

the Southern Register

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE • FALL 2010

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

New Southern Studies Graduate Students

When this picture of the first-year graduate students was taken, on the Southern Studies orientation day in August, it had been raining. Hard. It had been raining and it was so hot outside that the result was a day so muggy and oppressive that Professor David Wharton's camera lens fogged up and the students stood around, shifting uncomfortably and talking earnestly about the weather while the lens took its sweet time clearing up. To think that was just three months ago. . . .

By now, midway into our first semester, most of the nervous talk about the weather has dissipated. There are 13 new additions to the Southern Studies MA program this year, and among these there are but two men: Brian Wilson and Erik Watson. Brian is a native of Macon, Mississippi, and received his BA in political science and history from the University of Mississippi. After six years in Washington, D.C., working as an aide on Capitol Hill, he returned to pursue his master's in Southern Studies. He hopes to go on to earn a PhD in history.

Erik earned a BA in history at Missouri Valley College, where one of his history professors was Southern Studies alum Tamara King. He took a year off before deciding to come to the Southern Studies Program. His ultimate goal, like Brian's, is to earn a PhD in history.

And now for the women: Kari Edwards grew up in Spring City, Tennessee, just



New Southern Studies graduate students pictured at Barnard Observatory in August 2010 are, left to right, front row: Amy Ulmer (Hendrix College), Camilla Aikin (Bard College), Eva Walton (Mercer University), Danielle St. Ours (Cornell University); second row: Kari Edwards (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga), Nell Knox (Millsaps College), Erik Watson (Missouri Valley College); top row (left to right): Susie Penman (University of Mississippi), Gretchen Wood (Beloit College), Brian Wilson (University of Mississippi), Michelle Bright (University of Mississippi). Not pictured: Caroline Croom (University of the South), Kirsten Schofield (University of Virginia)

down the road from where the Scopes Trial took place in 1925, and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a degree in religious studies and history. She comes to the

Southern Studies Program with an interest in post-Civil War Southern religion, particularly fundamentalism,

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

If you have been paying any attention to developments at the University of Mississippi in the past few months, you know that our sports teams will soon have a new on-field mascot. Several years ago, the University removed its Colonel Reb mascot from the field because it, with its close ties to the Confederacy and Lost Cause, discouraged the kind of unity that universities seek and suggested our university has not confronted racism and embraced diversity. In the past few months, the University conducted a complicated, multistep, student-led process to encourage discussion of a new mascot. In October, a vote by students, alumni, faculty and staff members elected the Black Bear, to be known as Rebel Black Bear.

The issue has been the subject of much discussion and a surprising amount of media coverage. People around here seem to fall into four camps. Some reject the new mascot by saying that Colonel Reb is a perfectly good symbol, unique to the University and loved by many of its students and alumni, and that anything else will be a bland and meaningless advertising image. Another group also rejects that there is a mascot issue; they say that a mascot only involves sports and should not take up our attention as scholars, teachers, and students. Another group, with views rarely heard in the press, argues that no changes of consequence are likely until the University of Mississippi makes wholesale image changes, jettisoning the Confederate nickname Rebel and maybe its Lost Cause affiliate, the term Ole Miss. They want more change than a black bear is likely to deliver. Finally are those who believe the mascot change can do some good, and they welcome an image more likable and less troublesome than Colonel Reb.

Southern Studies has people in all four camps, with students and alumni serving as leaders of both the new mascot selection process and the keep-the-Colonel faction. It's fair to say that the faculty members I know fall into some combination of camps two through four.

I will be delighted to have a black bear as a mascot, at least in part because a black bear can mean far more things to more people than an image like Colonel Reb. Simply as Mississippi references, bears were once common and environmentally important, almost became extinct, and now are coming back. (If one wants to see positive traits in black bears, one can say that Mississippi black bears are survivors. One can also read in the *Environment* volume of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* that the black bear is agile and though omnivorous is usually vegetarian.) Mississippi bears were important as both metaphors and living animals to William Faulkner and Theodore Roosevelt. Beyond Mississippi, bears have such a range of associations that everyone should be able to find an appealing or at least intriguing point of reference. They scavenge, hunt and fish, hibernate, protect their young, and seem to smile. They are huggable for people who want hugs, destructive for those who want destruction. In popular culture, bears include Winnie, Smokey, Yogi, Fozzie, Baloo, the Berenstain Bears, and Care Bears, and they have associations with Goldilocks, Russia, constellations, the stock market, and countless sports winners and losers. This wide range of associations seems likely to prove important, because the Colonel Reb mascot seems to have had the potential to evoke only a narrow range of associations—military or ex-military, Confederate, Lost Cause. Beyond that, one would have to stretch to find any associations outside past university sports teams.

It is easy to grow weary of this issue and the attention it receives, but the relevance of mascot issues for Southern Studies encourages a few comments. First, images matter for universities, and we want images that at least have the potential to speak for everyone on campus. It seems likely that for a while, a number of people will hate the black bear mascot, but in the long run it has some potential to unify in ways a mascot that reminds people of the Confederacy does not. Second, we want University images that do not allow (or even encourage) people who might visit, attend, or work for the University to assume the worst.

And third, in Southern Studies, there is a question of academic subject matter.

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It is particularly important to have images with multiple associations to make clear that the study of the South does not start and end with issues related to the Confederacy and its memory. As we emphasize in classes, scholarship, encyclopedias, conferences, magazines, and other public programs, our goal is to study all people in the South, and all issues, at all periods of the region's past, present, and future, with academic methods that will continue to change. Studying the Civil War is crucial, and a current library exhibition and recent Porter Fortune Jr. History Symposium show the liveliness of that study. But we do not want to limit our study to anyone's definition of the South. In Southern Studies classes, faculty have often chosen to teach mascot issues within a broader range of issues about iconography and the politics of cultural symbols. But we also can get frustrated by debates that try to pull us into a narrow range of topics when there are so many other subjects to study and so many interesting ways to study them. So, as we welcome the Rebel Black Bear as a new figure on campus, it seems more important to say cheers to faculty and staff members who continue to make the study of the South an ongoing challenge with new subjects and, often, new questions.

Ted Ownby

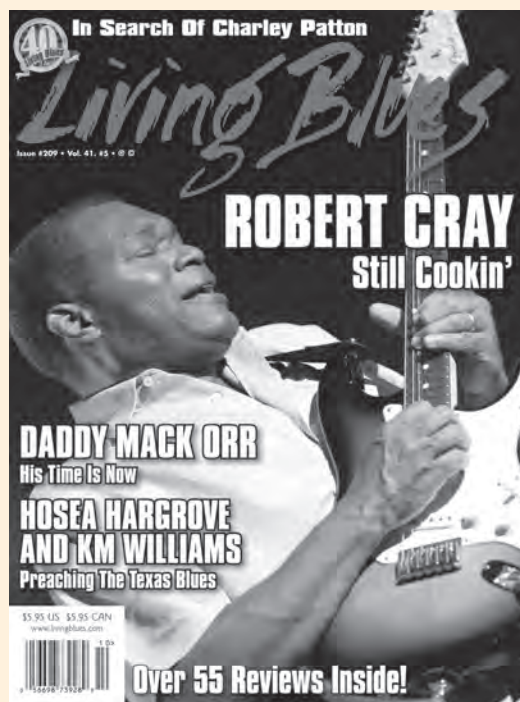
Living Blues News

The 40th anniversary issue of *Living Blues* proved quite popular and was recently featured in an AP news article garnering worldwide press coverage in the *New York Times*, *Indiatimes*, and the *Paris (Tennessee) Post-Intelligencer*. The current issue of *Living Blues* includes an interview with blues superstar Robert Cray. Cray was first profiled in the magazine over 20 years ago, just before his rise to super stardom. The issue also profiles Memphis guitarist Daddy Mack Orr and Texas blues musicians Hosea Hargrove and K. M. Williams. The issue concludes with a historical article on famed Delta bluesman Charley Patton and the questions surrounding his burial site.

Plans are under way for our next Blues Today Symposium at the University of Mississippi on February 25, 2011. Additional details will follow in the December issue of *Living Blues*.

A one-year subscription to *Living Blues* is \$25.95, and blues fans can subscribe online at www.livingblues.com. A complimentary issue of *Living Blues* is also available to readers of the *Southern Register* upon request. Simply e-mail info@livingblues and request a sample issue of the world's most authoritative blues magazine. *Living Blues* is also available at all Borders bookstores nationwide.

Mark Camarigg



In Memoriam

Ella Vasser Bishop

August 15, 1917–October 25, 2010

Oxford, Mississippi

Edward L. Blake

January 26, 1947–August 29, 2010

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Thomas Ramage Ethridge

May 2, 1918–August 29, 2010

Oxford, Mississippi

Susan Varas Hannah

March 4, 1946–September 17, 2010

Oxford, Mississippi

Samuel William Long

August 14, 1942–July 31, 2010

Teoc, Mississippi



JANUARY

- 19 "What the Ale Is in That Brown Bag?: A Look Inside Mississippi's Beer Law"

Tobie Baker, Local Home Brewer
Sarah Bran, Lazy Magnolia
Brewing Company

- 26 "Poverty and the Rural South:
Making a Difference"

Ben Guest, Program Manager,
Mississippi Teacher Corps
Jennifer Lawrence, Mississippi
Teacher Corps, Tunica Public
Schools

FEBRUARY

- 2 "The Great African American
Cultural Migrations"

Peter Rutkoff, Professor and
Chair of American Studies,
Kenyon College



Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

The Brown Bag Luncheon Series takes place each Wednesday at noon in the Barnard Observatory Lecture Hall during the regular academic year. GREEN sessions, sponsored with Strategic Planning and Campus Sustainability, are on the first Wednesday of each month.

- 9 "Southern Indian Culture:
Southeastern American Indians
and Their Plants"

Tammy Greer, Director of the
American Indian Research and
Studies, University of Southern
Mississippi

Merrill and Joe Willis,
Yoknapatawpha Heritage Museum
and Nature Walk, Oxford,
Mississippi

- 16 "We Listen to Whatever We
Want': Nontraditional Music in
the South"

Ross Brand, Southern Studies
Graduate Student

- 23 "Sunshine State Cowboys: A
Gammill Gallery Lecture"

Robert L. Stone, Photographer,
Gainesville, Florida

lynn & stewart

Gammill



Gallery

Exhibition Schedule

October 18–November 19, 2010

Taco Trucks and Crepes Trailers: Modern Texas Foodways
Photographs from Austin and Houston
Angie Bennett Mosier

November 22, 2010–March 31, 2011

Sunshine State Cowboys
Bob Stone

April 4–June 20, 2011

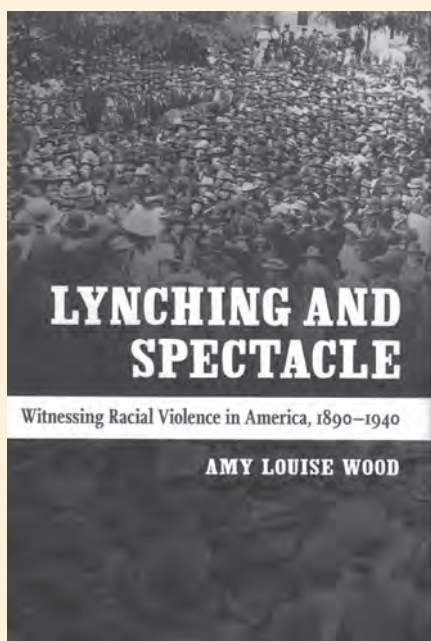
Southern Work, Southern Play
Southern Studies Documentary Students

The Gammill Gallery, located in Barnard Observatory, is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., except for University holidays. Telephone: 662-915-5993.

Southern Studies Alumni News

Alumni of the Southern Studies Program continue to do an extraordinary variety of things in teaching, scholarship, the arts, and business. Fairly often someone asks what people with Southern Studies degrees can do. Here are some answers.

Southern Studies musicians and artists have helped provide the sounds and images of life here around Oxford and far beyond. The day before orientation for new Southern Studies graduate students in August, current MA student Jake Fussell played guitar at a reception before the showing of a new film on architect Samuel Mockbee. Jake also played guitar in the



film. Tyler Keith performed for guests at Taylor Grocery during the Southern Foodways Symposium. Numerous current (Fussell, Keith, Jamison Hollister) and past (Jimmy Phillips [MA 1993] and Jay Lang [BA 2001]) students performed at the Oxford Music Festival in September. And among many other concerts all over the world, musician Dent May (BA 2008) performed in October at OtherFest, a festival in Rosedale, Mississippi. May has a new record, *That Feeling*, released in September. An arts column in the *New York Times* summed up one of Dent's shows: "despite shtick, lyrical songcraft." And singer Caroline Herring (MA 1993) is featured in *Mississippians*, a new book of profiles of the state's artists, musicians, and photographers by Neil White. Among the many other creative current students, Jennifer "Bingo" Gunter is displaying some of her art work at the *One Night Stand* exhibition at the Ole Miss Motel in Oxford, and Natalie Irby (BA 2005) co-directed a new Mississippi documentary film, *The Mighty Quapaw*.

News in academia includes Amy Wood's (MA 1995) new book, *Lynching and Spectacle*, which, along with University of Mississippi history professor Charles Eagles's *The Price of Defiance: James Meredith and the Integration of Ole Miss*, has won the Lillian Smith prize for 2010. The official mission of the Lillian Smith prize, presented by the Southern Regional Council, is to honor books that



Jamison Hollister at Crescent City Blues and BBQ Festival in October

"demonstrate through literary merit and moral vision an honest representation of the South, its people, its problems, and its promises." Genie Bryan (MA 1994), who teaches English at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, recently participated in a Fulbright-Hays funded faculty development tour of Brazil. Matt Reonas (BA 1998) is teaching history at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and Bert Way (MA 1999) teaches at Armstrong Atlantic University in Savannah.

