

# Focus on the Humanities

February 2009 - Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter

(Visit our web site at [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org) to learn more about us.)

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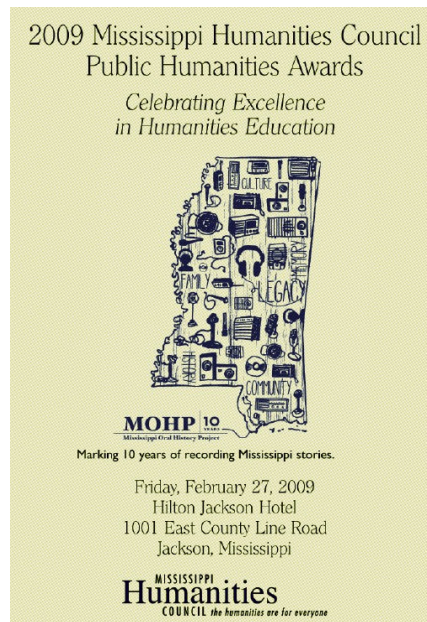
## Save This Date – February 27, 2009 – Humanities Awards Banquet

The Mississippi Humanities Council will host its 2009 *Celebrating Excellence in Humanities Education* awards banquet Friday, February 27, 2009, at the Hilton Jackson hotel. Registration is \$45 for individuals and \$340 for a table-of-eight. Checks may be sent to 3825 Ridgewood Road Room 317, Jackson, MS 39211-6497. The 2009 award recipients are:

**Humanities Scholar Award – Dr. Suzanne Marrs**, professor of English at Millsaps College and Welty Foundation Scholar-in-Residence, for her contributions to Council programming, particularly those involving Welty's work, spanning 25 years.

**Humanities Educator Award – Dr. Jean Chamberlain**, chair of the graduate school of liberal arts at Jackson

State University, for her many years' work with the Council, especially through the Mississippi Council



of Teachers of English where she has dedicated herself to improving the teaching of English in secondary schools.

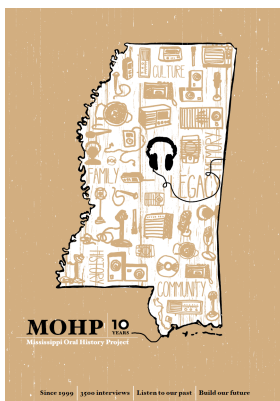
**Humanities Partner Award – Coahoma Community College and Panny Mayfield**, for their work with the annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival. The festival recently celebrated its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary and drew the interest of the BBC, which taped the 2008 event for a documentary.

**Preserver of Mississippi Culture – Malcolm White**, director of the Mississippi Arts Commission and longtime champion of cultural endeavors, for his work to preserve folk and popular art forms, as well as traditional art.

**Special Recognition Awards – Manship House Museum**, a project of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, for a series of highly successful public programs over the past two years that have reached diverse audiences and have covered a broad range of humanities topics; **Marsha Meeks Kelly**, recently retired executive director of the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, for her work with the Council on numerous programs over the years, most recently (and ongoing) the Meaning of Service project; and **Jill Smith of the Union County Heritage Museum** for exemplary sponsorship of the Council's New Harmonies traveling exhibit, bringing extreme energy and creativity to the programming there.

The **2008 Humanities Teacher Award** winners, which pay tribute to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields, will also be honored at the banquet. The evening's entertainment will include a *Mississippi Miscellany* raffle.

## Reception Marks 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mississippi Oral History Project



Join the Mississippi Humanities Council and the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage at the Mississippi State Capitol Rotunda Feb. 26, 2009, for a live theater performance by students from the award-winning WINGS Performing Arts Program, who will bring to life stories from the Mississippi Oral History collection. Hors d'oeuvres, beverages, guest speakers, a sampling of recorded oral histories and a listening/recording station will also be available to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this statewide history project. For information about the Mississippi Oral History Project, please visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/pages/oralhistory.asp>.

## Mississippi Delta Literary Tour Begins March 22

A detailed schedule for the Mississippi Delta Literary Tour, supported in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council, has been added to the Southern Literary Trail website. The tour, March 22 to 26, is a prelude to the Oxford Conference for the Book, which also receives MHC support. The

Mississippi Delta Literary Tour is organized by Jimmy Thomas of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss. Thomas has planned an incomparable visit to the Delta: a guided tour of the B.B. King Museum, Indianola; a visit to the Craig Claiborne Exhibit at the Seymour Library (also in Indianola); a tour of Cutrer Mansion and talk by Ken Holditch about Tennessee Williams in Clarksdale; porch plays in Clarksdale from Williams' plays; a visit to the Delta Blues Museum; a March 24 bus trip from the Alluvian Hotel to Clarksdale guided by Drs. Henry Outlaw and Luther Brown of Delta State University; a panel featuring Hodding Carter III and author Julia Reed in Greenville; and a book signing with Carter, Reed and other authors at the McCormick Book Inn of Greenville. A detailed schedule for the tour and information for reservations is available on the Southern Literary Trail website: <http://southernliterarytrail.org/delta-tour-schedule.html> .

