

Focus on the Humanities


February 2008 - Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter

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

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Humanities



Mississippi glassworks artist Jerri Sherer designed the 2008 awards.

2008
MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES
COUNCIL
AWARDS DINNER &
'MISSISSIPPI MISCELLANY'
SILENT AUCTION

MISSISSIPPI
Humanities
COUNCIL *the humanities are for everyone*

Date: February 22, 2008

*Time: 5:00 p.m. silent auction
6:00 p.m. reception
7:00 p.m. dinner*

*Hilton Jackson Hotel
1001 East County Line Road
Jackson, Mississippi 39211*

*For information, call:
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MHC Names Recipients of Annual Public Humanities Awards

The Mississippi Humanities Council is delighted to announce recipients for its annual Public Humanities Awards, which recognize outstanding contributions by Mississippians to the study and understanding of the humanities. The 2008 awards ceremony and banquet will be held Feb. 22 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson beginning with a silent auction at 5 p.m., a reception at 6 p.m. and the awards banquet at 7 p.m.

The award recipients include: **Humanities Scholar Award:** Chris Goertzen; **Public Humanities Achievement Award:** Delta State University's Delta Center for Culture and Learning and Mississippi Public Broadcasting; **Humanities Educator Award:** Communities in Schools of Greenwood Leflore, Inc.; **Chair's Awards for Special Achievements in the Humanities:** Melody Golding and Dennis Mitchell; **Director's Award for Preservation of Mississippi Culture:** Charles Sullivan; **Special Recognition Award:** Houston Drury and Judy Stein. Some 31 recipients of the 2007 Humanities Teacher Awards, which pay tribute to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields, will also be honored at the banquet.

To read the complete announcement for this year's award recipients, please visit www.mshumanities.org. Tickets to the awards ceremony and banquet are \$30 or \$225 for a table of eight and may be purchased by sending a check to the Mississippi Humanities Council, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Room 311, Jackson, MS 39211.

Journey Stories: A Request for Proposals

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites applications for a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, *Journey Stories*. Developed for rural audiences and small museums, libraries, community centers and other nonprofit organizations with limited access to traveling exhibits, *Journey Stories* addresses migration and immigration as they relate to the American experience. *Journey Stories* is the account of

immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country; the story of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journeys of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and of course, fun and frolic on the open road. These topics are told by way of engaging images, audio and artifacts that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society. Additional information on this exhibit is available at the Smithsonian Institution website: www.museumonmainstreet.org. *Journey Stories* will tour Mississippi from May 2009 through February 2010. To view the full text of the Request for Proposals (RFP), please visit www.mshumanities.org or contact David Morgan, 601-432-6752, david@mhc.state.ms.us



Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for Teachers

(JACKSON, MS) – The Hamer Institute at Jackson State University will host a Summer Landmarks of American Democracy Workshop during June 2008. This one-week workshop, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be offered for community college faculty June 15–21, 2008, and again June 22–28, 2008. The workshop features extensive readings on the southern civil rights movement in the 1960s. Guest speakers, Hamer Institute faculty and oral history panelists will guide participants in exploring the people, places, and events that helped bring about civil rights reform. The workshop also includes field trips to landmarks in Jackson; the Mississippi Delta communities of Greenwood, Ruleville and Clarksdale; and historical sites and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. The Institute is currently soliciting community college teachers to participate. For information, please visit www.jsums.edu/~hamer.institute.

For information about other NEH-funded Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for School Teachers, including *Eudora Welty's Secret Sharer: The Outside World and the Writer's Imagination* scheduled July 6–11 and July 20–25, 2008, at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS, please visit <http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-school.html>. Applications for the Millsaps workshop must be postmarked by March 17, 2008. Announcement of awards will be made April 16, 2008. The workshops will be directed by Welty biographer Suzanne Mars. For more information, contact Wanda Manor at manorwl@millsaps.edu or visit www.eudorawelty.org/neh.html.

New Program Helps Museums Develop Emergency Plans

Small and mid-sized museums in Mississippi, Ohio and Texas may apply to participate in Heritage Preservation's new pilot project, the Risk Evaluation and Planning Program (REPP). The program provides each participating museum with a professional evaluation of risks to its collections, priorities for mitigating those risks and assistance in creating or updating an emergency plan. Five institutions from each state will be selected in May 2008. Applications may be downloaded from www.heritagepreservation.org/repp, and they must be submitted electronically no later than March 31, 2008.

Host Sites Sought for Katrina Photo Exhibit

Vicksburg photographer Melody Golding has earned national attention and praise for her poignant photography exhibit *KATRINA: MISSISSIPPI WOMEN REMEMBER*. Through a rich collage of images and stories by Mississippi women, the exhibition documents Hurricane Katrina's initial overwhelming devastation, followed by the determination of Mississippi's inhabitants to endure and prevail. Golding went to the Gulf Coast as a volunteer for the American Red Cross, taking supplies and a desire to help. Her unique sepia-toned photographs, as well as a video diary of her year-long sojourn along the coast are stunning and powerful in their simplicity. Her eyewitness account of Katrina's wake, and its impact upon coastal residents from Pearlinton to Pascagoula, is accompanied by

stories written by survivors of the storm. The participants in the photographs and stories are women from Mississippi, many are artists themselves. Golding is seeking host sites for this unique account of reclamation, resolution and recovery. Please contact Golding via her website at <http://www.melodygolding.com/katrina.html>.