Among the many Southern Studies alumni who have gone into graduate programs, Ellie Campbell (MA 2006) has entered law school at the University of Alabama, Josh Haynes (MA 2001) is writing about early southeastern Indians in the PhD program at the University of Georgia, and Sarah Simonson (BA 2009) is spending the fall semester in Rome as part her graduate work in architecture at Tulane. Alan Pike (MA 2010) has joined the small colony of MA alums, currently including Franky Abbott (MA 2006) and Mary Battle

Melanie Young (right) with Ruthie Foster in New Orleans



(MA 2006), in the Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts at Emory.

Fresh from finishing her MA work in the summer, Blount Montgomery (MA 2010) has moved to Berkeley, California, to take a position in the Episcopal Service Corps. In Jackson, J. T. Nicholas (BA 2008) is selling real estate and working toward becoming a Labor Arbitrator, and Bobby Anderson (BA 1997) works in media for the University of Mississippi Medical School. David Ferris (BA 1999), after completing a degree at the New England Culinary Institute, helped open one Jackson restaurant and is opening another, Babalu Tacos & Tapas. Kevin Robichaux (BA 2003) is teaching school in Brandon, Mississippi. In Charleston, Becca Walton (MA 2008) has a position at the American College of Building Arts, and in Atlanta, Mary Warner (MA 2009) has a new position as brand manager for Vetrazzo, a manufacturer of recycled glass surfaces. Mark Harrod (BA 2005) has a new position as an associate in the law firm of Howell and Fisher in Nashville. Hicks Wogan (MA 2008) spent part of the summer helping to create museum exhibitions for the Newseum in Washington and

then worked for the Earl Scruggs Center, a blue-grass museum under construction in Shelby, North Carolina. He has now returned to Washington, D.C., to take a position at the Library of Congress.

In the growing Southern Studies outpost in New Orleans, Anne Mueller (MA 2003) is a fundraising consultant, working especially with A Studio in the Woods and the Alliance for Affordable Energy. Dannel Perry (MA 1996) is owner of Plum, a gift boutique on Magazine Street. Joyce Miller (MA 1992) is now the editor of KnowLA, the online encyclopedia of Louisiana history and culture, and Walker Lassiter (BA 1990, MA 1996) has a new position as director of grants for the Louisiana Humanities Council. A new resident of New Orleans, current MA student Melanie Young just saw her first article published in *Living Blues*.

Thinking globally, Davina Raseley



Blount Montgomery,
happy in California

Pederson (BA 1994) lives on Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, where her husband is a marine sergeant. Davina teaches history to sixth graders at a Department of Defense school and teaches English as a Second Language to adults. Mayumi Morishita (MA 2005) continues to teach school in Hiroshima, and Phoenix Savage (MA Anthropology, 2001), a Fine Arts graduate student at Georgia State University, recently received a Fulbright award to study and create sculptures at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria.

Here in Oxford, several alumni have new positions at the University of Mississippi. Rebecca Batey (MA 2009) is project coordinator for a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Through Media and Documentary Projects, the project is digitizing the holdings of the political archives. Eric Feldman (MA 2009) has also returned to work with Media and Documentary Projects, particularly *Highway 61 Radio*. Velsie Pate (MA 2010) is teaching American culture classes in the Intensive English Program, and Jimmy Thomas (MA 2007), while working with Charles Reagan Wilson to turn out volumes of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, is teaching 100-level composition courses.

Ted Ownby



A good number of Southern Studies friends gathered in New Orleans in September as part of a new effort to encourage alumni chapters of Southern Studies alumni and friends. Representing a range of people with connections to the Center—alumni, current students, current and former faculty members, Center Advisory Committee members, and other friends—the group enjoyed dinner and discussed what such a group could do in the future. Among those who gathered were, pictured above from left, Teresa Parker Farris, Joyce Miller, Melanie Young, Ted Ownby, Michael Upton, Dannel Perry in the first row and Jessica Nystrom and Justin Nystrom in the second row.

The 18th Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

March 24–26, 2011

The 18th Oxford Conference for the Book, set for March 24–26, 2011, will begin on Thursday with a library lunch and a talk on book history and continue through Saturday with addresses, panels, and readings. Speakers will include notable authors, editors, publishers, and others in the book trade as well as educators, literacy advocates, and readers of all ages. Fifth and ninth graders will join the audience on Friday morning for sessions with authors of books for young readers. The conference edition of *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a fiction and poetry jam, and a marathon book signing at Off Square Books are also part of the festivities. The slate of speakers is not yet final, but many of those confirmed are announced here.

Each year the conference showcases two writers for young people. All Oxford-area fifth- and ninth-grade students (nearly 1,000 readers) receive their own copies of books by the visitors and go to the conference to hear the authors speak about writing and reading. Students from Mississippi Teacher Corps and Teach for America schools in the area (about 600 readers) will also attend these sessions. Jon and Pamela Voelkel will discuss their work with fifth graders, who will receive copies of *Middleworld*, the first of the Voelkels' Jaguar Stones trilogy. Ally Condie will speak to ninth graders, who will receive copies of her popular novel *Matched*.

Beth Ann Fennelly, a poet who teaches at the University of Mississippi,

has organized the conference's 2011 celebration of American Poetry Month. Poets Michael McFee, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Richard Tillinghast, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, who now lives in Ireland, will read from their work and talk with the audience. Natasha Trethewey, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and other poets as well as several fiction writers will also present readings and discuss their work.

Jack Pendarvis, author and creative writing teacher at the University of Mississippi, will moderate a session on the graphic novel with author Megan Abbott, comic artist and illustrator Michael Kupperman, and another guest to be announced. Abbott, the Edgar Award-winning author of five "regular" novels, will talk about the process of writing her first graphic novel, *Normandy Gold*, to be published next fall. Kupperman created the comic strips *Up All Night* and *Found in the Street* and has written scripts for DC Comics. His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and numerous other magazines and journals as well as in a dozen comic anthologies.

Journalist Tom Oliphant will moderate a panel on "Writing about Sports" with authors Rick Cleveland, Wil Haygood,

and Wright Thompson. Cleveland, columnist at the *Clarion-Ledger* for 30 years, is the author of a collection of his newspaper articles and books on sports legends Johnny Vaught and David "Boo" Ferris. Haygood, a staff writer for the *Washington Post*, is the author of five books, including *Sweet Thunder: The Life and Times of Sugar Ray Robinson*. Thompson, a senior writer for ESPN.com and *ESPN The Magazine*, previously covered sports for the *Times-Picayune* in New Orleans and the *Kansas City Star*.

Journalist Curtis Wilkie will talk about *The Fall of the House of Zeus*, his book on the Richard Scruggs legal scandal, and literary scholar Peggy Whitman Prenshaw will discuss her forthcoming *Composing Selves: Southern Women and Autobiography*, selected as winner of the 2011 Jules and Frances Landry Award, given annually to the best new book in Southern Studies published by LSU Press.

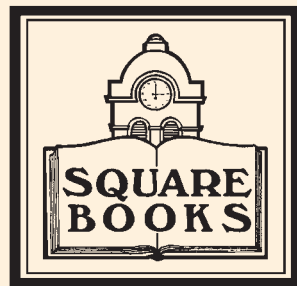
The University of Mississippi and Square Books sponsor the conference in association with the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library, Lafayette County Literacy Council, Oxford Middle School PTA, Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, and Southern Literary Trail.

A literary tour of the Mississippi Delta and several workshops are scheduled in conjunction with the conference. For details about the tour, see page 23. For details about the workshops, see page 31. For both, visit www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com.



For tourist information, contact:

Oxford Convention
and Visitors Bureau
102 Ed Perry Boulevard
Oxford, MS 38655
telephone 800-758-9177
662-232-2367
fax 662-232-8680
www.oxfordcvb.com



For information about books and authors, contact:

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telephone 800-468-4001
662-236-2262
fax 662-234-9630
www.squarebooks.com



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Southern Studies on the Road

Zandria Robinson gave two papers in Atlanta in August: "Turning South: Reclamation and Accomplishment in Black Southern Cultures" at the Association of Black Sociologists annual meeting, and a paper on sociology and racial epistemology in a Special Session on Black Folks and the Sociology of Knowledge at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Charles Reagan Wilson led workshops on Delta religion at a Delta State University workshop on Delta culture in June. In September he gave a paper on Alice Munro at a University of Vienna conference entitled "Cultural Circulation: Canadian Writers and Authors from the American South—A Dialogue."

Ted Ownby took part in a panel discussion on the study of Southern religion at the American Academy of Religion conference in Atlanta and give a plenary talk about being a Southern historian at the Ohio Valley History Conference meeting at Tennessee Technological University in October. Ownby and Nancy Bercaw are on the program committee at the Southern Historical Association Convention meeting in Charlotte in November.

Adam Gussow gave the keynote lecture on race and blues at Cultural Harmony Week at Kansas State University in September, and while there he played a gig with the Red State Blues Band at Pat's Blue Ribbon BBQ.

Jimmy Thomas is giving a paper, "Mississippi Mahjar: Lebanese Migration to the Mississippi Delta and Its Impact on Race Relations," at the Southern Historical Association Convention in Charlotte.

In August, *Living Blues* publication manager Mark Camarigg spoke to the West Point Rotary Club about the Mississippi Blues Commission's Blues Trail and the potential for blues tourism throughout the state.

David Wharton's travels as documentary photographer take him all over the world, including the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival in Morgan City, Louisiana, in September.

Two Southern Studies Positions Open at the University of Mississippi

Southern Studies and Sociology or Anthropology

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture invite applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in Sociology or Anthropology with a joint appointment in Southern Studies. We seek a scholar specializing in the contemporary South with an ongoing fieldwork-based research program. The successful candidate should have a PhD in Sociology or Anthropology by August 2011. Possible areas of emphasis include but are not limited to music, visual arts, foodways, religion, sport, social movements, ethnicity, migrations, and globalization. Both the Sociology and Anthropology and Southern Studies offer BA and MA degrees. While tenure and promotion reside in Sociology and Anthropology, teaching and service responsibilities will be divided between the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. We are seeking a candidate who is qualified to teach a field methods course as well as introductory and upper-division courses in her or his areas of specialization. Candidates must complete an online application at <https://jobs.olemiss.edu>. Candidates should also attach to the online application the following supplementary materials: a curriculum vitae, a letter that outlines research and teaching interests, sample syllabi or plan for teaching, and a chapter or article-length writing sample. Three letters of recommendation should be mailed to Ross Haenfler, Leavell Hall, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. The review of applications will begin on December 1, 2010, and continue until the position is filled. The University of Mississippi is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer.

Southern Studies/Southern Foodways

The University of Mississippi seeks a postdoctoral teaching fellow and adjunct assistant professor in Southern Studies for 2011–2012. The successful candidate should have a PhD by the time of appointment and should study the relationship between foodways and cultural life in the American South. Teaching responsibilities will include two courses—a Southern Studies course entitled Foodways and Southern Culture and a second course related to foodways in his/her discipline, i.e., History, English, Sociology, Anthropology, or another liberal arts discipline. The postdoctoral fellow will also work to expand connections between the Southern Foodways Alliance—a documentary- and outreach-focused institute within the Center for the Study of Southern Culture—and various academic programs of the University. Candidates must complete an online application at <https://jobs.olemiss.edu>. Candidates should also attach to the online application, or send by mail, the following supplementary materials: a letter that outlines research and teaching interests, a syllabus or plan for teaching a foodways course, a vita, and a chapter-length writing sample. Three letters of recommendation should be mailed to Ted Ownby, Director, Center for the Study of Southern, Barnard Observatory, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. The review of applications will begin on November 15, 2010, and continue until the position is filled or an adequate applicant pool is established. The University of Mississippi is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer.

Q&A with Southern Studies Professor Robinson

It took Professor Zandria Robinson four years, more than 100 interviews, and weekly flights from Chicago to Memphis to complete her dissertation on black culture in the urban South. Despite defending her dissertation at Northwestern University and completing her first year as a tenure-track professor at the University of Mississippi earlier this year, the newly minted PhD is still grinding harder than an undergraduate pulling an all-nighter.

"I get this project done; I get the South Memphis project done; then I'll breathe. Then I'll take a nap," said Robinson. "But I'm definitely going to power through these two projects because I think they're important for urban sociology, for the ways we think about race, for the ways we think about culture, and for the project of Southern Studies."

In 2011 the determined sociologist hopes to start a project on neighborhood change and continuity focused on the South Memphis community in Memphis, Tennessee. However, her most immediate project is transforming her dissertation into a manuscript tentatively titled "This Ain't Chicago: Regional Distinction in the Post-Soul South." Robinson, 28, described both the publishing process and her first year at the University of Mississippi as emotional journeys, and on a recent afternoon at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, she took a moment to reflect on professorship and publishing.

Cathryn Stout (CS): First, tell me about your time at Ole Miss.

Zandria Robinson (ZR): It's been interesting. The job ad said somebody who does African Americans in the contemporary South who is a social scientist. I was like, well, that's me. In many ways, the job was a perfect fit and I came in and hit the ground running. Of course, I came in at a time when there are all kinds of changes going on around here that are interesting, but also problematic so I'm having a sort of baptism by fire. Things around the mascot, things around university symbols, make it just a very interesting time to be here and to



Cathryn Stout

Zandria Robinson

be a black faculty person—a relatively young black faculty person.

