



October 2005 – Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter
(Visit our web site at www.mshumanities.org to learn more about us.)

Contents:

- Cultural Organizations Discuss Hurricane Recovery Needs
- 8th Annual Keady Lecture Monday Evening at Mississippi College School of Law
- Nominations Invited for 2005 Humanities Achievement Awards
- 'Between Fences' Tour Continues
- October is National Arts and Humanities Month
- Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

Cultural Organizations Discuss Hurricane Recovery Needs

On Oct. 14, the Mississippi Humanities Council organized a meeting in Hattiesburg to bring representatives of cultural institutions and organizations that have suffered damages together with representatives of agencies and organizations that have assistance available, either funding support, technical assistance, or other resources. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Mississippi Library Commission and Hattiesburg Arts Council were cosponsors. Ninety-six people attended.

Participants discussed four key needs: buildings, collections, equipment and people. Much of what was reported regarding buildings was to be expected: from total destruction to limited specific damage (roofs, walls, rain and water damage, mold, debris, toxic materials) and need for safety inspections; air conditioning, humidity control and alarm systems. Less obvious were special requirements for historic restorations, such as handmade materials and equipment not readily available at Lowe's, and particular structural standards for archives and museums that slow repairs.

So far as collections are concerned, some items are simply irreplaceable: archaeological sites and artifacts, paintings, pottery and other works of art, historic buildings. Many collections are in refrigerated storage until they can be

conserved, some in distant locations, with no place to return them at present. Others are simply being air dried on site or locally conserved.

Equipment needs run the gamut, from AC and computers to special equipment for conservation to pencils and paper. Staffing is a particularly painful issue for most. Staff members are scattered, there is no alternative housing locally available for anyone who lost a home and not all schools are up and running for their children. With budgets devastated as much as buildings, staffs have been cut in some cases; in others, no one qualified is available to work.

Closely related are income/budget issues: loss of admissions income, donors, computers, documents, tax revenue. Fundraising, special events and outreach are difficult with limited staff, and loss of students impacts schools.

Nevertheless, on the whole the mood, while subdued, was forward-looking. There was general consensus that the meeting was therapeutic; they saw colleagues and friends, learned their situations, shared woes and bright spots. As a Mississippi Gulf Coast community college librarian said, she was worried about reinforcing one wall of her building until she learned that the library at William Carey College was totally washed away.

Outcomes of the Oct. 14 meeting will be posted on the Council web site (www.mshumanities.org) soon. Council staff plans to pursue a follow-up meeting in November to discuss "next steps" in assisting the recovery of our cultural heritage in Mississippi.

8th Annual Keady Lecture Monday Evening at Mississippi College School of Law

The Mississippi College School of Law will co-host the Mississippi Humanities Council's Judge William C. Keady Distinguished Lecture VIII Monday evening, Oct. 24, at the MC School of Law Conference Center in Jackson, MS. The 2005 lecture, *The Constitution and Judicial Independence*, will be presented by Mississippi Supreme Court Justice James E. Graves Jr. Justice Graves was appointed to the state Supreme Court by the governor in 2001 and then was elected by the people in November 2004. The public is welcome.



**Judge James E.
Graves Jr.**

Nominations Invited for 2005 Humanities Achievement Awards

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites nominations for its annual Humanities Achievement Awards. Awards are given in three categories: Public Humanities Achievement Award, Humanities Scholar Award and Chair's Award. Nominations are due by Nov. 23, 2005. Awards will be presented at the Annual Humanities Awards Dinner Feb. 3, 2006 in Jackson, MS. To obtain a copy of the nomination form, please visit the "Downloads" area on our web site: www.mshumanities.org.

'Between Fences' Tour Continues

After the successful and highly popular Smithsonian Institution touring exhibits "Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945" and "Key Ingredients: America by Food," the Mississippi Humanities Council is bringing a third touring exhibit to Mississippi. Entitled



Watercolor by Wyatt Waters

"Between Fences," an exhibit depicting the settling of the United States, the establishment of its communities and the building of its borders, is off to a strong start in Mississippi. After opening at East Central Community College in Decatur, it now travels to the Greenville Higher Education Center for a one-month run. "Between Fences" is the third Smithsonian Institution travel exhibit to come to

Mississippi, via the Mississippi Humanities Council. It is the story of people, pigs, corn and dirt. It is about intimacy and conflict, creativity and industry, restraint and liberation in America.

