

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mississippi Archaeology Month

Month-long program to raise public awareness of the importance of Mississippi's prehistoric and historic heritage.
Statewide, MS
Oct. 1-31, 2007



Cleveland's Historic Neighborhood Preservation Project

Exhibit resulting from oral history project.
Cleveland, MS
Oct. 1-31, 2007



Marion County Historical Society Heritage Festival and Flea Market

Musical events will complement a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibition.
Columbia, MS
Oct. 6, 2007



15th Annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival

The 2007 celebration will focus on the play "Night of the Iguana." Events include lectures, panel discussions, film screenings, readings and performances of Williams plays.
Clarksdale, MS
Oct. 12-13, 2007



Katrina Oral History Program

University of Southern Mississippi historians will collect Hurricane Katrina-related oral history interviews, which will be the basis for this public program in honor of the re-opening of the USM Gulf Park Auditorium.
Long Beach, MS
Oct. 30, 2007

Visit us online at
www.mshumanities.org

Focus on the Humanities

MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER — FALL 2007



Grandmother with her grandchildren crabbing along the shoreline, March 2006, Pascagoula.

© Melody Golding

Exhibit honors women of Katrina

"I knew I was documenting history. I knew I had to help and the best way I could do that was through my art... It was one of the hardest things I've ever done."

Vicksburg photographer Melody Golding shared that memory with *Delta Magazine* in a recent feature on her poignant traveling photo exhibit, *Katrina: Mississippi Women Remember*. The exhibit features 90 black-and-white sepia-toned photographs taken across the Mississippi Gulf Coast during the weeks immediately following Hurricane Katrina and for one year after. The images portray both despair and hope, ranging from devastating depictions of storm-gutted homes to uplifting scenes of volunteers working alongside storm victims to rebuild what the storm destroyed.

This solo exhibit was first unveiled at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs in June 2006

and has since traveled to the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., and to several sites across Louisiana and Mississippi. It will continue to travel throughout Mississippi until 2009.

"The Mississippi Humanities Council is pleased to sponsor the exhibit as it travels Mississippi over the next year," says Dr. Barbara Carpenter, executive director of the Council. "The book and photographs, as well as comments by the women who are its subjects, provide insightful and poignant commentary on the immediate crisis and the ongoing trauma of this still incomprehensible event."

Carpenter noted that the MHC will make funding available for related speakers and programming at each

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Keady lecturer to discuss free expression



discuss "Compassion, Hate and Freedom of Expression."

(JACKSON) Professor Ronald Rychlak of the University of Mississippi will present the Mississippi Humanities Council's Judge William C. Keady Distinguished Lecture IX October 15, 7 p.m., at the Mississippi College School of Law, co-sponsor of this bi-annual lecture. Rychlak will discuss

The Mississippi Humanities Council initiated the Judge William C. Keady Distinguished Lecture Series 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.

Rychlak received a juris doctor degree from Vanderbilt University School of Law. He joined the Ole Miss faculty in 1987 and serves as the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. He is a consultant to the Vatican's Delegation to the United Nations and is a member of the Governor's Hurricane Katrina recovery task force.

Please visit www.mshumanities.org for further details.

Mississippians' input sought as Council develops new five-year strategic plan

With assistance from the Federation of State Humanities Council, the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC) is developing a strategic plan for the next five years. The process will take approximately one year, beginning with an online survey of MHC constituents seeking input regarding existing and future Council programs.

"We are very interested in receiving input from a broad spectrum of Mississippi citizens for developing programs of interest and of benefit to a wide audience," said MHC Executive Director Dr. Barbara Carpenter. "In

addition to the online survey, we are talking one-on-one with folks across the state to inform us as we develop projects and initiatives for the Council for the next several years."

John Matthews, vice president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, is guiding the strategic planning process. Matthews has facilitated more than 100 planning processes.

A final plan is expected to be in place by early 2008, which will guide the Council's work for the next five years.

MHC collaborates to aid small museums

The Mississippi Humanities Council will participate with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) on a project to assist small museums to develop written standards for all aspects of museum management.

Through this project, six museums or historic sites in Mississippi will receive resources and technical support to develop standards that are appropriate and consistent with nationally accepted standards. The objective of the project is to create a manageable step-by-step approach for improvement for selected institutions and to build a

program that encourages excellence and rewards progress.

