

# **Graduate Degrees in Southern Studies**

*MA in Southern Studies*

*MFA in Documentary Expression*

**The University of Mississippi**

**Center for the Study of Southern Culture**

**[www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu](http://www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu)**

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revised 09/19

## Graduate Programs in Southern Studies

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture offers two graduate degrees: the Master of Arts (MA) in Southern Studies and the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Documentary Expression. The MA program began in 1986, and the MFA program celebrated its inaugural class in 2017. Both programs bring together scholars, professors, and students from various backgrounds whose common interests involve the study of the U.S. South. Even with a combined average of 25-30 students, the programs are close-knit and interwoven. Students and professors work together in a relaxed but intellectually stimulating atmosphere.

### The MA Curriculum

The Southern Studies curriculum incorporates numerous regional studies courses from various disciplines and departments, including African American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Economics, English, Gender Studies, History, Journalism, Music, Political Science, Religion, and Sociology. Many of the classes offered by these departments are cross-listed for Southern Studies and are open to our students. All students must select courses from at least three academic disciplines (Southern Studies may be one), with a maximum of 12 hours in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies.

There are three ways to earn the MA in Southern Studies: the thesis track, the documentary track, and the internship track.

#### *Thesis Track*

The thesis track requires 24 hours of coursework (including SST 601 and 602) and a minimum of six hours of the thesis course, SST 697. These thesis hours can be divided among multiple semesters or completed in one. Coursework must incorporate at least three disciplines (one may be Southern Studies) and may include two (and no more) Independent Studies (SST 605). A thesis must be a presentation of original scholarship in the form of a written work (80–120 pages). The thesis student must pass a final oral defense. Students should think about the thesis early in their program: using seminar papers to formulate a thesis project helps facilitate research and can contribute to timely completion of the master's degree.

#### *Documentary Track*

The documentary track for the Master of Arts degree requires 24 hours of coursework—including 601, 602, 533 (Fieldwork & Oral History), either 534 (Documentary Photography) or 537 (Introduction to Documentary Film-Making), and 6 hours of thesis. (Note: SST 533 is a prerequisite for both SST 534 and 537.) The thesis hours can be divided across multiple semesters or completed in one. As with the other two tracks, these courses must incorporate at least three disciplines (one may be Southern Studies) and may include two (and no more) Independent Study classes (SST 605). A final documentary project—using audio, still photography, film, or a combination thereof—must be presented, along with a self-reflective essay (40–60 pages) that chronicles the evolution of the student's thinking regarding the documentary process and the development of his/her final project. Students on this track assemble a committee to oversee their work, just as students on the thesis and internship track do.

#### *Internship Track*

This option requires a minimum of 36 hours, which includes SST 601, 602, and 30 hours of additional

coursework. The internship itself is at least six credit hours (SST 603). A student interested in pursuing this track should make arrangements with a suitable institution to set up the internship. Faculty members may participate in this process, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure the position. Internships may not be completed as part of a student's regular employment. An on-campus faculty member will advise the student and generally oversee the project. A representative of the sponsoring institution will supervise the intern on site. Internship students will hold the internship for the duration of an entire semester, working approximately 20 hours a week. At the end of the internship, students will make an oral presentation about their work and write a 40-50 page essay that both recounts their experience and pursues, using academic resources, some research question that grows out of it. Students on the internship track assemble a three-member committee just as students on the other two tracks do.

## **The MFA Curriculum**

The MFA requires 30 hours of coursework: 15 hours of content-based classes and 15 hours of thesis credit. (Note: students who enter the program with an MA in Southern Studies from UM complete only 9 hours of additional content-based courses because they may apply 6 hours of their earlier degree to this one. They may not repeat classes taken for credit while earning the MA.) MFA students must complete the following classes: SST 601, 533 (Fieldwork & Oral History), and either 534 (Documentary Photography) or 537 (Introduction to Documentary Film-Making). MFA students are not bound by the same requirement for interdisciplinary course selection that supervises the MA degree; all hours may be listed as SST, although students may take classes with other designations if they wish.

Students may begin taking thesis hours upon arrival, provided that the Admissions Committee finds their project idea to be sufficiently developed. MFA students must complete a written prospectus (12-15 pages, plus bibliography) and have it approved by their three-person supervisory committee by the end of their second semester in the program. Final projects may take the form of still photography, film, oral history, audio recordings, or some combination thereof. They must also include a written component, approximately 50-75 pages in length, that both addresses the writer's process and situates his or her project within relevant scholarly discourse. As with the MA, students pass an oral defense in order to complete the degree.

## **Assembling an MA or MFA Committee**

By the end of your second semester, you should be prepared to choose a project director and two other faculty members to serve as your supervising committee. You will work most closely with the director, but you need to consult periodically with the other members of the committee as well. Committee members may be from departments other than Southern Studies. The Southern Studies program expects students to complete the degree, regardless of track, by the end of the fourth semester of work. Once the committee exists, students should notify the Graduate Director of its membership.

