

MOSAIC

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

2022

The Sports Issue



ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE



Create Your Story *and* Impact the World

*Expand your knowledge and impact through one of the **online programs** offered by The University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences.*

— EARN A BACHELOR'S DEGREE —
cis.ua.edu/online

— EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE —
cis.ua.edu/masters-programs

#CREATEYOURSTORY





From the executive director

Charles W. (Chuck) Holmes

A column like this generally offers readers a preview of what's inside the magazine. But before we get to that, let's take a minute and make a list.

First, name those things that we absolutely need for human survival.

Shelter. Check. Water and food. Of course.

Love? Sure, because poets and songwriters tell us that life is not worth living without it. Plus, perpetuation of the species.

Survivalists might suggest that we add a good sharp knife and some rope. The righteous would surely add faith.

One thing not on our list so far? Sports. And another? The humanities.

They are missing because they are completely unnecessary. Our existence simply does not require them. Yet, as human beings we were compelled to invent them. We crave them. We are incomplete without them. We live vicariously through them.

Virtually every culture on the globe has created games that test the body and mind. Just as every civilization has established the means of human expression (literature, history, philosophy, ethics) to explore the meaning of our lives.

As Birmingham plays host to The World Games 2022, this issue of *Mosaic* is devoted to the intersection of sports and the humanities in Alabama. The stories and images in these pages reflect and embody everything that makes us human. They tell the tale of statehood and injustices, of human endurance and shared experiences, of triumphs and defeats.

Examining our state's life and history would be impossible without noting the games and athletes that distinguish us. Jesse Owens and Joe Louis. The Negro Leagues. The Iron Bowl, Talladega, and the countless playing fields, courts, and sandlots where sweat and dreams mingle every day.

For those who read this issue and want to learn more about the history and cultural impact of sports in Alabama, I highly encourage a virtual visit to the Encyclopedia of Alabama. We developed this resource 15 years ago in partnership with Auburn University and other allies across the state; today, the site has more than 125 articles on sports, in addition to hundreds more on history, folklife, literature, and the like.

No, we don't need sports in order to live. But the games we play and enjoy as fans shape our collective identity.

Plus, they're fun. Our guest essayist, comedian and Alabama superfan Jermaine "FunnyMaine" Johnson, attests to that in this issue. We also asked ESPN's Rece Davis, a native of Muscle Shoals, to list his top four moments from our state's rich football history, and he delivered. And we've got recommendations on the best books and documentaries highlighting our sporting past.

You will also find the work of one of Alabama's most renowned humanists, historian Wayne Flynt. A particular sport, he observes, holds a singular place of reverence in Alabama culture: "If the Bible is correct when it states that where a person's treasure is there his heart will be also, then the state's true affection could be found at Bryant-Denny or Jordan-Hare stadium."

Bless our hearts. War Eagle. Roll Tide.



About us

Founded in 1974, the nonprofit Alabama Humanities Alliance serves as a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through our grantmaking and public programming, we connect Alabamians to impactful storytelling, lifelong learning, and civic engagement. We believe the humanities can bring our communities together and help us all see each other as fully human.

Board of directors

Chair: Joseph Aistrup, Ph.D. (Auburn)

Vice Chair: Ed Mizzell (Birmingham)

Secretary: Dorothy Huston, Ph.D. (Huntsville)

Treasurer: Mark D. Nelson, Ph.D. (Tuscaloosa)

Executive Committee At-Large:

Brett Shaffer (Birmingham)

Chandra Brown Stewart (Mobile)

Immediate Past Chair: Trey Granger (Pike Road)

Bob Barnett (Pell City)

Diane Clouse (Ozark)

Darren L. Hicks (Birmingham)

Janice Hawkins (Troy)

Elliot A. Knight, Ph.D. (Montgomery)

John F. Kvach, Ph.D. (Brownsboro)

Robert McGhee (Atmore)

Judge Tammy Montgomery, J.D. (Livingston)

Susan Y. Price (Montgomery)

Judge David A. Rains, J.D. (Fort Payne)

Anne M. Schmidt, M.D. (Birmingham)

Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews (Camden)

R.B. Walker (Birmingham)

Andy Weil (Montgomery)

Staff

Executive director: Chuck Holmes

Director of partnerships and outcomes:

Laura C. Anderson

Director of administration: Alma Anthony

Program coordinator: Rachel M. Hartsell

Communications director: Phillip Jordan

Grants director: Graydon Rust

In this issue

11 What it means to be a fan

Jermaine “FunnyMaine” Johnson on what our love of sports says about us

12 Joe Louis and Jesse Owens

On Alabama’s greatest two athletes and the state they left behind

16 Beyond the trophies

Artifacts reveal iconic moments and hidden histories of Alabama sports

24 A national pastime, shared

The Mobile roots of Cuban baseball

28 Four downs with Recc Davis

Four moments in football history that left their imprint on the state

30 Suffrage Day at Rickwood Field

Plus, other contests that had an impact far beyond the playing field

36 On the page and on the screen

The best sports books and documentaries, Alabama category

6 News

38 Annual report

40 Grants roundup

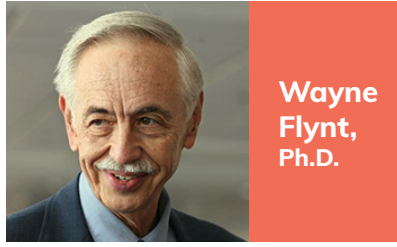
46 Donor honor roll

On the cover: Charlie Douglas, a football player at Howard College (now Samford University), in 1938. Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Donated by Alabama Media Group. Photo by Little, Birmingham News. Above left: Students playing volleyball at Prairie Farms, a Farm Security Administration project school in Montgomery, 1939. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. Above right: *A Flying Wedge*, Sewanee vs. Auburn, November 30, 1899. Acrylic on canvas by Ernie Eldredge.

Authors



Jermaine “FunnyMaine” Johnson (“What it means to be a fan”) is a writer, comedian, and actor from Opelika. Among many other things, he is also a football superfan and a Birmingham Public Library board member. In 2020, AL.com named him an “Alabamian Who Made A Difference.”



Wayne Flynt, Ph.D. (“Joe Louis and Jesse Owens”), is professor emeritus of history at Auburn University and author of 13 books on the history, culture, religion, and politics of Alabama and the South. He is an Alabama Humanities Fellow and was the Encyclopedia of Alabama’s first editor-in-chief.



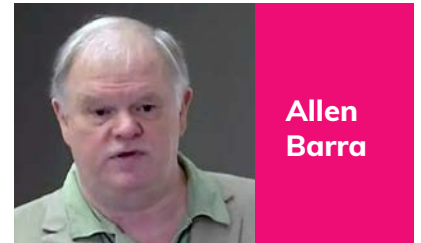
Phillip Jordan (“A national pastime, shared”) was, briefly, a sports stringer for the *Birmingham Post-Herald* and a parking lot attendant for the Birmingham Barons—occasionally at the same game. He’s now the communications director at the Alabama Humanities Alliance.



Rece Davis (“Four downs with Rece Davis”) was a “decidedly average” quarterback at Muscle Shoals High School and a one-time intern at Channel 33 in Tuscaloosa. Some may also know the University of Alabama alumnus from his work as an ESPN/ABC sports journalist and host of College GameDay.



Alex Colvin, Ph.D. (“Suffrage Day at Rickwood Field, 1915”), is the public programs curator at the Alabama Department of Archives & History. She specializes in early American history, with an emphasis in Creek history.



Allen Barra (“Sports on the page”) is a Birmingham native and author of 10 books on sports, including several mighty-fine Alabama reads: *The Last Coach: A Life of Paul “Bear” Bryant*, *Rickwood Field: A Century in America’s Oldest Ballpark*, and *Mickey and Willie: Mantle and Mays*.

Mosaic

Mosaic is published annually by the Alabama Humanities Alliance.

Editor: Phillip Jordan

Art Director: Liz Kleber Moye

Printing: Russell Printing

Contact us:

205.558.3998

ahanews@alabamahumanities.org

alabamahumanities.org/mosaic-magazine

Contributors: Hagen Baker, Glenn Brock, Charles Buchanan, Karin Fecteau, Michele Forman, Roy S. Johnson, Andrea J. Kelley, Brock Larsen, Michael McKenzie, Steve Murray, Tim Stephens, Kevin Scarbinsky, Chris Boyd Taylor.

Special thanks to the Alabama Department of Archives & History, Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, The World Games Birmingham, and the sports museums, historic sites, and archives around the state that contributed to this issue.

Stevenson, Lewis named 2022 Alabama Humanities Fellows



Alabama Humanities Fellow Bryan Stevenson (left) in conversation with NPR's Michel Martin at the 2022 Alabama Colloquium.

On February 28, 2022, more than 600 people celebrated our two newest Alabama Humanities Fellows, Bryan Stevenson and the late John Lewis. The sold-out event in Montgomery featured a conversation between Stevenson and NPR's Michel Martin, a tribute to Lewis by the Hon. Myron H. Thompson, and an original poem for the occasion by Alabama's poet laureate Ashley M. Jones. Sponsorships enabled students from 13 colleges statewide to attend.

"I believe the humanities are essential to how we move forward," Stevenson said, "and how we think about complex issues is difficult without access to the humanities." He also noted that the humanities can bring people together and foster real healing, especially when difficult truths and painful histories are confronted.

"I'm not naïve enough to believe that every time we tell the truth beautiful things happen," he said. "But I am

persuaded that when we don't tell the truth, we deny ourselves the beauty that is justice."

Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery; he also led the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites: The Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

John Lewis, an Alabama native born in Pike County, was a Freedom Rider and chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the civil rights movement. As a U.S. representative from Georgia, he became known as the "Conscience of the Congress."

AHA also presented the Wayne Greenhaw Service to the Humanities

Award to Trey Granger and the Hon. Sally Greenhaw. The award is named in honor of Greenhaw's late husband Wayne, and is given annually to former or current board members who have performed extraordinary service to the organization.

"Just to be on the same program honoring John Lewis and Bryan Stevenson, that in itself is an honor," Sally Greenhaw said. "These two gentlemen embody not only the best of what the humanities are, but what the humanities can be."

Since 1989, AHA has named 49 Alabama Humanities Fellows, bestowing its highest honor on Alabamians who make our state a better, more vibrant place to live. Alabamians who challenge us to examine what it means to be human — and who help us better connect with our past, our communities, and each other.

Humanities highlights

Rural Alabama at the Crossroads

Another Smithsonian exhibit will soon tour Alabama, thanks to AHA's partnership with the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street. *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* looks at the remarkable societal changes that have reshaped rural communities over the past century. The exhibit will run from September 2023 to June 2024, visiting six host communities: Oneonta, White Hall, Triana, Roanoke, Ozark, and Bay Minette.

Water/Ways sails out of state

Crossroads is just the latest Smithsonian exhibit that AHA has brought to Alabama since 1997. Most recently, in 2021-2022, *Water/Ways* made a 268-day journey across five towns (Danville, Guntersville, Bessemer, Camden, and Elba), highlighting the role that water plays in the history of our state and the everyday lives of Alabamians.

Making history, again

AHA's 2022 Alabama History Day competition resulted in 28 first- and second-place winners qualifying for National History Day. This annual contest equips students to research topics that interest them, then present their findings creatively — through documentaries, dramatic performances, and more. History Day also serves as a project-based learning tool for teachers and schools.

Super teachers, SUPER workshops

Supporting Alabama's teachers remains one of the most important pillars of AHA's work. All SUPER Teacher workshops offer peer-to-peer learning, stipends and continuing education credits, and new curriculum ideas.

Remaining 2022 SUPER workshops:

- July 19-20, Wetumpka: Explore the 2023 History Day "Frontiers in History" theme
- July 28, Montgomery: Examine the poetry of Alabama Poet Laureate Ashley M. Jones
- September 9, Montgomery: Study how to teach the history of genocide
- October 2022, Birmingham: Learn about the lasting impact of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, 100 years after his birth

New board members



Diane Clouse (Ozark)

Diane Clouse was a longtime teacher and choreographer for the Flowers Center for the Performing Arts, Carroll High School Musical Theatre, and the Dale County Young Woman of the Year programs. She

holds a degree in marketing and management from Troy University and a secondary teaching certificate from Athens State University. Clouse has served on numerous boards, including the Wallace College Foundation Board, the Dale County Library Board, and the Flowers Center Board.



Susan Yvette Price (Montgomery)

Susan Y. Price, J.D., is senior vice chancellor for system development and strategic advancement and chief of staff of the Alabama Community College System. She earned her bachelor's

degree in English Literature/Creative Writing from Princeton University and a law degree from the University of Virginia. Previously, Price has been a teacher, federal law clerk, and attorney. She also serves on the boards of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, and Southern Coalition for Social Justice.



Anne M. Schmidt (Birmingham)

Anne M. Schmidt, M.D., is regional chief medical officer for Lumeris.

Previously, she was senior medical director at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, where she coordinated clinical

programs that helped improve Alabamians' overall health and wellness. Schmidt, a Clemson graduate who earned her doctorate from the Medical College of Georgia, is board-certified in family medicine. She has practiced primary care in both rural and urban settings and served as medical director at United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham.

The perfect getaway can feel more distant than it really is.

For nearly every modern convenience, Alabama Power is there to supply electricity. And when you're ready to unplug, we're there as well. The Preserves are lakeside lands in more than 65 locations across the state that Alabama Power has preserved, protected and made free for you to enjoy. With hiking trails, picnic areas, fishing piers, playgrounds and boat launches, we've got your need for a quick escape covered.

apcpreserves.com





Proxy Stadium (2020) by Chris Boyd Taylor.

The World Games in context

Reflecting on the biggest sporting event in Alabama history

Storytelling is foundational to the humanities. And here in Alabama, sports keep our storytellers well supplied. This summer promises a wealth of new material, as The World Games come to Birmingham and Central Alabama, delivering more than 3,600 athletes from 100 countries — not to mention up to half a million visitors.