This initiative is being guided by the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH). According to the AASLH, the number of small museums in the U.S. is growing, but they have no — or limited — access to training for proper care and interpretation of their collections.

For details, contact David Morgan at MHC at 601-432-6752 or Cindy Gardner at MDAH at 601-576-6850.

'We the People' grant funds history initiatives

The Mississippi Humanities Council was recently awarded another We the People grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to carry out several initiatives to explore significant events and themes in our state's history.

Projects supported with the new grant include the Council's ongoing effort to collect oral histories, development of a Mississippi Online Timeline and a teachers' workshop exploring the literary work of the "Mississippi W's": Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams and Richard Wright.

"The projects to be supported with this grant are excellent on their own," says MHC Executive Director Dr. Barbara Carpenter, "but they also demonstrate the Council's collaboration with other nonprofit institutions in Mississippi to show how this state and its people have contributed to and fit into the overall history and culture of the United States."

Among the collaborating agencies on these projects are the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.



Walton joins MHC



The Mississippi Humanities Council has added an Assistant Director for Special Projects to its staff.

Dr. Shana Walton, an anthropologist with 20 years experience documenting and preserving local cultures and a Ph.D. from Tulane University, formerly served as associate director of the Deep South Humanities Center at Tulane.

She has also taught in the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Orleans, co-directed the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and taught anthropology courses at USM. Dr. Walton has authored and co-authored numerous papers on anthropological topics.

"Shana brings many years of experience in developing programs, community development, curriculum development and proposal writing, in addition to her work as a scholar," says Dr. Barbara Carpenter, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council. "She will make an outstanding contribution to the Council and its programs, and we are very pleased to have her."

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DSU presents Delta Children's Arts & Letters festival

(CLEVELAND) Delta State University, with support from the Mississippi Humanities Council, will coordinate the Delta's first festival celebrating children's books, authors and illustrators Nov. 8-10.

"Our committee has come together in an effort to plan an event that encourages a life-long love affair with reading, and we want to recognize those children's authors and illustrators who have made contributions to this area," says Kay Stricklin, chair of the Mississippi Delta Children's Arts and Letters Steering Committee.

Activities are being coordinated throughout the community spotlighting the children of the Delta, their books and the authors and illustrators who create them.

The author/illustrator team of Michael Shoulders and Rick Anderson, creators of "M is for Magnolia" and "1 Mississippi, 2 Mississippi" along with numerous other teaching books, will be in attendance all three days of the festival. The two will be presenting master classes



on campus at Delta State for education and art majors.

The duo will then host area school children Friday, Nov. 9, at the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the Delta State campus. Shoulders and Anderson will talk about the creative process in an interactive workshop, including how books are imagined, composed and finally appear on one's book shelf.

Later that evening, the festivities travel

south to Rosedale's River Resort for an adult gala and awards presentation. Both Shoulders and Anderson will be recognized for their collective efforts during the festival's inaugural Mississippi Book Award Winners presentation, as well as renowned Magnolia gardener, Felder Rushing.

Felder has authored several books for children that teach them how plants grow, how to cultivate their own food and flowers, and how to make fun things — a sunflower house, a scarecrow, colorful tile stepping stones, flower arranging in a potato, bird houses, your very own jungle, or even a worm box where worms can eat your garbage.

The festival will culminate Saturday, Nov. 10, with a Community Book Jam at the Cleveland Depot Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on the Mississippi Delta Children's Arts and Letters Festival, contact Stricklin at (662) 846-4864 or kstricklin@deltastate.edu.

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exhibit site in Mississippi.

"I have taken thousands of photographs and have tried to the very best of my ability to capture not just the devastation but the rebuilding as well and the spirit of the people," Golding told *Mississippi* magazine of her Katrina photographs.

Although Golding's images depict people from all walks of life, the exhibit's focus is the women of the Gulf Coast and their determination to endure and prevail. The exhibit is accompanied by essays written by Mississippi women who share their memories of the morning the storm hit and the long, difficult days that followed. It also features a film documentary Golding recorded featuring *Song for Katrina* (composed and performed by her niece, operatic soloist Lucia Lynn).