CS: Why bring your research to a predominantly white campus? Why not go to a [historically black university like] a Howard, a Hampton, a Spelman?

ZR: Honestly, when I have a tough day I'm like, that would not have happened at Howard. I'm serious. I definitely have that kind of thing. And I don't know if it's a product of my own youth or being young in the profession, but it's definitely an issue. . . . The relative value of it is to be in an environment where change is so resisted, but so necessary. You know, coming back to Memphis was about that. It is my hometown, but we don't have this data. We don't have this knowledge and nobody is coming back and doing it. We have a brain drain. There are lots of good working folks in Memphis. People come back all the time, but we need more folks on the ground doing this work. And that is the same way I feel about the University of Mississippi. Somebody has got to do the work.

CS: Let's talk specifically about your work. What project did you recently

complete or are you currently in the midst of?

ZR: What I am working on now is revising a dissertation into a manuscript, and it is going to be about region. And it is going to be about the way race and class and gender are mediated through a regional prism. And, of course, my subjects are black folks, and I'm looking at the ways that region informs their racial and gender and class sensibilities.

CS: What are some of the things that came out in your research that went as expected, and what are some of the things in your research that surprised you?

ZR: The things that went as expected were that black Southerners tended to definitely draw distinctions between themselves and non-Southerners. That was just clear from the jump. What I didn't expect was the degree to which people's everyday performances of gender, race, and class were wrapped up in region. I love the concept of region, but sociologists want things we can prove. We want to prove the connection between A and B. I knew that there was a connection between region and race. I wasn't sure that there was a connec-

tion between region and the way people performed their identities every day. My favorite quote [from my interviews] is where this girl is like “You know I am a true Southern belle; I like men, money, and manicures.”

So while I expected to have Southerners who think about themselves as Southerners, I didn’t expect the level of performance that went into it, which is why in that research I say that Southernness, for these people in the study, is both a performance and an accomplishment. It’s hard work what they’re doing. You know this girl—the men, money, and manicures girl—she’s at the salon; she’s the club; she’s at work; she’s always dressed to the nines and there are so many women like her.

CS: The people you interviewed, what did they gain by maintaining these distinctions? What did they lose?

ZR: One of the main things they gained is some peace of mind, particularly when they talked about race. Maintaining a distinction between themselves and non-Southerners made them seem like racial experts. “We know what to expect. We’re not going to get tripped up by white people because we know what to expect. We deal with them all the time.”

What they lost was the possibility of

trying to really deal with some racial hurt.

CS: How about on the gender level?

ZR: On the gender level, what they’re gaining, they say, is access to good men, that’s for the women. For the men, what they’re gaining is a “respectable partner.” By being a Southern gentleman you can gain a respectable partner, which really means a pretty, nice girl. On the other hand, what [the women] are giving up are some feminist possibilities to a certain extent. They are playing into that age-old distinction of being a feminist and being feminine. For me, it’s not necessarily impossible to be feminine and a feminist. But for them, being this belle meant giving up certain kinds of power, but that was okay because they had a man.

CS: And how about the men? What were they losing?

ZR: The men expressed that they boxed themselves into certain categories of women.

CS: What’s the practical application [of your research]?

ZR: Selling and packaging the South is big business. Always has been, always will be. Now because of new migration

to the South and an increase in African American wealth in the South, in general, folks are like we need to sell these black people stuff. And also, we need to draw on the South to sell black people everywhere stuff.

CS: Where are you in the timeline of turning the dissertation into a book?

ZR: I have some interested publishers. I’m shooting for the top. So I’m hoping to have a contract by the end of this academic year.

CS: So will there be a breather in between your two projects?

ZR: No breathing. Nope. I hope, in the ideal world, “This Ain’t Chicago” will be under contract at the end of this academic year at the latest. And I would have done a lot of revisions. Then, I’ll go into the field to start [the South Memphis] project next summer. However, is that book going to be done with the complete revisions and all that? Probably not. But I hope to be really close to being done. And people always tell me, why are you rushing? You need to slow down. But I am like I have a lot of work to do. We’re behind on doing black people in the South. So I have a lot of stuff to do. So no, I can’t stop right now.

Cathryn Stout

Brown Bag Programs Fall 2010

Wednesday Brown Bag lectures this fall featured everything from the Florida environment to Mississippi barbecue to defining the South through the process of editing to the blues to independent film.



(above) Melanie Addington (left) and Thomas L. Phillips discuss their new independent movie, *Where I Begin*, filmed in Oxford in summer 2010.

(left) From left: Bernie Pearl, California-based blues performer, shares the stage with bass player Michael Barry and Southern Studies and English Associate Professor Adam Gussow, on harmonica.



William Winter Institute's Summer Program for Mississippi Youth

For 10 days on the campus of the University of Mississippi in Oxford, 27 high school students from communities ranging from the Mississippi Gulf Coast to North Mississippi gathered to attend the Summer Youth Institute. These students attended workshops and learned different ways to communicate with each other, both about issues they face in their communities and interpersonally. The issues ranged from LGBT rights to education to recreation to access to healthy food to social segregation.

The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation organized and structured the Summer Youth Institute. The three main objectives were building relationships, creating a statewide network, and developing local community projects and activism. A running thread throughout the Institute was the theory of respectful dialogue and also the realization of each individual's personal story. One big focus was educating the students about the legacy of the civil rights movement in Mississippi. They traveled to Philadelphia to the exact location of where civil rights activists Andrew Goodman, James Cheney, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in 1964. They traveled to Money to see the remains of the general store where 14-year-old Emmett Till allegedly whistled at a white woman, leading to his murder. Seeing these locations and having hands-on education proved to be an emotional experience for the students as well as a catalyst energizing



Institute staff and students with former Mississippi governor William Winter (back row, center)

their own resolve to address problems in their hometowns.

The impact of the 10-day program can be expressed no better than by the words the students wrote themselves. The Institute has a blog, where students expressed their feelings at the end of the program. Participant Devante Wiley, from Greenwood, wrote, "This Institute has given me the courage to stand up and be the head dog in my community . . . and possibly city. I look forward to working with the people I have encountered here to make Mississippi a much, much, much, much better place." Ann Marie Herod, from Abbeville, wrote, "One of many commonalities we all had was that we were not satisfied with some of the things being taught in our schools and our over-

all education. Throughout the week we visited many historical civil rights sites and researched many civil rights leaders that we had no prior knowledge of, and we didn't have the full story on the ones we knew about. It was like I was learning in a history class. We need to know about these things because this is Mississippi's history."

The Summer Youth Institute has planted a seed in the active and concerned and passionate students who attended. They now know that they do not have to wait on the world to change or wait for a leader to lead them to the change. They can become the change. They can initiate the change. They are resources for each other and now that that possibility has been illuminated for them, there is hope that the good work will continue. Not only will the good work continue, but it will also evolve, "Look out Mississippi. . . There are some new sheriffs in town!"

Blount Montgomery

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Blog: <http://summeryouthinstitute.blogspot.com/>

Vimeo: <http://www.vimeo.com/user4252657>

Web site: www.winterinstitute.org/pages/students-SYI.htm



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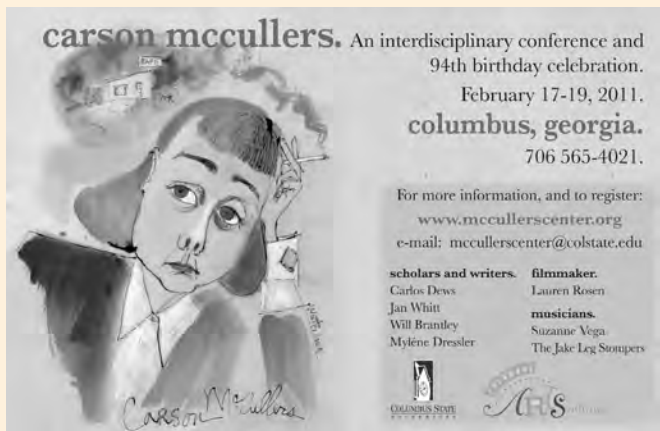


Just search "Center for the Study of Southern Culture" and click on "Like"!

Southern Literary Trail Events

The Southern Literary Trail, a tri-state collaboration of 18 Southern towns, celebrates 20th-century Southern writers and playwrights through a variety of events in their home communities. Trailfest events for 2011 are listed below.

- Carson McCullers: An Interdisciplinary Conference and 94th Birthday Celebration, Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia, February 17–19
- Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration in Natchez, Mississippi, February 24–27
- Ralph Ellison Lecture, Tuskegee University, March 16
- Mississippi Delta Literary Tour, March 20–23
- Oxford Conference for the Book, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, March 24–26
- Tennessee Williams 100th Birthday Celebration, Columbus, Mississippi, March 21–27
- Spring Pilgrimage of Homes in Columbus, Mississippi, March 28–April 9
- Flannery O'Connor Conference, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Georgia, April 13–16
- Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery, Alabama, April 16



A traveling exhibition, *Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections*, will also be part of Trailfest 2011. The exhibition is a collection of Depression-era photographs taken by the writer and compiled into her book *One Time, One Place*. The exhibition opened at the Museum of Mobile in September 2010 and will travel to the Rosa Parks Museum at Troy University in Troy, Alabama, the Atlanta History Center, the Carnegie Library Museum in Decatur, Alabama, and the Mississippi University for Women Gallery in Columbus, Mississippi, where it will conclude during the 2011 Welty Symposium.

More information on the Southern Literary Trail and Trailfest 2011 can be found online at www.southernliterary-trail.org.

Jimmy Thomas

CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Camarigg is the former assistant editor and current publications manager for *Living Blues* magazine.

W. Ralph Eubanks, an alumnus of the University of Mississippi, has been director of publishing at the Library of Congress since 1995. He is the author of *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past* and *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*.

Jennifer "Bingo" Gunter is a Mississippi woman who resides in Oxford while completing her master's in Southern Studies. She hopes to continue her studies of Southern women on the road to a PhD.

Donald M. Kartiganer is Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies Emeritus at the University of Mississippi and director of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference.

Colby H. Kullman is professor of English at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are *Theatre Companies of the World* and articles on Tennessee Williams and other modern dramatists.

Blount Montgomery received her BA degree from the University of the South and, after completing her MA in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi in May 2010, moved to Berkeley, California, to work with the Episcopal Service Corps.

Ted Ownby, director of the Center, holds a joint appointment in Southern Studies and history.

Cathryn Stout is a second-year graduate student in the Southern Studies master's program. A native Memphian, she is an alumna of Wellesley College and former reporter for the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper.

Susie Penman graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2007 with a degree in journalism and, after living and working in Scotland and Northern Ireland for three years, returned to her alma mater this fall to enroll in the Southern Studies graduate program.

Jimmy Thomas is managing editor of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. An alumnus of the University of Mississippi, he has worked for publications in Oxford and New York.

Mary McKenzie Thompson is a retired high school teacher of English and creative writing from Clarksdale, Mississippi.



SOUTHERN FOODWAYS REGISTER

The Newsletter of the Southern Foodways Alliance

"There's a saying [in Arabic] that's 'Bread and olives are the best thing you've ever eaten.' My daddy would say, 'For breakfast, go eat four olives and two pieces of bread and go to school.'"

—Pat Davis Sr., Abe's Bar-B-Q, Clarksdale, Mississippi

Announcing the Arrival of *The Southern Foodways Alliance Community Cookbook*

When the Southern Foodways Alliance set out to make a cookbook, it needed to be a true expression of the dynamic and diverse community that has come together to understand and celebrate the food culture of the American South. In tribute to the spiral-bound community cookbooks that so often present the informal history of people and place in the seemingly simple act of gathering a group of recipes, the book has an internal spiral binding in a hardbound case and the goal of defining Southern food in the most open-minded of ways.

In that community spirit, the cookbook, which includes over 170 tested recipes, was a collaborative project, written by Sheri Castle, Timothy C. Davis, April McGreger, Angie Mosier, and Fred Sauceman, edited by John T. Edge and Sara Roahen, with a foreword by Alton Brown.