“We’ve never seen anything like The World Games,” says Kevin Scarbinsky, a longtime Alabama sports journalist. “Imagine the College Football Playoff, the men’s and women’s Final Four, and the men’s and women’s College World Series all going down around town at the same time. And then some. Olympic soccer in 1996 at Legion Field was huge, but that was one sport at one stadium. We’re about to welcome more of the world at one time than ever before. We’re about to witness history.”

Alabamians know about making sports history, especially in national and international competition. From Jesse Owens to Suni Lee, at least 88 Alabama athletes have won Olympic and Paralympic medals. And there are no fewer than 53 Alabamians in professional halls of fame nationwide; our state’s own Sports Hall of Fame boasts 385 members.

“Here in Alabama, sports are a defining part of who we are,” says Gov. Kay Ivey. “Athletics, while entertaining to watch and exciting to play, also bring together our communities, regardless of differences. Sports are in our state’s DNA and rooted in our traditions.”

Steve Murray, director of the Alabama Department of Archives & History, says the Games also give Alabama a chance to reflect on “the importance of athletics in advancing equality along racial and gender lines.” Indeed, Oakville’s Jesse Owens and LaFayette’s Joe Louis defied Nazi ideology. Tuskegee’s Alice Coachman became the first Black woman anywhere to win an Olympic medal. Selma’s Mia Hamm inspired a generation of young people to play soccer. “Each of these Alabamians, and many more, demonstrate that perseverance enables us to transcend boundaries on the field of competition and throughout society.”

That’s a sentiment Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin echoes: “Having The World Games come to Birmingham is a full-circle moment.” “Our city is home to courageous citizens who helped to break the back of segregation and herald civil and human rights for all. It is thrilling that our great city will soon cast open arms to welcome the world.”

Time will tell what cultural imprint The World Games leave on Alabama. But the potential is powerful.

“There are rare moments where a state can harness its entire population and resources in a very positive way for the world to see,” says Nick Sellers, CEO of Birmingham’s World Games. “The World Games 2022 is one of those moments as it will be watched by millions around the world. It will provide an opportunity for all of us in Alabama to elevate our collective sights and show the world that our best days are ahead.”

“There are rare moments when a state can harness its entire population and resources in a very positive way for the world to see.”

-Nick Sellers. The World Games

BUY THE TAG THAT SUPPORTS ARTS IN ALABAMA



Tag artwork by Bethanne Hill

***Take your love for arts
on the road!***

Show your support for the arts by purchasing your tag today!
Proceeds from the sale of the license tag fund a variety of
arts education and community arts projects across Alabama.

More info at arts.alabama.gov

What it means to be a fan

Alabama comedian dissects our love of sports — and what it says about us

By Jermaine “FunnyMaine” Johnson



We, the people of Alabama, love our sports and there's nothing you can do about it. There's nothing *we* can do about it, either. Most folks' priorities around here? God. Family. Sports. In some order. And if we're being honest,

God enters the equation most often when we're praying for a win in order to peacefully co-exist with — or gloat over — our families.

Why do we have this obsession with games, some of which were made for children to enjoy? Maybe because the vast majority of us are highly competitive people — who weren't blessed with the tools to compete at a high level in sports. I've made a living talking about my favorite team and ragging on other teams from my couch. At 5-9 and 198 pounds, that's probably the safest place for me to do it. Most fans of college football, myself included, wouldn't last a single down on an SEC field. But we provide something valuable, too. Our fandom — the traditions we create, even the banter we throw around — shapes our shared culture here that we love so much.

We also cheer because, despite all the rivalries and all of our differences, we want to come together. We need the community that sports offer. And our sports need us, too. What would sports be without the roars, gasps, and boos of the crowd? How meaningful would these games be without town bragging rights and the constant chatter between fan bases? More importantly, our state's stellar athletics reputation gives Alabama something positive to be known for nationally.

Not all of us will make it to the biggest stages in sports, but most of us dream of it as kids. And that hope of “being somebody” and representing your home state is important when you come from a place that ranks

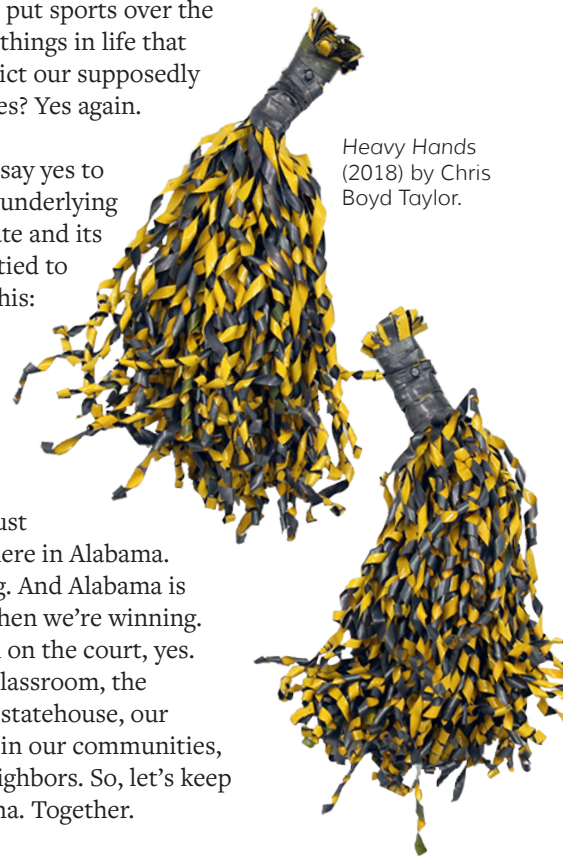
near the bottom nationally in education, wages, quality of life, and other measures. Alabama is a place where you can be forgotten because of your circumstances, but it's also where you can be remembered forever by overcoming adversity and winning.

“Our fandom — the traditions we create, even the banter we throw around — shapes our shared culture here that we love so much.”

Do some of us live vicariously through athletes far younger than ourselves and scream at them on the television for underperforming? OK, maybe. Do we sometimes taunt our rivals to the extreme that it sometimes ends in unnecessary altercations? Yes. Do we too often put sports over the truly important things in life that directly contradict our supposedly biblical principles? Yes again.

But we can also say yes to this: Is there an underlying hope for this state and its potential that's tied to sports? And to this: Do sports often keep us striving for greatness in our personal lives?

I think it's not just sports we love here in Alabama. We love winning. And Alabama is a better place when we're winning. On the field and on the court, yes. But also in the classroom, the boardroom, the statehouse, our neighborhoods, in our communities, and with our neighbors. So, let's keep winning, Alabama. Together.



Heavy Hands (2018) by Chris Boyd Taylor.

Joe Louis and Jesse Owens

On Alabama's greatest athletes and the state they left behind

Black men look like they rule sport in America today. It was nothing like that in the thirties. America was white and that was that. It didn't do you no good to dream of making it to the big time. It was impossible. And then, y'know, along came Jesse and along came Joe.

-Ruth Owens, wife of Jesse Owens, quoted in Heroes Without A Country by Donald McRae



Born less than a year apart in rural Alabama — sons of sharecroppers, grandsons of slaves — Joe Louis and Jesse Owens each left Alabama as children when their families joined the Great Migration northward. Between 1935 and 1938, the two young men — arguably the greatest athletes Alabama has ever produced — would obliterate world records, win world championships, and become international icons for defeating the best Nazi Germany could offer. All while remaining second-class citizens at home.

In the following essay, originally published in *Alabama in the Twentieth Century*, historian Wayne Flynt explores the two men's lives from an Alabama angle. Would Louis and Owens have become world champions if they stayed in Alabama? And how did Alabamians of the era respond to their native sons' greatest glories?

Above: Joe Louis and Jesse Owens in their prime. Courtesy of the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.

By Wayne Flynt

Boxing and track were the ultimate democratic and individual sports. They required little equipment or money. They provided a person the opportunity for decisive victory, a knockout or a solitary stretch to glory. For some poor white and black children, they were also a ticket out of deprivation and anonymity (and not incidentally for blacks also a ticket out of Alabama). However much these sports might demand of the body, body was all many Alabamians had to offer...

Joe Louis Barrow (he eventually dropped the last name) was born in a sharecropper's cabin on Buckalew Mountain near LaFayette, Alabama, though his family joined the black migration to Detroit early in his life. He escaped Detroit's slums to begin boxing professionally in 1934 and was undefeated in 26 matches before German champion Max Schmeling knocked him out in 1936. A year later, Louis won the heavyweight title from Jim Braddock before 65,000 Chicago boxing fans, becoming only the second African American to claim the championship.

Anyone wondering why a poor black boy from Alabama would absorb the physical abuse inevitable in boxing might consider the Depression-era purse for those eight rounds: \$650,000. A year later 80,000 spectators thronged Yankee Stadium to witness a rematch of the Louis-Schmeling fight, this one with international repercussions given unfolding events in Europe. Louis took only two minutes four seconds to knock out the pride of Nazi Germany.

Alabamians typically reacted to Louis according to race. Whites often deplored boxing for its violence, and when they followed the sport at all, pulled for whites (even from Germany) over their black native son. The *Montgomery Advertiser* referred to Louis as "a 23-year-old boy from the cotton fields of Alabama" in its report on his victory over Braddock. But it printed no congratulatory editorial for the Alabama-born champion, allocating space instead to the state Chamber of Commerce meeting and the state's cotton crop.

Louis retained the heavyweight championship of the world for an amazing 13 years and was a celebrated hero to Alabama's African Americans. Whites claimed him only after the civil rights revolution. In a December 1999 *Birmingham News* list of the state's 50 greatest athletes, Louis finished eighth.



Joe Louis Barrow oil on canvas by Betsy Graves Reyneau, 1946. Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of the Harmon Foundation. Copyright Peter Edward Fayard.

The athlete that finished first in that survey was another African American, Jesse Owens. James Cleveland Owens was born to Morgan County sharecroppers. But like the Barrow family, the Owens family gave up on Alabama's racism and poverty, joining the black migration to Cleveland, Ohio. As was the case with Joe Louis, the move brought opportunities hardly imaginable to blacks who remained in the Heart of Dixie.

In Ohio, Owens received the coaching, equipment, and opportunity he never would have had in Alabama.



Alabama didn't give its native sons much ink, but the national press did. In 1935, *Vanity Fair* profiled both Owens and Louis, capitalizing on their rising stars. The article titles, however — "Jesse Owens: dark lightning" and "Mean man" for Joe Louis — were apt previews of the racist and paternalistic language in the stories. Photo by Lusha Nelson, *Vanity Fair*, September 1935. Courtesy of Condé Nast, used by permission.

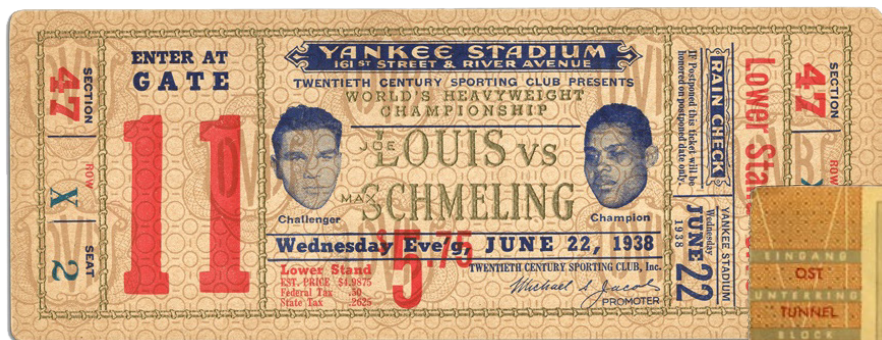
A scholarship to Ohio State University set up two dates with destiny.

The first came on May 25, 1935, at the conference championships. Many sports historians consider Owens' performance that day the greatest single demonstration of versatility in the history of track and field. Despite a bruised back that caused friends to advise him to withdraw from the meet, the college sophomore shattered three world records and tied a fourth. After that record-smashing performance, he won the low hurdles in a time only four-tenths of a second off the world record.

But it was his triumphs a year later in Berlin that transformed Owens into an American icon. The same year that German boxing champion Max Schmeling scored a victory for Aryan supremacy over Joe Louis, the 11th Olympiad got under way in Germany. Buoyed by Schmeling's victory, Reichsfuehrer Adolph Hitler expected to preside over a Teutonic rout. More than 100,000 people, mostly Germans, packed the massive double-deck concrete stadium for the most spectacular opening day in the modern history of the games.

On August 2, Jesse Owens ran 100-meter trial heats in a world record 10.2 seconds. The next day he won the first of his four gold medals in the 200 meters before he broke another record in the broad jump. In four successive days, Owens dazzled nearly half a million spectators with bursts of speed and leaping that established U.S. supremacy in the games, derailed Hitler's racial agenda, and earned Owens two new Olympic records, a tie for a third, and two world records. Owens became only the fourth American ever to capture three or more championships in a single Olympiad, the first from any country to do so since 1924, and only the fifth American Negro ever to win a gold.

Apparently the *Montgomery Advertiser* either did not realize Owens was from Alabama or didn't care. During his amazing string of victories, the newspaper ran editorials about inflation, isolationism, and Dothan peanut



Tickets to history: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling, 1938; courtesy of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. 1936 Olympics ticket for the day Jesse Owens won his second gold medal; courtesy of the Jesse Owens Museum.



eat. The paper even reprinted an editorial from the *Atlanta Journal* bragging about a University of Georgia student who had become the first from his state ever to win an Olympic gold medal. But not a word of editorial space did the *Advertiser* devote to native son Jesse Owens, whose feat is still celebrated as one of the century's transcendent moments in sports history. After many years of neglect, Lawrence County erected a memorial park to Owens in 1996 but later cut funds to maintain it.

[Editor's note: Lawrence County, which owns the Jesse Owens Museum and Memorial Park, does again provide maintenance and security for the internationally recognized facility. No museum in the state commemorates Joe Louis' roots, though a bronze statue of the Brown Bomber was dedicated in 2010 next to the Chambers County courthouse.]