Dates and locations for the Between Fences traveling exhibit are as follows:

- Oct. 24–Nov. 22, 2005, Greenville Higher Education Center, Greenville, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site, contact Grover Greer at 662-332-8500 or ggreer@ghec.org or Emily Erwin at 662-846-4781 or eerwin@deltastate.edu)
- Nov. 30–Dec. 22, 2005, Oren Dunn Museum, Tupelo, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Christy Roberts at 662-841-6438 or museum@ci.tupelo.ms.us)
- Jan. 3–Jan. 31, 2006, Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Public Library (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Henry Ledet at 601.833-3369 or hledet@llf.lib.ms.us)

- Feb. 4–March 7, 2006, M.R. Dye Public Library, Horn Lake, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Carson Culver at 662–393–5654 or carsonc@first.lib.ms.us)
- March 20–April 25, 2006, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Glen Berry at 662–325–2029 or gberry@library.msstate.edu)

October is National Arts and Humanities Month

Each year since 1993, National Arts and Humanities Month has helped give millions of Americans the opportunity to explore new facets of the arts and humanities in their lives and has encouraged them to begin a lifelong habit of active participation. It has become the nation's largest collective annual celebration of the arts and humanities.

National Arts and Humanities Month's four primary goals are to

- create a national, state and local focus on the arts and humanities through the media;
- encourage the active participation of individuals, as well as arts, humanities and other interested organizations nationwide;
- provide an opportunity for federal, state and local business, government and civic leaders to declare their support for the arts and humanities; and
- establish a highly visible vehicle for raising public awareness about the arts and humanities.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Oct. 22, 2005, *Mississippi Telling*, Wiggins Depot, Wiggins, MS. Lecture
- Oct. 22, 2005, *Southern Women of Character*, Wiggins Depot, Wiggins, MS. Lecture.
- Oct. 24, 2005, *Judge William C. Keady Distinguished Lecture Series*, Mississippi College, Jackson, MS. A lecture series inaugurated in 1990 in commemoration of Judge Keady's legacies to Mississippi. The lectures are to explore the impact of judicial decisions on citizens' everyday lives. Title: The Constitution and Judicial Independence. Guest lecturer: Judge James E. Graves Jr.
- Oct. 24, 2005, *The History and Traditions of Funeral Food in the South*, 3904 Hardy St., Hattiesburg, MS. Lecture.
- Oct. 31–Nov. 6, 2005, *Appalachian Heritage Week*, Pontotoc, MS.

- Nov. 4, 2005, *Juan Carlos Galeano Lecture*, Edison Walthall Hotel, Jackson, MS.
- Nov. 8, 2005, *The World of King Arthur*, Brandon Public Library, Brandon, MS. Lecture.
- Nov. 9, 2005, *Origin of Thanksgiving*, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 400 Grants Ferry Road, Brandon, MS. Lecture.
- Nov. 14, 2005, *Women as Agents of Change in Mississippi During the Twentieth Century*, W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Auditorium, Itawamba Community College, Fulton, MS. Lecture.
- Nov. 19, 2005, *Stories About the South*, Mississippi Municipal Art Gallery, Jackson, MS. Lecture
- Nov. 20, 2005, *We Gather Together: Thanksgiving Day in Mississippi*, Campbell's Creek Baptist Church, Mendenhall, MS. Lecture.
- Nov. 21, 2005, *We Gather Together: Thanksgiving Day in Mississippi*, 103 Trace Harbor Dr., Madison, MS. Lecture.
- Dec. 6, 2005, *Lunch Lecture Series*, Eudora Welty Library, 300 North State Street, Jackson MS. Dr. Stuart Rockoff, historian at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, along with Bea Gotthelf, a Jackson resident and active participant in local civil rights activities during the 1960s, will present a joint lecture. Gotthelf will provide a firsthand account of being both a member of the Jewish community and a participant in the Jackson civil rights activities. This is one of four lectures in this series, aimed at promoting a dialogue on crucial race-related issues. Bring your lunch to this free lecture.
- Dec. 7, 2005, *Place of Peace: Shelby Foote's Shiloh*, Itawamba Community College campus, Tupelo, MS. Lecture.

Suggestions for Future Issues of Our Newsletter?

We welcome suggestions for humanities-related items for our monthly newsletter. If you have a suggestion, please contact Carol Andersen at carol@mhc.state.ms.us.

Disclaimer

The MHC is supported by Congress through the NEH and by the generosity of individual donors. The MHC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the NEH.