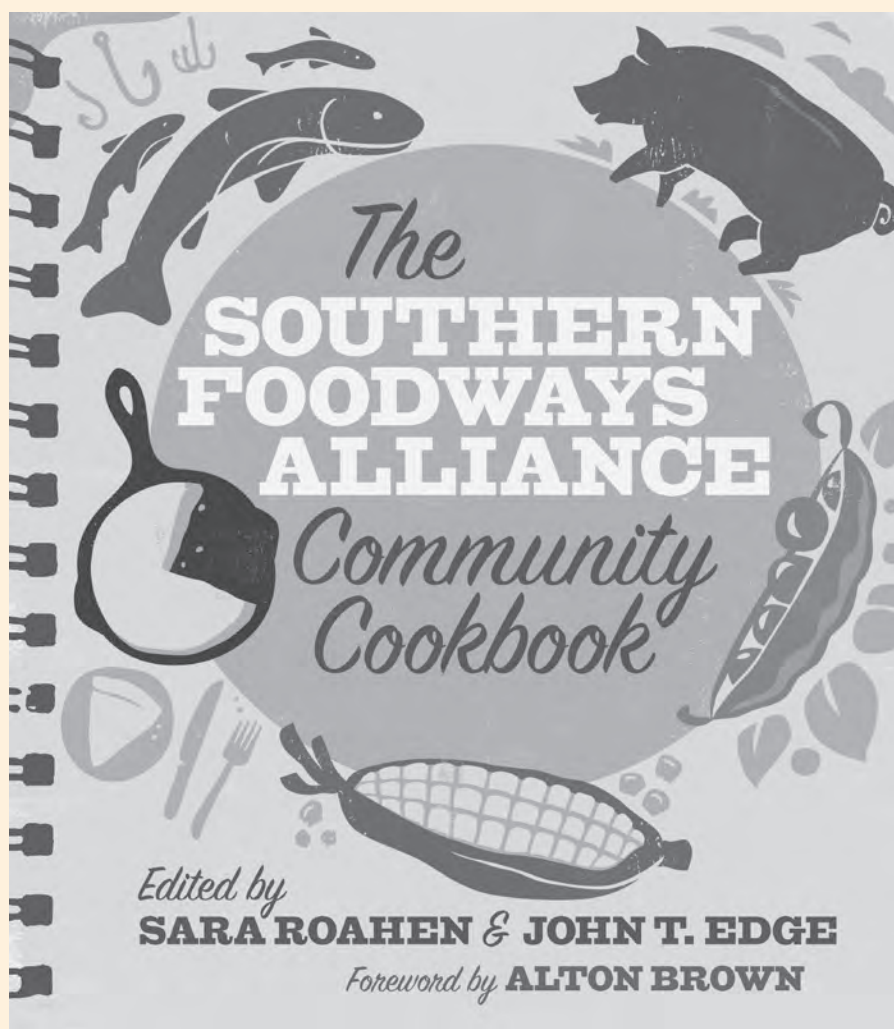
Each chapter represents an iconic food from the region, with an opening chapter of little nibbles (Sean Brock's Deep-Fried Peanuts, or Vance and Julie Vaucresson's Hot Sausage Balls) to eat while you cook. "Gravy" encompasses a surprising range, from Breakfast Shrimp Gravy to a bacon-based Sopping Chocolate; chapters on "Garden Goods," "Roots," and "Greens" run the gamut from crowder peas to gumbo z'herbes, and "Rice and Grits" covers jambalayas, fritters, and biscuits. "Yardbird," "Pig," "The Hook," and "The Hunt" explore meat and fish, from Miguel Torres's Carnitas to Bill Bayley's West Indies Salad or Tim Patridge's Smothered Quail. Final chapters offer pickles and preserves ("Put Up")

and desserts ("Cane"), including Angie Mosier's quest to re-create the Coconut Layer Cake from the bakeshop at Rich's department store.

In its underlying inclusiveness, the cookbook seeks to embody the values of the Southern Foodways Alliance, drawing on contributions from newcom-

ers to the South as well as those whose families go back generations, chefs and academics, catfish farmers, and people who just like to cook. As Edge notes in his preface, "Our South reflects contradictions and contains multitudes."

Henry Mencken



Oral History Samples

Documentary projects are central to the SFA's mission. Oral history interviews not only preserve the stories of our region for future generations, they connect us to people and traditions that most of us take for granted every day. Since the formal inception of our documentary initiative in 2005, we have collected hundreds of stories and now have 500 oral histories in our archive. Quite a collection! Read excerpts from two new ones below.

Delta Lebanese

A New Oral History Project by Amy Evans Streeter

The first wave of Middle Eastern immigrants to the Mississippi Delta began in the 1880s and continued through the 1920s. They came from the Mount Lebanon region of Syria, looking to escape religious and political persecution and make better lives for their families in America.

Instead of arriving as agricultural laborers as the Chinese and Italians did, these immigrants established themselves as members of the merchant class, peddling dry goods and sundries to tenant families, both black and white, throughout the rural Delta. Most started out with a small suitcase of goods. As they attracted customers, they graduated to selling from horse-drawn wagons. For some, horse-and-wagon sales gave way to brick-and-mortar businesses.

As more Syrian immigrants made their way to the Delta, they formed social clubs, cooked and served traditional Sunday meals for family and friends, and marked celebrations with music and dance. Vibrant cultural traditions remained intact as these immigrants navigated life in the Deep South.

In 1943 Lebanon gained independence from Syria. Many immigrants from the former Mount Lebanon region of Syria welcomed this distinction and began calling themselves Lebanese.

Today, the Delta's Lebanese community has dwindled. But vestiges of their vital culture remain. The tales collected here tell the story of immigration and assimilation. And, of course, they tell the stories behind the food.

Meet Mary Louise Nosser who, for more than 40 years, has helped stage the annual St. George Orthodox Church Lebanese Dinner. Hear Chafik Chamoun tell of how the kibbe sandwich his wife made for him jump-started a life in the restaurant business. Learn about Ethel Wright Mohamed, the late stitchery artist, who documented life in the Delta.

Visit www.southernfoodways.org to view the project in its entirety.



Amy Evans Streeter

Chinese Grocers in the Mississippi & Arkansas Deltas

A New Oral History Project by SFA Intern Jung Min (Kevin) Kim

Chinese came to America in the late 19th century in search of the fabled *Gam Sahn* or Golden Mountain. When they arrived to the alluvial plains of the Mississippi Delta all they found was back-breaking agricultural work. First introduced to the region as indentured servants by planters during Reconstruction, these early Chinese sojourners (mostly from the Guangdong or Canton province) soon became disenchanted with working the fields. They moved off the plantations. Some left to go back home to China, but others stayed and opened small neighborhood grocery stores. Serving as an alternative to plantation commissaries and catering to a predominately African American clientele, the Chinese American grocer

was a mainstay in many Delta neighborhoods well into the 20th century.

Life in the grocery business was by no means an easy living. Early morn-



Jung Min (Kevin) Kim

ings and late nights were normal, as were the stresses of competition from large supermarket chains. Added to that were the stresses that they endured as immigrants navigating the complex sociopolitical structure of the region that historian James C. Cobb has called the "most southern place on earth."

Collected here are some of their stories. Meet Joe Dan Yee of Yee's Food Land in Lake Village, Arkansas, who bucked the trend of many second- and third-generation Delta Chinese by staying home, after his parents retired, to take over his family's market. Listen to Monica and Tony Li, who arrived from Hong Kong in a later wave of immigration, talk about quitting comfortable office jobs in pursuit of the American Dream.

Though the numbers of Chinese grocers diminish year by year, family stories tell an important history of immigration. They also speak to the formation of a unique food culture in the Mississippi and Arkansas Deltas.

Visit www.southernfoodways.org to view the project in its entirety.

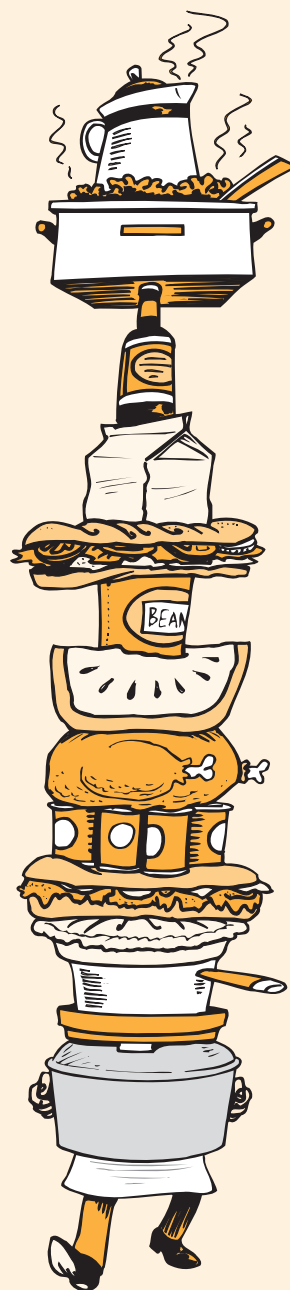
Third Annual Viking Range Lecture

On September 21, 2010, the Southern Foodways Alliance hosted its third annual Viking Range Lecture, featuring Andrew F. Smith discussing his forthcoming book, *Starving the South: How the North Won the Civil War*. Smith, a writer and lecturer on food and culinary history, teaches at the New School in Manhattan. He serves as the general editor for the Reaktion Books Edible Series and is past chair of the Culinary Trust, the philanthropic partner of the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP). He is also the editor in chief of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America*, the *Oxford Companion to American Food and Drink*, and author or editor of 15 other books.

Each year the Viking Range Lecture, underwritten by the Viking Range Corporation of Greenwood, Mississippi, brings scholars, writers, and artists to the University of Mississippi campus. Each lecturer, regardless of discipline, uses food as a vehicle for a greater understanding of self, community, and culture. The Southern Foodways Alliance and the University of Mississippi are grateful to Viking Range for their generosity.



From left: Charles Reagan Wilson, Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Chair of History and Professor of Southern Studies, who introduced the lecturer; John T. Edge, SFA director; LeAnne Gault of Viking Range; guest lecturer Andrew Smith; and John R. Neff, director of the Center for Civil War Research and associate professor of history, moderator of the discussion and questions following the lecture.



SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE



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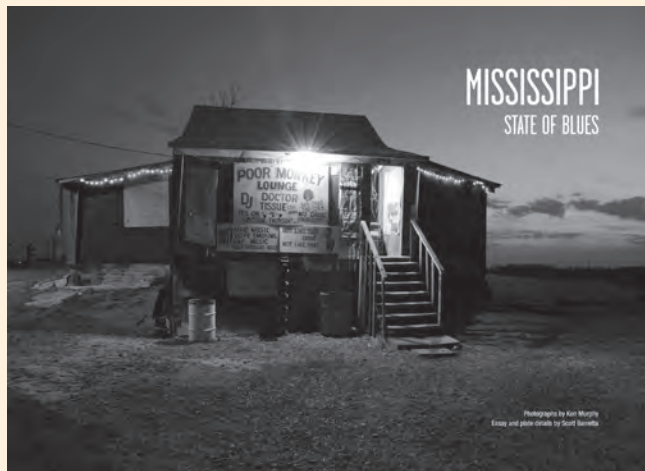
Reading the South

Mississippi: State of Blues.

Photographs by Ken Murphy.
Essay and plate details by Scott Barretta. Jackson: Mississippi: Proteus/Murphy Publishing, 2010. 120 pages, \$59.95 cloth.

When discussing representations of folk cultures today, the word *authenticity* gets thrown around quite a bit. Does that representation *actually* represent that culture, or does it merely attempt to mirror the common perception of that culture? This conundrum is particularly difficult when contemplating blues music and blues culture in places like Mississippi, the state where it is commonly accepted that the blues was born over 100 years ago. Spawned from field hollers, shouts and chants, work songs, and traditional spirituals and narrative ballads, and taken, dramatically transformed from its roots' form, to urban areas like Chicago, the blues has seen a metamorphosis like no other music. But in Mississippi there remains a not-so-far removed element of authenticity in the blues, a quality to the music and the culture that isn't so far positioned from its origins. In fact, in many places around the state, the blues still thrives exactly where it was conceived—in juke houses, in cotton fields, on farms and plantations, and in the hearts and minds of the people who create and conserve it.

Mississippi: State of Blues, by Ken Murphy (photographs) and Scott Barretta (text), is a testament not only to the enduring authenticity of the blues in Mississippi, but an homage to the people and places that have kept the fire of the music and culture burning—from those who create and perform the music to those who avidly seek it out. The art of the blues has never existed as art for art's sake,



but instead it has always been a celebratory art, an *event* that brings people and ties communities together, all but erasing color lines and thus transforming individual social perspectives. This book provides evidence of that, showing how the blues attracts people from across generational and social boundaries and how Mississippi, in ways both conscious and unconscious, continues to nurture the blues culture of and in the state. In a very real way, this book participates in keeping the flame of the blues alight.

In *Mississippi: State of Blues*, Murphy and Barretta take the viewer and reader to places that even the most ardent blues fan has never been—even if that blues aficionado lives squarely between the borders of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama. This book shows that from the backroads trading posts—like the Valley Store near Avalon, where Mississippi John Hurt used to play—and the blues artists' gravesites all but engulfed by the creeping nature surrounding them, to the brand-new, multimillion-dollar museums that educate and inspire—like the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center—the blues exists

in a paradoxical state of perpetual change and rummy preservation.

The photographs in this book are not old (Murphy, perhaps reluctantly, admits to taking the photos with a digital camera), but they are indeed archival. They document the current state of

blues in Mississippi, and in brilliant color and careful detail they genuinely represent the many forms the blues takes across the state today. As Barretta says in the text, he and Murphy “wanted to present the wide range of settings in which blues artists practice their craft and present what people might actually encounter when they come in search of the blues in Mississippi.” Places where only the ghosts of the blues exist (like the abandoned Roxy's juke joint, on page 98, where Howlin' Wolf frequently played), preppy, young, barbecue-eating blues fans at festivals (like those five youngsters on page 27 sitting on a sofa they dragged out especially for the occasion), and bluesmen with their families (like R. L. Boyce with his twin granddaughters cradled in his lap on page 17) are all representations of the state of blues today. With the deft use of camera and pen, Murphy and Barretta show that the blues in Mississippi is collectively—and authentically—represented by the past, the present, and the future.

Jimmy Thomas

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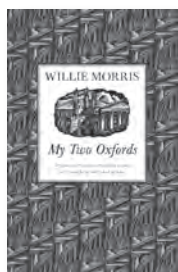


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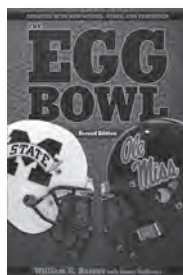
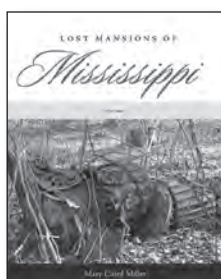


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Reading the South *continued*

Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives—Volume 2.