Alabama blacks did celebrate Owens's career. One young boy who idolized the Olympian was Carl Lewis of

Birmingham (like the others, the Lewis family moved north when Carl was a boy). Carl's father took the nine year old to the Jesse Owens Youth Games in Philadelphia. There the boy had his picture taken with Owens and his soul imprinted by his idol. In the 1984 Olympics, Lewis equaled Owens's performance, winning four golds. He became the only athlete other than his idol to win golds in both sprint and long jump. During his incredible 17-year career, Lewis won nine gold medals, matching the all-time record for golds during four Olympic games (he would have run in an unprecedented fifth but for the 1980 U.S. boycott).

From *Alabama in the Twentieth Century* by Wayne Flynt, copyright 2004 by The University of Alabama Press. Used by permission.

The day Jesse Owens raced Joe Louis

Despite his Berlin triumph, Jesse Owens found few doors open to the riches that often await Olympic champions. To capitalize financially on his fame, Owens resorted to racing horses, dogs, trains — anything with speed.

On Independence Day 1938, Owens recruited a friend and fellow Alabamian to join him in one of these races — Joe Louis, one of the few American sports figures of the era who could match Owens' fame. The icons would race in front of 7,000 fans at Chicago's South Side Park, following a Negro Leagues baseball game between the host American Giants and the visiting Birmingham Black Barons. Author Donald McRae documents the event in his book, *Heroes Without A Country: America's Betrayal of Joe Louis and Jesse Owens*.

"You ready, Joe?" Jesse asked as they walked toward the makeshift starting line.

Joe shrugged. "Let's give 'em what they want..."

Louis won the "competition" thanks to a pratfall by the fleet-footed Owens. As the crowd laughed and cheered, McRae notes:

Jesse stretched out his hand as Joe turned toward him. The fighter pulled him in close, as if consoling an opponent in defeat. They held each other for a moment, their heads bowed.



BEYOND THE TROPHIES

Artifacts reveal iconic moments and hidden histories from Alabama's sporting past



We asked sports museums, historic sites, and halls of fame across the state to spotlight one treasure from their collections that tells a unique story about Alabama. Each artifact is a snapshot of a moment in the state’s long, rich sports tradition — and reveals how sports in Alabama are woven into the memories we share, the places we live, and the communities we build together.

Alabama Sports Hall of Fame (Birmingham)
Leah Rawls Atkins’ skis and rope from the 1953 World Water Ski Championships



Leah Rawls learned to swim and surf on the Black Warrior River by the age of four. So perhaps it’s no surprise that, at 18, she became Alabama’s first water-skiing world champion in 1953. Winning became routine for the

Birmingham resident in the 1950s, when she also won two national titles and established a women’s jumping record. In 1976, Rawls — by then known as Leah Rawls Atkins after marrying Auburn football star George Atkins — became the first woman inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame

After hanging up her skis and rope, Atkins turned to documenting history instead of making it. She earned a doctorate in history from Auburn University and later co-authored the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Alabama: History of a Deep South State*. She also was the founding director of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities at Auburn.

Occasionally, her love of water and recreation sneaks into her work. In *The Valley and the Hills*, her comprehensive history of Birmingham and Jefferson County, Atkins dedicates a chapter to memories of long-ago residents’ favorite swimming holes, fishing spots, and water games.

American Sport Art Museum & Archives (Daphne)
Bruce Larsen’s *The Iron Bowl*

The American Sport Art Museum & Archives features more than 1,800 works of art, history, and literature. Its collection includes Olympic posters and medals, and works by internationally acclaimed artists like Ernie Barnes, Cristóbal Gabarrón, LeRoy Neiman, and Kadir Nelson. But its most iconic pieces come from just down the road — and they’re hard to miss.

The Iron Bowl is one of nine larger-than-life depictions of athletes in action that dominate the museum’s sculpture park. Each piece, made from salvaged scrap metal, is the invention of Bruce Larsen, a “Repo-Renaissance” artist and former high-school swimmer from nearby Fairhope. Larsen’s first sculpture in the series, *Borzov the Sprinter* (see image on page 16), was installed in 2003. He created *The Iron Bowl* with iron and steel pipes, using propane tanks for helmets. In 2009, the sculpture was dedicated in a ceremony attended by Nick Saban and former players on both sides of the South’s most heated rivalry.

“Sports are just fun,” Larsen says. “There’s no good reason for your heart to start pounding and for you to jump out of your seat yelling because a race is so close or a game is down to the wire, but you do. It’s a very human experience that brings us together like no other.”



AU Ralph Brown Draughon Library (Auburn)
Auburn's 1960s football program covers



Aubie the Tiger, beloved ambassador of Auburn athletics, has won more Mascot of the Year titles (nine) than any other anthropomorphic totem in college sports. He leapt onto the scene looking rather fierce, however.



In 1959, Auburn commissioned longtime *Birmingham Post-Herald* cartoonist Phil Neel to design the program cover for its home opener against Hardin-Simmons (see image on page 16). That original unnamed Aubie looks nothing like the more lovable, but still mischievous, character who materialized in Neel's series of iconic covers over the next 18 years. (Auburn went 63-16-2 during that run, making Aubie something of a good-luck charm.) The Tigers brought Neel and Aubie back in 1991 to commemorate Auburn's last "home game" at Birmingham's Legion Field.



In 2020, the *War Eagle Reader* reported that Neel had shopped his sketches to pretty much any school with a tiger mascot in

the late 1950s. Auburn was the first to jump on the opportunity. But Clemson also signed a deal with the moonlighting cartoonist, who created at least 49 covers featuring a suspiciously similar tiger named Clem. Worlds collided whenever the rivals met, with the home team's big cat starring on the program cover.

Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum (Birmingham)
Brabham BT8 (SC-1-65) 1965 race car



Barber Motorsports Park and Museum houses more than 1,700 vintage motorcycles and race cars. But this car carries a special connection to the museum's owner.

It's one of only 12 Brabham BT8 cars ever produced, all between 1964 and 1966. According to *Classic Driver* magazine, the Brabham dominated every class of open-wheel formula racing in the 1960s. And when George W. Barber bought the BT8 for his namesake museum in 2019, it was a homecoming of sorts.

Barber owned his family's famed Alabama dairy long before he owned a motorsports park, but even back in the 1960s he was probably more passionate about racecars than milk. During the decade, he raced professionally, running mostly Porsches to 63 first-place finishes. But in 1967-1968, he also raced this Brabham BT8, which flashed a different paint job and number back then. The museum has a 1968 picture of Barber in the car, surrounded by his pit crew, prepping for a Sports Car Club of America race in Courtland, Alabama.

Hank Aaron Childhood Home and Museum (Mobile)
Hank Aaron's childhood home



The Hammer. Hank. The Home Run King. Henry Louis Aaron is a baseball legend, a Hall of Famer who broke Babe Ruth's iconic home run record. He is also a son of Mobile who grew up in a Toulminville home hand-built by his father, Herbert, a riveter at the Alabama Dry Dock

and Shipbuilding Company. Aaron biographer Howard Bryant writes that Herbert collected ship timbers from Pinto Island to construct the house; six-year-old Henry gathered additional wood from abandoned buildings, including some that had partially burned.

This home is where Aaron nurtured his dream of becoming a baseball player, and it provided a rare sense of security for him and his seven siblings. "The only people who owned their homes then," he often said, "were rich people, and the Aarons." Aaron lived here until he left Mobile for his first professional opportunity with the Negro Leagues' Indianapolis Clowns in 1952.

Today the home is an artifact itself, filled with items from Aaron's childhood and memorabilia from the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Currently the home is being relocated in downtown Mobile with a reopening expected in late 2022.

International Motorsports Hall of Fame (Talladega)
Dale Earnhardt's Goodwrench Chevrolet No. 3 car

Despite hailing from North Carolina, Dale Earnhardt is synonymous with Talladega. "The Intimidator" won a

record 10 premier series races on the notoriously high-banked track. And as Mike Raita, executive director of the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, notes, “The impact his death had on both the culture and safety of NASCAR cannot be understated, and Talladega is one of the places that impact was felt most.”

Tension had been brewing for years between NASCAR’s corporate leadership and old-school drivers like Earnhardt, with the adoption of advanced safety measures being one major flashpoint. Ironically, Earnhardt’s death in a 2001 Daytona crash led directly to NASCAR’s adoption of the HANS head and neck restraint. Although the device was controversial at the time, racers like Jeff Gordon and Ryan Newman have since credited it with saving their lives.

Earnhardt’s death also cleared resistance to NASCAR’s development of a standardized and safer “Car of Tomorrow,” which made one of its first appearances on the Talladega track. “Until then, the fan could tell a Chevy from a Ford from a Dodge,” Raita says. “With the advent of the Car of Tomorrow, the only differences were the decals...Dale Earnhardt would have hated that car, and it would have been difficult for NASCAR brass to fight him on that.”

Jesse Owens Museum and Memorial Park (Oakville) Flag from the 1936 Olympics



When Jesse Owens won his gold medal in the long jump — one of four he earned in the 1936 Berlin Olympics — Adolf Hitler was watching. So was Carl R. Burt, who purchased this flag as a souvenir. It depicts the 49 nations that competed in the Olympics that year, along with two swastikas that offer a haunting reminder of the war that soon followed.

Burt’s daughter, Beth McGovney of Boise, Idaho, donated the flag to the museum along with photos that illustrate the experience of attending the “Nazi Games.” One image shows Burt and a friend traveling to Berlin as third-class passengers on the transatlantic steamship *Normandie*. Another features them in front of the *Olympiastadion* where Owens made history.

Burt’s attendance at the 1936 Olympics also is preserved in another way. Leni Riefenstahl — the notorious German filmmaker best known for the Nazi propaganda film *Triumph of the Will* — chronicled the Berlin Games in the documentary *Olympia*. Burt appears prominently in closeups, cheering on Owens in the long jump from “seats so close to Hitler’s box, they also saw Hitler’s fury,” McGovney notes. *Olympia* footage also appears in *Jesse Owens Returns to Berlin*, a 1964 documentary recounting the champion’s achievements; the film plays regularly in the museum’s theater.

Moundville Archaeological Park (Moundville) Chunkey stone and stickball sticks

For centuries, long before baseball or football, chunkey was the most popular pastime in the Southeast. The Native American game featured a disc of polished stone that belonged to the entire town. One man rolled the stone on a “chunkey” yard, and he and his competitor threw wooden poles at it to score points.

By the 1800s, stickball had become the game of choice. Similar to lacrosse, which originated with the Iroquois, stickball differs in its use of two ball sticks, or *kapocha*, each about 2.5 feet long and typically made of hickory. Moundville’s stickball collection (see image on page 16) features two *kapocha* made in 1990 by Wood Bell, a Choctaw craftsman. The larger stick is the *Inki*, or Father stick; the smaller is the *Ishk*, or Mother stick. Players score when they throw the ball between two poles or hit one of the poles.

Stickball games could be violent and chaotic, sometimes with hundreds of players from different towns competing for prestige, wagered wealth, or territory. Another version of the game pitted men against women in a contest that was more social than competitive. Today, stickball remains a popular way for Creek and Choctaw members to preserve and share their cultural heritage, often at tribal fairs statewide.

Museum of Alabama (Montgomery) Justice Hugo Black’s tennis racket

Alabama’s Hugo Black served 34 years on the U.S. Supreme Court as one of the 20th century’s most influential justices. But he would have preferred to spend more time on another court, according to



his daughter Josephine Black Pesaresi. “The most important things in my father’s life were Alabama, the Constitution, his books, and the tennis court — and not necessarily in that order,” she said in *Of Courtiers and Kings: More Stories of Supreme Court Law Clerks and Their Justices*.

Black used the sport to recharge and to connect with his law clerks. “It wasn’t the tennis per se [which enriched the clerkship experience],” explains [former clerk John W.] Vardaman in *Of Courtiers and Kings*. “It was the opportunity to go out to the house, play tennis, and then socialize with the Judge. It turned the relationship from professional to personal.” At the holidays, Black’s law clerks often reciprocated with tennis-related presents. In one thank-you letter to a former clerk who had gifted him a box of tennis balls, Justice Black wrote, “You know where my heart is.”

The tennis racket at the Museum of Alabama (see image on page 16) is the last racket Black used.

National Speleological Society Museum (Huntsville) “John W. Cole” Rappel Rack



Alabama’s landscape is swiss-cheesed with more than 4,700 caves, many with vertical shafts dropping 50 to 400 feet. So it’s only natural that an Alabamian invented one of the world’s most important caving safety devices.

“The early 1960s were the heyday of caving in north Alabama, and many of the deeper pits were being discovered for the first time by members of the Huntsville Grotto, the local caving club of the National Speleological Society,” says museum curator Scott Shaw. (Huntsville is headquarters for the society, the world’s largest organization dedicated to caving and cave preservation.) Deeper pits require longer ropes, but friction from the weight of those ropes could lead to uncontrollable descents, Shaw explains.

In 1966, Huntsville Grotto member John W. Cole developed a solution that he called “the rack.” It consisted of six movable brake bars on a steel J-frame, allowing a caver to vary the friction during a descent. Cole made his earliest models (like the one pictured) in his garage, giving them to friends and fellow cavers. Eventually, the rack became the preferred device in the U.S for safer, controlled rappels into pits of any depth. It’s still widely used by cavers and high-angle rescue technicians due to its strength and versatility.

Negro Southern League Museum (Birmingham) Satchel Paige’s 1940s game uniform

Dr. Layton Revel, founder and executive director of the Center for Negro League Baseball Research, puts it succinctly: Leroy “Satchel” Paige “was unquestionably one of the greatest pitchers of all time.” He was also one of the sport’s most colorful characters, and one who loved the game deeply.