### **MHC Board Member Named Facility Director**



The Mississippi Board of Mental Health has appointed Dorothy McEwen facility director of the South Mississippi Regional Center. McEwen also serves as a volunteer board member for the Mississippi Humanities Council. She began her career with SMRC as a social worker, later becoming social services director and most recently serving a two-year tenure as assistant director at the Specialized Treatment Facility. With her appointment as director, McEwen was noted for her “energizing leadership,” a trait that carries over to her work with the Mississippi Humanities Council.

### **Mississippi ‘Katrina’ Photos Accepted by Smithsonian Institution**



Mississippi Humanities Council board member Melody Golding, the photographer behind the acclaimed “Katrina: Mississippi Women Remember” exhibit, announced that her photographs and other materials from Hurricane Katrina will be going to the Smithsonian Museum of American History for archiving in September after traveling around the country for two years. Golding noted that these are the only Katrina artifacts from Mississippi related to the storm to be accepted by the Smithsonian Institution. To view the photographs, visit [www.melodygolding.com/katrina.html](http://www.melodygolding.com/katrina.html).

### **MHC-Sponsored Emmett Till Exhibit Continues to Travel**



**Emmett Till with his mother.**

A Mississippi Humanities Council-sponsored exhibit examining the events surrounding the murder of a black Chicago boy 50 years ago in the Mississippi Delta continues to travel the country and earn critical acclaim. It is currently on display at SUNY Fredonia University in Fredonia, NY, through the end of February. The

Emmett Till Exhibit, developed by Delta State University Archives & Museum and funded through the Mississippi Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, is composed of newspaper headlines, articles, personal correspondence, family photographs, oral histories and other primary source materials related to the 1955 trial of the men who murdered the teenager. Images from the New York showing are here: [www.fredonia.edu/library/till\\_pics.asp](http://www.fredonia.edu/library/till_pics.asp)

## **2009 Research Fellowships for the Study of the Global South**

The Collaborative Research Group for the Study of the Global South at Tulane University invites proposals from scholars in the arts, humanities and social sciences for research projects focusing on the Gulf South states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Especially encouraged are proposals that examine the Gulf South region in a global perspective and promote the understanding of the impact of the Gulf South on the world and of the world on the Gulf South. Fellowships are \$3,000 each. For information, visit [www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=166570](http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=166570).

## **Mississippi Arts Commission Offers Grant Writing Workshops**

The Mississippi Arts Commission is hosting a series of grant writing workshops around the state, targeting Mississippi-based artists and arts organizations. The agency hopes to help prepare grant applications for its upcoming March 2 deadline. The next workshop date is Thursday, Feb. 19, at 10:45 a.m. at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian. For more information about MAC grants, visit [www.arts.state.ms.us](http://www.arts.state.ms.us).

## **MHC Announces Changes in Grants Program**

The Mississippi Humanities Council announces several important changes to its grants program. As of Jan. 1, 2009, minigrant applications will be accepted four times per year rather than six. The deadlines will be Jan. 15, April 15, July 15 and Oct. 15.

Due to current budget constrictions, the maximum amount that may be requested for minigrants will be \$1,200. Regular grants will have a maximum of \$3,000 for applications submitted during 2009. The two annual deadlines will remain unchanged: April 15 and Sept. 15.

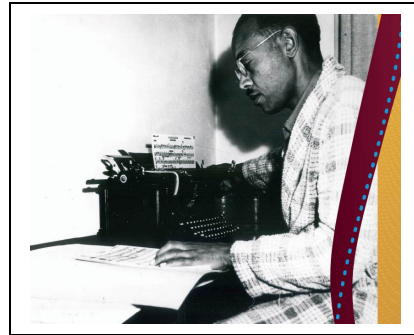
The Council will review these new lower limits for 2010.

Minor changes have been made in guidelines related to the MHC Speakers Bureau program, as well. Mississippi nonprofit organizations may request a maximum of three speakers per year, and speakers may accept a maximum of six MHC-funded engagements per year.

Please watch the Mississippi Humanities Council web site for new grant guidelines to appear in January 2009.

