

2015 Porter Fortune, Jr. History Symposium
“Southern Religion and Southern Culture”

Participating Scholars

Paul Anderson came to the University of Mississippi in 1991 from UNC-Chapel Hill, after a brief career as a journalist, and earned an M.A. in History in 1994 and a doctorate in History in 1998. He is Associate Professor, Alumni Master Teacher, and Graduate Coordinator at Clemson University, where he has been on the history faculty since 2000. Dr. Wilson was his de facto co-adviser. In Paul’s words, “Dr. Wilson had a tremendous impact on me as a person, as a teacher, and especially as a cultural historian. He was also the person everyone, including me, can blame for my career, since it was he who originally encouraged a university press to look at my first attempts at a manuscript. That eventually became *Blood Image*, a cultural study of the image of Confederate cavalry hero Turner Ashby, which came out a long time later under that title, rather than the one suggested by Dr. Wilson, who always called it “The Horse Files.””

Paul Beezley received his B.S. from Appalachian State. He received his M.A. (1993) and Ph.D. (1999) in history at the University of Mississippi. Since 2004 he has served as Associate Professor of History at Jacksonville State.

Colin Chapell completed his Ph.D. at the University of Alabama, where he was a student of John Giggie. There, his research explored how theology influenced gender construction in the South. Dr. Chapell’s current book project, forthcoming from the University of Alabama Press, explores how church officials in the Deep South used Protestant theology to argue for new constructions of gender. The work examines the Southern Baptist Convention, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the emerging Holiness movement, and argues that these groups had specific theological emphases that changed how church leaders conceived of manhood, womanhood, and family life.

Carolyn Renee Dupont is a scholar of religion and race in American history. Her book, *Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975*, won the 2014 Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History. She is an assistant professor of History at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY, and she also serves as book review editor for the *Journal of Southern Religion*.

Ryan L. Fletcher is visiting instructor of history at North Carolina Wesleyan College. In 2013, he completed his doctorate in history at the University of Mississippi under the direction of Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson. Ryan's research concentrates upon how both social class and gender contributed to the regionalized formation of religious identities in early America.

Sarah E. Gardner is Professor of History and Director of the Center for Southern Studies at Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, where she teaches courses on the American South and nineteenth-century America. She is the author of *Blood and Irony: Southern White Women’s Narratives of the Civil War, 1961-1937* (University of North Carolina Press, 2004) and an Associate Editor of *Voices of the American South* (Longman Green, 2004). Her manuscript, “Reviewing the South: The Literary Marketplace and the Creation of the Southern Renaissance,” is under review at Cambridge University Press. She is at work on a study of reading during the Civil War.

John Giggie is an associate professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Alabama, where he currently serves as the Director of the Graduate Program in History. He earned his B.A. in History from Amherst College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University. His research specializations include the American South, African American history, and American religious history. He published *After Redemption: Jim Crow and the Transformation of African American Religion in the Delta, 1875-1917* (Oxford, 2008) and edited *Faith in the Market: Religion and the Rise of Commercial Culture* (Rutgers, 2002) and *America First Hand: A Documentary Reader* (Bedford, 2011). He is preparing a book on African American religion during the Civil War and two US History textbooks (McGraw-Hill, 2017). He also coedits the *Religion and American Culture* series for the University of Alabama Press. At Alabama, he has been named a Distinguished Teaching Fellow and awarded the Excellence in Community Engagement Prize for his class on religion and Civil Rights in West Alabama, which was recognized as a national model for service learning.

Alison Collis Greene is an assistant professor of history at Mississippi State University. Her first book, *No Depression in Heaven: Religion and the Great Depression in the Delta Region*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2016. She is also at work on a second project, tentatively entitled *God's Green Earth: Religion, Race, and the Land Since the Gilded Age*. Alison is a participant in the 2013-2015 cohort of Young Scholars in American Religion.

Darren Grem is Assistant Professor of History and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *Corporate Revivals: A Business History of the Evangelical Right* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press), a book that details how conservative evangelicals strategically used business leaders, organizations, methods, and money to advance their religious and political ambitions in twentieth-century America. Dr. Grem teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in twentieth-century U.S. history, southern history and southern studies, southern music history, and American religious history.

Paul Harvey is Professor of History and Presidential Teaching scholar at the University of Colorado. He is the author/editor of eight books, including *Freedom's Coming: Religious Cultures and the Shaping of the South from the Civil War through the Civil Rights Era* and co-author of *The Color of Christ: The Son of God in the Saga of Race in America*.

Sandy D. Martin is Professor and Department Head of the Department of Religion at the University of Georgia. Originally from Courtland, Mississippi, Dr. Martin graduated from Tougaloo College near Jackson, Mississippi, with a B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy & Religion in 1973. He holds the M.A. (1975), the M.Phil. (1978), and the Ph.D. (1981) from Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. His primary area of research is African American religious history, including the historical personalities, groups, and issues relating to black Baptists and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, religion and social change, and religion and gender. He has published two books: *Black Baptists and African Missions: The Origins of a Movement* (Mercer University Press, 1989/1988); and *For God and Race: The Religious and Political Leadership of AMEZ Bishop James Walker Hood* (The University of South Carolina Press, 1998).