Golding's photographs have been compiled in a book, *Katrina: Mississippi Women Remember* (published by University Press of Mississippi), along with the women's essays. For more information on Golding and her Katrina photographs, visit www.melodygolding.com.



Pearlle Goodman, March 2006, Bay St. Louis.

Wright centennial approaches

The centennial of the birth of one of Mississippi's most treasured writers and philosophers, Richard Wright, will occur in 2008. Several events are being developed around the state to celebrate Wright's work and his contributions to literature. The Mississippi Humanities Council welcomes grant proposals for programming involving scholarly study of Wright's work and his contributions to the literary culture of Mississippi. Grant guidelines and application materials are available on the Council's web site at www.mshumanities.org.



Photo courtesy of University of Mississippi.

Summer teacher workshop explores Mississippi's unique musical history

(CLEVELAND) Mississippi history teachers delved deep into the state's musical traditions during a week-long summer workshop sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council and coordinated by Delta State University's Delta Center for Culture and Learning.

The workshop, "From the Birthplace of America's Music: The Music and Musicians of Mississippi," explored the diversity of musical creativity originating in our state, including the county, blues, jazz, gospel, classical, opera and hip-hop, along with other forms ranging from shape note singing to pop music. The goal of the workshop was to promote understanding among the state's history teachers of Mississippi's contributions to the world's music and to then use that understand-

ing to creatively teach Mississippi history to their students.

The workshop format included classroom study interwoven with live musical performances, museum visits and lectures by experts on Mississippi music.

All participants in the workshop have committed to creating and implementing lesson plans in their classes exploring Mississippi's unique musical history.

This workshop is among several efforts funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council

through the National Endowment for the Humanities' "We the People" initiative to explore significant events and themes in our nation's history, and to share these lessons with all Americans.



Workshop participants pay a visit to Po' Monkeys, one of the last true juke joints still operating in the Mississippi Delta.

Reminder: MHC grant deadlines

Applications for Mississippi Humanities Council Regular Grants (exceeding \$2,000) are accepted September 15 and April 15 annually. Decisions are announced November 15 and June 15. Applications for Mini Grants (up to \$2,000) are accepted Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. Decisions are announced six weeks following each deadline.

RECENT GRANTS

Neshoba County Fair

Oral history project with longtime participants county fair.

Philadelphia/Neshoba County Fair Historical Museum, \$1,520

Cleveland's Historic Neighborhood Preservation Project: An Oral History Oral history project with Cleveland, MS, residents.

Delta State University, \$1,520

Mississippi History Now

Updates for online collection of articles on Mississippi history designed for ninth-grade students.

Mississippi Historical Society, \$2,000

New Harmonies & Related Projects Companion events and exhibits for *New Harmonies* traveling exhibit.

Marion County Historical Society, \$2,000

Material Mississippi: Documenting Contemporary Regional Folk Art Pre-production work for documentary films on the work of contemporary Delta artists.

Delta State University, \$1,620

15th Annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival Annual Tennessee Williams Festival.

Coahoma Community College, \$5,000

A Civil Rights Odyssey Through Puppetry: The Struggle for Justice Multidisciplinary civil rights program using puppets.

University of Southern Mississippi, \$2,204

Unburied Treasures: Living Mississippi Treasures

Monthly series examining portions of the museum's collection through visual art, music and literature.

Mississippi Museum of Art, \$5,400

The Current Status of Civil Rights Research & Pedagogy: A Gathering of Friends & Scholars

Annual lecture series exploring status of research and teaching relative to civil rights and social movements.

The Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy, \$1,500

Tennessee Williams Tribute Scholars' Panel

Lectures on various aspects of Tennessee Williams' life and work.

Southern Women's Institute, \$1,500

Copiah Lincoln Community College Lecture Series

Lecture series addressing Hurricane Katrina's effect on the Mississippi-Louisiana Gulf Coast and the rebuilding of levees in New Orleans and the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

Copiah Lincoln Community College, \$750

Mississippi Archaeology Month

Annual statewide program to increase awareness of Mississippi's prehistoric and historic heritage.

Mississippi Archaeological Association, \$2,000

Mississippi Delta Children's Arts & Letters

Literary festival for children.