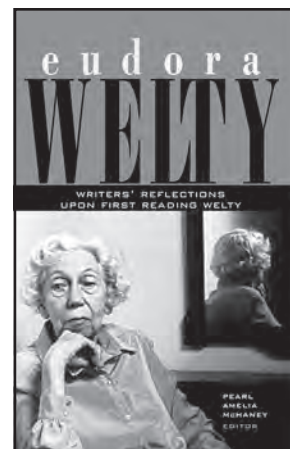
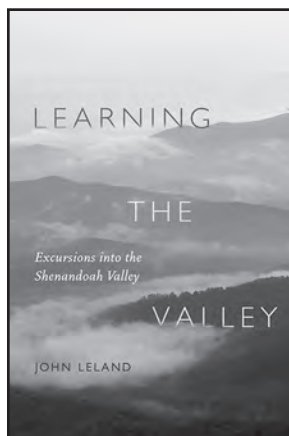
Edited by Elizabeth Anne Payne, Martha H. Swain, and Marjorie Julian Spruill.
Bibliography by Brenda W. Eagles. Athens:
University of Georgia Press, 2010.
365 pages. \$69.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

According to the "Acknowledgments" section at the beginning of this volume, the entire idea behind it, and its companion, was born at a café in downtown Jackson, Mississippi, over 10 years ago. What those women hatched that day has given us two volumes of history that go a good distance at furthering our understandings of what it meant, and means, to be a woman from the South. The first volume contains biographies of 17 notable women, among them Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, and Fannie Lou Hamer—the only three who had previously received scholarly attention—suffragists Nellie Nugent Somerville, Belle Kearney, and Pauline Van de Graaf Orr, professionals like artist Kate Freeman Clark, biologist Elizabeth Lee Hazen, and journalist Minnie Brewer, and civil rights leaders Mae Bertha Carter, Sayde Wier, and Vera Mae Pige. Volume 2 contains 17 visions of different women from across lines of class, race, religion, and political leanings such as Choctaw and Chickasaw, free blacks, poor whites, liberals, and conservatives.

From colonization through the civil rights movement the essays in the second volume of *Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives* chronicle the evolution of some of Mississippi's forgotten women. Each essay is as well researched as is possible considering that they are written about a mostly undocumented segment of society. The contributors, including our very own Ted Ownby and Nancy Bercaw, represent some of the finest in the field and their expertise and imagination make this a truly important book, for novices and the well versed alike.

Ownby's article is about the changes wrought by the rise of consumerism during the demise of agrarianism through the eyes of Elvis Presley's mother, Gladys, and Dorothy Dickens, who worked for the Mississippi State Extension Service. "Gladys Presley, Dorothy Dickens, and the Limits of Female Agrarianism in 20th-Century Mississippi" shows how "life stories of two white women in Mississippi bring to life the ways in which some women responded to farm life, its changes, and life away from the farm."

In "The Gendered Construction of Free Labor in the Civil War Delta," Nancy Bercaw discusses how bondsmen and women "experienced war and the first moments of freedom in radically different contexts."



Learning the Valley

Excursions into the Shenandoah Valley

John Leland

"Eudora Welty once said that 'one place understood helps us understand all other places better.' John Leland shows his readers the Shenandoah Valley with such clarity and appreciation that we see not only his place in the world but our place in a new, deeper way. What a wonderful book."—Ron Rash, author of *Serena*, *Burning Bright*, and others

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Eudora Welty

Writers' Reflections upon First Reading Welty

Edited by Pearl Amelia McHaney

A celebration of the legacy of the "first lady of American letters" from an impressive cast of writers, scholars, and friends of the author

136 pp., 16 illus., pb, \$21.95



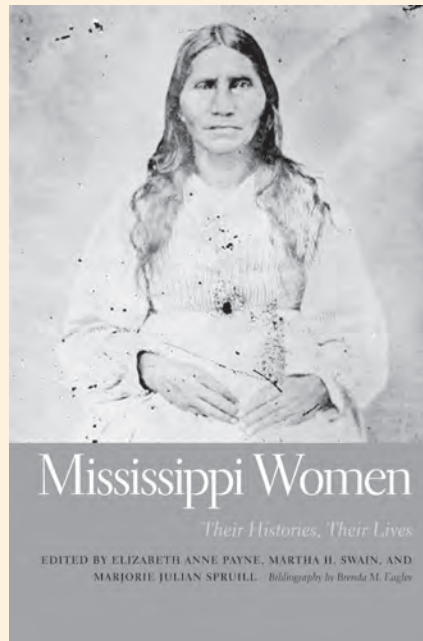
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Her analysis shows that although societal ideas of liberty were firmly male-centric, former slave women had another view. By looking at the roles of men and women who began to work for wages after Emancipation, Bercaw makes a viable argument that African American women, who were now free, took it upon themselves to create their own meaning of liberty through labor.

This book is a first-rate follow-up to Volume 2 and delves deeper into the effects the various influences of the world had upon women and how they reacted to them. The topics include how women dealt with negotiations of race and labor, feminism, activism, and legal issues. While some of the articles branch out to include women from other states and regions, they all focus primarily on women from Mississippi to show a broader view of all Southerners. The volume takes care to encompass articles from a wide area of history.

In this book the reader will find articles like “Yankees in the Yard; Mississippi Women during the Vicksburg Campaign,” by Michael B. Ballard. Ballard discusses elite white women who deserted their homes in Vicksburg to live in caves when the Union forces overtook their town. There is also a fascinating account of the feminist movement in “Mississippi ‘Takeover: Feminists, Antifeminists, and the International Women’s Year Conference of 1977” by one of the volume editors, Marjorie Julian Spruill. In the piece Spruill explains how a group of conservatives from Mississippi got themselves elected as delegates and attended the IWY conference in Houston. As she tells it, “conservatives managed to achieve a complete ‘takeover’ that would have enduring consequences for Mississippi women and for state politics.”

“Hearth and Home: Constructing Domesticity in Mississippi, 1830–1920,” by Susan Ditto, deals with the creation of the modern kitchen. In it



Ditto tries to understand the “rapid and marked change” that occurred among white women in the South in regards to domesticity. She goes on to show that the study of architecture can reveal even more about the evolution of the New South. Through her investigation of probate inventories she was able to reconstruct the interior of homes, and especially the “hearth rooms,” which have long since been relegated to forgotten history. Ditto continues her analysis to show that the move towards domestic arts by Southern elite white women was, in fact, an extension of the “Lost Cause” movement.

There are also two outstanding pieces on race in this volume. The first is a fresh investigation of antebellum Natchez, and the other looks at a family from the infamous Free State of Jones. Author Joyce L. Broussard shows that, through familial relationships with whites, some free black women of antebellum Natchez were able to move if not completely outside the bounds of race then at least to have some sort of latitude within society. Broussard’s exploration of the relationship between a white man, David Earhart, and a free black woman, Agnes Gordon, gives proof that

perhaps the strict laws of race were not always as firm as we may believe.

The other article, by Victoria E. Bynum, is also a study of the sometimes indefinite limits of race. In “Negotiating Boundaries of Race and Gender in Jim Crow Mississippi” the author looks at the Knight family of Jones County. The members of this multiracial family “refused to abide by the South’s ‘one drop’ rule.” The Knight family tree is a gnarled, colorful one in which white, black, and Native American mix to become something completely different. Bynum shows them as being an unbending group of people whose desire to be seen as not black simply overrode everything else, even the social mores of the day. Her article focuses most closely on Anna Knight, a blue-eyed woman with olive skin, who wrote an autobiography devoted strictly to her conversion to Seventh-Day Adventism, in which she tried to distance herself from her family as well as establish herself as one deserving of respect, regardless of race or gender. Although a child of the Knight family, she had tried to escape both the racism and gossip surrounding her family by fleeing Mississippi. She eventually returned to her home in the early 1900s to help educate her community. Bynum, in this article, is helpful in unraveling more of the mystery of not only the Knight family but the society that shunned them when they refused to submit to its standards.

Overall, these essays prove that there was much more happening behind what has been called the “magnolia curtain” than has previously been believed. The women discussed rarely adhere to the tightly drawn stereotypes that have framed Southern women for so long. They are more strong willed and less easily swayed than the loudest voices in society may have you believe. They demonstrate again and again that the women of Mississippi are neither to be taken lightly nor easily disregarded.

Jennifer Gunter

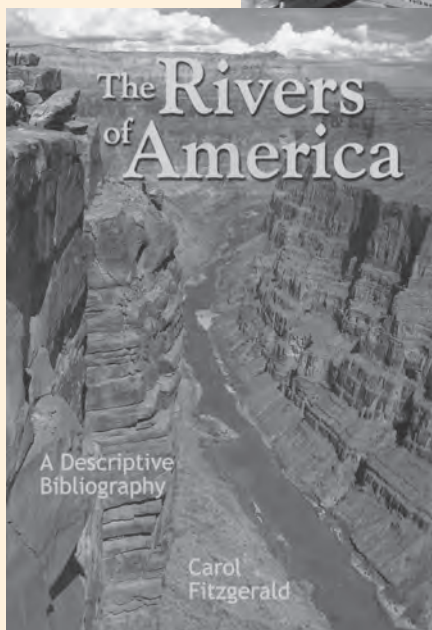
Carol Fitzgerald: Collector, Researcher, Independent Scholar

For many bibliophiles, book collecting only serves to satisfy an obsessive need. It is rare to find a book collector interested purely in preserving a cultural legacy and supporting scholarship through collecting rather than filling a designated empty spot on a bookshelf. Carol Fitzgerald (BA, 1964) is one of those rare collectors who pursues scholarship first and collecting second. Collecting is only part of the path toward scholarship. Along the way, she pursued her work with great personal conviction rather than financial reward.

A Pittsburgh native, Carol Fitzgerald moved to Florida in high school and came to Ole Miss not as a freshman, but as a transfer student from the University of Florida. "I had far too much fun my freshman year," Fitzgerald remembered. When her parents brought her home at the end of her freshman year, they gave her a list of 26 colleges and universities to choose from, many of them women's colleges. Ole Miss was on the list, but she was not familiar with the school. After a neighbor told her about the prowess of Ole Miss's football team, she made the decision to transfer.

Fitzgerald arrived at Ole Miss during the historic admission of James Meredith as the first African American student at the University. "I was there when the tear gas went off, and my hair was grazed by a flying tear gas canister," Fitzgerald recalled. "Still, it was a fascinating and historic time to be a student at Ole Miss."

As a student, Fitzgerald majored in political science and Spanish, with minors in psychology and English. But



those weren't her only academic interests. "I would sit in as many classes as I could, if I had the time. I wanted to learn as much as I could." Her days at Ole Miss included doing personal research with a lab rat in the basement of Peabody Hall and started her on the

path of having a lifelong interest in academic research. "I always enjoyed the research more than the collecting."

Fitzgerald, the lifelong researcher, had her beginnings as a collector in 1986, when she happened to find a copy of a book called *The St. John's: A Parade of Diversities*, which she purchased as a gift for her sister and brother-in-law who live along the St. John's River in Jacksonville, Florida. That day a friend, who was a book dealer she knew, was accompanying her and her husband, Jean. When the friend saw the book, he told

her about a book series called the Rivers of America and said that those books would "make a nice collection." Those words stuck with Carol. Consequently, she never gave the book to her sister. It is now part of the Rivers of America collection she built, which she donated to the Library of Congress in 2003. The collection comprises more than 400 first editions, subsequent printings, related correspondence, audio and video recordings, original art, and other materials.

