want to be heard and that oftentimes is not considered valid. This is a way they can receive some sort of validation, and their voice can be heard.” ■

EDITOR’S NOTES: A video of *Writing Our Stories* may be seen at <https://www.writersforum.org/podcasts/> *Writing Our Stories* is funded in part through a grant from Alabama Humanities Foundation. AHF awards mini and major grants three times per year. To learn more or to apply, go to: <http://www.alabamahumanities.org/grants/>



Horses

*A poem by Karlee Cardwell, 7th grade,
Columbiana Middle School*

When I run in the wind,
My mane soars behind me.
My running makes me tired,
So I stop at a lake to drink.
As my mouth goes down,
My string-like tail wiggles side to side.

I head to the barn
To be welcomed by my farm friends.
My owners feed me sugar cubes,
Sweet as honeysuckle.
As I leap into my stable,
I feel the hay beneath my hooves
And the wood from the wall on my back.

I can see all the flowers and fields
Growing outside my window.
I hear every sound in the barn.
The chickens, pigs, and cows sing a song.
The barn smells like fresh, ripe red apples,
Oats and sugar cubes – my favorite smell.
The smell of my home.

Dandelion

*A poem by A.J. Cole, 7th grade,
Columbiana Middle School*

I am a dandelion.
Once I was a yellow flower,
Not very wise,
Meeting trouble at every turn.
As I grew older, my petals fell,
My seeds springing up
To make me a young adult.
Now I am full of hope.
I wait for people to come,
To blow and make a wish,
Spreading my seed of hope.
Once they make a wish
I am still there,
In their heart,
Encouraging them to make
That wish come true.

*From Dreams and Possibilities, edited by Tony Crunk
Writing Our Stories (2011)*



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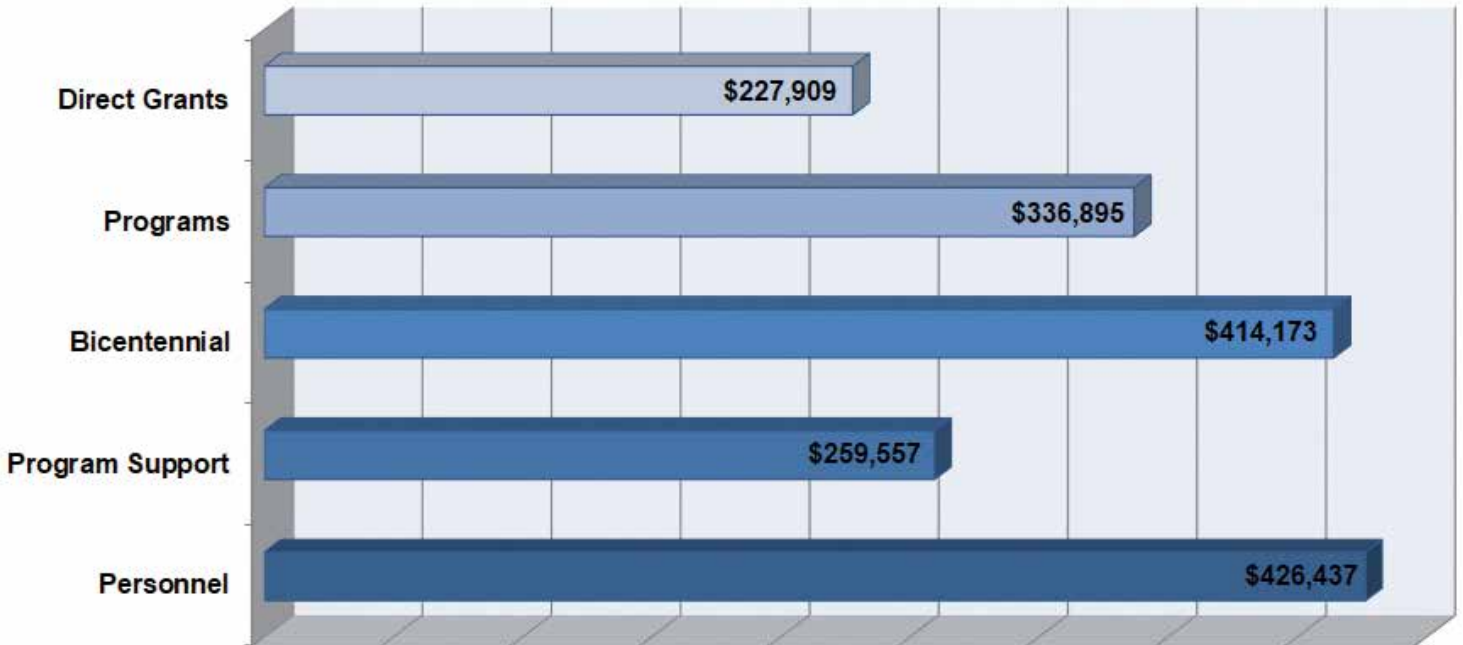
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