

Focus on the Humanities

October 2008 - Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter

(Visit our web site at www.mshumanities.org to learn more about us.)

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Teacher Awards Commemorate Mississippi Arts and Humanities Month



October is Arts and Humanities Month, proclaimed annually by the President of the United States and the Governor of Mississippi. The Mississippi Humanities Council celebrates the occasion by supporting Humanities Teacher Awards to one humanities faculty member at each institution of higher learning in the state. This year, MHC is making awards to 27 teachers. Institutions were invited to nominate outstanding

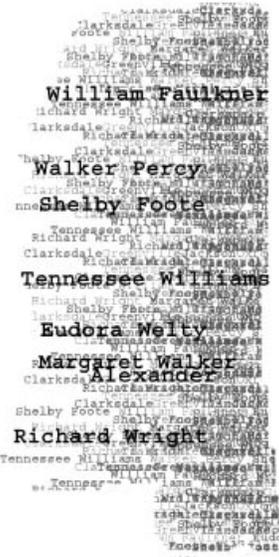
faculty in traditional humanities fields for the award. Those honored will present public lectures on topics in their fields for students, colleagues and the general public during the months of October and November. Recipients of Humanities Teacher Awards will also be honored at the Mississippi Humanities Council's Annual Public Achievement Awards Ceremony on Feb. 27, 2009. Watch the MHC website, www.mshumanities.org, for a list of 2008 Humanities Teacher Award recipients.

National Arts and Humanities Month (NAHM) is a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture in America. Held every October and coordinated by Americans for the Arts, it has become the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation. From arts center open houses to mayoral proclamations to banners and media coverage, communities across the United States join together to recognize the importance of arts and culture to citizen's daily lives.

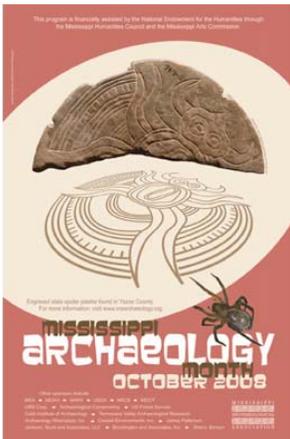
Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama Form Southern Literary Trail

The Mississippi Humanities Council is among the sponsors of a first-ever Southern Literary Trail, a historic linking of Southern communities, towns and landmarks, for a month-long festival honoring some of the South's greatest authors. With stops along 18

Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama towns between Natchez and Savannah, events will take place at various libraries, museums and courthouses during the month of March 2009. Trail towns will present tours, plays, films, readings and discussion panels celebrating 20th century Southern literature and its hometown authors, with special emphasis on the settings that influenced their works. The trail will play a part in Eudora Welty's centennial celebration in Jackson and will touch on the stories behind stories, such as the Montgomery, Ala., romance of Zelda Sayre and F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Margaret Mitchell's fascination with Civil War stories. For a complete list of events, please visit www.southernliterarytrail.org.



October is Archaeology Month in Mississippi



Archaeology month activities include public talks on archaeology and archaeological methods, visits to ongoing archaeological fieldwork projects, site tours and fieldwork opportunities. These programs are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council. All events are free and open to the public. For a schedule of events, please visit www.mshumanities.org or www.msarchaeology.org.

The Mississippi Archaeological Association is an organization of professional archaeologists and lay people actively involved with archaeology and archaeological preservation, uniting in a common effort to understand the prehistory and history of Mississippi and the surrounding region. Anyone who has a sincere interest in the cultural heritage of the state and is dedicated to the preservation of that heritage for all to enjoy is eligible for membership. The Association has as one of its important objectives the mission of encouraging scientific archaeological investigations and supports the dissemination to the public of information from these investigations in its publications, which are received by its members as a benefit of membership.

'Family Reading Bonds' Program Draws Praise

The Mississippi Humanities Council's Family Reading Bonds program, a family literacy program designed to address Mississippi's high illiteracy rate and the importance of the ability to read, continues to draw high praise from participants and supporters. Co-coordinator of a Family Reading Bonds program under way in Port Gibson, Sandra A. Noble, shared

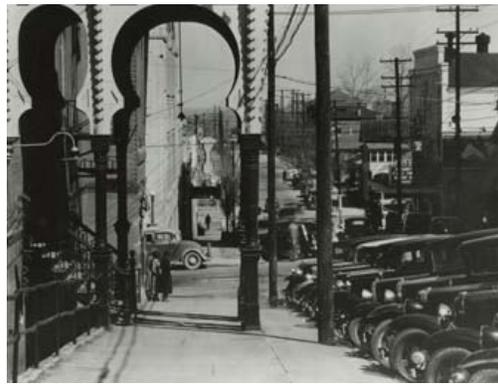


these thoughts about her experience: "I was glad that our first session went so well. You can't imagine how worried I was prior to the sessions beginning. My fears were relieved after I began my spiel and saw the children's faces. I even had a parent come up and tell me afterwards, 'I drove from work in Natchez thinking that I would be bored to death. I had planned on getting me a nap as someone read to us. I have really enjoyed myself tonight, though. You just made those books come to life for us!' I think that this is what we want our parents and children to know - reading is exciting!" For more information about the Mississippi Humanities Council's Family Reading Bonds program, please visit www.mshumanities.org or call David Morgan at 601-432-6752.