## **Additional Guidelines, MA and MFA**

**INDEPENDENT STUDIES:** students can only take two Independent Study courses (SST 605) per degree. We do not encourage first-semester students to take SST 605, in part because they need to familiarize themselves with graduate seminars and in part because faculty members, whom students typically will not know yet, must agree to supervise the independent study. Designing an independent

study is the task of the student, and a written syllabus, with clear expectations for final outcomes, should accompany the class.

**SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES:** students can repeat both SST 598 and SST 599 twice per degree.

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY:** students may not take more than 12 hours in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies. The MA requires that the final transcript show hours taken in at least three different disciplines, one of which may be Southern Studies.

**INTERNSHIPS:** students on the thesis or the documentary track may also register for 3 or 6 hour internships at any point during their coursework. For three hours of credit, the student must work at least 10 hours per week for the duration of the semester and keep a weekly journal about his or her activities. For six hours of credit, the student must submit a research paper of 12–15 pages on a topic pertaining to the internship and work 12–15 hours per week per semester.

**ADVISING:** after the first semester, students enroll themselves using MyOleMiss during the regular registration windows. The Graduate Director serves as the adviser for each student in the program until he or she begins working more closely with a thesis supervisor.

## On-Campus Resources

### Library

\*The **Archives and Special Collections** department in the **John D. Williams Library** was established in 1975 to collect and to house rare books, manuscripts, maps, noteworthy editions, and ephemera. The Archive contains several units with distinctive collecting and service responsibilities. The **Mississippi Collection** is one of the largest collections of books concerning Mississippi. The collection includes holdings of early works on Mississippi as well as comprehensive author collections of Mississippi writers Larry Brown, William Faulkner, Willie Morris, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Richard Wright, and others. The **Faulkner Collection** now ranks as one of the strongest research collections on Faulkner in the world. In addition the collection contains materials related to Mississippi's history and culture and the **African Americana Collection** of books, journals, and sheet music relating to African American culture and history. The Archive also maintains an extensive collection related to civil rights.

\***The Blues Archive** contains recordings, books, journals, and memorabilia of blues music as well as the Goldstein Collection of written material on folklore. In addition, B. B. King donated his collection of blues, gospel, and jazz recordings by various artists.

\***The Southern Media Archive** opened in 1994 as a division of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. In August of 2000 the Southern Media Archive became a part of the Archives and Special Collections department in the John D. Williams Library. The Archive houses some movies and independent film collections plus numerous audio field recordings. The mission of the Archive is to identify, collect, preserve, and make accessible the cultural expression of the U.S. South through various forms of documentary media.

\***The Mississippi Home Movies Collection** provides a visual record of life in the state prior to World War II. From the earliest 8mm film shot in 1938 to Super-8 footage shot in 1990, family movies chronicle rural and town life throughout Mississippi.

\*The Cofield Studio operated in Oxford from the 1920s to the 1980s. The **Cofield Collection** contains many formal portraits of William Faulkner as well as informal pictures of the writer, his family and friends, the town, and Lafayette County. The collection is both a documentary reflection of Oxford and the surrounding area and of Faulkner's fictitious Yoknapatawpha.

\*Between 1961 and 1962, professional photographer and Faulkner enthusiast Martin J. Dain came to Oxford to document town and rural life in the hill county of North Mississippi. Dain made intimate portraits of daily life in the African American and white communities of Lafayette County. The **Dain Collection** is composed of 8,734 35mm black-and-white negatives, including over 100 photographs of William Faulkner at his home, Rowan Oak.

\*The **Howard Collection**, containing approximately 160,000 black-and-white negatives from the studio of Vic Howard, documents everyday life in Harlan County, Kentucky, from the 1940s through the 1970s. Howard's images of African American and white Appalachians, coal miners, local musicians, and the patterns of everyday life provide one of the most comprehensive indigenous photographic collections of the Appalachian region in existence.

\***The Modern Political Archive** contains the papers of Mississippi politicians, judges, lawyers, and political organizations. Congressional collections that are currently open to researchers include the files of John Sharp Williams, Pat Harrison, Thomas G. Abernethy, William M. Whittington, and James O. Eastland. Although they represent the public service careers of single individuals, these collections also document the efforts of Mississippi residents who wrote their congressmen to express opinions on a wide array of topics and for assistance negotiating the red tape of the federal bureaucracy.

If you have questions about using library resources, your first point of contact should be Amy E. Gibson, Research & Instruction Librarian and Professor ([aemark1@gmail.com](mailto:aemark1@gmail.com)). She works particularly with graduate students in the humanities.

## Computers

The Weir Hall computer labs have general use computers. The labs consist of a number of PCs and Macs as well as printers and scanners. The Center has a computer available for student use throughout the day in room 207 as well as scanners and a printer. The printer, along with other office machines including fax and copier, are not for *personal use*, however. Students are on their honor not to abuse printer privileges. For computer and related help, call the I.T. Help Desk at 915-5222.

## Office of Research

The Office of Research assists graduate students in locating funding assistance for scholarly projects, and they offer travel grants of up to \$300. They also have a research library with access to varied grant opportunities.