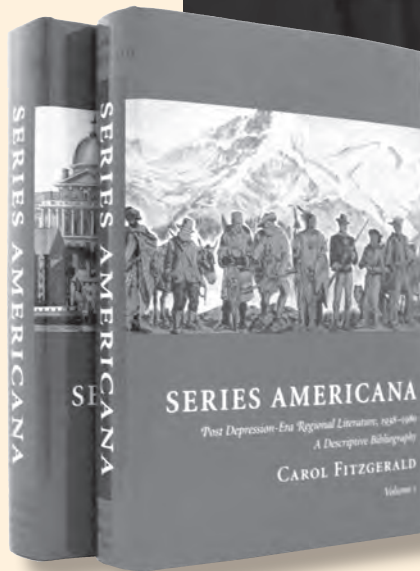
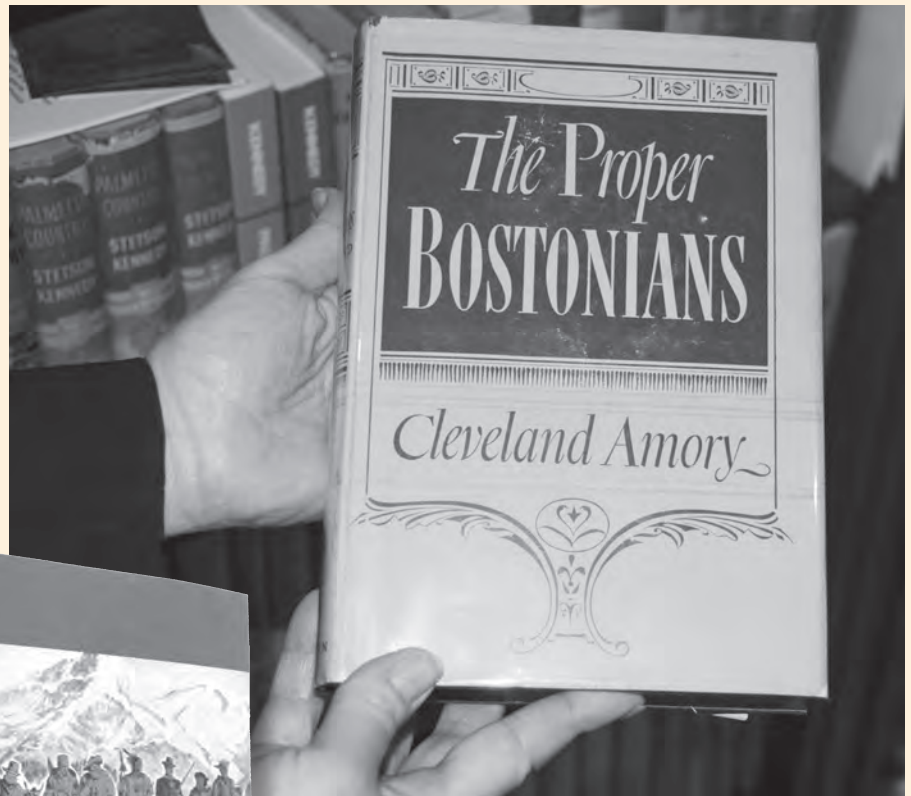
As Fitzgerald collected books and material related to the Rivers of America series, she realized this was not just an ordinary book series. Rivers of America was a microcosm of American publishing from the Great Depression until the early 1970s, an example of how an editor's passion brought books into print, rather than an obsessive focus on profitability. She learned this firsthand when she spent time in the archives of the publisher of the series, Henry Holt and Company. Henry Holt opened up their entire archive to Carol and Jean, who assisted her with research. The information that she uncovered in the archives

Photographs courtesy Nicholas A. Beshames

allowed her to learn the publishing history of most of the volumes in the series: letters between the authors and the editors, correspondence with the illustrators of the books, and many of the financial transactions that were made for the books, including author fees. The result is her 2-volume bibliography, *The Rivers of America: A Descriptive Bibliography*, a comprehensive description of the 65-title series (1937–1974). The work was published by Oak Knoll Press and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Jean served as the editor of the book.

The Rivers of America is an authoritative, illustrated 1,020-page reference work. It presents complete bibliographical descriptions of the nearly 400 printings of the 65 titles in the series and biographies of all of its 60 authors, 53 illustrators, and eight editors. But these are more than just bibliographic entries. The entries work together as a narrative history of American publishing, particularly of general interest adult nonfiction publishing. Readable and rich in detail, each entry includes biographies of the author and illustrator, as well as the story of the book's editorial development, a list of reviews, and other works by the author of the volume.

While completing *The Rivers of America*, what became as important as her research was the relationships Fitzgerald built along the way. From the information she found in Henry Holt's archive, Fitzgerald contacted as many living authors and illustrators as she could, which allowed her to include some information in her entries that could not be learned from items she found in the archives. "Meeting the people—the authors and illustrators—added a dimension to the book I never would have gotten from a magazine article or a piece of correspondence." One of the friends she made along the way was fellow Ole Miss graduate Thomas Clark (BA 1928), author of *The Kentucky*.



And she learned that several other Ole Miss graduates were illustrators and writers for the series, including

Mississippi

congressman Frank E. Smith, author of *The Yazoo*.

Although completing *The Rivers of America* was an achievement, Fitzgerald had only whetted her appetite as a researcher on that project. Her next book, published in 2009, is titled *Series Americana: Post Depression-Era Regional Literature, 1938–1980*. Following on the regional WPA guides, American regional writing became increasingly popular in the decades following the Great Depression. As a result, 13 series of books on regional topics were published, representing 163 separate titles. One series was edited by the writer Erskine Caldwell and included *Gulf Coast Country*, by Hodding Carter and Anthony Ragusin. Her approach is similar to the one she took for *Rivers of America*, with each entry including biographies of the authors, illustrators, and editors, as well as the publishing history of the book.

In her research, writing, and collecting, Carol Fitzgerald has not sought out fame and fortune. The work was its own reward. "All of it was a labor of love—the writing of the book, the research." When her collecting was done, she wanted a home for it, which led her to the Library of Congress. "It's a great honor to have my collections in the Library of Congress. I know they are in the right place."

Fitzgerald's labor of love captured a side of American regional history that has by and large been ignored because the books were regional and even local in subject matter. Some even thought of these regional book series as celebratory and commercial. But what Fitzgerald uncovered in her research was the real and substantive links between these various book series. Moreover, she documented how these books made concrete contributions to American thought and culture. It's not exactly what Fitzgerald thought she would be doing when she was sitting in as many classes as she could to broaden her academic knowledge beyond her major.

Yet Fitzgerald knows few people get to accomplish what she has done in a lifetime of work. And for that, she is not boastful, only thankful.

W. Ralph Eubanks

MISSISSIPPI DELTA LITERARY TOUR, MARCH 20–24, 2011

Organized by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, this annual spring tour focuses on the Mississippi Delta's legendary blues, writers, and food, along with its tumultuous history. The tour is based in and will focus on Greenwood, with day trips to Greenville and Clarksdale.

Literary scholar Kenneth Holditch will give talks on Tennessee Williams, the author of the play *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the screenwriter of the film *Baby Doll*, and on the Jewish writer and Greenville native David L. Cohn, author of *Where I Was Born and Raised*, a meditation on race in the Mississippi Delta during the 1930s and '40s. Author and literary critic Marion Barnwell will speak on Greenwood author Endesha Ida Mae Holland, and architectural historian Mary Carol Miller will give a historical tour of the city. We will visit the Tutwiler Community Education Center for a display of quilts made by local women and hear inspiring gospel music sung by those same quilters. We are also planning a visit to the Hebrew Union Temple in Greenville, where Stuart Rockoff, director of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, will lecture on the Jewish experience in the Mississippi Delta. We are planning other stops at the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola, Club Ebony in Indianola, the Ethel Wright Mohamed Stitchery Museum in Belzoni, the art gallery Gallery Point Leflore in Greenwood, Turnrow Book Company in Greenwood, Cathead Records and Folk Art in Clarksdale, Po Monkey's Juke Joint located outside of Merigold, and McCormick Book Inn in Greenville. Other speakers will include artist William Dunlap and Delta State University scholars Luther Brown and Henry Outlaw.

The Delta tour is \$575 per person for all program activities, eight meals, and local transportation. The fee does not include lodging. Remember to sign up early. Only 40 spots are available, and they will go fast.

Group accommodations are offered at the Alluvian, in downtown Greenwood (www.thealluvian.com). Rooms at the Alluvian require a separate registration and are priced at a discounted rate of \$170.00 a night plus tax, which includes a full, Southern breakfast. Call 866-600-5201 and ask for the "Literary Tour" rate. Rooms are also available at the Greenwood Best Western, 662-455-5777, or the Hampton Inn, 662-455-7985.

For more information, please contact tour organizer Jimmy Thomas via e-mail at jgthomas@olemiss.edu or by telephone at 662-915-5993.

Views of 2010 Tour

Each year intrepid literary travelers from across the U.S. gather in the Mississippi Delta to explore the region's writers, books, food, and lore. The 2010 Mississippi Delta Literary Tour found 20 book-loving explorers roaming the Delta countryside in search of uncommon adventure. Their singular experience took them from Greenwood to Yazoo City to Greenville to Clarksdale, and all points in between.



Anne Ford from Atlanta, Georgia, and Tim Kalich, editor of the *Greenwood Commonwealth*, discuss the future of Delta newspapers at TurnRow Book Company. Kalich spoke to the tour group, along with Jim Abbott, former editor of the *Indianola Enterprise-Tocsin*, on Delta newspapers and history (photo by Jimmy Thomas).



Participants peruse the rare-books displays in the Ricks Memorial Room in the B. S. Ricks Memorial Library in Yazoo City. Most books in the collection date to before 1915 (photo by Jimmy Thomas).

Tour organizer, Jimmy Thomas, with bust of Jim Henson and Kermit the Frog in the children's department of the William Alexander Percy Memorial Library in Greenville.

Henson, the creator of Kermit the Frog and other famous Muppets, was born in Greenville and was raised in nearby Leland (photo courtesy of Jimmy Thomas).

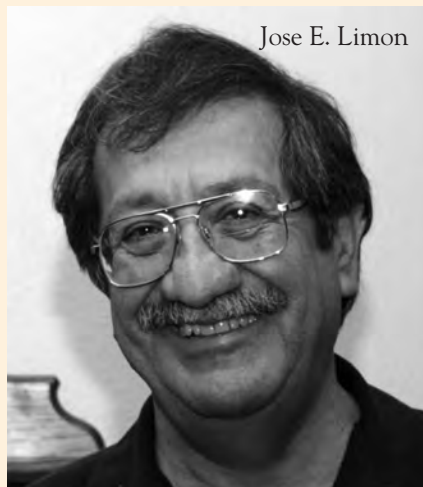


Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference

Faulkner's Geographies/Southern Literary Geographies: July 17–21, 2011

Given the great attention readers of William Faulkner have paid to the particulars, real and imaginary, of his “postage stamp of native soil,” it would appear that the theme of the 38th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference—“Faulkner’s Geographies”—has been well covered by literary critics. The routes between Jefferson and Sutpen’s Hundred or Frenchman’s Bend or the Big Woods, the course of the Yoknapatawpha River, the layout of Jefferson—Square, cemetery, Freedman Town, golf course—these natural and built structures and spaces and their models in Oxford, Holly Springs, and Ripley, Tula, Yocona, and Taylor, the Delta and the hill country are more vivid for many of us than the places we inhabit. Chooky Falkner’s typically gracious excuse for his uncle’s occasional capacity to pass silently by friends and relatives as if unaware of their existence—“I figured at those times he was in Jefferson”—may apply to the experience of reading Faulkner as well: “at those times we are in Jefferson.”

Current explorations of geography in literature, however, open new perspectives on what it means to be in Faulkner’s invented world. They take us beyond the mappings of specific neighborhoods, towns, and counties, urban and rural communities, in order to attend more closely to the dynamics of the borders that define these seemingly distinct geographical identities, to register the flow of character and culture from one place to another as deliberate migration or forced exile, to explore the mythic significance of North and



Jose E. Limon



Valerie Loichot

South—in sum, to take the measure of the poetics, the politics, the economics, the phenomenology and psychology of Faulknerian space and place.

Appearing at the Faulkner Conference for the first time will be Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University; Jose E. Limon, Mody C. Boatright Regents Professor of

American and English Literature at the University of Texas at Austin; Valerie Loichot, associate professor of French at Emory; Scott Romine, professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and Harilaos “Harry” Stecopoulos, associate professor of English at the University of Iowa.

Returning to the conference is Barbara Ladd, professor of English at Emory University. Additional speakers and panelists will be selected from the Conference Call for Papers.

Other program events will include sessions on “Teaching Faulkner,” conducted by James Carothers, University of Kansas, Charles Peek, Emeritus, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Terrell Tebbetts, Lyon College, and Theresa Towner, University of Texas at Dallas; a discussion of “Collecting Faulkner” by Seth Berner; and an exhibition of Faulkner books, manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia at the John Davis Williams Library. There will also be guided daylong tours of Northeast Mississippi, the Delta, and Memphis, a picnic served at Faulkner’s home, Rowan Oak, and “Faulkner on the Fringe,” an “open mike” evening at the Southside Gallery.

Discount rates for the conference are available for groups of five or more students. Inexpensive dormitory housing is available for all registrants. Contact Robert Fox at rfox@olemiss.edu for details. There are also a limited number of waivers of registration for graduate students. Contact Donald Kartiganer at dkartiga@olemiss.edu for details.

Donald Kartiganer



2010 Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival

Features Jodie Markell's Film *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*

The 18th Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival, held October 15th and 16th in Clarksdale, was blessed by the presence of Jodie Markell, the director of Williams's 1957 little known screenplay *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*. Markell was active throughout the weekend, attending every event from the scholars' papers to the various performances of scenes from Williams's plays to the high school acting competition and porch plays. A seasoned actress who is open, warm, and nurturing, she inspired actors young and old to perfect their craft by speaking enthusiastically in her dual role as actress and director. The screening of her movie on Friday afternoon with a significant "talk back" afterwards was the highlight of the weekend devoted to Clarksdale's native son Tennessee Williams.

In the Mississippi Delta of Tennessee Williams, Clarksdale frequently becomes Glorious Hill or Blue Mountain, and Coahoma County turns into Two River County. The importance of the Delta to Williams's creative genius is not surprising as he lived with his grandparents in Clarksdale when his grandfather was rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, returned often to visit the Clarksdale area, and even toured Europe as a young man with his grandfather and a group of tourists from the Delta.

The scholars' program began Friday morning with a keynote address by Kenneth Holditch, who presented an overview of *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*.

Immediately following Holditch's overview were performances of scenes from Williams's *Kingdom of Earth*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Eccentricities of a Nightingale*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Erma Duricko, Tim Brown, and Marissa Duricko of New York City's Blue Roses Productions and Jeff Glickman of the Pensacola Little Theatre. Their intense performances of scenes that take place in the Mississippi Delta celebrated the importance of place as well as plot and character to Williams's plays. Anna Baker, Robert Cannon, Coop Cooper,



Scholars who discussed the Delta plays of playwright Tennessee Williams are (from left) Colby Kullman, panel moderator and English professor at the University of Mississippi; creative writer Anna Baker of Santa Fe; author, poet, and English professor Ann Fisher-Wirth; theatrical producer Robert Canon; film critic and screenwriter Coop Cooper; and University of Alabama English professor Ralph Voss.