### **Traveling Exhibit Celebrates Life of MS Composer William Grant Still**

"William Grant Still: Inspired to Inspiring," is a traveling exhibit sponsored through a collaborative partnership between the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Mississippi Library Commission. Consisting of eight free-standing fabric panels, the exhibit celebrates the life and work of Woodville native, William Grant Still, who was known as the "Dean of American Negro Composers." Still



wrote more than 150 compositions before his death in 1978. Famed conductor Leopold Stokowski called him "one of our greatest American composers" and the LA Times recognized him as "our great resident composer" in 1956. The exhibit will travel the state, with 13 stops scheduled through November 2009. The scheduled locations and dates are as follows:

#### **2009**

Feb 02-Feb 27 Rust College/Holly Springs  
Mar 02-Mar 27 Lee County Library/Tupelo  
Apr 06-Apr 30 Robert C. Irwin Public Library/Tunica  
May 06-May 29 Lexington Public Library/Lexington  
June 06-June 30 Gulf Coast Community College/Gautier  
July 06-July 31 MSU Riley Center/Meridian  
Aug 06-Sept 02 Forrest County Public Library/Hattiesburg  
Sept 07-Sept 30 Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library  
Oct 05-Oct 30 Alcorn University (JD Boyd Library)/Lorman  
Nov 18-Nov 22 William Grant Still Conference/Natchez

For more information, contact 601-359-6030.

### **NEH Offers 'Landmarks of American History and Culture' Workshops**



**Dr. Luther Brown**

The National Endowment for the Humanities invites applications for its "Landmarks of American History and Culture" workshops for community college faculty. Several workshops are offered, including *The Most Southern Place on*

*Earth: Music, Culture and History in the Mississippi Delta*, June 15-20 or July 13-18, 2009, at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS, the heart of the Mississippi Delta. The workshop includes regular trips throughout the region – Greenville, Dockery Farms (birthplace of the Blues), the B.B. King Museum, Indianola, Sumner, Money, Memphis, National Civil Rights Museum, Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Rock and Soul Museum, Highway 61 – and one trip to Memphis. The workshop will be led by Dr. Luther Brown and Lee Aylward of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning, Delta State University, Box 3152, Cleveland, MS 38733. For more information, call 662-846-4311 or write lbrown@deltastate.edu or laylward@deltastate.edu or visit <http://www.blueshighway.org/mostsouthernplace.htm>. A \$750 stipend and some travel assistance are offered. For more information about other NEH workshops, visit [www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-school.html](http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-school.html).

## MHC Welcomes Your Support

Mississippi Humanities Council programs are engaging, inspiring and free of charge. Your gift makes a big difference to our mission of cultivating an understanding of our history and culture throughout the state. You help us enrich peoples' lives through programs incorporating history, literature, music, politics, philosophy and other humanities-based disciplines that illuminate the human condition.

Thanks to your support, we are able to serve all Mississippians: all ages, all geographic areas of the state, all walks of life.

**A small gift of \$25** will purchase two books for children participating in the Mississippi Humanities Council's [Family Reading Bonds](#) program.

**A larger gift of \$250** will fund a lecture in a school classroom, local library or civic club, by a member of the Mississippi Humanities Council [Speakers Bureau](#).

**A \$2,500 contribution** will underwrite a six-week [Family Reading Bonds](#) series, part of the Mississippi Humanities Council's literacy program.

**A gift of any amount** can support any one of our ongoing programs:

- [Oral History Projects](#)
- [Lecture Series](#)
- [Smithsonian Exhibits](#)
- [Public Humanities Awards](#)

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. The MHC will appreciate your financial help. To donate online, please visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/Donor/Donations.asp>. Or call 601-432-6752.

## Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Feb. 19-22, 2009, *Southern Women Writers: Saluting the Eudora Welty Centennial – the 20<sup>th</sup> Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez, MS. Programs by scholars, historians, writers, film experts and others who will explore the life of Mississippi author Eudora Welty and other Southern women writers. Related activities include films, documentaries, a play, discussion groups, book signings, an awards ceremony, a custom bookshop and writing workshops. MHC-supported events are free to the public.
- Feb. 26, 2009, *Mississippi Oral History Project 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception*, Mississippi State Capitol Rotunda, Jackson, MS. Live theater performance by students from the award-winning WINGS Performing Arts Program, who will bring to life stories from the Mississippi Oral History collection. Hors d'oeuvres, beverages, guest speakers, a sampling of recorded oral histories and a listening/recording station will also be available to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this statewide history project.
- March 1-31, 2009, *The Southern Literary Trail: Mississippi Writers and Their Places*, various sites throughout Mississippi. Events and programs are planned to showcase the hometowns of six major Mississippi authors: William Faulkner, Shelby Foote, Walker Percy, Margaret Walker Alexander, Eudora Welty and Richard Wright. For details, visit [www.southernliterarytrail.org](http://www.southernliterarytrail.org).
- March 26-28, 2009, *16<sup>th</sup> Oxford Conference for the Book*, Oxford, MS. Annual celebration of books, writing and reading. The 2009 conference will feature addresses, panel discussions and readings. Speakers will include notable authors, editors, publishers and others in the book trade, as well as educators and literacy advocates.

## Next MHC Grant Deadline April 15, 2009

April 15, 2009, is the next minigrant application deadline for proposals up to \$1,200. Regular grant proposals (between \$1,200 and \$3,000) will also be accepted through April 15, 2009. Application guidelines and forms are available at [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org).



### Disclaimer

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