## Funding for Research Travel from Southern Studies

Southern Studies is able to offer up to \$500 for our graduate students who need to travel for research. Please see the guidelines at the end of the handbook for more information about how to apply.

## Southern Studies Core Faculty and Staff

### Simone Delerme

McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and Anthropology

Lamar Hall

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Simone Delerme's research interests are Latin American and Caribbean migration to the US south, critical race theory, language ideologies and identity, inequality and stratification.

She earned her BA in political science from the University of Delaware in Newark. For her graduate work, she earned an MA in Liberal Studies from the University of Delaware and an MA and PhD in anthropology from Rutgers. Her dissertation is “The Latinization of Orlando: Race, Class, and the Politics of Place.”

### **Brian Foster**

Assistant Professor of Southern Studies and Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Lamar Hall  
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Brian has a joint appointment in Sociology and Southern Studies. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in African American Studies from the University of Mississippi in 2011, his Master’s degree in sociology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 2013, and his Ph.D. in sociology in 2017, also at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Brian’s work takes a critical, interdisciplinary, and multi-method approach to the study of race and inequality, with particular attention to post-soul (i.e., post-1970’s) black cultures in the rural American South. Brian has conducted fieldwork in several rural communities in central and northern Mississippi, including extensive work in the Mississippi Delta. Brian’s work has been supported by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, the Carolina Population Center, the National Science Foundation, and the American Sociological Association. Brian’s teaching focuses on race, place, inequality, and qualitative methods.

### **Darren E. Grem**

Associate Professor of History and Southern Studies  
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Darren E. Grem earned his B.A. from Furman University and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He held postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University and Emory University before joining the faculty at the University of Mississippi.

Darren is the author of *The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2016), a book that details how conservative evangelicals strategically used business leaders, organizations, methods, and money to advance their cultural and political aspirations in twentieth-century America. With John Corrigan and Amanda Porterfield, Darren is co-editor of *The Business Turn in American Religious History* (Oxford University Press, 2017), a collection of essays that reconsiders the role of business in American religious culture and politics. Also, with Ted Ownby and James Thomas, Jr., he is co-editor of *Southern Religion, Southern Culture: Essays Honoring Charles Reagan Wilson* (University Press of Mississippi, 2018).

His second long-term project, *Hard Times, USA: The Great Depression in American Memory*, is an expansive study of how Americans after World War II remembered and used the Great Depression in popular culture (memorial sites, music, literature, art, film) and in political activism for and against the New Deal state.

In the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History and at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Darren teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in twentieth-century U.S. history, southern history and southern studies, and modern politics and culture.

**Adam Gussow**

Professor of English and Southern Studies

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Adam Gussow has a joint appointment in English and Southern Studies. He teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, including 101, 102, 402, 601, and 602, and the cross-listed courses in English, including "The Blues Tradition in American Literature." Recent themes in his seminars have included "Southern Musicians' Autobiographies," "Freedom Summer 1964: Mississippi's Civil Right's Watershed," and "Robert Johnson, the Devil's Music, and the Blues." His research and teaching interests include blues music, literature, culture, and tourism; southern music (especially country, bluegrass, jazz, and blackface minstrelsy), African American literature and cultural politics; the Confederate battle flag; the persistence of the pastoral South idea and other southern mythologies; and the long arc from slavery and segregation through the Civil Rights movement and contemporary struggles for racial justice.

Adam has a Ph.D. and B.A from Princeton University (both in English) and an M.A. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. Between graduate degrees, Gussow spent a decade as a blues harmonica instructor and performer, part of a Harlem-based duo called Satan and Adam. He continues to record albums here in Oxford, playing drums and harmonica with his two-man band, The Blues Doctors. His books include *Mister Satan's Apprentice: A Blues Memoir* (1998), *Seems Like Murder Here: Southern Violence and the Blues Tradition* (2000), *Journeyman's Road: Modern Blues Lives from Faulkner's Mississippi to Post-9/11 New York* (2007), and *Beyond the Crossroads: The Devil and the Blues Tradition* (2017), which won a Living Blues Award as "Best Blues Book of 2017." He has just completed a new manuscript entitled *Blues Talk: Making Sense of the Music in a New Millennium*.

**Andy Harper**

Instructional Assistant Professor of Southern Studies and Journalism

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Andy Harper is the director of the Southern Documentary Project (SouthDocs), which produces documentary film and radio features as well as oral history projects. Dr. Harper holds a bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College, a master's degree in history from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a PhD in history from Northern Arizona University. His specialties include environmental history, Mississippi history, and documentary studies.

**Katie McKee**

Center Director

Professor of English and McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies

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Katie McKee has a joint appointment in English and Southern Studies. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, including SST 101, 102, 401, 402, 601, and 602. Recent topics in her graduate seminars for English have included “The Literature of the Civil War and Reconstruction,” “The New Southern Studies,” “The Global South,” “Literary Regionalism,” “Nineteenth-Century Women Writers,” and “Nineteenth Century American Travel Writing.” She is also the Graduate Program Coordinator for Southern Studies.