Filmmaker Jodie Markell introduces her production of Tennessee Williams's *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*, to a full house at the Delta Cinema in Clarksdale.

cluded the scholars' portion of the conference with a paper on "Delta Italians in *Orpheus Descending*," which is part of his doctoral dissertation on "Globalism in the Southern World of Tennessee Williams," a study that is on the cutting edge of the latest Williams scholarship.

The festivities continued Friday night with dinner and cocktails at the Clark House, the 1859 childhood home of Blanche Clark Cutrer in Clarksdale's historic district. The evening featured a Southern cuisine created and served by Chef Robert Rhymes and the Coahoma Community College culinary students followed by music by actor/guitarist Jeff Glickman, musical selections by Coahoma Community College's award-winning Men's Ensemble, Kenneth Holditch's rendering of Williams's poet Nono's "How Calmly Does the Orange Branch," and Joe Bonelli's impersonation of Mr. Williams himself.

A highlight of the Williams Festival every fall is the drama competition. Monologue and scene competitions and a

Stella Calling Contest as well as awards for Best Costume and a Judges' Award earn students and their high schools \$3,000 in prizes. This year top honors went to Rachel Whitehorn of Lafayette High School for First Place Monologue, to Northwest Rankin High School for First Place Scene, to Trey Hardin of Oak Grove High School for Best Costume, to John Harris of Coahoma County Junior High School for the Judges' Award, to Kany Carpenter of Lafayette High School and John Harris of Coahoma County High School for best "Stella!"

Saturday afternoon included an organ recital by Jay Westerfaul at St. George's Episcopal Church followed by an open house at the church's former rectory, where Tom Williams lived with his grandparents, parents, and sister, Rose. Refreshments were then served by the Clarksdale's Women's Club across the street.

Concluding the afternoon were porch plays featuring scenes from Tennessee Williams's works performed on the porches of homes in the historic district where Williams spent his childhood. Featured this year were Johnny McPhail as the salesman in *The Last of My Solid Gold Watches*, Northwest Rankin High School's scenes from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Sherrye Williams as Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Jeff Glickman, Marissa Duricko, and Tim Brown in *Preface to Browning's Mistress* and *Talk to Me Like the Rain*. Thanks to the quality of the performances, enthusiasm remained high throughout the entire afternoon.

With music by the Eddie Lee Coleman Blues Band and a barbecue dinner-dance at the Civic Auditorium, the 2010 Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival was brought to a dynamic conclusion, giving all who attended an understanding of Tennessee Williams's Mississippi Delta, this extraordinary landscape.

Colby H. Kullman



Triple Successes for Columbus's 2010 Tennessee Williams Tribute

Three smash hits of works by Tennessee Williams were at the heart of the September 6-12, 2010, Tennessee Williams Tribute and Tour of Victorian Homes in Columbus, Mississippi, where the playwright was born on March 26, 1911.

Patrick Falco, president of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, directed Williams's 1948 one-act play *The Case of the Crushed Petunias* for the Provincetown Williams Festival in 2009 and was asked by Tribute chair Brenda Caradine to bring it with its original cast to Columbus for their annual Williams celebration. The cast—veteran actors Braunwyn Jackett, Brian M. Carlson, Aaron Tone, and Judith Partelow—accompanied Falco and gave bravura luncheon performances of Williams's play.

Director Rus Blackwell—actor, producer, and co-founder and former artistic director of the Mad Cow Theatre Company and the SoulFire Traveling Medicine Show—brought Tennessee Williams's *Sweet Bird of Youth* to life, directing a cast of regional and professional actors. With a stark set that sometimes turned surreal, he skillfully presented the story of drifter Chance Wayne. Outstanding performances were given by John Moore as Chance Wayne, Jo Ann Robinson as Princess, Don W. Sea as Boss Finley, and Brook Hanemann as Heavenly.

The Columbus premier of the Tennessee Williams screenplay-movie *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond* created a third performance triumph for the TWT&T week. Set in 1920s Memphis and the Mississippi Delta, the film tells the story of Fisher



From left: Tennessee Williams's artistic assistant John Uecker, TWT&T chair Brenda Caradine, Memphis resident Elizabeth Cooper, and her friend, actress, screenwriter, and film producer Jodie Markell



Tennessee Williams Birthplace Home & Columbus Welcome Center

Colby Kullman

Katherine Feeney of Main Street, Inc.

Willow and her cultural clashes with the belles and her beau during the debutante season of 1923. The all-star cast of Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Evans, Ellen Burstyn, Ann-Margret, and Mamie Gummer did not disappoint, thanks to film director Jodie Markell's brilliant leadership. Markell was present throughout the weekend and talked about her masterpiece in a Q&A with the audience after the performance.

Bridget Pieschel assembled four Williams scholars to give presentations on various aspects of Williams's creative genius as well as his personal and professional life: Ralph Voss, on Williams and his friend Truman Capote, Kim Whitehead, on "Misread Magdalens: Blanche DuBois and the Penitent Mary," John Gronbeck-Tedesco on "Williams and the American Religion: From Gnosis to Light," and Colby Kullman, on "Williams's *Spring Storm* and the Games People Play." Scholars Steve Pieschel and Nancy Carpenter gave a guided tour of Columbus points of interest in the lives of Williams, his mother, Edwina, and his grandfather, the Reverend Walter Dakin.

Jim DelPrince and his Mississippi State floral design students decorated the Williams birthplace home, now the Columbus Welcome Center, for the week's festivities. A reception at the Center honored Williams's artistic assistant John Uecker and the playwright's nieces, daughters of his brother, Dakin Williams—Francesca Williams and Ann Lanier Caserta—who all gave Williams's memorabilia to the home. Most notable are the dried funeral wreath placed on Williams's casket before his burial and a cross often worn by Williams's grandfather.

The annual celebration also included a Sunday morning sermon given at St. Paul's Episcopal Church where the Reverend Dakin was priest when Williams was baptized there in 1911, a Southern Sunday Dinner served in the Parish Hall with a poetry reading following by local poets, a gourmet luncheon at the 1835 home of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Rosamond, and tours of three other Columbus homes.

Colby Kullman

evangelicalism, and, perhaps naturally, the history of creationism.

Camilla Ann Aikin grew up in Mobile, Alabama. She went to Bard College in New York, majored in art history, and spent the next two years working at a record label in Brooklyn. Living away from the South awakened a deep interest in her roots, and her goal is to combine her fascination with Southern culture with her passion for music. With her Southern Studies degree Aikin would love to explore and write about the underground music scene in the South during the late 1970s and the 1980s. Eugene Walter is her ultimate Southern hero.

Eva Walton, who hails from Cornelia, Georgia, holds a BA in Southern Studies from Mercer University. Her research interests include 19th- and 20th-century social history and folk music. Prior to coming to the Southern Studies Program, Eva spent time on staff with the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. Her favorite leisure activity currently is adventuring throughout the Mississippi countryside, sustaining some injuries along the way.

Amy Ulmer is from El Dorado, Arkansas. She went to Hendrix College as an undergraduate, majoring in American Studies. Amy has a girl dog named Duffy and a boy dog named Sue but, alas, they remain in El Dorado. She wants to intern at the Stax Museum of American Soul Music in Memphis and hopefully get a job thereafter.

Nell Knox graduated from Millsaps College in May 2010 with a degree in English. She enjoys country music, the state fair, butter pecan ice cream, and J. Crew. She is also interested in fried catfish, Eastern European automobiles, netipots, and voodoo.

Michelle Bright is from Corinth, Mississippi, and has the distinction of being both a full-time graduate student and a full-time mom. Despite the fact that she has never been to New Orleans, she plans a thesis pertaining to both cultural heritage and Tennessee Williams. No doubt she will find herself visiting "the land of the dreamy dreams" soon.

Caroline Croom was born and raised here in Oxford. She studied chemistry at Sewanee as an undergrad, but she is glad to be home studying, she says, the place she cares about the most. Caroline is still undecided as to where to focus her studies for the excellent reason that there is too much to love. She has a new cat named Yard Cat, and she (Caroline) loves pickles, especially fried ones.

Kirsten Schofield is a 2010 graduate of the University of Virginia. She came to Oxford to study the performative nature of the modern Southern identity and to eat at Ajax as frequently as possible. She is originally from Louisville, Kentucky, and loves goats, fried okra, and Walker Percy.

Danielle St. Ours grew up in Syracuse, New York. She came to Oxford from Charlottesville, Virginia, where she worked as a teacher. She got her undergraduate degree in English from Cornell University.

Gretchen Wood earned her BA from Beloit College in Wisconsin. She lived for 16 years in Athens, Georgia, where she made pottery and wrote about music. During that time, she discovered an interest in recording oral history and documentary photography. She also began questioning how we define Southern music and how race plays a role in it. Foodways also figure in her interests, in particular how food allergies relate to Southern foodways.

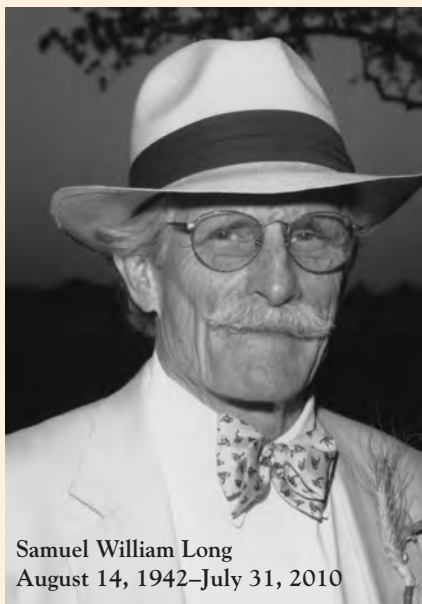
Susie Penman graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2007 with a degree in journalism. She took the next three years off from school, living and working in Scotland and Northern Ireland before realizing that the best solution to missing the South was to return to it. Like several of her colleagues, she is not sure what to focus on. It's true: there's too much to love.

Susie Penman

Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters

The Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters (MIAL) will celebrate its 32 years of existence at a gala banquet in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on June 4, 2011. Bridget Pieschel of Columbus is the new president of MIAL, the only organization in the state that chooses its arts honorees in a juried competition.

Nominations for juried awards in the categories of visual arts, photography, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, music composition (classical), and music composition (popular) will be accepted from now until January 15, 2011. Works eligible for nomination must have been first published, publicly exhibited, or performed during the calendar year January–December 2010. Only members of MIAL may nominate artists for these



Samuel William Long
August 14, 1942–July 31, 2010

awards. Members may nominate more than one individual in any category and may nominate in as many categories as they wish. One page of comments may be included in the nomination. Forms both for nominating artists and for joining MIAL are found below and on the Web at www.ms-arts-letters.org.

The MIAL awards honor living Mississippians who are either current residents of the state or former residents with continuing and significant ties to the state. All judges are from outside Mississippi. Past winners of these awards include Richard Ford, Ellen Douglas, Barry Hannah, Willie Morris, Natasha Trethewey, William Eggleston, Gwendolyn McGee, and Walker Percy.

At its fall board meeting, MIAL board members honored longtime board member Samuel William Long, who died July 31, 2010. Mr. Long had served on the MIAL board since 1996 and had been category chair, membership chair, and a two-term president. He will be sorely missed for his counsel, his enthusiasm, his knowledge of the arts, and his strong support for the mission of this organization. Will Long made an art of life.

Mary McKenzie Thompson



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Jackson, MS 39202

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Dorothy Shawhan
217 South Leflore
Cleveland, MS 38732

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Marion Barnwell
850 Fairview Street
Jackson, MS 39202

POETRY

Noel Polk
26 Lakes Blvd.
Starkville, MS 39759

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Martha Hitch
2027 Barry Cove
Oxford, MS 38655

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P.O. Box 421
Pass Christian, MS 39571

Deadline: Nominations must be postmarked on or before **January 15, 2011**. Attach the artist's representative work (slides, photographs, CD's, books, etc.). Please mail the nomination to the appropriate address according to the awards category entered.

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Sights on the South: University of Memphis Professor, Dr. Wanda Rushing, Edits Encyclopedic Look at the Region's Urbanization

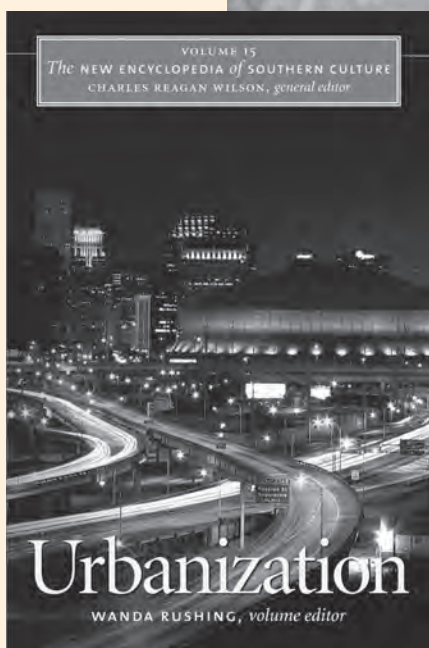
By James Roper

Originally printed in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, September 14, 2010. Used by permission.