Ted Ownby has a joint appointment in History and Southern Studies. He is the author of *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1998* (1999) and *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920* (1990) and editor of *Black and White: Cultural Interaction in the Antebellum South* (1993). He is the coeditor of the *Mississippi Encyclopedia* and writes and teaches classes on the social and cultural history of the American South.

Otis W. Pickett earned his Ph.D. in History at the University of Mississippi in 2013 working with Charles Reagan Wilson on a dissertation examining Missionaries and Race on the Southern Frontier in the nineteenth century. He received an M.A. in history from the College of Charleston and a B.A. in History from Clemson University. Both of his advisors at Clemson and CofC (Paul Anderson and W. Scott Poole) were also former Wilson students. Pickett is an Assistant Professor of History at Mississippi College and is Co-Founder of the Prison to College Pipeline Program, which offers college courses to incarcerated students at Parchman Penitentiary.

Arthur Remillard is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania. He is author of *Southern Civil Religions: Imagining the Good Society in the Post Reconstruction Era*, winner of the 2012 Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Award from the Florida Historical Society. He is presently writing a book about religion and sports in the American South, tentatively entitled, *God and Games in Dixieland: Religion and the Making of the South's Modern Sports World, 1865-1926*.

Beth Barton Schweiger teaches early American social and cultural history at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She is the author of *The Gospel Working Up: Progress and the Pulpit in Nineteenth Century Virginia* (Oxford, 2000) and co-editor of *Religion in the American South* (North Carolina, 2004). She is completing a study of print and vernacular culture in the early South that will be published by Yale University Press. The project has been supported by the National Endowment for Humanities, Yale University, the American Antiquarian Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the Huntington Library.

Chad Seales is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He earned a B.A. from the University of Florida, an M.T.S. from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research addresses the relationship between religion and culture in American life, as evident in the social expressions of southern evangelicals, the popular religious practices of Latino migrants, and the moral prescriptions of corporate managers and business leaders. He is the author of *The Secular Spectacle: Performing Religion in a Southern Town* (Oxford University Press, 2013), and has published articles on industrial religion, corporate chaplaincy, and the religious politics of U2's Bono.

Randall Stephens is a Reader in History and American Studies at Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne. He is the author of *The Fire Spreads: Holiness and Pentecostalism in the American South* (Harvard University Press, 2008) and *The Anointed: Evangelical Truth in a Secular Age* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011), co-authored with Karl Giberson. Stephen's current book project with Harvard University Press will examine the intersection of religion and rock. He has also written for *The Atlantic*, the *Wilson Quarterly*, the *Chronicle of Higher Ed*, and the *New York Times*. He was a Fulbright scholar to Norway in 2012 and is one of the Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturers

James G. Thomas, Jr. is the Associate Director for Publications at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and philosophy and a master's degree in Southern Studies, both from the University of Mississippi. In 2003 he began work as Managing Editor of the 24-volume *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. He edited, with Charles Reagan Wilson, the *Science & Medicine* volume of the series. Before joining the Center staff, Thomas worked as an editor for publications in New York and Oxford, Mississippi. Thomas also teaches research writing for the University of Mississippi's Center for Writing and Rhetoric, and is Director of the Oxford Conference for the Book.

Charles (Chuck) Westmoreland has been a member of the Delta State University faculty since 2009. He earned his B.S. in History from Ferrum College (1998), M.A. in History from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte (2000), and Ph.D. in History from the University of Mississippi (2008). His primary teaching and research interests are in modern U.S. history with an emphasis on the American South. He is working with the University of Georgia Press on the publication of his book manuscript entitled *Southern Pharisees: Prayer, Public Life, and Politics in the South, 1955-1996*. Dr. Westmoreland's book will examine how religion, particularly the practice of prayer, has shaped southern public life and politics by focusing on the Civil Rights Movement and school prayer controversies that engulfed the region since the 1950s and 1960s. Dr. Westmoreland is the News and Notices editor for the *Journal of Mississippi History* and has published book reviews in the *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of Southern Religion*, and *H-South*.

Calvin White, Jr. completed his Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi. He is currently an Associate Professor of History and the Director of the African and African American Studies Program at the University of Arkansas. In 2012, his book *The Rise to Respectability: Race, Religion, and the Church of God in Christ* was published. His research focuses on the intersectionality of class, respectability, and the efforts of racial uplift in the development of African Americans' religious traditions and racial identity in the Arkansas and Mississippi Delta. Additionally, he is the recipient of several national fellowships, and has served as a Gilder-Lehrman Fellow at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York. Recognized by the University of Arkansas administration for his leadership, he was named a Fellow of the Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program for 2012-2013, and a Provost Lecturer for 2013-2014. Recognizing his commitment to education in the state of Arkansas, Calvin White, Jr. was named to the Board of Directors for the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

Amy Wood is an associate professor of history at Illinois State University. She earned her M.A. in the Southern Studies program at the University of Mississippi and her Ph.D. at Emory University. She is the author of *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America* (2009), which won the Lillian Smith Book Award, and editor of the Violence volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (2011). Her current book project looks at cultural ideas about the criminal mind in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.