



March 2006 – Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter
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NEH Chairman to Tour Mississippi Gulf Coast

Dr. Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will visit Mississippi as a guest of the Mississippi Humanities Council to visit regions of the state damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Cole will speak with legislators and local leaders in Jackson March 15, then travel to the Coast March 16 to tour damaged areas and meet with representatives of cultural organizations impacted by the hurricane. Details will follow next week.

‘Between Fences’ Tour Moves to Starkville March 20

“Between Fences,” a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit depicting the settling of the United States, opened Feb. 4 in the M.R. Dye Public Library, Horn Lake, MS, for a one-month run. “Between Fences” is the third Smithsonian Institution travel exhibit to come to Mississippi, via the Mississippi



Setting up ‘Between Fences’ in Horn Lake.

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. The exhibit moves March 20 to the Mitchell Memorial Library on the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville, MS, for its final one-month showing. An opening ceremony for the Starkville showing will take place on March 28.

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

- 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)

Family Reading Bonds Programs Wrap Up in Greenwood, Houston

The Mississippi Humanities Council’s popular, family-based reading program for new adult readers and their elementary school age children, “Family Reading Bonds”, continues to serve families throughout Mississippi. Program content emphasizes substantive content and exploration of ideas and concepts with parents and their children. These family literacy programs model good read-aloud skills and teach discussion techniques that stimulate interest and knowledge of the books’ content—fostering a lifelong love of learning through reading. The programs teach history, cultural values, literature, in enjoyable ways and relaxed settings and teach parents to ask open-ended questions that lead to meaningful conversations with their offspring. They assist families in moving from basic, functional reading to thoughtful literacy. Two Family Reading Bonds programs have recently concluded, one in Greenwood and another in Houston. Others are being developed. For more information about hosting a Family Reading Bonds program or participating, please call or email David Morgan, 601–432–6752 or david@mhc.state.ms.us.



Next MHC Grant Deadline is May 1

May 1 is the next Mississippi Humanities Council minigrant application deadline for proposals up to \$2,000. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org.

***Mississippi Moments* Broadcasts Continue in 2006 on MPB**



Thanks to continued funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities' "We The People" Initiative, the Mississippi Humanities Council and Mississippi Public Broadcasting will continue producing the popular *Mississippi Moments* radio program

in 2006. For the past year, the Mississippi Humanities Council has worked with Mississippi Public Broadcasting and the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage to produce *Mississippi Moments*, a four-minute segment aired twice a week on MPB Radio. Each segment highlights a moment in Mississippi history.

Disaster Preparedness Classes Scheduled

In an effort to promote disaster preparedness around the Southeast, SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network) is offering a series of 13 disaster classes strategically located throughout the 10 states that comprise the SOLINET region. These sessions will focus on disaster planning and recovery and on hurricane preparedness. Each class costs \$25. All sessions will be held during the spring of 2006. Dates, times and registration information for these sessions are posted at http://www.solinet.net/home_templ.cfm?doc_id=3855&WKSHPID=12DPS. Note: the Jackson, MS, session is scheduled for April 5, 2006.

Essay Contest Offered for High School Students

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced the 2006 Idea of America Essay Contest for high school juniors. The contest is one of several activities of the Endowment's We The People Initiative. For the 2006 contest, students are asked to write an essay that examines the historical debate in the nation's First Congress over the benefits and disadvantages of adopting the First Amendment. The deadline for entries is April 19, 2006. Additional information about the contest may be found on the NEH website at: <http://www.neh.gov/news/archive/20060130.html>.

Call Issued for Assessment Volunteers

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is seeking volunteers with experience in code related issues, especially as they pertain to flood situations and conditions, to create an Association for Preservation Technology team. Anticipated assignments will include meeting with local officials and educating preservationists on the Gulf Coast regarding the impact of new flood elevations on historic buildings. Depending on the expertise of team members, participants might also be requested to produce drawings showing various housing types and scales, how high they can be elevated before they lose their historic character and ways to mitigate the impact of higher elevations. The team will be housed in Biloxi at the Preservation House and will fly into Gulfport. Room and board will be provided. Interested individuals should contact Brian Robins at 912-525-6940 (Mondays and Wednesdays only) or 912-262-6250 (home) or at brobinso@scad.edu.

Speakers Bureau Offers 146 Engaging Topics for Community Programs

One of the most visible programs of the Mississippi Humanities Council is the Speakers Bureau. Created in 1990, it provides scholarly programming for regions of the state with limited access to cultural experiences. Speakers' topics range from Mississippi history and ethnic and cultural discussions to women's studies, philosophy and ethics, southern literature, archeology and the visual arts. More than 100 speakers are available to nonprofit community organizations for lecture and discussion programs. A complete list of topics and speakers is available at www.mshumanities.org. Groups requesting a speaker are asked to make a cash or in-kind contribution equal to the honorarium and travel payments for the speaker, which are paid by the Mississippi Humanities Council. The host organization may claim donated space, the volunteer time of lecture coordinators and any donated advertising as in-kind contributions.



Diane Williams both lectures and performs in her Speakers Bureau presentation entitled "Southern Women of Character."

AASLH Offers Courses, Scholarships

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) will offer several professional development courses during 2006. The Association also offers scholarships to attend their workshops, as well as awards to employ interns. For

a complete listing of courses and scholarship/award opportunities, please visit www.aaslh.org.