The Mobile native’s pro career began in 1926 and spanned 40 years. Paige played for Negro League teams like the Birmingham Black Barons, Pittsburgh Crawfords, and Kansas City Monarchs. During the off-season, his barnstorming Satchel Paige All-Stars often competed in integrated matchups against other famous all-star teams. Paige also played Major League baseball with the Cleveland Indians (1948-1949) and the St. Louis Browns (1951-1953).

Quite the journey for a poor kid who first left Mobile under court order. In 1918, Paige had lifted some trinkets from a local five-and-dime store. As historian Donald Spivey notes, “Barely twelve years old, and with his mother sobbing at his side, Leroy was sentenced to serve five years in reform school [at Mount Meigs]. The major crime, Leroy Paige reminisced many years later, was that ‘I was a n----- kid.’”

In 1971, Paige became the first Negro League veteran selected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



Paul W. Bryant Museum (Tuscaloosa) Drawings by second-grade students, 1983



On January 28, 1983, the day Paul W. “Bear” Bryant was buried, an estimated 500,000 to 750,000 people paid tribute, wrote Paul Finebaum, then a *Birmingham Post-Herald* reporter. Mourners journeyed to Bryant’s Tuscaloosa church and the Birmingham cemetery where he was laid to rest, and they lined every overpass, sidewalk, and field along the funeral procession.



Those who couldn't go remembered Bryant in their own way. At Hoover's Green Valley Elementary, art teacher Ann Downing — as heartbroken as her second-grade students — suggested they draw something that reminded them of Bryant. Their artwork — peppered with footballs, elephants, crimson A's, and earnest, misspelled grief — hung on the walls for weeks. Eventually, the art was mailed to the Bear's widow, Mary Harmon Bryant.

In 2018, *Alabama Alumni Magazine* ran a story about rediscovering the art in the Bryant Museum Library's collections. One of those former students, Brian Waldroup, said, "When I was really young, I remember going to a game with my dad when Bryant was coaching. I was probably in first grade. I can't tell you if they won or who they played...but I do remember when Bear Bryant died."

Savery Library (Talladega)

Talladega College 1920 football team photo



Which school lays claim to bringing home the state's first national football championship? The answer does not reside in Tuscaloosa or on the Plains. The answer is Talladega College; the year, 1920.

Known as Alabama's first private, historically Black college, the Talladega Crimson Tornadoes (as they were then known), became founding members, in 1913, of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. In 1920, the program won its first Black College Football National Championship; the next year they won their second. Talladega's back-to-back titles kicked off a decade of dominance by Alabama HBCUs, bookended by a Tuskegee dynasty about 100 miles south. The Golden Tigers won national Black College titles in 1924-1927 and again in 1929-1930.

Talladega, meanwhile, would remain a football powerhouse for another two decades, says Perry Trice,

librarian and college archivist. However, in 1941, the program was "temporarily disbanded," Trice notes. "The second world war left the school with too few male students and too many financial hardships." New post-war priorities at the school later made football's "temporary" suspension permanent. Until, perhaps, now. Eighty years after its last competitive football game, Talladega College is studying the viability of bringing the sport back to campus.

Warner Transportation Museum (Tuscaloosa) Queen City Park swimming pool fountain

The University of Alabama's Transportation Museum offers plenty of clues about its former life as a community pool, built in 1943 as a Works Progress Administration



project. Aqua-tiled walls retain their "DON'T RUN" warnings inside the former bathhouse. An art deco fountain, wading pool, and bleachers surround the site. Concrete corners of the pool itself, filled in and sodded over in the 1980s, still peek out of the earth to note a 10.5-foot depth for long-gone swimmers.

The Alabama Humanities Alliance recently awarded a grant to the university's Department of History to support *Swimming Together: A Brief History of Swimming in Tuscaloosa and Across America*, an exhibit on display through August 27, 2022. *Swimming Together* traces the pool's history within the broader context of public pools nationwide, examines its path from segregation to integration, and invites residents to share how and where they learned to swim.

"The decline of community pools like the Queen City Pool occurred throughout the nation, and Tuscaloosa was not immune," notes writer and urban designer Hannah S. Palmer. "However...we have the ability to make the old pool and bathhouse into an inviting space to explore and enjoy without hiding the pool's complicated, often painful history."

Edited by Charles Buchanan and Phillip Jordan. Opening illustration by Hagen Baker. Photos courtesy of submitting institutions. *Borzov the Sprinter* and *The Iron Bowl* photos by Brock Larsen. Phil Neel art (Auburn football covers) used with permission of the Neel family and the Phil Neel Art Agency. Stickball photo courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives & History; donated by Alabama Media Group, photo by Clark Stallworth, *Birmingham News*.

A Hall pick six

Since 1969, the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame has inducted 385 members, and its three-story home in Birmingham now houses more than 6,000 items related to its honorees. Here are six artifacts that help tell the story of these athletes and the state they've called home.

Red Farmer's racing helmet

Red Farmer, a charter member of The Alabama Gang, once listed his racing injuries thusly: "broken right ankle, broken right foot, left leg broken on three occasions, left kneecap removed, two vertebrae in back broken, six ribs broken, cheekbone broken, burns on 40 percent of body..." And that list, according to longtime *Birmingham News* columnist Clyde Bolton, was accurate as of 1971. Fifty-plus years and some 700 wins later, you can still find Farmer racing Saturday nights at the Talladega Dirt Track. (See helmet on page 16.)

Charley Boswell's putter

Captain Charley Boswell lost his sight in a 1944 battle in Lindern, Germany. Back home, the former Alabama football and baseball player took up a new sport — golf. Boswell became the most renowned blind golfer in the world, winning 37 national and international blind golf championships. Bob Hope once called him "America's greatest inspiration."

Howard Hill's arrow and tusks

A multi-sport star at Auburn in the early 1900s, Howard Hill became a big-game hunter and a trick-shot artist known as the World's Greatest Archer. He earned his sobriquet with 196 straight archery tournament victories in a 16-year span. Hill is best remembered today as a bow-and-arrow stuntman in Hollywood for films such as *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938).

Troy basketball net from 258-point game

On January 12, 1992, Troy State (now Troy University) scored an NCAA-record 258 points. Their opponent tallied 141 — and lost by 117. From the next day's *Birmingham News*: "Do not adjust your newspaper. Do not call Ripley. This is the actual score of an actual college basketball game played Sunday afternoon in Troy State's Sartain Hall. Believe it or not."

Piper Davis' baseball glove

Willie Mays' mentor. A Harlem Globetrotter in his offseasons. An all-star player, manager, and scout who many contemporaries believed could have integrated the majors before Jackie Robinson. Lorenzo "Piper" Davis' life is the story of Black baseball in Alabama in the 20th century — from the industrial leagues to the South's greatest Negro League team, the Black Barons of Birmingham. (See glove on page 16.)



Alice Coachman's track shoes

In London, 1948, Alice Marie Coachman high-jumped five feet, six and a half inches to become the first Black woman to win an Olympic gold medal. In all, the Tuskegee Flash won 36 track and field national championships and helped open the doors for more women to participate in the sport.

AHA sports and recreation grantees

In recent years, the Alabama Humanities Alliance has supported several places and projects that explore the intersection of sports and culture, history and humanity.

Alabama Public Humanities Grants:

- Paul W. Bryant Museum | *Breaking the Color Barrier* exhibit
- University of Alabama Center for Television and Radio | *Hometown Teams: Stories from the Box* project
- University of Alabama Department of History | *Swimming Together* exhibit
- Vulcan Park and Museum | *Alabama's Auto Racing Legacy* exhibit

COVID-19 relief and recovery funding:

- Friends of Rickwood Field
- Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum
- Launch 2035 – Singing River Trail
- Negro Southern League Museum

Learn more about funding opportunities for public humanities projects at alabamahumanities.org/grants.

There's magic
when we cheer
together



Coca-Cola®

Real Magic™

© 2022 The Coca-Cola Company.

Archery



The World Games

2022 BIRMINGHAM, USA



A national pastime, shared

Tracing the roots of Cuban baseball to Mobile's Spring Hill College

By Phillip Jordan

The tale sounds apocryphal. Four Cuban boys sail to Mobile from their native Havana just before the American Civil War. They earn an education amid the hardships of war, all while falling in love with a fledgling game called “base ball.” Eventually, they slip through a Yankee blockade to return home — bringing with them the first bat and ball ever seen in Cuba.

Yes, the story lends itself to embellishment. But amid the myths are these truths: Nemesio and Ernesto Guilló, along with their friends Enrique Porto and Lorenzo Bridat, did attend Mobile's Spring Hill College from around 1858 to 1864. They learned to play baseball there. And they became evangelists for the sport back home, teaching other boys the game in Havana and founding the country's first baseball club.

Nemesio, in fact, was widely regarded as a founding father of the sport — a sport that helped shape an emerging Cuba's national identity. He is enshrined in the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame. Since the 1959 revolution, however, Nemesio and the other “Spring Hill boys” have largely faded from Cuban memory.

“We cannot talk about the history of Cuban baseball, about the greatness of Cuban baseball, without

highlighting the role of the Guilló brothers and Enrique Porto, of the City of Mobile and Spring Hill College,” says the writer Reynaldo Cruz Díaz, founder of *Universo Béisbol* and a member of the Society for American Baseball Research. “It would not only be unfair, it would be a huge mistake.”

From Havana to Mobile

Six hundred miles apart, Mobile and Havana have traded goods and culture for more than three centuries under multiple flags. By the mid-1800s, Mobile was one of several American cities where wealthier Cuban families commonly sent their sons to be educated — most often in a Catholic college.

According to a 1924 Havana newspaper story, the Guilló brothers and Enrique Porto traveled to Mobile in 1858 “in a fragile sailing boat.” However, as sons of a prosperous sugarcane merchant, the Guillós are just as likely to have come via the *Black Warrior*. The black-hulled sidewheel steamer docked in Mobile twice a week, dropping off and picking up passengers and mail midway on its Havana-New York route.

The city the boys discovered on arrival was one of the country's busiest ports, Mobile Bay a revolving door of



steamboats, sloops, brigs, and rowboats. “The docks would have been teeming with activity,” says John Sledge, an author and architectural historian for the city of Mobile. “You would have had stevedores of all colors speaking multiple languages, loading and unloading cargo. Cotton piled high. Barrels, cordage, coal.”

Once on dry land, the Cubans would have taken a horse and cart six miles inland to Spring Hill College. The all-male Jesuit college was not yet 30 years old, and its campus was still overrun by deer and brush. But its hilltop location was considered a safe haven from yellow fever and malaria outbreaks. Here, the young Cubans’ academic and baseball education would begin.

Spring Hill in session

In 1858, going by Spring Hill’s records, Ernesto and Nemesio would have been around 13 and 11. The Guillós and their friends were enrolled in Spring Hill’s preparatory “commercial” course instead of a traditional college baccalaureate program.

We don’t know for certain how the boys first learned to play baseball. One guess is that they picked it up from soldiers stationed in town. The Civil War spread the sport nationwide as both Union and Confederate soldiers played it in their camps.

But Father Christopher Viscardi, who has written about Spring Hill’s history, says students were already playing baseball on campus by then. While no college documents from the time confirm the sport’s presence (an 1869 fire at Spring Hill led to a loss of many records), students were clearly familiar with — and proficient at — baseball before 1870. Early that year, a Spring Hill vice president wrote about how “a base ball club comes from Mobile to challenge our boys.” The visitors, he notes, bear a resemblance to “wharf rats.” Ultimately, “victory decides for the college and it is decided that no match will ever take place [again] on Sunday — and that [here] forward a club must be known before it is admitted to our play ground.”

The Guillós and their friends would have played on campus in areas known as the Small Yard and the Big Yard. The Big Yard was reserved for older boys. In 1889, it would be converted into a proper baseball field for the school’s official league team. Today, Stan Galle Field, affectionately known as “The Pit,” claims to be the oldest continually operating baseball diamond in the United States.

The boys bore witness to a changing city during their time at Spring Hill. The *Clotilda*, the last known slave

ship to arrive in the U.S., snuck up the Mobile River in 1860s. The Civil War brought fear and deprivation, along with yellow fever outbreaks and food riots. And an omnipresent U.S. Navy blockade delayed the boys’ return home.

College documents suggest both Guilló brothers joined the Spring Hill Lancers, becoming cadets in the 89th Alabama State Militia Home Guard.

On April 9, 1862, Ernesto Guilló wrote to his “dear brother” Edward, lamenting the Union fleet’s presence: “Every day I pray to Him that he may give power to the Southerners that they may [end] the blockade...so that I may go home, and give a kiss to my dear father, to you and to my dear sisters.”

Ernesto finally got his wish in 1864. Records show the brothers left Spring Hill that year, almost surely before the Battle of Mobile Bay in August that presaged the city’s fall. They likely slipped out via a blockade-running schooner, perhaps sharing space with a load of Confederate cotton the ship’s owner intended to sell in Havana. And a bat and ball tucked into Nemesio’s steamer trunk.

Another national pastime

Within a day of returning home, the young Spring Hill alumni were already practicing their newfound sport, according to a 1924 recounting in *Diario de la Marina*. In their drills, three balls caught in the air, or on the first bounce, counted as three outs — the bat then changed hands to another boy. By 1868, the boys — now young men — formed the Habana Base Ball Club. On the roster of Cuba’s first official baseball team: Ernesto Guilló,



Nemesio Guilló.



Above: *Black Warrior at Sea* (1852), by James Bard. Courtesy of Vallejo Gallery (CA). Opposite page: Turn-of-the-century baseball game at Spring Hill College. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



At left: Late 1860s Cuban tobacco package label. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. Above: Spring Hill's "Junior" baseball team, circa 1901. Courtesy of Spring Hill College.

Nemesio Guilló, and Lorenzo Bridat, along with Esteban Bellán, who would later become the first Latin American professional baseball player in the United States.

Havana's first opponent, according to Major League Baseball (MLB) historian John Thorn, consisted of sailors from a schooner anchored in the Bay of Matanzas who challenged the Cubans to a game. The 1924 *Diario* article asserts this outcome: "The Cubans from Havana gave a sovereign beating to the American sailors and returned to the capital proud of their feat, thus spreading enthusiasm for [baseball]."