Journey Stories Coming Soon to a Town Near You

(JACKSON, MS) - Through a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Mississippi Humanities Council is bringing "Journey Stories," a portable six-kiosk exhibit, to Mississippi. "Journey Stories" will appear in six communities from May 2009 through March 2010, including Clinton, Southaven, Natchez, McComb, Hazlehurst, and Long Beach. "Journey Stories" is an interactive exhibit addressing migration and immigration as they relate to the American experience. Using engaging images, audio and artifacts, it tells stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American

society. "Journey Stories" 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. In addition to the MOMS structures, each host community will add elements to their installation of the exhibit and produce a series of local programs related to the "Journey Stories" themes. For information about "Journey Stories," contact David Morgan at 601-432-6752 or by email at david@mhc.state.ms.us. Information about the traveling exhibit may also be obtained by visiting www.mshumanities.org or www.museumonmainstreet.org.



**Downtown Vicksburg looking west, ca. 1937.
Courtesy of the MS Department of Archives
and History.**

Mississippi Loses Long-time Supporters of the Humanities

The Mississippi Humanities Council notes with sorrow the passing of two of its long-time supporters. Dr. Boyd Golding of Vicksburg, a well-known educator and former state auditor, died Aug. 27. Dr. Golding had been one of MHC's most active supporters and volunteers for several decades, generous with his time, money and efforts to promote the public humanities program in Mississippi. The MHC staff in particular will miss his

attendance at council functions and his genius as a raconteur, and we extend our condolences to all his family and many friends.

Gale Denley of Bruce, MS, a leading journalist and journalism educator in Mississippi, also died in August. Widely recognized for his contributions to the profession, Denley also served as a member of the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities, as it was known in the early days, and was instrumental in establishing policies and goals still in practice today. Our condolences go to his family and his many friends. Both these distinguished Mississippians will be long remembered for their contributions to our public program.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Oct. 20–31, 2008, ***Volunteer Excavation: De Soto National Forest***, De Soto National Forest, MS. Archaeological excavation at the Adeline Russ Site near Brooklyn, MS. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Oct. 21, 2008, ***Lecture: The History of Camp Shelby***, Jackie Dole Sherril Community Center, Hattiesburg, MS. Open discussion led by Rita Fields, National Guard archaeologist, about Camp Shelby's prehistory and history. Bring artifacts for identification (time allowing).
- Oct. 21, 2008, ***Projectile Point Identification***, Jefferson College, Natchez, MS. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Oct. 23, 2008, ***Archaeology Presentation (tentative)***, French Camp Elementary School. Presentation on archaeology for K–12 classes. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Oct. 25, 2008, ***Camp Shelby Visitor's Day and Excavation***, Camp Shelby, MS. Archaeological excavation of a large prehistoric site overlooking Miles Branch (first identified during Hurricane Katrina timber salvage surveys in 2006) to determine if the site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Oct. 25, 2008, ***Tour of Indian Mounds***, Rolling Fork, MS. Tour of Indian mounds departing from U.S. Forest Service offices at 68 Frontage Road, Highway 61, Greenville. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Oct. 25, 2008, ***Family Archaeology Day***, Winterville Mounds, Greenville, MS. Families may participate in a mock archaeology dig and learn about archaeology. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Oct. 28, 2008, ***Lecture: Investigation of a Late Prehistoric Chiefdom in the Mississippi Delta***, Jackie Dole Sherril Community Center, Hattiesburg, MS. Talk will describe an ongoing archaeological investigation of Indian mounds for clues to the lives of Native Americans living in the Mississippi Delta during the 500 years prior to contact with Europeans. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Oct. 29, 2008, ***History is Lunch***, William F. Winter Archives & History Building, Jackson, MS. Next in a series of 12 brown-bag lectures offered two or three times each month. Dr. Chester M. "Bo" Morgan, history professor at Delta State University, will discuss "Too Small to be a Nation, Too Big to be an Insane Asylum: Mississippi in the Twentieth Century."

- Oct. 30, 2008, *The Collapse of the Maya Civilization*, Grand Village of the Natchez, Natchez, MS. Lecture. Part of Mississippi Archaeology Month.
- Nov. 5, 2008, *History is Lunch*, William F. Winter Archives & History Building, Jackson, MS. Next in a series of 12 brown-bag lectures offered two or three times each month. Judy H. Tucker and Charline R. McCord will read excerpts from the new book "Growing Up in Mississippi."
- Nov. 20, 2008, *Mississippi Philosophical Association Medical Ethics Conference*, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS. Academic philosophers from Mississippi and around the country, medical professionals and their students, as well as the general public, will engage in open dialogue and intellectual exchange about medical ethics.

Next MHC Grant Deadline November 1, 2008

November 1, 2008, is the next minigrant application deadline for proposals up to \$2,000. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org.

MHC Welcomes Your Support

The humanities are vital to each of us – to our self-awareness, our understanding of the past and our vision of the future. The Mississippi Humanities Council has been bringing the insights of history and culture into people's lives since 1972. The Council celebrates and preserves our diverse cultural heritage, creates public dialogue on issues that matter and enriches the education we offer our children. The Council depends on public support. Won't you join us? The MHC will appreciate your financial help. To donate online, please visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/Donor/Donations.asp> . Or call 601-432-6752.



Disclaimer

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