Just mention the words “American South” to people not from this region, and most likely they will envision a rural landscape, complete with magnolias, dusty roads, and cotton fields. In other words, all the standard props—and the comfortable clichés—associated with the South.

Topics that Dr. Wanda Rushing selected for Volume 15 of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* range from hip-hop to megachurches. But when “urbanization” is linked to those same words, sometimes there are puzzled looks—an urbanized South? Can there really be such a place? The answer, obviously, is yes. Ask anyone who’s ever been caught in a morning traffic jam in Atlanta.

Now, a new book helps to explain why urbanization was always a real factor—and continues to be—in the history of the American South. “Urbanization,” in fact, is the title of this 288-page book, and it’s the latest volume of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (University of North Carolina Press). In the introduction, author Dr. Wanda Rushing, associate professor of soci-



ology at the University of Memphis, explains how images of a rural South sometimes obscured, even from early history, the region’s authentic role in urban life. She points to colonial-era cities such as Charleston and Savannah and their geographic importance as trading centers. “Prior to 1970,” Rushing says, “people still thought of the South in terms of rural significance, and there was no real focus on urbanization in the South. People were not studying that subject. If you’re a Faulkner scholar, you’re not studying urbanization very much.”

The original *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* was published in 1989, and until

then no reference work had showcased an American regional culture. “The original encyclopedia was one huge volume,” Rushing explains. And that book, she says, devoted “just a few pages” to urbanization. “The current encyclopedia will be 24 volumes.”

Rushing’s book is Volume 15 in the series. The book is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi and the UNC Press.

Rushing was invited by Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson, general editor of *The New Encyclopedia*, to edit the volume on urbanization. She says she believes her work on an earlier book, *Memphis and the Paradox of Place: Globalization in the American South* (UNC Press), may have been a factor in her selection. “And part of the reason they may have selected me is because I’m a sociologist,” Rushing says. “Sociologists not only look at the culture of the city, but the economy,” she explains. “For instance, what kinds of economic activities increase or decrease over time? Some cities have had a more

pronounced shift toward industrialization and then de-industrialization. So we're looking at many different cultural and economic processes at the same time."

As volume editor, her first task was to assign specific topics to the writers. "The focus on what should be included was really up to me," she says. There are a total of 71 topics. Of those, 48 essays focus on a mix of subjects including banking, farmers markets, gentrification, homelessness, megachurches, and waterfront development. There were another 31 entries on specific cities and urban cultural elements, such as the city of Charlotte, N.C., Colonial Williamsburg, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "The contributors run the gamut from people I'd never met that are well known in the field and have expertise, to graduate students who are learning to do this type of work and were supervised by me or someone else," Rushing explains.

Among the array of topics chosen for the essays, readers will find a few that relate, perhaps surprisingly, to the urbanization issue:

- Crunk and Hip-Hop Culture: How the crunk music of the "Third Coast"—the American South—brought recognition to that region's urban experience.
- Dollywood: The role of a theme park in Sevier County, Tenn., in increasing tourism and providing jobs, thus moving the area toward urbanization.
- Megachurches: Since the suburbanization of the South is sometimes seen as part of urbanization, growth of these churches in the last two decades is significant. They may be especially appealing to people relocating from rural areas and small towns who seek an almost instant social network made up of people with similar values.

Wilson, the general editor of the project, is Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Chair in History and professor of Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. He coedited, along with William Ferris, the original *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, which the UNC Press has described as "a pioneering reference work."

It seems that almost no subject area has been overlooked in the editors' quest to provide a comprehensive picture of Southern culture. According to the publisher's website, 16 of the volumes, including Rushing's book on urbanization, have been published. The other topics—and titles—are *Religion; Geography; History; Myth, Manners, and Memory; Language; Ethnicity; Foodways; Environment; Literature; Law and Politics; Agriculture and Industry; Music; Gender; Folklife; and Sports and Recreation*.

And what's left to discuss? Well, as it turns out, quite a bit. When future volumes are published, readers can look forward to *Art and Architecture; Education; Folk Art; Media; Race; Recreation; Science and Medicine; Social Class; and Violence*. Rushing says the potential readership for the volumes ranges from general readers to business owners who may want to relocate a company to the region. Students also might find the books valuable for research.

Rushing was recently honored with a University of Memphis College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Research Award for her work in the Social Sciences area, including her editorship of Volume 15 of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*.

2011 Oxford Conference for the Book Workshops

Creative Writing Workshop

Margaret-Love Denman, coordinator of off-campus writing programs at the University of Mississippi, will offer a special workshop in conjunction with the conference.

The daylong workshop, titled "In the Beginning . . . a Look at First Pages," will take place Wednesday, March 23, at the Downtown Grill on the Oxford Square. The workshop is open to 20 writers. The workshop fee of \$250 includes evaluation of up to 20 double-spaced pages of fiction submitted beforehand, a private 20-minute session with the instructor during the conference, attendance at all conference events, lunch and refreshments on Wednesday, lunch and dinner on Thursday, and lunch on Saturday. Also, each registrant will receive a copy of *Novel Ideas: Contemporary Authors Share the Creative Process*, by Denman and novelist Barbara Shoup, writer in residence at the Writers' Center of Indiana. They also collaborated on *Story Matters: Contemporary Short Story Writers Share the Creative Process*, a collection of interviews with 23 authors, including Larry Brown, Richard Ford, Lee Smith, and Sena Jeter Naslund.

Poetry Craft Talk and Poetry Workshop

Poets Michael McFee and Richard Tillinghast will present readings and also conduct special poetry sessions during the conference.

Michael McFee will present a poetry craft talk at the Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library on Friday, March 25, 2011, at noon. The public is invited to attend the presentation, which will be of interest to writers and readers of poetry. The event will include lunch and is open to the public without charge. Reservations for lunch may be made by telephone (662-234-5751), fax (662-234-3155), or e-mail (dfitts@firstregional.org). Deadline for reservations: Monday, March 21, 2011.

Writers of poetry are invited to submit a short manuscript for critique by poet Richard Tillinghast. Interested individuals should send one poem to Josh Davis, 1903 Anderson Road Apt. H7, Oxford, MS 38655; e-mail joshua.davis28@gmail.com. Subject lines of e-mail submissions should be marked "OCB Poetry Workshop." Manuscripts should include name and contact information. Depending on number of manuscripts received, workshop manuscripts may be selected on basis of quality. The workshop will meet in the Overby Center Room 206 on Saturday, March 26, at 9 a.m. The workshop is free and open to the public. Deadline for submissions: Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

"The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow"

Three authors of books for young readers—Jon Voelkel, Pamela Voelkel, and Ally Condie—will join literacy advocates Elaine H. Scott and Claiborne Barksdale in a discussion about reading and writing problems and opportunities. Teachers from local schools, Teach for America schools in the Mississippi Delta, Mississippi Teacher Corps schools, librarians, education students, writers of poetry and fiction, and other interested persons are invited to attend. Continuing Education Units are available for conference and workshop participants.

The session will take place at the Overby Center Auditorium on Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. Participants are invited to submit written questions prior to the Saturday morning session. Teachers should send their questions to Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, School of Education, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 386777; e-mail ringham@olemiss.edu. Deadline: Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

Southern Culture Catalog

Civil Rights in the Delta

Journalist Curtis Wilkie in conversation with Patti Carr Black, Emmett Till's cousin Wheeler Parker, Sumner residents Frank Mitchener and Betty and Bill Pearson, Henry Outlaw of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University, and former Mississippi governor William F. Winter. March 29, 2006.

Color, 60 minutes.

DVD1148 \$20.00

Friends \$18.00

Scene at courthouse in Sumner in 1955 during the Emmett Till murder trial



Photo Courtesy Memphis Commercial Appeal

Faulkner's Mississippi: Land into Legend

Transforms the fiction of William Faulkner's mythical Jefferson and Yoknapatawpha into the reality of Oxford and Lafayette County, Mississippi, with quotations from Faulkner's writings correlated with appropriate scenes. The first motion pictures inside Faulkner's home are presented along with rare still photographs of the writer. Narrated by Joseph Cotton. Script by Evans Harrington. Producer, Robert D. Oesterling, University of Mississippi Center for Public Service and Continuing Studies. 1965.

Color, 32 minutes.

DVD1069 \$25.00

Friends \$22.50

"Are You Walkin' with Me?" Sister Thea Bowman, William Faulkner, and African American Culture

Overview of programs Sister Thea presented at the annual Faulkner Conference from 1980 through 1989. Produced by Lisa N. Howorth,

Center for the Study of Southern Culture, 1990.

Color, 30 minutes.

DVD 1016 \$25.00

Friends \$22.50



William Faulkner Stamp Ceremony

A 22-cent Literary Arts Commemorative stamp honoring William Faulkner was issued by the United States Postal Service during a ceremony at the University of Mississippi on August 3, 1987. The DVD of this program includes remarks by author Eudora Welty, Faulkner's daughter, Jill Faulkner Summers, and others.

Color, 34 minutes.

DVD1231 \$25.00

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The Eleventh Oxford Conference for the Book Poster (2001)

Poster features Richard Wright photograph by Carl Van Vetchen.

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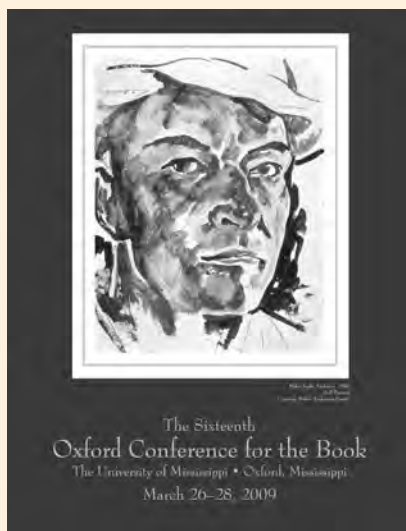
William Faulkner and Eudora Welty

This film features Eudora Welty at the opening session of the 1987 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. Welty reads from her story "Why I Live at the P.O." and answers questions about her work and Faulkner's.

Color, 34 minutes.

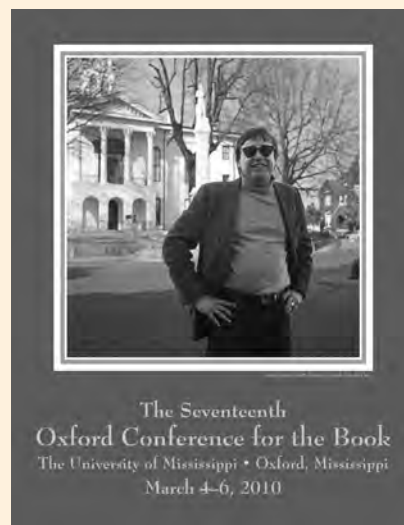
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Illustrating 2009 Oxford Conference for the Book materials is Walter Inglis Anderson's 1960 self-portrait, 11 x 8.5 inches; Courtesy Walter Anderson Family.

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Illustrating 2010 Oxford Conference for the Book materials is Maude Schuyler Clay's 1985 portrait of Barry Hannah, 11 x 8.5 inches.

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16th Oxford Conference for the Book: March 26–28, 2009

Walter Anderson and World Literature Exhibition: John Anderson, curator; **"The Landscape of Story,"** Patricia Pinson, presenter; Jennifer Ford, moderator.

Color, 45 minutes.

DVD1190\$20.00

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"And Wisdom Is a Butterfly": The Travels of Walter Anderson – Esther Sparks, moderator; Christopher Maurer, presenter.

Color, 45 minutes.

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"Bringing Walter Anderson to the World" – William Dunlap, moderator; panelists Patti Carr Black, Seetha Srinivasan.

Color, 45 minutes

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"Living with Walter Anderson: His Children Speak Out" – JoAnne Prichard Morris, moderator; panelists John Anderson, Leif Anderson, Mary Anderson Pickard.

Color, 45 minutes.

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Eudora Welty's *Collected Stories* and Centennial Address – Pearl McHaney, moderator; Peggy Prenshaw, presenter.

Color, 45 minutes.

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"Writing after Katrina" – Ted Ownby, moderator; panelists Emily Clark, Jerry W. Ward Jr., and Joyce Zonana.

Color, 64 minutes.

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17th Oxford Conference for the Book: March 4–6, 2010

"The University Press of Mississippi at 40" – Peggy Prenshaw, moderator; panelists John Langston, JoAnne Prichard Morris, Noel Polk, Leila Salisbury, Seetha Srinivasan, Steve Yates.

Color, 60 minutes.

DVD1212.\$20.00

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"Literary Oxford" - John Grisham, Richard Howorth, Daniel W. Jones.

Color, 45 minutes.

DVD1208.\$20.00

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"Survivors of *Geronimo Rex*" – William Dunlap, moderator; panelists Harry C. "Joe" Brown, Horace Newcomb, Wyatt Newman, Noel Polk, Peggy Whitman Prenshaw, John Quisenberry.

Color, 90 minutes.

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"Barry Hannah as Teacher" – Tom Franklin, moderator; panelists Jonathan Miles, Anne Rapp, Cynthia Shearer.

Color, 45 minutes.

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Color, 45 minutes.

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"Barry Hannah as Writer" – Mark Richard, moderator; panelists William Harrison, Amy Hundley, Darcey Steinke, Wells Tower.

Color, 45 minutes.

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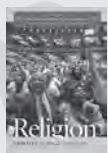
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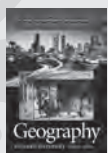


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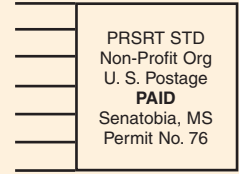
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