

Focus on the Humanities

October 2009 - Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter

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

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Journey Stories Exhibit on Display at McComb City RR Depot Museum

"Journey Stories," an interactive exhibit addressing migration and immigration as they relate to the American experience, provided by the Smithsonian Institution, is currently touring Mississippi, sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council. 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. Each exhibition consists of free-standing structures that contain interactive components and artifacts. In addition, each host community adds local elements to the exhibit and produces a series of local programs related to the "Journey Stories" themes. The exhibit is currently on display at the McComb City Railroad Depot Museum. It will remain in McComb through Dec. 8 before moving next to Hazlehurst. To view the complete program schedule in McComb, please visit www.mshumanities.org.

October is Arts and Humanities Month

October is Arts and Humanities Month in Mississippi. Celebrate with the Mississippi Humanities Council by attending an event in your area. Check out our [online calendar](#) to find cultural events happening in your area all throughout October and November. We are pleased to recognize the arts and humanities across Mississippi with you this month! For more information, visit www.mshumanities.org or call 601-432-6752.

MHC Director Receives 'Innovation Award'



Dr. Barbara Carpenter, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, recently received a 2009 Innovation Research Supporter Award from the University of Southern Mississippi. The award was in recognition of Carpenter's and the Mississippi Humanities Council's contributions and support of USM's "dedication to the pursuit of excellence in the interdependent areas of teaching, service, research and economic development.

October 30 Deadline for Rust College Awards to Study in Mexico



Rust College invites applications for a Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar Study Abroad to Mexico, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Brochures and applications may be found on the Rust College website: www.rustcollege.edu. Application deadline is Friday, Oct. 30, 2009.

MHC Board Member Candice Jackson Receives Promotion

Dr. Candice Jackson, a member of the Mississippi Humanities Council board, has been promoted to associate professor of English at Tougaloo College and granted tenure.

MHC Board Member's Photos Collected by Smithsonian



Mississippi Humanities Council Board Member Melody Golding, an acclaimed Vicksburg-area photographer, was notified recently that for the first time since 1910, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History Archive Center will acquire work about Mississippi, by a Mississippian. Golding's photograph collection entitled *Katrina: Mississippi Women Remember*, was added to the Smithsonian's Archives Center in September. This body of work is the Smithsonian's sole acquisition documenting Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. To view Golding's photographs, visit www.melodygolding.com.

***Poetry Out Loud* Gains Momentum in Mississippi**

Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, *Poetry Out Loud* is administered in partnership with the State Arts Agencies of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The program, which began in 2005, helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage. Recitation and performance are major new trends in poetry. The recent resurgence of



poetry as an oral art form is seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of hip-hop music. *Poetry Out Loud* builds on that momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class.

All curriculum materials are also available for download on the *Poetry Out Loud* website. Schools not involved in the official contest are welcome to use the online materials. Educators interested in participating in the official national poetry recitation contest in Mississippi should register now. Click [here](#) for official registration form. Registration deadline is Dec. 11.

Apply Now for 'Preserve America Steward' Designation

Preserve America Stewards is a federal program recognizing organizations and agencies that successfully use volunteers to help care for the nation's historic heritage. The next quarterly deadline for submitting applications for these awards is Dec. 1, 2009. Recipients receive a designation letter and certificate of recognition signed by First Lady Michelle Obama. An application form and further information is available at www.preserveamerica.gov.

NEH Awards 'We the People' Grant for Black Writing Project

Mississippi Humanities Scholar Maryemma Graham is the recipient of a \$200,000 We the People grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her University of Kansas program, *The Project on the History of Black Writing*. The History of Black Writing Project will use the award to support its program, "The Wright Connection: Reading *Native Son*, *Black Boy* and *Uncle Tom's Children*." The Wright Connection is a 15-month program that follows the centennial of Richard Wright's birth in 2008. The project will include a two-week institute from July 11-24, 2010, on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence, KS.