As the Guilló brothers' new game spread in popularity, the Spanish regime in Havana increasingly viewed the "American invention as vaguely secessionist and dangerously violent because of the use of sticks," notes Cuban American scholar Roberto González Echevarría in *The Pride of Havana: A History of Cuban Baseball*.

Spanish suppression of baseball during *Guerra Grande*, the Ten Years' War, delayed the creation of a formal, professional baseball league until 1878. But the sport wasn't at a standstill. A December 31, 1874, article in Havana's *El Artista* chronicles what's remembered as the country's first official game — a contest between the Guilló brothers' Havana club and a Matanzas team at the historic Palmar de Junco.

Ernesto had retired by this time, but Nemesio, batting leadoff, led Havana to a 51-9 win before the game was called due to darkness. This surely wasn't the first baseball game contested in Cuba. But because it took place during the *Guerra Grande* war for independence, Echevarría explains, it captured Cubans' imagination and stoked an enduring love for the sport.

When hostilities ceased, Cuba hosted its first national championship in December 1878, a round-robin tournament among Havana, Matanzas, and Almendares. Nemesio Guilló and the Habana Base Ball Club won, 14 years after the famed Guilló bat and ball journeyed from Mobile to Havana.

Twin baseball legacies

Cuba's 19th-century Spring Hill contingent left an imprint on two nations. In Mobile, the boys joined many across the city to help popularize the game. Today, five Mobilians — Hank Aaron, Willie McCovey, Satchel Paige, Ozzie Smith, and Billy Williams — are in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. That's more, per capita, than from any other city in the United States.

Six Cuban-born players are in Cooperstown — Martín Dihigo, José de la Caridad Méndez, Minnie Miñoso, Tony Oliva, Tony Pérez, and Cristóbal Torriente. And until the 1959 revolution, Cuba sent more players to the Major Leagues and Negro Leagues than any other country outside the United States.

Baseball remains a defining symbol of Cuba, and a force that has withstood communism. Fidel Castro may have eliminated Cuba's professional baseball league, but he could not bear to shutter the "Yankee" sport altogether. He loved it too much.

Baseball also remains a touchstone of the Cuba-U.S. relationship. "Today, even after decades of diplomatic hostility — never shared by the two peoples — the game older than either nation continues to be the tie that binds," says MLB historian John Thorn.



As for Spring Hill’s pioneering baseball alumni: Enrique Porto never played competitively but became Cuba’s health secretary. Ernesto was one of the most important umpires in Cuban baseball history. And Nemesio carved out time beyond the playing field to serve as captain of Havana’s fire department, a municipal works administrator, a banker — all in all “an immaculate citizen,” wrote Carlos Ayala in a 1918 profile on Nemesio in Havana’s *El Imparcial*.

He also was beloved in his time. Here’s Ayala’s closing paragraph from his 1918 story: “Vigorous and sober, Nemesio has reached 71 years of age, strong and agile, capable of [still] hitting the ball accurately and roughly with his bat. Of a cheerful and kind character...all those who have dealt with him are his friends. And when we see him in the morning crossing, newspaper in hand, down Calle del Opispo toward his office...we are delighted to see how the Sun still sends its kisses to the old sportsman who we all love as a brother.”

Thanks to Bret A. Heim, Spring Hill College director of library and instructional resources, for research assistance. And to Giselle San Roman with the Society Mobile-La Habana for translation support.

From mound to marker

This fall, baseball fans and representatives from Mobile and Havana will gather where the “Spring Hill boys” first played the sport in their Vedado neighborhood in 1864. A historical plaque will mark the spot’s baseball history and the connection between the two cities.

The marker was commissioned by the Society Mobile-La Habana, the sister city organization established in 1993. It reads, in part: “From these humble beginnings at Spring Hill College and the efforts of these young men, baseball has now come to be a part of Cuba’s popular culture and the national pastime.”

In 2019, the society also sponsored a short documentary by filmmakers Reynaldo Cruz Díaz and Yasel Porto.

Next up, the society will publish

a book about the intertwining histories of the two cities. Written in English and Spanish, *Mobile and Havana: Sisters Across the Gulf* will be authored by John Sledge (Mobile) and Alicia García Santana (Havana), with photographs by Chip Cooper and Julio Larramendi.



HUMANITIES

College of ARTS, SCIENCES, and ENGINEERING

Study online, on campus, or both!

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

English
 French or German, B.A.
 Spanish, B.A. 🌐
 History, B.A. or B.S. 🌐
 Social Science, B.A. or B.S.

GRADUATE MAJORS

English, M.A.
 Writing, M.A. 🌐
 History, M.A. 🌐
 Public History, M.A. 🌐

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

una.edu/case • 256.765.4288 • case@una.edu



@CASEatUNA

Four Downs with Rece Davis

ESPN anchor and Alabama native offers four transcendent moments in state's football history

By Rece Davis

A lot of places like football. Many love football. In Alabama, we *live* football. From Wallace Wade's Tide putting Southern football on the map in the 1926 Rose Bowl, to the greatest dynasty in the sport's history under Nick Saban, to legendary players like Bo Jackson and Pat Sullivan, football isn't just a game here. It's a shared culture, a part of our identity. And its cultural impact is nearly impossible to narrow to four moments...



Rece Davis on the set of College GameDay in Tuscaloosa, 2019. Photo by Phil Ellsworth, courtesy of ESPN Images.

No. 1: John Mitchell's tackle. The 1970 USC-Alabama clash in Birmingham had carried enormous societal impact in the state. A year after Wilbur Jackson became the Tide's first Black scholarship player, Sam Cunningham's virtuoso performance opened the eyes, and presumably the hearts, of many in Alabama. But the following season also delivered a landmark moment, one too often overlooked. In 1971, Alabama opened at USC. Opening kickoff, John Mitchell — the first Black player to take the field for the Tide — makes the tackle. A Hollywood moment at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Think about that. A young man who grew up in the state, believing he wouldn't be allowed to play for the University of Alabama, makes the play the very first opportunity he gets. Powerful.

No. 2: Mama called. Paul "Bear" Bryant's return to Alabama in 1958 restored dignity to a proud but languishing program. Bryant was a hero, not just because he won championships. He identified with many of the people in the state who revered him. And never forgot his meager roots. His mantra "If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride — and never quit — you'll be a winner" resonated deeply with many who came from similar backgrounds as Bryant. He remains an icon whose name is still spoken in near-reverence, with streets, stadiums, schools, pets, and generations of children named after him.

No. 3: Nick Saban comes to Alabama. The throng of Tide faithful waiting at the Tuscaloosa airport in 2007 seemed to stun the typically unflappable Saban. If the sheer number of fans didn't open his eyes, the giant kiss planted on him by one overjoyed woman certainly did. Outsiders derided Alabama fans about how they'd "never be what they were under Bryant." Alabama *isn't* what it was under Bryant. With all due respect, it's better. No program in history has matched what Saban has done. And his tenure has elevated the stature of the university as a whole. Saban's nearly \$10 million salary is huge. But relative to his broader impact, he's not only been worth every penny. He's probably underpaid.

No. 4: Auburn's answers: Cam Newton & Kick Six. In 2010, Auburn answered Saban's first national title at Alabama with one of its own. Those Tigers were led by Cam Newton, who in one season on the Plains proved to be one of the greatest, most entertaining players in SEC history. The "Cam-back" game at Bryant-Denny saved the Tigers' title hopes and he sealed them by leading the championship-clinching drive against Oregon. Three years later, Chris Davis' iconic return of a missed Alabama field goal, as time expired, denied the Tide a likely third consecutive national title. The play became an indelible part of college football lore and a permanent needle to stick in the sides of Alabama fans. The rivalry is part of the fabric of our state. For better or worse. Auburn's answers upped the intensity and provided a foil to the Tide's Saban-era dynasty.



YOU'LL FIND MORE THAN A COLLEGE ON

THE HILLTOP

YOU'LL FIND A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY.

BSC Birmingham-Southern College

bsc.edu

75%
of recent seniors
CONDUCTED
INTERNSHIPS

250+
COMMUNITY AND
BUSINESS LEADERS
MENTOR STUDENTS

88%
of students engage in
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

9 tuition exchange
PARTNERS
WORLDWIDE

12-WEEK
DATA
SCIENCE
PROGRAM

4 WEEKS OF
EXPLORATION
TERM



One of the
TOP
20
BEST VALUE
schools in the U.S.

Suffrage Day at Rickwood Field, 1915

How Alabama's suffragists went to bat for the right to vote

By Alex Colvin

The Alabama Equal Suffrage Association (AESA) achieved an important victory on January 22, 1915. On that day, Rep. Joseph W. Green of Dallas County introduced a suffrage bill in the Alabama House of Representatives. The bill read: "The right of the citizens of this State to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex." After three years of lobbying legislators and educating the public, the AESA's goal of obtaining state legislation for women's suffrage was within sight.

Suffragists knew they could not rely on lectures and fliers alone to sway Alabamians indifferent to their cause. They also connected their movement to the popular culture of the day. They decided to play a game, a baseball game.

But the introduction of this bill, while a significant step, was only the beginning. In addition to proving their political acuity, Alabama suffragists also needed to assure wary politicians that they weren't fighting on behalf of their equally disenfranchised African American neighbors. Indeed, the all-white AESA had no intention of undermining the recent voting restrictions baked into the state's 1901 constitution; the organization distanced itself from parallel Black movements fighting for the vote, such as the Tuskegee Woman's Club.

To convince state legislators to pass the bill, AESA suffragists embarked on a seven-month campaign of luncheons and lectures, pamphlets and columns. Bossie O'Brien Hundley and Lillian Bowron, two Birmingham suffrage leaders, traversed the state in a Hudson Six to promote the amendment and gather signatures for a pro-suffrage petition. But suffragists knew they could not rely on lectures and fliers alone to sway Alabamians indifferent to their cause. They also connected their movement to the popular culture of the day.

They decided to play a game, a baseball game.

The AESA's Birmingham chapter planned a "Suffrage Day" at Rickwood Field, home of the Birmingham Barons. Founded in 1885, the Barons joined the newly formed Southern Association in 1901. In 1909, Rick Woodward, an iron industrialist, bought the team; Rickwood Field debuted the following year. After consulting with the team's managers, the AESA announced that they would co-sponsor a "Suffrage Day" event on August 18, 1915. The Barons were to play the rival Chattanooga Lookouts. Local newspapers promoted the game, promising "delightful and novel



Aerial view of Rickwood Field, circa 1920. Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives & History. Donated by Alabama Media Group. Unknown photographer, *Birmingham News*.

schemes" to make "the day a memorable one in the baseball annals of Birmingham." This unique game would be full of prizes, suffrage interviews with the players, and lively music. The publicity proved successful. The *Birmingham News* later reported "one of the best baseball crowds of the season" in attendance.

VOTES FOR WOMEN



A collage of photos from *The Birmingham News*' August 19, 1915, coverage of the Suffrage Day game. Top left: Bessemer and Birmingham suffrage teams. Top right: Barons owner Rick Woodward and pitcher Dick Robertson wearing suffrage sashes. Bottom row, left to right: Bessemer winning pitcher Lula Riggs; longtime Barons manager Carlton Molesworth; women joining the men in the press box atop Rickwood Field's roof. Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives & History.



Pattie Ruffner Jacobs, circa 1915. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

As fans entered the ballpark on that Wednesday, they encountered bright yellow “Votes for Women” banners fluttering in the breeze. Accompanying posters bearing the words “Justice” and “Equal Rights” hung from the railings. Yellow, the primary color of the suffrage movement, was everywhere. Women dressed head-to-toe in yellow frocks, sashes, and hair ribbons distributed hundreds of yellow pro-suffrage pamphlets. Barons players, coaches, and managers donned belts and

“Votes for Women” sashes to show solidarity. The press box, a space usually reserved for male sports reporters, invited suffragists inside to watch the game. It was there that Pattie Ruffner Jacobs, Birmingham suffragist and AESA president, proudly sat to watch the Barons play.

In an exhibition inning, all-female teams from Birmingham and Bessemer took to the field to show they could play the game “just as the men do.” While the runs scored did not count in the official tally, spectators got to witness the abilities of these young women. Following this inning, which the Bessemer team won, the Barons and the Lookouts took the field.