Katie has a BA from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, and an MA and PhD in American literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined the Southern Studies faculty in 1997. She is coeditor with Deborah Barker of *American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary* (2011) and author of a forthcoming study called *Reading Reconstruction: Sherwood Bonner and the Literature of the Post Civil War South* (LSU Press, January 2019). Her research interests include 19th-century Southern literature, Global South studies, humor studies, the South in film, and Southern women writers.

**Ted Ownby**

Professor of History and Southern Studies

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Ted Ownby has had a joint appointment in Southern Studies and History since 1988 and serves as director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. In History, he teaches courses in Southern History since 1900, Southern Religious History, Mississippi History and graduate courses in a range of topics. In Southern Studies, he has taught undergraduate survey and seminar courses, graduate courses, and special topics courses such as “Southern Autobiography” and “Peace in Southern Culture.” He is William V. Winter Professor of History.

As a scholar, Ted has written three books, *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865–1920* and *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830–1998*, and *Hurtin' Words: Debating Family Problems in the Twentieth Century South* and edited several others. With Nancy Bercau, he coedited the Gender volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* and with Charles Reagan Wilson, he coedited the recently released *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. With John T. Edge and Elizabeth Engelhardt, he coedited *The Larder*. His specialties include gender, religion, family life, consumers, and the twentieth-century South.

**Jodi Skipper**

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Southern Studies  
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Jodi Skipper has a joint appointment in Anthropology and Southern Studies. Her current research explores how African Americans are historically represented through material culture and how that interacts with the production of heritage in tourism spaces. She teaches courses on heritage tourism in the US South and on the African diaspora.

**Catarina Passidomo Townes**

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Southern Studies  
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 x5993

Catarina has a joint appointment in Anthropology and Southern Studies. She earned a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology from Washington and Lee in 2004, where her undergraduate thesis examined the connections between early American jazz music and African American identity. Catarina earned a M.A. in Environmental Anthropology from the University of Georgia in 2009. Her thesis investigated social capital within a network of local food producers in Athens, Georgia. Her doctorate in Human Geography, also from UGA, was an ethnographic study of food justice organizations in post-Katrina New Orleans.

Catarina joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi in 2014. She is interested primarily in studying food systems to better understand and contest broader social systems and phenomena. Through work with her students and the Southern Foodways Alliance, she is investigating the connections between the food system and: migration between the Global South and the U.S. South; structural racism; economic inequality; and demographic and culinary changes in the American South. Catarina has published articles in *Urban Studies*; *Geoforum*; *Agriculture and Human Values*; *The Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*; and *ACME*, and has contributed chapters to two edited volumes on Food Sovereignty and the food-immigration nexus. She teaches Geography 101, Southern Foodways (SST 555), and other courses in Anthropology and Southern Studies.

In 2019, Catarina will travel to Lima, Peru on a Fulbright Teaching and Research fellowship.

**David Wharton**

Director of Documentary Projects and Assistant Professor of Southern Studies  
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David Wharton serves as Director of Documentary Studies at the Center. He teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, including SST 101, 401, and 601, a fieldwork course and a documentary

photography course. Students in the latter two courses explore various aspects of life in Oxford and North Mississippi through photography, recorded interviews, participant observation, and informed common sense.

David has a BA from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, an MFA in photography from the University of Texas at Austin, and a PhD in American Studies, also from UT-Austin. He joined the SST faculty in 1999 after teaching American Studies courses at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is the author of *The Soul of a Small Texas Town: Photographs, Memories, and History from McDade* (2000), *Small Town South* (2012), and *The Power of Belief: Spiritual Landscapes from the Rural South* (2016). David's photographs have been exhibited throughout the United States and in group exhibitions in Europe and Latin America. His research interests include the rural and small-town South (especially the social and cultural landscapes of such places), the region's spiritual landscapes, and tourism in the South. A selection of his photographs can be seen at [www.davidwharton-southernphotographs.com](http://www.davidwharton-southernphotographs.com).

### **Jessie Wilkerson**

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 x3371

Jessie Wilkerson has a joint appointment in History and Southern Studies. She earned her MA in Women's History from Sarah Lawrence College and PhD in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include women's and gender history, sexuality in the South, working-class history, U.S. social movements, Appalachian history, and oral history.

In 2019, she published her first book, *To Live Here, You Have to Fight: How Women Led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice* (Illinois Press). The project, based on her dissertation, received the OAH Lerner-Scott Prize and the Labor and Working-Class History's Herbert Gutman Prize. She has published articles in *Southern Cultures* and *Gender & History*, and she contributed to *North Carolina Women: Their Lives and Times—Volume 2* (University of Georgia Press). She has also written for *100 Days in Appalachia*, *Salon*, *Boston Review*, and *Rewire News*, and her essay "Living with Dolly Parton" was one of *Longreads* most read essays in 2018. In the spring 2017, she began a collaboration with her students on an oral history project documenting LGTBQ life and history in Mississippi, a project that has grown into the Mellon-funded Invisible Histories Project-Mississippi. She is also working on a collaborative, community-based oral history project in Water Valley, Mississippi, documenting African American history in Yalobusha County. She is a founding member of the United Campus Workers of Mississippi.