New NEH Initiative Supports Art in Schools, Libraries, Communities

The National Endowment for the Humanities has launched a new initiative, *Picturing America*, to bring iconic American art into public and private schools, libraries and communities. *Picturing America* uses art as a catalyst for the study of American history – the cultural, political and historical threads woven into our nation’s fabric over time. It starts with 40 carefully selected masterpieces spanning several centuries. The featured artists range from early American Indian artisans to painters like Mary Cassatt and Thomas Hart Benton; from photographers, including Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange, to architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright. In partnership with the American Library Association, the NEH is distributing large, high-quality reproductions of these works to schools and libraries nationwide, along with materials and lesson plans for use by teachers. For 2008 Picturing America applicants: Schools and libraries are invited to apply online through April 15, 2008 at <http://www.neh.gov/PicturingAmerica/index.html> .

The Promises and Problems of Public Scholarship

Despite the exciting work of organizations like Imagining America and a recent report by the Modern Language Association task force on tenure, many scholars and institutions remain uncertain about how to recognize, value and evaluate project-based, public-oriented research and collaboration in the cultural disciplines. The MLA invites proposals by practitioners of public scholarship across those disciplines for a panel that reflects upon these recent discussions of theories, practices and means of evaluating that scholarship. To explore the promise of public scholarship, proposals are requested from scholars with experience in work that engages with various publics in the research and discoveries crucial to the humanities and the cultural disciplines. For information, contact Teresa Mangum at teresa-mangum@uiowa.edu. Proposals are due by March 10.

Gulfport Arts Program Honored at White House

The Lynn Meadows Discovery Center for Children in Gulfport was recently awarded the prestigious 2007 Coming Up Taller Award, presented by First Lady Barbara Bush in a ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C. The Center’s WINGS performing arts program, created to help Gulf Coast elementary, middle and high school students develop important life skills, is one of 18 youth arts and humanities awards to received the award in 2007. More than 350 nominations were submitted for the awards. The Mississippi Humanities Council nominated the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center for Children for the award based on several highly successful humanities programs led by the Center with funding from the Council.

Oxford to Host Mid–South Creative Nonfiction Writers’ Conference

(OXFORD, MS) Writers interested in travel narrative and memoir can hear first–hand from the most influential editors in the field about what they’re looking for and how they choose the work they publish at a three–day conference Feb. 29–March 2, 2008, at the University of Mississippi. Featured speakers will include internationally recognized magazine expert Samir "Mr. Magazine" Husni, journalism department chair at the University of Mississippi and Lee Gutkind, the award–winning editor and founder of *Creative Nonfiction*. Other speakers are prominent writers, editors and agents from across the publishing landscape. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet with agents and editors one–on–one and to network at informal social events. Conference registration fee is \$350. For more information call 412–688–0304 or visit http://www.creativenonfiction.org/events/mid-south_conference/schedule.html.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Feb. 20–24, 2008, *Richard Wright, the South and the World: A Centennial Celebration*, Copiah–Lincoln Community College, Natchez, MS. The 19th Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will commemorate the 100th birthday of Mississippi writer Richard Wright with programs by scholars, historians, writers, film experts and others exploring the life and works of Richard Wright.
- March 7, 2008, *An Evening with Richard Wright in Drama*, Rust College, Holly Springs, MS. Dramatic performance featuring the Rust College Theater Guild, students and faculty. Part of a centennial commemoration of Mississippi writer Richard Wright.
- March 8, 2008, *An Evening with Richard Wright in Poetry*, Rust College, Holly Springs, MS. A centennial commemoration of Mississippi writer, Richard Wright, through poetry.
- March 9, 2008, *An Evening with Richard Wright in Film*, Rust College, Holly Springs, MS. A centennial commemoration of Mississippi writer, Richard Wright, through film.
- March 9–11, 2008, *Black Studies Movement, A 40–Year Retrospective: Margaret Walker’s Legacy*, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS. Three–day conference will review the historical context out of which Margaret Walker Alexander became a leader in the 1960s Black Studies Movement and will examine Black Studies today.
- March 10, 2008, *Film: “Guerilla Radio: The Hip–Hop Struggle Under Castro,”* Millsaps, Jackson, MS. Southern Circuit Film Series film takes a journey through a Cuba that few Americans know exist with this documentary by Thomasa Nybo and Simon Umlauf. Facing threats of jail and censorship, four hip–hop groups struggle to reveal the boundary of artistic expression in Castro’s Cuba.
- April 3–5, 2008, *15th Annual Oxford Conference for the Book*, the University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS. Gathering of notable authors, editors, publishers, educators, literacy advocates, readers and book lovers.
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For more information about Mississippi Humanities Council–sponsored events, please visit the Events Calendar on the Mississippi Humanities Council web site: www.mshumanities.org.

Next MHC Grant Deadline March 1, 2008

March 1, 2008, 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.



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