Workshop Addresses American Transcendentalism, Utopianism

The Community College Humanities Association invites college educators from across the United States to join scholars in Concord, MA, in July 2006 for a weeklong workshop focusing on American transcendentalism and utopianism. *Concord, Massachusetts and Utopian Thinking in the Early 19th Century* will explore the ideas of authors and philosophers such as Emerson, Thoreau and Hawthorne. For more information, contact David A. Berry, berry@essex.edu or 973-877-3577, or visit www.ccha-assoc.org.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Feb. 4, 2006–March 7, 2006, *Between Fences*, M.R. Dye Public Library, Horn Lake, MS. Traveling exhibit examining the role fences have played in local politics, industry and daily life. Exhibit is part of a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit appearing in 15 states during 2005 and 2006.
- March 7, 2006, *Shakespeare on Film*, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gulfport, MS. A comparison of Shakespearean plays vs. films. This event is a project of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra.
- March 7, 2006, *All Rendered Truth -- Southern Circuit Film Series*, Gertrude C. Ford Academic Complex, Room 215, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS. A film of the American South told by self-taught artists. Filmmaker Patrick Long will be available to answer questions.
- March 20–April 25, 2006, *Between Fences*, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. Traveling exhibit examining the role fences have played in local politics, industry and daily life. Exhibit is part of a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit appearing in 15 states during 2005 and 2006.
- March 21–Dec. 19, 2006, *Unburied Treasures*, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS. A monthly humanities program coordinated by the Mississippi Museum of Art now in its third year. Through music and lecture, the program examines the museum's collection. The 2006 season will focus exclusively on Mississippi art.
- March 22, 2006, *Iraq Three Years Later: A Roundtable Discussion*, Painter Hall, Room 209, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS. One of a series of discussions and films in the annual International Series at Mississippi University for Women. The 2005–2006 series focuses on China.

- March 23, 2006, *The Road Home*, Painter Hall, Room 201c, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS. One of a series of discussions and films in the annual International Series at Mississippi University for Women. The 2005–1006 series focuses on China. This film begins at 6 p.m. At the start of this film, from Chinese director Zhang Yimou (Raise the Red Lantern, Ju Dou, Shanghai Triad), a young man returns to his native village after the death of his father, the village's school teacher, who died while trying to raise money for a new schoolhouse.
- March 30–April 1, 2006, *Thirteenth Oxford Conference for the Book*, Oxford, MS. A conference for authors, editors, publishers and others in the trade as well as educators, literacy advocates, readers, and book lovers. Planned events include exhibitions, addresses, panels, readings, a fiction and poetry jam, an Elderhostel program, a book–signing and an optional literary tour of the Mississippi Delta.
- April 1, 2006, *The Telling Trees*, Wiggins Park, Wiggins, MS. Enactment of collected stories of Stone County residents' memories of the local lumbering industry. This event will be part of an annual community festival known as Pine Hill Day.
- April 4, 2006, *The Life and Times of Will*, Cedar Lake Christian Assembly, Biloxi, MS. An event examining Shakespeare's time and The Old Globe. This event is a project of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra.
- April 6–Oct. 14, 2006, *If You're Gon' Be a Leader, Don't Stay Behind*, Jackson, MS. The Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship & Democracy will present a series of educational programs exploring various facets of the history of the Civil Rights Movement in Jackson, Mississippi, between 1961 and 1963, specifically the roles and contributions of youth (primary, secondary and college students). Events will be hosted at several locations throughout the Jackson community.
- April 7–8, 2006, *Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Philosophical Association*, Oxford, MS. The 2006 annual meeting of the Mississippi Philosophical Association will feature scholarly presentations and discussions among philosophers and others.
- April 8, 2006, *A Time Capsule of Primary Source Material on People of African Descent*, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 200 North St., Jackson, MS. MDAH has developed a “finding aid” to access a collection of 3,000 articles and pamphlets on race relations donated by Alfred Holt Stone, a planter in the Mississippi Delta and racial theorist whose writings influenced the debate over racial issues in Mississippi until the start of the modern Civil Rights Movement. Availability of the finding aid will be announced officially on April 8, 2006. John David Smith, an internationally–known historian who has written and lectured

for more than 30 years about Alfred Holt Stone, race relations in the South and the historiography of the period, will be the keynote speaker.

- April 11, 2006, *The Bird People – Southern Circuit Film Series*, Gertrude C. Ford Academic Complex, Room 215, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS. A film examining the pleasures and problems of watching and naming birds, and investigates the social construction of nature, centered on ornithology and its amateur counterpart, bird watching. Filmmaker Michael Gitlin will be available to answer questions.
- April 15, 2006, *Meet Will!*, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gulfport, MS. An educational presentation about Shakespeare's plays and times. This event is a project of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra.
- April 19, 2006, *Doing Business in China*, Painter Hall, Room 209, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS. One of a series of discussions and films in the annual International Series at Mississippi University for Women. The 2005–2006 series focuses on China.
- April 20, 2006, *Shower*, Columbus Arts Council, Fifth & Main, Columbus, MS. One of a series of discussions and films in the annual International Series at Mississippi University for Women. The 2005–2006 series focuses on China. This film begins at 6 p.m. It tells the touch story of a father whose oldest son leaves him. He remains in Beijing, only to discover the extreme relevance of the bathhouse and its integral role in the community.
- April 22, 2006, *A Less-Than-Genteel Social History of Early Mississippi*, Itawamba Community College, Advanced Education Center, Tupelo, MS. A lecture by James Wiggins examining the aspects of everyday life in early Mississippi that tend to be left out of the tourist brochures and made-for-TV movies.

For contact information and further details about Mississippi Humanities Council–sponsored events, please visit our Events Calendar at www.mshumanities.org.

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