

Focus on the Humanities

May 2008 - Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter

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

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MHC Director Barbara Carpenter Receives Volunteerism Award



Dr. Barbara Carpenter, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, received a 2008 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Award for Achievement in Volunteer Service in the Arts and Humanities last week at an awards ceremony hosted by the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service (MCVS). Carpenter was recognized for her "tireless work to build intellectual capital and develop individual humanities and arts capacity for the state."

"The GIVE Awards are a powerful reminder of Mississippi citizens whose spirit of generosity and goodwill is essential to their communities," said Marsha Meeks Kelly, executive director of the MCVS.

Carpenter has served Mississippi for three decades as a humanities professional. She has given her personal time and energy to mentor individuals and create networks in ways that have helped Mississippi strengthen its capacity for arts and humanities. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, having known firsthand the struggles of many small ethnic groups in the state, she realized that groups, which had contributed substantively to the rich cultural heritage of Mississippi, could quickly disperse and disappear. She organized what came to be known as the Mississippi Culture Club, bringing together leaders from state agencies along with representatives of various ethnic groups to discuss needs and provide guidance on how to obtain help to meet basic needs. But perhaps her most valuable volunteer effort is her tireless work to build intellectual capital and develop individual humanities and arts capacity for the state.

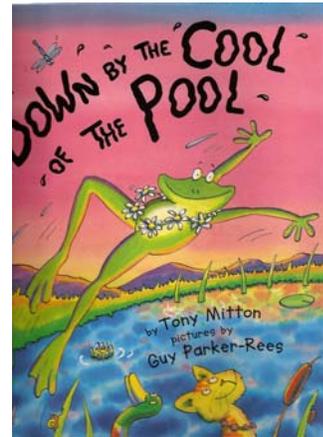


MHC Offers Teachers' Institute on Mississippi Writers

MHC invites high school and community college educators to join in a celebration of four of Mississippi's greatest treasures: Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams and Richard Wright. We aim to empower educators by deepening content knowledge of some of our most important writers and their works. We offer an opportunity to develop personal connections with their writings, share approaches for teaching the material, earn professional development credit, and renew an appreciation of reading for reflection and growth. For more information or to sign up, please visit www.mshumanities.org.

Scholastic Press Donates 1,000 Books for MHC Reading Programs

The Mississippi Humanities Council has recently received a donation of 1,000 children's books from Scholastic Press. These books, many of which are hardbacks, will be given to families participating in the Council's ongoing Family Literacy Project programs: Family Reading Bonds and the Luciérnagas Family Reading Program. For information about the Council's reading programs, please visit www.mshumanities.org or contact David Morgan at 601-432-6752 or david@mhc.state.ms.us.



Traveling Exhibits Invited for Roster



The [Southern Arts Federation](http://www.southernarts.org) is currently accepting submissions for a pre-existing exhibit to add to the *Southern Visions: The Southern Arts & Culture Traveling Exhibits* roster. **Applications must be postmarked by May 5, 2008.** All submissions must meet the following requirements:

- The exhibit's subject matter must be of a broad appeal to the Southeastern region of the United States. The content should not be limited to one geographic location or community.
- Exhibit content must reflect the work of artists residing in the Southern Arts Federation's nine partner states, (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee) *or* have subject matter of particular relevance to the region such as Southern literature, landscapes, cultural traditions, etc.

- Exhibits must have a limited touring history within the Southeastern region, having appeared in no more than five venues.
- Exhibits must require low to medium security only.
- Exhibits with existing crating preferred.

To apply, mail all support materials and a completed form to Teresa Hollingsworth, Program Director, Traditional Arts & Accessibility, 1800 Peachtree St., NW, Suite 808, Atlanta, GA 30309 OR complete the [online submission form](#). Questions? Contact [Teresa Hollingsworth](#) at (404) 874-7244 ext. 14.

MHC Awards \$8,250 for Humanities Programming

The Mississippi Humanities Council recently approved several grant applications totaling \$8,250. The approved projects span a variety of humanities disciplines and include:

- ***Oral Histories of Jackson's Hindu and Indian Community.*** Sponsor: Millsaps College. Award: \$1,650. Oral histories will be collected from members of the South Asian (Indian and Hindu) communities in Jackson, which will become part of the updated edition of the Mississippi Humanities Council's *Ethnic Heritage in Mississippi* volume.
- ***Education: The Bridge to Engaging the African Diaspora in Development at Home and Abroad Educational Series.*** Sponsor: International Museum of Muslim Cultures. Award: \$1,350. Educational workshops and documentary film showing, which will focus on the role of Islam in Africa's development and in contemporary African American communities.
- ***The Mississippi Blueberry Jubilee Storytelling Festival.*** Sponsor: Poplarville Storytellers Guild. Award: \$1,200. Three-day annual festival featuring storytellers. Events will include a "marathon telling," workshops for educators and an evening storytelling event in a "wilderness setting."
- ***Preparation for Plan for Interpretive Museum: LaPointe-Krebs House.*** Sponsor: City of Pascagoula. Award: \$1,350. Renowned architectural conservator will propose an interior design and relevant exhibits for one of the oldest standing buildings in the Mississippi Valley.
- ***Historic Preservation Curriculum Pilot Program.*** Sponsor: Mississippi Heritage Trust. Award: \$1,350. Development of an historical preservation curriculum for students of various ages throughout Mississippi, to instill principles of good design and architecture as well as an understanding of the importance of preserving buildings that tell the story of our state.
- ***Emmett Till.*** Sponsor: Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Award: \$1,350. Opening celebration for traveling exhibit about the murder of a young black boy in the Mississippi Delta in 1955.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- May 14, 2008, *History Is Lunch: Paving the Trace*, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, William F. Winter Archives & History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson, MS. Author Jack Elliott will lecture on his prize-winning "Journal of Mississippi History" article as part of this ongoing bi-monthly discussion series.
- May 26, 2008, *History Is Lunch: Cooling the South: The Block Ice Era, 1875-1975*, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, William F. Winter Archives & History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson, MS. Twelve presenters will participate in this brown-bag lecture series, offered two or three times each month.
- June 6-8, 2008, *Making History Come Alive: A Primary Source Primer*, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, William F. Winter Archives & History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson, MS. Three-day conference for K-12 teachers, community members interested in local history and writers who write for the children's market.
- June 13-15, 2008, *Mississippi Jubilee Blueberry Storytelling Festival*, downtown, Poplarville, MS. Storytellers will perform as part of the kick-off events for annual storytelling festival. Other events include a "marathon telling," a workshop for educators and an evening telling event at the Moody B&B.



Storyteller Rosia Wade Crisler will perform at Blueberry Storytelling Festival in Poplarville.

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 July 1, 2008

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



Disclaimer

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