During the game, the suffragists provided prizes — from a hat to a yellow tie and more — to the Barons player

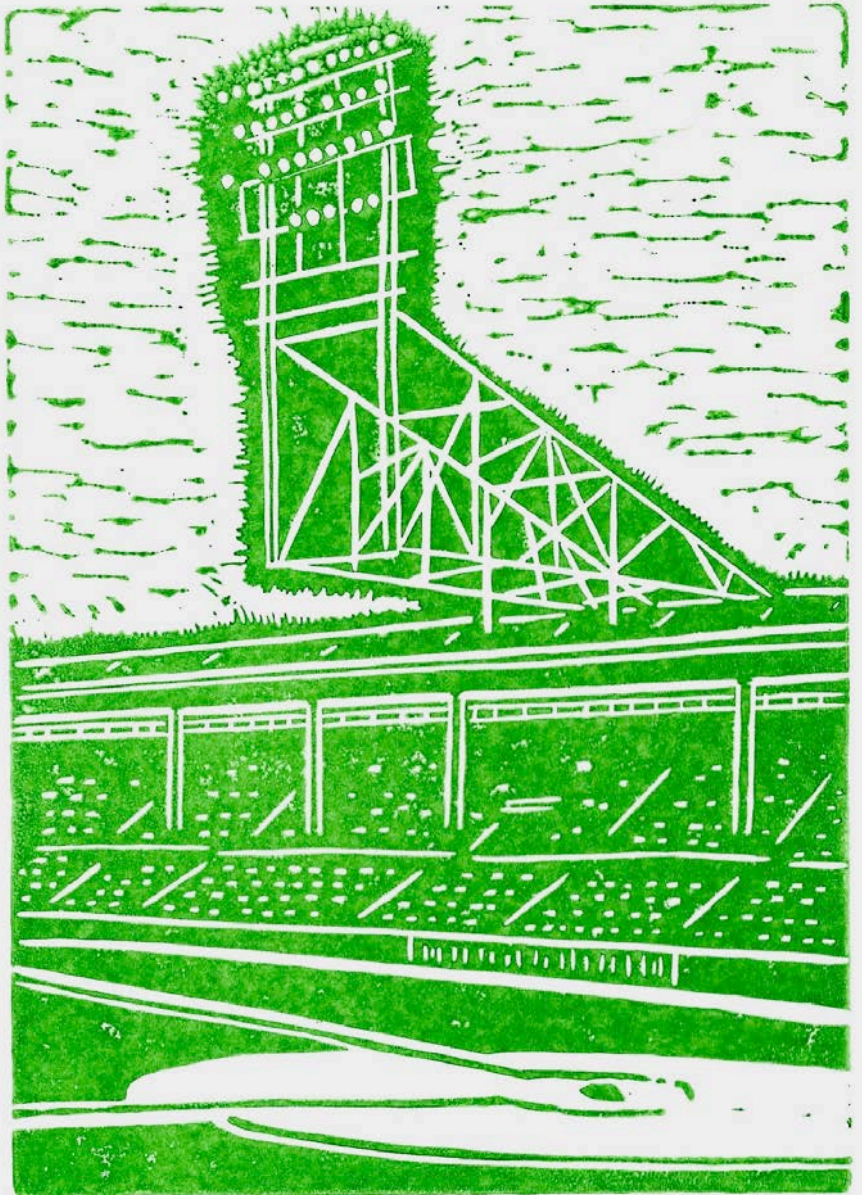
“Votes for Women” gold ribbon, circa 1911. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

with the first hit and to the most enthusiastic female and male fans in the stands. Between innings, they played suffrage anthems, including “It’s a Long Way to Suffrage,” as the women proudly sang along: “It’s a long way to woman suffrage; But watch how they grow/So it’s good-bye, voteless woman; Farewell, ‘antis,’ dear/ It’s been a long way to woman suffrage; but it’s almost here.” The suffragists nominated Alfred Turner, a four-year-old Barons fan, to be their mascot. Not only did the youngster cheer for a baseball victory, he also expected “to cast his first vote for a woman” when he came of age, and he expressed confidence that women would also be running for public office by then.

As reported by the press, the game itself was “unusual” in that neither team scored a run during the nine innings. Despite the scoreless outcome, the game proved a memorable experience for patrons and good exposure for the suffrage movement. After all their hard work, the AESA felt confident that the legislature would pass the suffrage bill. The *Montgomery Advertiser*, a newspaper generally unsupportive of the suffrage cause, boasted a headline on August 24, 1915, that read: “Woman Suffrage Amendment Will Pass Legislature.” But the very next day, August 25, the House voted down the bill. Even Representative Green, who had introduced the measure, voted against it.

Green defended his decision this way: “I am now firmly convinced the adoption of this measure would be most unwise and fraught with great political danger...To confer suffrage on women in the South would double the negro problem by adding to it the more vicious and aggressive element of the race.”

This outcome delayed the suffrage cause in Alabama, but it did not destroy it. Earlier that year, the AESA had published a suffrage bulletin proudly stating, “We suffragists are in to win.” Pattie Ruffner Jacobs and others encouraged the AESA to focus their attention on a federal amendment. As a sports reporter might say,



Rickwood Field, block print on paper, Charles Buchanan.

Alabama suffragists in 1915 may have lost an inning, but by 1920 they would win the game.

On August 18, 1920 — five years to the day of the Rickwood game — the 19th Amendment secured the vote for women nationwide; except, of course, for where federal law ran up against the Jim Crow South. “Suffrage Day” at Rickwood Field reminds us how widely debated the vote for women was in 1915, and how far out of reach suffrage remained for Black Alabamians.

This article is adapted from an Alabama Department of Archives & History catalog published for its 2021-2022 exhibition, *Justice Not Favor: Alabama Women & the Vote*.



Preserving Tradition

Descended from the native peoples of the Mississippian period (AD 800-1500), our ancestors endured great hardship and discrimination after the Indian Removal Act with an indomitable spirit, nobility and grace. Our Tribe became empowered with a strong mission to provide for ourselves and the communities in which we live with a dedication to service, philanthropy and the revitalization of traditional arts and culture.

The story of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is a true American success story—one of strength, perseverance, and prosperity.

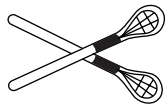
ALABAMA NATIVES. ALABAMA NEIGHBORS.

poarchcreekindians.org

Games of Consequence

The Suffrage Day game of 1915 is one of many Alabama sporting contests that had an effect far beyond the playing field.

September 1808 Stickball diplomacy



Stickball, called the “little brother of war” among southeastern

Native Americans, often served as a diplomatic tool, with games used to keep the peace between nations. In 1808, just west of present-day Thomasville, Creek and Choctaw Indians agreed to settle a border dispute on the stickball field — one game between the men, one between the women. The Choctaws won both and to the winner went the spoils; fertile watershed land between the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers. A historical marker, erected in 1978 by the Clarke County Historical Society, notes the boundary.

April 1-3, 1954 Looking the other way



Section 597 of Birmingham’s segregation laws was explicit: “Negroes and White Persons

Not To Play Together.” But who could say ‘no’ to Stan Musial, Minnie Miñoso, Jackie Robinson, and Hank Aaron? It turns out, nobody. So in 1954, three illegal baseball games took place at Rickwood, featuring integrated, Hall of Fame-laden rosters from the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and White Sox. One possible reason the games were allowed: “Blacks and whites were ready to break down the fences” to see them, writes Allen Barra in *Rickwood Field*. “Whatever the reason...the segregationists agreed to look the other way.”

February 22, 1893 The Iron Bowl: Chapter One



The Iron Bowl’s origin story begins on a long-gone field at the corner of what’s now 32nd Street South and Clairmont Avenue

in Birmingham. Young men in red-lettered “U of A” sweaters and blue sweaters trimmed in orange “A’s” — and no protective gear — traded 4-point touchdowns and 5-point field goals in a contest that more closely resembled rugby. In game one of college football’s legendary rivalry, 5,000 fans watched Auburn best “Tuskaloosa,” 32-22. The *Birmingham News* noted a Miss Delma Wilson presented a cup to the winners: “Drink from it and remember the victory you have won this day.”

October 5, 1948 The last hurrah



Rickwood Field hosts the final game of the last Negro League World Series.

With Jackie Robinson and the integration of Major League Baseball in 1947, the Negro Leagues would gradually fade away. But not yet. In 1948, the Birmingham Black Barons — featuring legendary player-manager Lorenzo “Piper” Davis and a 17-year-old rookie named Willie Mays — won the Negro American League title over the Kansas City Monarchs to advance to the World Series. Alas, Birmingham lost the final-ever Series in five games to Pittsburgh’s Homestead Grays.

May 31, 1959 The night The Alabama Gang came to town



Bobby Allison runs his first short-track race in Alabama, finishing fifth in a night race at Dixie Speedway

in Midfield. The next evening, he would claim his first win at Montgomery Motor Speedway. Bobby, brother Donnie, son Davey, Red Farmer and Neil Bonnett would soon all settle in Hueytown. Collectively, they became known as The Alabama Gang; dominant figures in NASCAR for decades, each man was inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame. Today, the back straightaway at Talladega is called The Alabama Gang Superstretch.

November 30, 1968 From Boligee to basketball history



In the tumultuous year of 1968, Auburn basketball’s Henry Harris became the first Black athlete to play for any SEC school — in any sport

— across the Deep South. A sparse crowd watched Harris make history on the hardwood when he debuted with Auburn’s freshman team in a game at Georgia Tech. As Sam Heys notes in *Remember Henry Harris: Lost Icon of a Revolution*, “the emptiness of the arena only made the epithets echo.” Six years after making history, Harris died from an apparent suicide at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he was student-coaching.

EVERYONE DREAMS WE MAKE IT REAL



DeMarcus Ware '05, MBA
NFL Pro & Entrepreneur

We're teaching a new generation to Lead Change at Troy University. With 16 Division I sports programs within the Sun Belt Conference, competing at the highest level is an everyday part of life for TROY Trojans. Leadership opportunities are available from day one at TROY, and it shows both on and off the field. TROY's student-athletes have a history of success at every level, including 11 NCAA National Championships in four different sports all while setting records in the classroom for academic honor roll. Be part of a family of leaders with more than 173,000+ alumni worldwide. Now is your time to take the lead.

troy.edu/leadchange | 1-800-586-9771

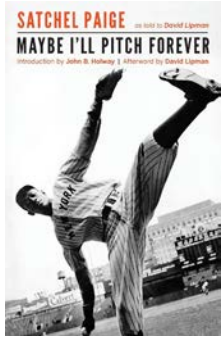
TROY
UNIVERSITY™

LEADCHANGE

Sports on the page

Five all-time sports books with Alabama connections

By Allen Barra



Maybe I'll Pitch Forever by Satchel Paige with David Lipman

First published in 1962 when he might have been, we don't know, 56 — Leroy “Satchel” Paige had a way of curving the truth at a sharper angle than he curved a baseball — *Maybe I'll Pitch Forever* is the best chronicle of life in (and the subsequent death of) the old

Negro Leagues, told by the greatest American humorist since Mark Twain. Born in Mobile, Paige was probably the greatest pitcher of all time — certainly, no pitcher ever faced more great hitters or opposed more great pitchers than Satch, from the 1920s to the 1960s. It's all here, from barnstorming with Dizzy Dean to bearing down on the great Ted Williams and the legendary Josh Gibson. And if Satchel's accounts can't always be taken as gospel, then, as he so famously phrased it: “You pays your money and you takes your choice.”

Willie's Time

by Charles Einstein

Willie Mays, born in Westfield/Fairfield, was the first and only player to have starred in the Negro Leagues (with the Birmingham Black Barons), the integrated minor leagues, and in the major leagues on both coasts with the New York and (later) San Francisco Giants. Einstein, the half-brother of comedian Albert Brooks, was a great writer largely forgotten today. But he may have been the best writer of all American sportswriters, and *Willie's Time* is the best book ever written about the most complete player baseball has ever seen — and his cultural impact. Many old-time sportswriters told me that *Willie's Time* is the one sports book that should have won the Pulitzer Prize.

I Had a Hammer

by Hank Aaron with Lonnie Wheeler

There was a lot of criticism of Henry Aaron in his 23-year Major League career that he wouldn't speak more to the media. Well, in 2002 he made up for it in his candid and heartfelt memoir. Aaron recounts everything from playing semi-pro ball with his hometown Mobile Black Bears while in high school to the nearly soul-

crushing pressure (including death threats) he endured with the Atlanta Braves in pursuit of Babe Ruth's career home run record in 1973 and 1974.

Bear: The Hard Life & Good Times of Alabama's Coach Bryant

by Paul W. Bryant and John Underwood

The greatest of all memoirs of a college football coach covers Paul Bryant's childhood — in a backwoods Arkansas town so small it's no longer on the map — up through his first 16 or so years leading the Crimson Tide. For those who grew up not knowing what Bear Bryant's voice sounded like, this book will give you an idea, and the Bear's recollections are artfully framed by Underwood. The only thing wrong with this book is that it was written when Bryant had nine seasons and two national championships to go. (If you find the 2007 edition on Amazon, you can hear the Coach's raspy voice on the accompanying CD.)

Triumph: The Untold Stories of Jesse Owens & Hitler's Olympics

by Jeremy Schaap

James Cleveland Owens, the grandson of a slave born in Oakville, Alabama, in 1914, set the world on its ear in 1936 when he dashed Adolf Hitler's showcase for the master race by winning four gold medals in track and field. Yet he went strangely unheralded in his own country; FDR didn't even invite him to the White House on his return from Berlin. It took 28 years after his death to get a definitive biography, but Schaap's incisive book cuts through the swirl of complex racial and political issues that permeated Owens' life and career while never losing the focus of the man who lived it all.

Honorable Mentions:

Charlie Finley: The Outrageous Story of Baseball's Super Showman

G. Michael Green and Roger D. Launius

Beyond Glory: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling, and a World on the Brink

David Margolick

Snake: The Legendary Life of Ken Stabler

Mike Freeman

On the Screen

10 must-see Alabama-related sports documentaries



The undefeated Sewanee football team of 1899, subject of the film *Unrivaled: Sewanee 1899*.

Unrivaled: Sewanee 1899

Unrivaled tells the story of the legendary football team from the University of the South that went 12-0 that year — including a 2,500-mile train trip featuring five games in six days, all victories over Texas, Texas A&M, LSU, Tulane, and Ole Miss. The film highlights the team's two Alabama-born stars, Auburn coach John Heisman, and a soundtrack created by Bobby Horton — a musician, historian, and Alabama Humanities Fellow. The movie's writer/producer, artist, and designer all hail from Alabama.

—Michael McKenzie, director of programming,
Alabama Public Television

Hale County This Morning, This Evening

This is a beautiful film invested in the poetics of the everyday in Alabama. While not a typical sports-driven documentary, a few different sports moments inflect the film and show how integral they are to small-town life. RaMell Ross' Oscar-nominated 2018 film also opens up and challenges the conventions of narrative documentary.

—Andrea J. Kelley, Ph.D., associate professor of media studies, Auburn University

Murderball

Henry Alex Rubin and Dana Adam Shapiro's groundbreaking 2005 doc changed the way many Americans see and understand people with disabilities. Offering intimate and frank portraits of North America's top quadriplegic athletes, *Murderball* never drifts into cheap sentiment. It's an extra point of state pride to know the team trained at Birmingham's Lakeshore Foundation, a U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Site — and features two of Alabama's own, Bryan Kirkland and Bob Lujano.