### **Southern Foodways Alliance**

[www.southernfoodways.com](http://www.southernfoodways.com)  
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 Barnard Observatory, Big Tower

The Southern Foodways Alliance is an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. The SFA documents and celebrates the diverse food cultures of the American South. We set a common table

where black and white, rich and poor—all who gather—may consider our history and our future in a spirit of reconciliation.

**Annemarie Nichols Anderson**

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Annemarie is SFA’s oral historian. She received a master’s degree in oral history from the University of Florida in 2017, as the first graduate of that program. She also earned her bachelor’s degrees in English and history from UF.

**John T. Edge**

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John T. holds an M.A. in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi and an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Goucher College. The author or editor of a dozen books, including the foodways volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, he most recently wrote *The Potlikker Papers*, a food history of the American South, now in paperback from The Penguin Press. He has won three James Beard Foundation awards, including the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award, and is the writer and host for TrueSouth, a narrative series about Southern food culture, which debuts on ESPN/SEC Network in September.

**Melissa Booth Hall**

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Melissa Booth Hall is the SFA’s managing director. She holds a J.D. from Northern Kentucky University and a B.A. in English from Centre College. In 2003 she volunteered at the SFA’s Fall Symposium... 13 1/2 gallons of pimento cheese and 1000 deviled eggs later, she was hooked. Since joining the SFA’s staff, Melissa has led field trips and Summer Symposia, organized countless Potlikker Film Festivals across the region (and beyond), and served as operations manager for Fall Symposiums. These days, her focus is overseeing SFA staff, outreach, donor relations, and long-range planning.

**Mary Beth Lasseter**

[marybeth@southernfoodways.org](mailto:marybeth@southernfoodways.org)

Mary Beth Lasseter is from South Georgia—Valdosta, to be exact. She found her way to a Southern Studies MA after graduating from the University of Notre Dame and spending a year with AmeriCorps in Tuskegee, Alabama. She wrote her master's thesis on Elvis Presley as a catalyst for white Southern feminism. Post-Elvis study for an MBA was less enjoyable, but has proven useful in her role as associate director of the Southern Foodways Alliance. She and her husband, Ned Mitchell, stay busy with their four small children.

**Sara Camp Milam**

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Sara Camp Milam is the SFA’s managing editor. Her projects include *Gravy*, SFA’s quarterly foodways journal. She has a B.A. in Spanish from Princeton University and an M.A. in folklore from UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Claire Moss**[claire@southernfoodways.org](mailto:claire@southernfoodways.org)

Claire Moss is SFA's development officer and is charged with annual giving campaigns and individual gifts. Claire holds a BS in social work from the University of Mississippi and a master's in social work from Louisiana State University. Prior to joining SFA's world headquarters, she spent the majority of her career in the nonprofit sector in both executive and development roles. She moved to Oxford with her family in the summer of 2017.

**Center Staff and Institutional Affiliates****Brett Bonner**[brett@livingblues.com](mailto:brett@livingblues.com)

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Brett Bonner is the editor of *Living Blues* magazine. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, and philosophy from the University of Mississippi, as well as a master's degree in sociology. He has worked at *Living Blues* for over 30 years and has written extensively about the blues. As the editor he handles all story, review, and photography assignments and also decides the theme and scope of each issue.

**Rebecca Lauck Cleary**

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Rebecca is a Lafayette, Louisiana native. She earned a B.A. in journalism and her M.A. in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi. She assists with registration of students, writing for the *Southern Register*, publicity for Center events, and various other tasks.

**Donna Crenshaw**

Barnard Observatory 112

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Donna Crenshaw is the Center's Administrative Secretary. One of her many duties is managing the financial affairs for the Center. This encompasses monitoring budgets, processing accounts payable and accounts receivable, payroll, purchases, travel requests, requests for payment, personnel forms, and the preparation and maintenance of grant applications. She was raised in Omaha, Nebraska on a small farm just outside the city limits. She moved to Oxford in November 2016.

**Margaret M M Gaffney**  
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Margaret is part of the Center's full-time staff. She returned to Oxford in 2015, where she spent some of her childhood. She received her BA from Bowdoin College in German, Theater and Dance. She spent the previous fourteen years making films. Margaret schedules the various rooms in Barnard and helps make sure everything is in running order.

**Rex Jones**  
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 x3475

Rex Jones is a documentary filmmaker who joined the Southern Documentary Project in 2011. Rex is a native of Hickory, Mississippi, and an MFA graduate in Science and Natural History Filmmaking from Montana State University. His films have been broadcast nationally on PBS, won awards from various organizations, and been chosen as official selections of film festivals nationwide.