***Tumblin' Down* Performance Set for MS Theater Festival in January**

TUPELO—The Mississippi Humanities Council-funded production *Tumblin' Down*, an original play by Hattiesburg playwright G.M. Calhoun based on oral histories from the Mississippi Oral History Project, will be performed at the Mississippi Theatre Association's annual festival in January 2010. The play will be performed by youth from the WINGS Performing Arts Program in Gulfport. The production is an endeavor

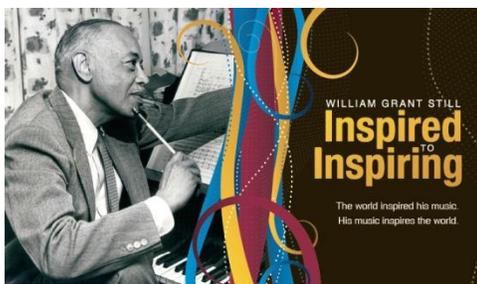
of the Mississippi Oral History Project, a statewide initiative launched in 1999. The MOHP has resulted in one of the largest oral history collections in the Gulf South. Approximately 3,500 taped interviews with citizens, from top political leaders to ordinary citizens sharing their experiences, constitute the collection to date and are housed at the university.

Leach sworn in as the ninth NEH Chairman

WASHINGTON—Former Congressman Jim Leach has been sworn in as the ninth chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Leach previously served 30 years representing southeastern Iowa in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he chaired the Banking and Financial Services Committee, the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and founded and co-chaired the Congressional Humanities Caucus. After leaving Congress in 2007, he joined the faculty at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, where he was the John L. Weinberg Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs until his confirmation as NEH chairman. In September 2007, Leach took a year's leave of absence from Princeton to serve as interim director of the Institute of Politics and lecturer at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Leach graduated from Princeton University, received a Master of Arts degree in Soviet politics from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and did additional graduate studies at the London School of Economics. He holds eight honorary degrees and has received numerous awards, including the Sidney R. Yates Award for Distinguished Public Service to the Humanities from the National Humanities Alliance; the Woodrow Wilson Award from Johns Hopkins University; the Adlai Stevenson Award from the United Nations Association; the Edgar Wayburn Award from the Sierra Club; the Wayne Morse Integrity in Politics Award; the Norman Borlaug Award for Public Service; and the Wesley Award for Service to Humanity.



New Natchez Foundation to Stage William Grant Still Tribute Conference



The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will perform the work of Mississippi native William Grant Still as part of an inaugural conference in Natchez Nov. 19, 2009. The conference, titled "Music and the Arts: Still Our Only Future," will launch a foundation which will foster music and the arts in schools. The conference is also a tribute to Still, a pioneer in the field of American classical music. Conductor Crafton Beck will direct the MSO in the first performance of "The Afro-American Symphony" by Still in its entirety. This symphony was the first work by an African American to be played by a major American orchestra in the United States (1931). The tribute concert is open to the public and begins at 8 p.m. For information and tickets, contact William Grant Still Music at 928-526-9355 or by

email at wqsmusic@bigplanet.com. The conference will also feature lectures and recitals, as well as the "William Grant Still: Inspired to Inspiring" touring exhibit, sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council. Details for the conference are also posted at www.williamgrantstill.com.

William Grant Still Traveling Exhibit Tour Winding Down



"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 is currently traveling the state, with 13 stops scheduled through November 2009. The remaining scheduled locations and dates are as follows:

Oct 05–Oct 30 Alcorn University (JD Boyd Library)/Lorman

Nov 18–Nov 22 William Grant Still Conference/Natchez

For more information, contact 662-820-3021.

Find an MHC-Supported Humanities Program in Your Area

Click this [link](#) to find a humanities program occurring in your community.

Next MHC Grant Deadline Jan. 15, 2010

Jan. 15, 2010, is the next Minigrant application deadline for proposals up to \$1,500. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org. Minigrant deadlines are Jan. 15, April 15, July 15 and Oct. 15 annually. Minigrant applications must be submitted a minimum of eight weeks before a funded program could begin.

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.



Disclaimer

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