—Michele Forman, filmmaker and director of media studies, UAB

Bo, Barkley and The Big Hurt

Three of the big 3 sports' biggest superstars — Bo Jackson, Charles Barkley, and Frank Thomas — all on the same college campus at the same time.

—Tim Stephens, former Birmingham sports talk show host

Three Days at Foster: How Integration Turned the Tide

Using the site of George Wallace's "schoolhouse stand," as a symbol of change across five decades, *Three Days at Foster* focuses on the pioneer athletes who shattered the color barrier at the University of Alabama.

—Roy S. Johnson, columnist, Alabama Media Group;
former editor, Sports Illustrated

30 for 30: Jordan Rides the Bus

Michael Jordan's summer in Hoover when he stepped away from the NBA to take a swing at baseball with the Birmingham Barons. —Stephens

Mama Called

The definitive in-state documentary on Bear Bryant, produced by Ken Gaddy and the Paul W. Bryant Museum. —McKenzie

Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream

The Home Run King's journey from Mobile to Cooperstown, and his impact along the way. —Stephens

Quiet Courage: The James Curtis Owens Story

A thoughtful profile of the SEC's first African American football player, who made history on the Plains in 1969. —McKenzie

30 for 30: Roll Tide/War Eagle

If you don't know what this title means, welcome to Alabama. Watch this and learn the myths of college football's biggest rivalry. —Stephens

2021 IN REVIEW

Uplifting Alabama in a pandemic

The **Alabama Humanities Alliance** believes the humanities have the power to bring Alabamians together and help us see each other as fully human. That idea — and our work — grew in importance in 2021, when AHA programs provided crucial connections in communities separated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alabama Public Humanities Grants

42

awarded

27 Major Grants

9 Mini Grants

6 Media Grants

\$206K funded

Alabama Humanities Recovery Grants (Pandemic Relief)

83

awarded

\$800K funded

TOTAL 2021 GRANT FUNDING

125

awarded

\$1M+ funded



GRANTS

AHA is the primary source of grants for public humanities projects statewide. We offer monthly **Mini Grants** (up to \$2,500), quarterly **Major Grants** (up to \$10,000), and annual **Media Grants** (up to \$15,000). In 2021, we provided an additional round of pandemic recovery funding to

cultural nonprofits and community cornerstones across the state. All AHA grants are funded with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. See pages 40-44 for descriptions of projects funded in 2021.

PROGRAMS

AHA's public programming overcame pandemic challenges by pivoting to virtual when necessary and engaging in person when possible. All programs address the specific needs of Alabama communities while celebrating our shared cultures.



Top: Bryan Fair, *Why It Matters* scholar.
Middle: *Water/Ways* volunteers in Elba.
Bottom: A student prepares research for *Alabama History Day*.

12 Why It Matters programs/ podcast episodes

Our series on civic participation featured scholars who spoke about Black Alabamians' insistence on full engagement in the electoral process.

7 SUPER Teacher workshops

We covered topics ranging from civil rights to Alabama waterways to help inspire teachers and increase their knowledge. The no-cost workshops included stipends and continuing education credits.

6 Road Scholar presentations

Our scholar-storytellers hit the road — or the screen — to enlighten and entertain at libraries, museums, community centers, and more.

5 cities host *Water/Ways* Smithsonian exhibit

Our Museum on Main Street program enables Alabamians to experience Smithsonian exhibits in their hometowns. In 2021-2022, *Water/Ways* toured Danville, Guntersville, Bessemer, Camden, and Elba.

3 books and reading programs

Initiatives included a Humanities and Healthcare virtual book discussion with Alabama Hospital Association

and UAB representatives, a Prison Education correspondence course in reading and writing, and a virtual Prime Time Family Reading program.

1 Alabama History Day contest

Our state contest for National History Day, a competition that engages students (grades 6-12) in creative historical research, advanced 19 winners to the national level.

1 "Reflect, Alabama" panel discussion

This virtual event, part of a conversation series created by AHA's Young Professionals Board, explored what Alabamians have learned about themselves and their communities during the pandemic.

1 "Telling Our Stories: Rural Alabama Communities and Journalism" event

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Maura Casey headlined this conversation in our Democracy and the Informed Citizen program, which promotes rural civic engagement.

36 TOTAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN 2021

Thousands of Alabamians engaged statewide

IMPACT ADDS UP

Combining the totals from 2020 and 2021 offers a snapshot of AHA's economic and cultural contributions to Alabama over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$1.7M
in total
grant funding

10,000+
public programming
participants

559
jobs preserved or
created statewide
through COVID-19
recovery funding

202
project scholars
engaged in
the humanities

151
public events
statewide (virtual
and in person)

Grants Roundup

In 2021, the Alabama Humanities Alliance supported a diverse range of programs, events, and projects that engaged and enriched lives across the state. Discover how each grantee addressed community needs with creativity, and if your organization is inspired to join them, apply for a 2022 grant at alabamahumanities.org/grants.

MINI GRANTS

Cell Phone Cinema The Flourish Alabama • Birmingham

Cell Phone Cinema works with students in Birmingham City Schools to make one-minute films on the theme “Capturing the Culture: Navigating the New Normal.” Students learn how the study of culture — their own in particular — allows them to see the world through a critical lens, advocate for change, and uplift members of their communities, all while making creative films to showcase at the second annual Flourish Fest.

The Gifts of Our Ancestors Clotilda Descendants Association • Mobile

The fourth annual Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival continues to remember and celebrate the 110 Africans who arrived on the slave ship *Clotilda*. The event features a dramatic presentation of the ancestors’ lives from capture to the founding of Africatown; a keynote speaker addressing the gifts bestowed upon descendants to become cultural carriers, community builders, and

protectors of the next generation; and an after-play panel discussion.

Heritage Days Friends of Gaineswood Inc. • Demopolis

Heritage Days at Gaineswood National Historic Landmark is a two-day event for third-through sixth-grade students from Marengo, Hale, Greene, Sumter, and Perry counties. Learning stations feature the daily life of people in the area in the mid-19th century. The project incorporates Alabama fourth-grade history curriculum.

Higher Ground Society Podcast/Web Series Higher Ground Society • Auburn

Alabama has a long history of producing creatives and thinkers who uplift their state and contribute wonderful things to greater society. Hosted by Higher Ground Society founder and executive director Jerald Crook, the podcast/web series surveys guests’ work, their Alabama inspirations, and their hope for the state through the arts and humanities.



Photo by Jay Hare, Dothan Eagle.

Fields to Fame: The Path to Influence Wiregrass Blues Society • Dothan

Laws of Life Better Business Bureau Serving Central and South Alabama • Birmingham

The Laws of Life Essay Contest encourages dialogue among high-school students, teachers, humanities scholars, and business leaders to advance positive, ethical principles such as transparency, humility, honesty, and equity in the workplace. Students learn about ethics and ethical behavior and their relationship to successful business environments.

Lecture Series on Eugenics and Disability History Mobile Medical Museum • Mobile

A series of free public lectures and panel discussions reviews the impact of disability rights and mental health care on diverse communities in Alabama and around the world. The program is presented in conjunction with an exhibit, *Different/Fit: Eugenics in Alabama, 1919-1935*, a collaboration between the Mobile Medical Museum and the Alabama Contemporary Art Center.

National Building Museum's Evicted Exhibit Alabama Center for Architecture • Birmingham

The *Evicted* traveling exhibit takes visitors into the world of low-income renter eviction and urges them to face one of America's worst problems. The companion program, "Evicted in AL," focuses on housing challenges in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery.

Page and Stage: Spoken Word's Role in American Poetry ft. Tha S.O.N.G.B.I.R.D. and B. Royalty Magic City Poetry Festival • Birmingham

Grammy-nominated spoken-word artist Theresa Tha S.O.N.G.B.I.R.D. and local spoken-word duo B. Royalty engage in a dynamic discussion (including performances by each panelist) about the role of spoken word in Black communities in America, the American South, and in poetry at large. Performances from the Golden Word Movement, Miles College's undergraduate spoken-word team, precede the discussion.

Public History Project Map Alabama Association of Historians • Anniston

A free, interactive online map representing the state's geographic regions allows Alabamians to discover public history projects happening in and around their communities. The map offers insights into dynamic

and diverse projects statewide while allowing public historians, students, and the public to connect with each other.

MAJOR GRANTS

Breaking the Color Barrier University of Alabama Paul W. Bryant Museum • Tuscaloosa

The exhibit illustrates the effects of segregation and integration within state and national athletics in the 1960s and 1970s by spotlighting individual on- and off-field accomplishments and an integration timeline for Alabama football. After a year at the Paul W. Bryant Museum, the exhibit travels to sites throughout Alabama and two sites outside the state.

Cultural Crossroads 2022: Alabama's Reconstruction Constitutions Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery • Montgomery

An annual history symposium takes a look at the story behind the creation of the 1901 Alabama Constitution, a focus for many political scientists and historians. The event is the latest iteration of the Cultural Crossroads program, an important venue for sharing Alabama history and culture.

Darshan: Visions of India Tennessee Valley Art Association • Tusculumbia

An interdisciplinary

programming series features an open-air cultural festival, lectures and discussions, art and history exhibitions, workshops, and performances at Tusculumbia's Tennessee Valley Museum of Art and Sheffield's Ritz Theatre. The series connects community members with the cultures, beliefs, and unique experiences of individuals within the Indian community.

Developing Our Shared Humanity through Scholarship and Expression Auburn University's Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project • Auburn

Four courses examine the diverse histories of the American South and the legacies that persist through artistic works. Each class takes place at a different correctional facility in central and west Alabama in coordination with the Alabama Department of Corrections. Faculty and graduate students from various universities, as well as qualified facilitators, lead the courses.

Digitizing the Death Penalty in Alabama University of North Alabama College of Arts and Sciences • Florence

The project digitizes and expands the University of North Alabama's archival holdings related to Alabama's death row. Partnering with Collier Library, staff and project scholars — including death-row survivors, their families,

and their attorneys — are creating a searchable digital archive available to the public.

Exploring Racial Equity Through Literacy: A Path Forward for Empathy and Equality

Literacy Council of Central Alabama • Birmingham
Wendy Greene, a world-renowned Drexel University law professor and antidiscrimination advocate, visits Alabama virtually to facilitate a discussion about racial discrimination in American history, the influence of discrimination on equity, and related current events. The discussion is one segment of a three-part program to engage people in reading, book discussions, and conversations that challenge the status quo and promote empathy and equality.

Fields to Fame: The Path to Influence Wiregrass Blues Society • Dothan

A four-part lecture series highlights the lives and career paths of musicians Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton and Shaun Murphy, two influential women who journeyed from the rural stages of their youth to world-class venues. The series reveals how cultural history, social climate, and geographical conditions affected their impact on music.

50 Years and Forward: A History of Servant Leadership in Mobile, Alabama

Mobile United, Inc. • *Mobile*

As Mobile United approaches 50 years of bringing the community together in service to one another, it highlights leaders who have answered the call to servant leadership. A new podcast gives voice to individuals and projects that shaped the city, honors and preserves the history of the organization, and creates a potential road map for future leaders.

Fitz Tales: Tales of the Jazz Age

The Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald Museum • *Montgomery*

Dramatic readings of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tales of the Jazz Age* celebrate the 100th anniversary of the book’s release and the coining of the term “Jazz Age” in 1922. Each story will be followed by a discussion with a noted author or Fitzgerald scholar. The series is the follow-up to the 2021 podcast *Fitz Tales: Flappers and Philosophers*.

Foot Soldiers: The Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement 2

Safe House Black History Museum • *Greensboro*

Unsung 2 builds on the research and oral testimonies generated for the *Unsung 1* documentary film that focused on the personal experiences of civil rights foot soldiers in Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, and Tuscaloosa

counties in the years following World War II to 1970. *Unsung 2* targets Hale County, telling its civil rights story in a documentary film that incorporates the personal accounts of 10 foot soldiers and their extended families.

The Humanities in Alabama: History, Natural History, Folklife, and the Arts

Daphne Public Library • *Daphne*

A weekly lecture series explores the history, lifestyles, and humanities of Alabama, including Paleo-Indian artifacts; architecture; the Federal Road and other immigration routes; slavery and freedom; archaeology of the *Clotilda*; the Civil Rights Trail in Alabama; folklife and foodways; poetry, art, and photography of birds; and native wildlife and longleaf pines.

Mobile’s Confederate Monuments and Memorial Spaces in Context

University of South Alabama Center for the Study of War and Memory • *Mobile*

Students conduct research on Mobile’s Confederate monuments and memorial spaces and present their findings through public history and digital humanities, including podcasts, public lectures, and an interactive digital map. The project will help the people of Mobile engage in informed and respectful conversations about a vexing issue in many communities.

The Morgan Project Teacher Workshops

The Morgan Project • *Birmingham*

An “inclusion curriculum” developed with Alabama Humanities Fellow Dr. Martha Bouyer — and based on the speech “A Time to Speak” by Charles Morgan Jr. — educates students in grades 4-12 about systemic racism and combating injustice. Teacher workshops provide curriculum resources and train educators to use the curriculum in their classrooms.

Nobody Knows My Name Learning Series

Urban Impact Birmingham • *Birmingham*

The series educates the public about the vast contributions of African Americans to the creation and long-term growth of Birmingham’s historic Civil Rights District. The initiative features storytelling by historians, teachers, and other experts about life in the district since the 1920s, focusing on the people and buildings that make the community a national treasure.

Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival in Motion

The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project • *Warrior Stand*

The project produces an instructional video and accompanying lesson plan for fourth-grade classrooms in addition to three instructional video storyboards and lesson plans. Such resources help

teachers use local places to expound upon the broad description of the “Alabama Fever” pioneer-settlement era presented in state history textbooks.