**Andrea Morales**  
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Andrea Morales is a producer with the Southern Documentary Project. Peruvian-born, Miami-bred and Memphis-based: after years of existing in spaces heavy with the constructs of socioeconomic binaries, her work moves with the hope of observing the things in between. She holds a B.S. in journalism from the University of Florida and a M.A. in visual communication from Ohio University. As an independent photographer in the Delta South, her focus on themes of identity and memory are told through through a journalistic and documentary lens.

**Nikki Neely**  
 Executive Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts  
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Nikki is the Director of Development for the Center and for the College of Liberal Arts. Before working at UM, she was associate director of foundation and corporate relations at Emory University in Atlanta. She earned a bachelor of arts in studio art in 2004 and a master of arts in journalism in 2007 from the University of Mississippi.

**John Rash**  
 Producer/Director, SouthDocs  
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 x1304

John Rash is a documentary storyteller who earned his MFA in Experimental and Documentary Art

from Duke University. He has worked as an educator in film, photography, and video art for more than 15 years in both the United States and China. John's projects often explore cultural outsiders and environmental topics through a variety of documentary modes and media.

**Afton Thomas**

Association Director for Programs  
amthoma4@olemiss.edu

Afton Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in theatre from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master's degree in theatre with an emphasis on children's theatre education from Sacramento State University. In 2014 she began work at the Center as project coordinator with the Southern Foodways Alliance and served in this position for 4.5 years. Afton's professional experience includes theatre education, hospitality management, human resources, and project management. In her current role as associate director for programs, Afton supports faculty and the Center's institutes with the planning and execution of conferences, workshops, and special events. She is also fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Center's documentary expression MFA students on logistics and execution of their artist events.

Afton is committed to the LOU community and is very involved. She has served on the steering committee for Excel by 5 (2013-2016), the Visit Oxford Tourism Board (2015-2018) and she is currently a member of the Move On Up Mississippi board, Lafayette Oxford Foundation for Tomorrow (LOFT) board, and a steering committee member with Leadership Lafayette (2017 graduate of the program). In addition to her community involvement, Afton is active at the university and prides herself on staying connected and attending as many functions as she can. She is co-chair of the Critical Race Studies Group, a member of the United Campus Workers, and a liaison for many departments on campus in hopes to share events and communications with her peers and students at the Center.

**James G. Thomas, Jr.**

East Turret, Barnard Observatory  
[jgthomas@olemiss.edu](mailto:jgthomas@olemiss.edu)

James Thomas is the Center for the Study of Southern Culture's associate director for publications. He has a BA in philosophy and English and an MA in Southern Studies, both from the University of Mississippi. In 2003 Thomas returned to Oxford from New York City, where he was working as a magazine editor, and began work at the Center as managing editor of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. He has contributed to and edited books and journals on a wide range of topics, from southern writers Barry Hannah and William Faulkner to Lebanese immigration to the Mississippi Delta and science and medicine in the American South.

**Karen Tuttle**

Kinard Hall Wing D, Office 241  
[ktuttle@olemiss.edu](mailto:ktuttle@olemiss.edu)  
x1236

Karen is the Administrative Coordinator for the Southern Documentary Project. A 1991 Ole Miss graduate with a BS degree in Education, Karen has been with the department since. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Documentary Project office, and also videotapes and edits various University functions and events. Karen was born in Memphis but is a longtime resident of the Oxford area. She is a devoted dog lover with numerous rescues to her credit.

**Melanie Young**

South Oxford Campus

[melanie@livingblues.com](mailto:melanie@livingblues.com)

x5129

Melanie Young first began working with *Living Blues* in 2009 as the circulation manager. At the same time, she had an editorial internship with the publication. Since then, she's been a contributing writer for *Living Blues* and even wrote her Southern Studies master's thesis on the magazine in 2012. In 2008, Young earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature at the University of Southern Mississippi. As publication manager, Young's duties include managing the day-to-day tasks necessary to the upkeep of the magazine, which consists of subscription services, publishing, distribution, marketing and accounting. In addition, Young also trains and supervises graduate assistants and student workers.

## Course Listings

Course listings change frequently. Please visit individual department websites for lists of their classes and the MyOleMiss portion of the University's website for the most accurate offerings by semester. In advance of each registration period, we will publish a list of classes that we can accept for graduate credit during the upcoming term. We encourage students to locate additional possibilities on their own, but also to consult with the graduate director before registering.

### **SOUTHERN STUDIES (SST)**

**533. Studies in Documentary Fieldwork:** Training in basic field research techniques of oral history and documentary photography. Students will record interviews and make documentary photographs that explore a pre-assigned topic in southern culture. Prerequisite for SST 534 and SST 537.

**534. Studies in Documentary Photography:** Prerequisite is SST 533.

**536. The Southern Environment.**

**537. Documenting the South in Film.** Prerequisite is SST 533.

**538. Advanced Film.**

**555. Foodways and Southern Culture.**

**560. Oral History of Southern Social Movements.**

**598, 599. Special Topics:** Interdisciplinary study of specialized topics in Southern culture. May be repeated (twice) for credit.

**601. Graduate Seminar I:** Multidisciplinary reading and research seminar in Southern Studies. Students will read and discuss a common core of readings while pursuing research in their individual areas of interest.