Delta State University, \$2,000

Champion Hill: A Contrast in Command

Lecture/exhibit on Civil War battle.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #26, \$1,903.28

Roots music exhibit still rollin' along

After successful tours of Meridian, New Albany, Vicksburg and Gulfport, the *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit opens Oct. 2 in Columbia, MS, at the Marion County Development Partnership headquarters, sponsored by the Marion County Historical Society. The exhibit will remain in Columbia until Nov. 14 before making its final stop in Clarksdale at the restored Greyhound Bus Station, hosted by the Delta Blues Museum Nov. 21 through Jan. 16, 2008, when it will be returned to Washington, D.C.

Associated events during the Columbia tour include an opening celebration on the Courthouse Square Oct. 2 featuring the Meister Singers, followed by Music Walk on Main with music stations showcasing gospel, bluegrass, folk and country sounds. Library displays, a flea market and heritage festival, lectures, Saturday night music on Main Street, "Cow Paddy Bingo," a roots music concert and a three-day bluegrass festival are also planned during the month-long *New Harmonies* stop in Columbia.

For dates and locations of *New Harmonies* events in Columbia, please visit www.mshumanities.org.

New Harmonies is part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program. MOMS serves small- to medium-sized communities by bringing Smithsonian-quality exhibitions to local museums, historical societies, libraries and community centers that traditionally have limited access to traveling exhibitions due to space and cost limitations. Each exhibition consists of free-standing structures that contain interactive components and artifacts.



Visitors young and old listen to the unique sounds of American roots music at the *New Harmonies* exhibit during its stay in Gulfport.



Several musical performers entertained crowds at the opening of the *New Harmonies* exhibit at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gulfport.

2008 humanities awards ceremony set

The annual Mississippi Humanities Council Public Humanities Achievement Awards Dinner will be held at the Jackson Hilton in Jackson Feb. 22, 2008.

Events will include a ceremony and banquet honoring those individuals and institutions who receive the Council's most prestigious awards for outstanding contributions in the arena of public humanities, the Humanities Scholar Award, Public Humanities Achievement Award, Chair's Award for Special Achievements, Spe-

cial Recognition Award and Humanities Educator Award. Recipients of the 2007 Humanities Teacher Awards will also be recognized.

New this year will be a silent auction featuring art, gift baskets, gift certificates and more.

Invitations to the annual Awards Banquet will be mailed in January and will also be available on the Mississippi Humanities Council web site: www.mshumanities.org.

Humanities awards nominations invited

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites nominations for its annual Humanities Scholar Award, Public Humanities Achievement Award, Chair's Award for Special Achievements, Special Recognition Award and Humanities Educator Award. The awards will be presented at the Council's annual Public Humanities Achievement Awards Dinner Feb. 22, 2008, at the Jackson Hilton in Jackson, MS.

The Humanities Scholar Award honors a scholar in a traditional humanities field who has participated in MHC programs, serving as an interpreter of his or her discipline to public audiences.

The Public Humanities Achievement Award recognizes a person from the public sector who has supported MHC and its programs by writing proposals, directing projects, organizing and carrying out programs, and donating time, energy, and/or money to MHC-supported projects.

The Chair's Award is presented to an individual, group, or institution for special achievements in the humanities. This award can recognize a program or project of extraordinary quality or an individual, institution or corporation that has made an outstanding contribution to support the public humanities.

From time to time, individuals or groups carry out work for the public humanities that does not fit the above categories. To recognize these contributions, MHC presents Special Recognition Awards.

Finally, the Humanities Educator Award goes to an organization whose work moves beyond the classroom and uses innovative techniques and formats to reach a

wide audience with the ideas and techniques of the humanities.

Every Mississippian is eligible to make one nomination in each category. Individuals may NOT nominate themselves. The nominee should be contacted and his or her permission secured before the nomination is submitted.

Nomination forms are available at www.mshumanities.org or by calling the Mississippi Humanities Council at 601-432-6752. Completed nominations on the appropriate forms must be received in the MHC office no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, 2007.

Speakers Bureau

Among 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 cultural experiences to women's studies, philosophy, ethics, southern literature, archaeology and the visual arts. More than 100 speakers are available to nonprofit organizations for lecture and discussion programs. A complete list of topics and speakers is available at www.mshumanities.org.