Reparative Interpretation of the Wallace Plantation: Initial Steps

Klein Arts & Culture • *Harpersville*

Three panel discussions with primary scholar Elijah Gaddis of Auburn University examine the history of the Wallace Plantation, issues in the reparative interpretation of plantation houses, and the design of experiential exhibits based on reparative interpretation. Panelists include historians from four Alabama universities and two nonprofit public history organizations, an art historian, a psychiatrist, and a filmmaker.

Sequoyah 200th Celebration and the Trail of Tears

Manitou Cave of Alabama • *Fort Payne*

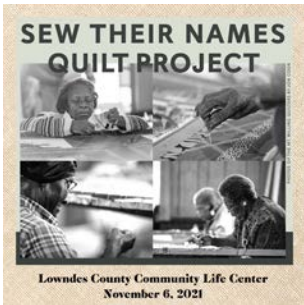
A day of activities celebrates Manitou Cave’s new status as a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail certified interpretive center and the bicentennial of Sequoyah’s syllabary. Speakers include Troy Wayne Poteete, director of the Trail of Tears Association, and Charlie Rhodarmer, director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum. Additional events include the installation of a historical marker and lectures by scholars on Cherokee history and culture.

Sew Their Names Quilt Project
Lowndes County Community Life Center • Lowndesboro

Quilters in rural Mount Willing collaborate with artists Yvonne Wells and Wini McQueen to create quilts commemorating names of enslaved people discovered in regional church records. A video and exhibit about the quilts and their history, with commentary from humanities scholars, will travel and show at an antebellum church. Visitors may sew names for additional quilts.



Reparative Interpretation of the Wallace Plantation: Initial Steps
 Klein Arts & Culture • Harpersville



Sew Their Names Quilt Project
 Lowndes County Community Life Center • Lowndesboro



Swimming Together “Pool” Party
 University of Alabama Department of History • Tuscaloosa

The Shakespeare Project
Jacksonville State University Foundation • Jacksonville

The Shakespeare Project provides creative development for young teachers and artists, education enhancement experiences, and community cultural experiences. In April 2022, the Project presents William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* to school and community audiences, accompanied by educational programming.

Sharing Our Stories
Guntersville Museum • Guntersville

An oral history project features various longtime residents and historians reflecting on their experiences and knowledge of Guntersville’s heritage. The intimate accounts in these historical videos allow visitors to make personal

connections with the community. These tributes are highlighted within the museum’s exhibit hall and in rotation on the museum’s website.

Swimming Together “Pool” Party
University of Alabama Department of History • Tuscaloosa

The event at the Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum foregrounds the research of author Hannah Palmer on the history of public pools and swimming in the Deep South. The community comes together on the formerly segregated (and now grass-covered) pool on the museum grounds as a dance floor, summoning memories of water and swimming at the site while opening space for dialogue about its past.

Three Brave Women
Rocket City Civil Rights • Huntsville

The project amplifies Huntsville’s civil rights movement, highlighting the role women played and the moments when the business community was challenged by savvy nonviolent Black protests. Specifically, it tells the story of three brave women who were arrested in a strategic protest that garnered national attention. The installation of a historical marker and the collection of primary narratives and materials for digital use commemorate the 60th anniversary.

Troy University Rosa Parks Museum Exhibit
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library • Florence

The two-part exhibit and various speakers, presented both in person and virtually, provide library patrons with opportunities to learn more about the history of the Montgomery bus boycott and the life of Rosa Parks.

Ujima Family Reading Circle
National Hook-Up of Black Women • Birmingham

The Ujima Family Reading Circle addresses the ills of illiteracy by promoting books that focus on the family and community. The organization engages families with books and interactive activities to improve reading habits; foster the appreciation and understanding of history, literature, civics, and culture; and promote family interactions through gardening experiences and readings.

Weekend Immersed in Language Development (WILD)
Alabama World Languages Education Foundation • Northport

WILD is a statewide world-language immersion experience for high-school students of Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. Led by fluent teachers and professors, the initiative enhances opportunities to improve spoken language skills through the study of humanities topics including literature, history, and cultural studies.

YellowHammer Film Festival

Troy University
Department of Art and Design • Troy

The YellowHammer Film Festival is a free, virtual event for high-school and college students that includes workshops, speakers, and an exhibit of original work. The competition theme is “Humanities” and will feature films about languages, literature, the arts, history, and philosophy. Recognized historians, critics, and creators lead all workshops and serve as competition judges.

Young Alabama Writers Project (YAWP)

Desert Island Supply Co. • Birmingham

YAWP is an eight-week collaboration between the Desert Island Supply Co. and a dedicated Birmingham City high-school teacher to produce a quality collection of student writing about a specific topic. This project focuses on humanities-based disciplines because history, literature, and philosophy provide ideal content for students to engage in personal inquiry and to connect with the world around them.

MEDIA GRANTS

Father James E. Coyle: Life and Legacy Documentary

United for Life Foundation • Birmingham

The documentary project educates the public about

Father Coyle and the events in Birmingham that led to his 1921 murder at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. It sheds light on his life and character and how he stood up for faith and human equality despite the constant threats and violence that ultimately took his life.

54 Miles to Home: The Campsites of the Selma to

Montgomery March
Alabama Rivers Alliance • Birmingham

The indelible images of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march are part of our shared national memory. However, many forget that in the 54 miles from Selma to Montgomery, the marchers needed safe housing to succeed. A documentary film shares the stories of three Black farming families who bravely offered their homes.

Poetry Unites Alabama

Capri Community Film Society Inc. • Montgomery

A documentary features four winners of a statewide essay contest in which entrants conveyed the impact of poetry on their lives. The project’s mission is to use the power of poetry to unite people beyond cultural, racial, and political divisions. Jennifer Horne and Ashley M. Jones, the state’s former and current poet laureates, partner on the project. The film premieres in 2022 on Alabama Public Television.

Rural Revival: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama

Birmingham International Educational Film Festival • Birmingham

A documentary film describes the accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps, its ideals, and its lasting effect on the people and land of Alabama.

Shuttlesworth

The APT Foundation • Birmingham

A documentary about the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, a key Birmingham civil rights activist and leader. The film examines his life and legacy — a life that shone a light on the road to social justice in Birmingham and laid the groundwork for the American civil rights movement. *Shuttlesworth* premieres in 2022 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Sink the Alabama

Foundation for New Media • Mobile

A documentary film uses the story of Mobile sea captain Raphael Semmes and the British-built CSS *Alabama* to explore Britain’s role in nearly tipping the balance of the Civil War after a Confederate propaganda campaign convinced the European nation that the war was not about slavery. The project includes public screenings of the film.



54 Miles to Home: The Campsites of the Selma to Montgomery March
Alabama Rivers Alliance • Birmingham

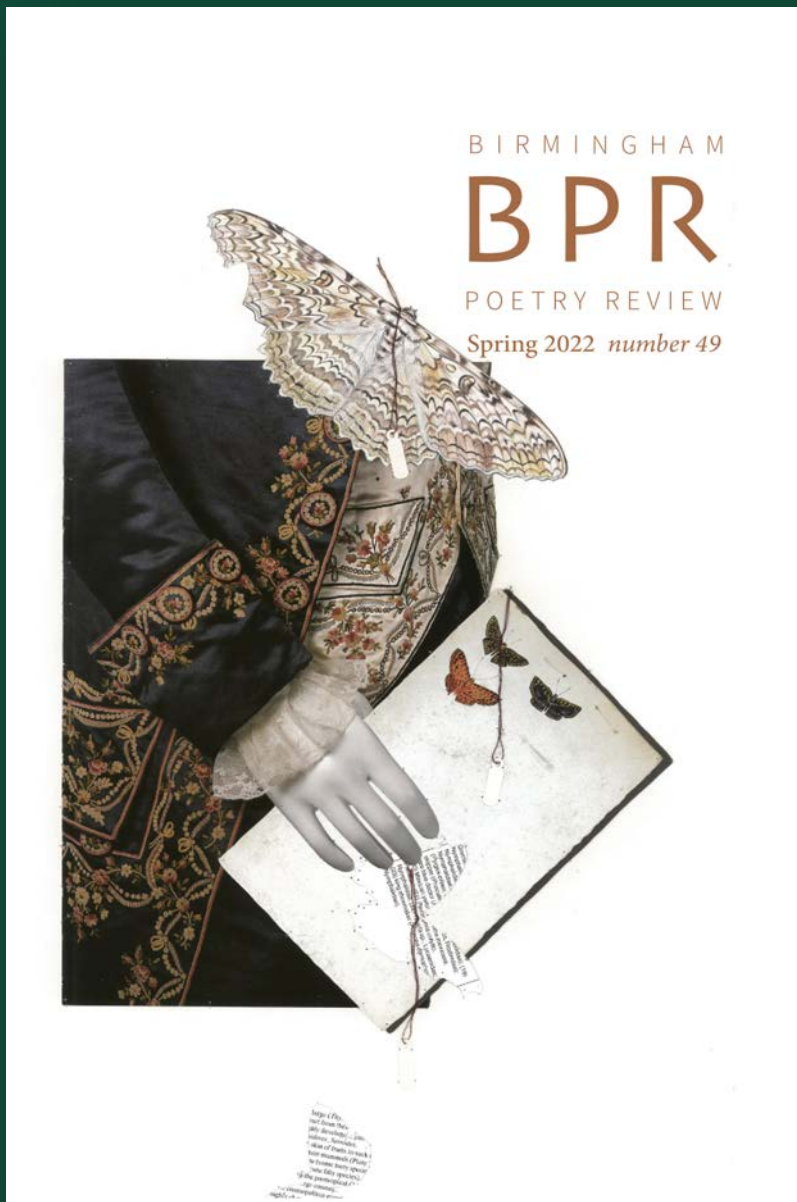
“I can’t say enough about how helpful AHA was during this entire grant process. They’re really working to expand public educational programming in Alabama.”

—Annette F. Reynolds
Director, Manitou Cave of Alabama • Fort Payne • Alabama Public Humanities Grant

Meet our **83** Alabama Humanities Recovery Grant awardees at alabamahumanities.org/grants.

AWARD-WINNING POETRY JOURNAL

Founded in 1987, Birmingham Poetry Review publishes some of the most exciting and thoughtful poetry by emerging and established writers. In 2020, the Association of Writers and Writing Programs awarded BPR the Small Press Publishers Award, an honor given to the finest literary journal in the United States.



Read a sample,
learn more, and
subscribe at
go.uab.edu/bpr

UAB COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Donor honor roll | 2021

An incredible array of individuals, organizations, and foundations make our work possible. Thank you for helping us uplift communities statewide. For helping us provide context and add meaning to our shared experiences. And for helping us create a smarter, kinder, more vibrant Alabama.

Individuals

Ann Alquist
Laura and Will Anderson
Jere L. Beasley
Estate of Ann Milroy Boozer
Marcie P. Braswell
Michael Burger
Patsy and Charles Collat
Judy Collier
Robert J. Collins
Judith and Walter Cox
Samuel Denham
Debbie and David Donaldson
Paul Forde
William Gary
Jack L. Geren
Leela Blimes Goldstein
Sally M. Greenhaw
Stanley Gregory
Anne and Reginald T. Hamner
Elaine and Robert S. Holberg
Sandy and Ralph G. Holberg III
Charles W. Holmes
Dorothy W. Huston
Lance Ingwersen
Peggy Wallace Kennedy
Michael Krawcheck
Chrissa Lambert
Sheri Spaine Long
Mary Anne Martin
William K. Martin
Ed Mizzell
Lisa and Mark Nelson
Julian McPhillips
Kate and Claude Nielsen
Barbara Patterson
John L. Prewitt
David A. Rains

John Rochester
Bettie Rounsaville
Autumn Sanders
Leah F. Scalise
Candace L. Schilling
N. Oliver Smyth III
John Stone
James L. Taylor
Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews
Pat and Sam Tumminello III
Peter L. Tyler
Penny and Kendal Weaver
Lisa and Adolph Weil III
Janelle and Bob Whetstone
Betty J. Williams

Foundations and Organizations

The Alabama Club
Alabama Power
Aldridge Borden & Company
Amazon Smile
Auburn University at Montgomery
Blue Cross and Blue Shield
of Alabama
Boeing
Brasfield & Gorrie
Coca-Cola UNITED
Devote
Daniel Foundation of Alabama
Federation of State
Humanities Councils
Four Corners Gallery
Friends of the Alabama Archives
Industry of Hues
Interstate Character Council, Inc.
Jackson Thornton

Medical Properties Trust
Mobile County
Montgomery County
National Endowment for
the Humanities
National History Day
National Maritime
Historical Society
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Protective Life Foundation
Regions Bank
Robert R. Meyer Foundation
Stephens Foundation
Southern Poverty Law Center
Troy University
UBS Financial Services –
Montgomery
Vulcan Materials Company

Advance the Alliance

Storytelling.

Lifelong learning.

Understanding
of the past.

Context for
the present.

If these are things that
matter to you, we hope
you'll support us in 2022.

[alabamahumanities.org/
support](https://alabamahumanities.org/support)

A plan to navigate what's next. Ask about your personalized Regions Greenprint.SM

Planning ahead helps you go with the flow. Regions LifeGreen[®] checking accounts come with Greenprint, a personalized financial plan to help you navigate what's next in life. Make an appointment with a Regions Banker today and feel more comfortable with your financial future.

Switch at regions.com



© 2022 Regions Bank. Regions and the Regions logo are registered trademarks of Regions Bank. The LifeGreen color is a trademark of Regions Bank.

ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

1100 Ireland Way, Suite 202
Birmingham, AL 35205

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #3379
Birmingham, AL

**Thinkers wanted.
Join the Alliance.**

ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

205.558.3980
ahanews@alabamahumanities.org
alabamahumanities.org/get-involved

f **@**alabamahumanities

t **@**ALhumanities

in Alabama Humanities Alliance



A public swimming pool during segregation in Bessemer, Alabama, 1958. Photo courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Donated by Alabama Media Group. Photo by Norman Dean, *Birmingham News*.



Additional distribution of this
issue of Mosaic made possible by
The World Games Birmingham.