**602. Graduate Seminar II:** Reading, discussion, and research and writing course focused on exploring various perspectives on Southern society, its development and its institutions, social classes, and ethnic and racial groups. Outcome of this course is typically a thesis or internship proposal.

**603. Internship:** Supervised research and work at an on or off-campus cultural institution. Interns are required to maintain a journal of their fieldwork experiences. Students receiving nine hours of credit must submit a final research paper of approximately 40 pages and devote 20 hours per week to the internship; students receiving six hours of credit must devote 12-15 hours per week to the internship and write a 12-15 page research paper; students receiving three hours of credit work 10 hours a week and prepare a weekly journal.

**605. Advanced Individual Study:** Students develop their own course of study in consultation with a supervising professor.

**611. Regionalism**

**612. Globalization and the U.S. South****697: Thesis****Theses and Internships**

Most Southern Studies student theses are available through the University library. You can access a complete list from our website: [www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu](http://www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu). Topic headings include these: History & Civil Rights, People & Places, Literature & Film, Art & Architecture, Music & Entertainment, Religion, Sports & Recreation, Politics, and Foodways. A list of the locations at which people have completed internships also appears on the website.

### Checklist, Southern Studies Master's Degree

SST 601 \_\_\_\_\_

SST 602 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

additional courses for internship track \_\_\_\_\_

SST 697 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (thesis or documentary track)

OR

SST 603 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (internship track)

*Thesis Track* = 18 hours of course work, including courses in at least two disciplines other than Southern Studies + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six thesis hours (SST 697) + successful thesis defense → 30 hours

*Documentary Track* = 18 hours of course work, including SST 533 and SST 534 or SST 537 + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six thesis hours (SST 697) + successful thesis defense → 30 hours

*Internship Track* = 21 hours of course work, including courses in at least two disciplines other than Southern Studies + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six hours of SST 603 (internship) + successful public presentation → 36 hours

\*Only 12 hours may be taken in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies.

\*SST 598 and SST 599 may each be repeated twice for credit.

### Checklist, MFA in Documentary Expression

SST 601 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SST 533 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SST 534 or SST 537 \_\_\_\_\_  
 electives: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

SST 697 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*MFA* = 15 hours of course work (including SST 601, SST 533, and either SST 534 or SST 537) + 15 hours of SST 697 + successful prospectus meeting + successful thesis defense → 30 hours and a degree

\*Students with an MA in SST from UM may bring forward 6 hours of credit from their earlier degree program. Students may not repeat classes they took as part of their MA coursework, with the exception of SST 598, 599, 605, and 697.

\*Students may repeat SST 598 and SST 599 twice for credit as part of their MFA coursework.

\*Students may complete two sections of SST 605 (Independent Study) as part of their MFA coursework.

## TRAVEL – GRAD STUDENTS

When you travel for the University of Mississippi as a student, there are some things you need to know so the paperwork will go smoothly and reimbursements will be received promptly.

### BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

If the Center for the Study of Southern Culture is helping pay for your trip, we generally max out at \$500 per trip. You will need the **approval of Dr. Katie McKee before any arrangements are made** and Dr. McKee will notify Donna Crenshaw of the approval. If you are also getting assistance from other departments on campus, you will need to follow their procedure and approval process as well as ours. It is necessary to only file **one claim form per trip even if multiple departments are helping pay the costs**.

The Graduate School also has funding available, but only for presenting at a conference or receiving an award for original work. They provide up to \$300 annually, IF your home department is willing to match that amount. We are. In order to access this funding opportunity, you must complete a “Graduate Student Travel Request Form” (found on the Graduate School homepage under “Resources” and then “Forms and Manuals Library”) and submit it to the Secretary of the Graduate School at least 10 days before you travel.

#### Travel Authorization:

A travel authorization ***is required IF*** a conference registration fee was paid, an 80% estimated advance is requested, non-refundable conference registration or airfare\*\* is to be reimbursed prior to the trip, or the trip involves international travel. Otherwise, all paperwork can be done after travel is completed.

**Keep in mind:** if a travel authorization form was submitted, a travel reimbursement claim MUST be submitted after the trip is completed, whether or not there were any additional travel expenses.

If you want an 80% travel advance, you must submit all paperwork at least TWO WEEKS prior to departure. Procurement strongly suggests that direct deposit be set up with them (which is different than direct deposit for payroll) in order to receive your funds in a timely manner. Otherwise, all checks will go to the address on file in the UM system (even if it is an out-of-state address).

You can find the travel authorization form here: <https://procurement.olemiss.edu/travel-authorization-form/>

Please complete the form, print it, and bring it to Donna’s office (room 112) so it can be reviewed together.

### DURING YOUR TRIP:

**The #1 thing to remember when traveling is KEEP YOUR ORIGINAL RECEIPTS.** Scans, photos, screenshots, faxes, etc. of receipts **will NOT** be accepted (unless it’s an emailed receipt from an airline, etc.)

#### Food/Meals (per diem):

Contrary to what you may have heard, you WILL need to **keep all ITEMIZED AND CREDIT/DEBIT CARD food receipts you wish to claim**. Procurement does not need these receipts but does want actual receipted amounts on the claim form and the Center has to have documentation to prove the amounts entered on the claim (in case of an audit). If meals were provided or you don’t wish to claim per diem, no receipts are needed. A tip of not more than 20% can be added to the bill and will generally be reimbursed. There is a

general maximum allowable per diem rate of \$41/day, but that amount can change depending on location and time of year.

**Note:** NO ALCOHOL can appear on any receipt if you want reimbursed.

**Lodging:**

You will need an itemized receipt for any lodging you plan to claim. At the end of your stay, ask for an itemized, paid-in-full receipt at the front desk. The University does allow you to stay at an Airbnb, but a proper receipt will need to be obtained (Airbnb is actually really good about providing the receipt we need).

Tips totaling \$10.00 or less can be reimbursed without a receipt, but for hotel gratuities only.

**Car Rental:**

If you rent a car, you must turn in the final paid receipt from the rental company; a pre-trip confirmation will not be accepted. Original fuel receipts should also be kept (mileage cannot be reimbursed if you rent a vehicle).

**Mileage:**

If you drive your own vehicle, you may claim mileage and be reimbursed \$0.58/mile. You will need to turn in the start and end addresses and indicate if it is a roundtrip. For a trip with several locations, give the start address, each subsequent address, and the ending address. CSSC will calculate the allowable miles and reimbursement.

**Public Transportation/Taxi/Lyft/Uber:**

If you use a city bus, subway, taxi, Lyft, Uber, or shuttle service, an original receipt is required for reimbursement. In the case of a subway, bus, or taxi, a receipt is generally given at the time of the ride. For Uber or Lyft, you will need to forward the emailed receipt (with pictures exposed) to the Center.

**Parking:**

If you need to park a personal vehicle at an airport or hotel, that amount is reimbursable if an original receipt is turned in.

**If you need an envelope for your receipts during your trip, please stop by the Center and pick one up.**

**AFTER YOUR TRIP:**

**Travel Reimbursement:**

Travel Reimbursement Vouchers (claims) are processed after the trip to indicate any expenses to be reimbursed and to close out any advances or pre-trip reimbursements. Original receipts are required for reimbursement and should be turned in at one time. The Center's finance person will review the trip details and receipts with you, create the claim form, and let you know when it's ready to be signed.

**IMPORTANT:** If you received a pre-trip reimbursement for a conference registration or non-refundable flight, you will need to claim that expense on the travel reimbursement form just as if it was being claimed for the first time. The UM travel system knows what it has paid and will adjust remaining reimbursements accordingly.

If you have not set up direct deposit with Procurement (which is different than direct deposit with payroll),

you can do that easily; the Center's admin assistant will be glad to help. Otherwise, Procurement will mail you a check at the address on file in the UM system (even if it is out of state).

If, at any time, you need help with your travel questions, please don't hesitate to contact Donna Crenshaw ([donnac@olemiss.edu](mailto:donnac@olemiss.edu) or 3364) in Barnard Observatory (room 112). We're here to help!

## TRAVEL IN A NUTSHELL

### BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

- Get trip approval by Dr. Katie McKee.
- Make sure you have paperwork from other departments if funding is shared.
- Do a travel authorization if required. Paperwork must be submitted TWO WEEKS prior to departure in order to receive an 80% advance. <https://procurement.olemiss.edu/travel-authorization-form/>
- Check with other departments for their requirements as well.

### DURING YOUR TRIP: **KEEP YOUR ORIGINAL RECEIPTS**

#### Airfare:

- If not already claimed, forward email from airline to [donnac@olemiss.edu](mailto:donnac@olemiss.edu) (with pictures exposed).

#### Conference Registration Fee:

- Turn in original paid receipt along with a travel authorization form prior to the trip.

#### Food:

- Turn in ITEMIZED AND CREDIT/DEBIT CARD receipts for food you want to claim.
- No more than 20% tip.
- No alcohol.

#### Lodging:

- Get an itemized receipt from hotel or Airbnb.
- Tips totaling \$10.00 or less can be reimbursed without a receipt for hotel gratuities only.

#### Car Rental:

- Turn in final paid receipt.
- Keep original fuel receipts.

#### Mileage:

- Turn in start/end address; CSSC will figure allowable mileage.
- 2019 rate is \$0.58/mile.

#### Public Transportation/Taxi/Lyft/Uber:

- Keep original receipts or forward emailed receipts (with pictures exposed).

#### Parking:

- Keep original receipt.

**If you need an envelope for your receipts during your trip, please stop by the Center and pick one up.**

### AFTER YOUR TRIP:

#### Travel Reimbursement Vouchers (Claims):

- The Center's admin will review the trip details and receipts with you, create the claim form, and let you know when it's ready to be signed.

Donna Crenshaw

[donnac@olemiss.edu](mailto:donnac@olemiss.edu)

662-915-3364

Barnard Observatory (room 112)