

# Focus on the Humanities November 2013

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

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## Governor Appoints Three to Mississippi Humanities Council



Gov. Phil Bryant has appointed three new board members to the Mississippi Humanities Council, Charles Evers of Jackson, Cherri Porter of Brandon and Laura Van Overschelde of Jackson.

James Charles Evers, the older brother of slain civil rights activist Medgar Evers, is a civil rights spokesman within the Republican Party in. He graduated from Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi) in 1950 and settled in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where he engaged in various business pursuits while organizing for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1956, he left Mississippi and moved to Chicago. When an assassin shot and killed Medgar Evers in 1963, Charles took over his brother's position as state field secretary for the NAACP's Mississippi chapter and led many demonstrations for the rights of blacks.

In 1969, he became the first African American since the Reconstruction era to have been elected as mayor in a Mississippi city, Fayette in Jefferson County, serving until 1981 and again from 1985 to 1989. He made unsuccessful runs for governor in 1971 and the United States Senate in 1978, both times as an Independent candidate. He also served as an informal advisor to a diverse group of politicians, including Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan, Senator Robert Kennedy and Governor George Wallace.

Born in San Antonio Texas, Laura Van Overschelde studied nursing in a two-year associate degree program at San Antonio College. She went on to Harris Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia in 1973, graduating in 1975. She practiced



as a certified registered nurse anesthetist in various venues in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi for 37 years before retiring in 2012. She is married to Charles Clericuzi and has three grown children and two grandchildren. Van Overschelde is active in the Mississippi Tea Party.



Cherri R. Porter is a native of Rankin County. She lives near the Reservoir in Brandon with her husband, Charles, and their daughter, Cady, who is a senior at Jackson Preparatory School and will study public policy next fall at the University of Mississippi. Porter holds an associate degree in business from Hinds Community College and completed a paralegal studies program at the University of Mississippi. After that, she worked as a legal assistant and in various business positions in Jackson before going into business with her father at Mississippi Mortuary Services, Inc. in Pearl. She is active in several community organizations, including the Rankin County Republican Women, Rankin County Junior Auxiliary, the Global Leadership Institute at Jackson Preparatory School and the Mississippi Animal Rescue League.

## **Nominations Invited for 2014 Public Humanities Awards**

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites nominations for its 2014 Public Humanities Achievement Awards, which honor outstanding contributions in the arena of public humanities. Nominations will be accepted for Humanities Scholar Award, Humanities Partner Award, Humanities Educator Award and Preserver of Mississippi Culture.

The Council began issuing Achievement Awards in 1993 to recognize persons who have supported the Council's work through public programs across the state based in the branches of learning concerned with human thought and relations, such as history, literature, culture, values and ideas. All Mississippians are invited to make nominations for these awards. Nominations are reviewed by a panel, which selects the year's awardees.



All awards will be presented at the "Celebrating Excellence in Humanities Education" awards banquet Friday evening, Feb. 28, 2014, at the Hilton Jackson hotel. Recipients of the 2013 Humanities Teacher Awards, which pay tribute to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields, will also be honored at the banquet.

Nominations for Public Humanities Achievement Awards may be made online at [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org) through 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. For information call 601-432-6752.

## ***The Way We Worked* Exhibit Moves to Indianola through January 4, 2014**

*The Way We Worked*, a Mississippi Humanities Council sponsored, Smithsonian Institution traveling Exhibit presenting work in America from the late 19th to late 20th centuries, had its official opening, to the accompaniment of the Gentry High School Marching Band and pep squad, in Indianola at the Henry M. Seymour Public Library in November. Opening speakers included Mayor Steve Rosenthal and Mississippi Humanities Council Executive Director Stuart Rockoff. Onsite for viewing and investigating were a fire

truck and street cleaning machine. The video “Standing Tall: Women Unionize the Catfish Industry” was screened during a brunch–reception on the first floor of the library, where the “Local Businesses Then and Now” photo exhibit is also on display. Weekly lectures will be held at the library on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. The exhibit, which is located on the second floor, will be open for viewing during regular library hours through Saturday, January 4. For additional information, contact Jennifer Rose at the library at 662–887–2153 ext. 123 and visit the MHC’s website: [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org).

## ***Muslim Journeys* Discussion Series to Resume in February 2014**

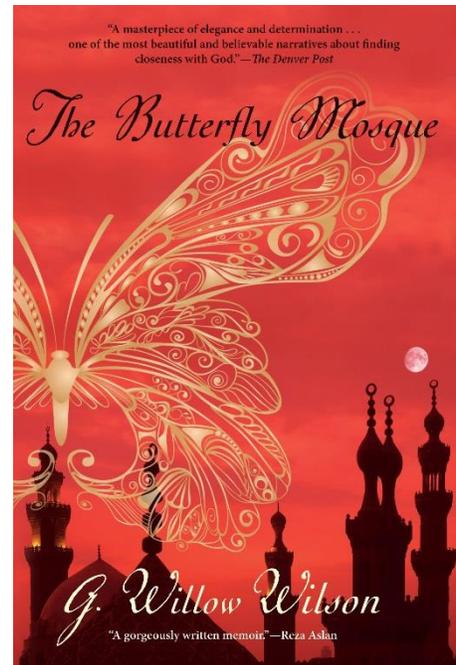
The Mississippi Humanities Council will resume its *Muslim Journeys* reading and discussion series in February 2014 with two final discussions before launching a second series in March 2014.

The Council was awarded a Muslim Journeys “Bookshelf” – a collection of 25 books, four DVDs and other programming resources selected to help public audiences in the United States become more familiar with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims around the world and within the U.S. – by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. The Council also received a \$4,500 grant from to host two five–part reading and discussion series using the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf.

The first series began in September and will continue monthly to March 2014. Participation is free and open to all. Discussions take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Margaret Walker Center, located in historic Ayer Hall on the campus of Jackson State University. Participants must provide their own books, either borrowed from a library or purchased.

The final discussions will be Feb. 13, 2014, featuring *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil’s Resurgence, from the Middle East to America* by Leila Ahme and March 6, 2014, featuring *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson.

Muslim Journeys is not intended to be a comprehensive study of Islam as a religion or of the Muslim world in all its complexity. Rather, it seeks to introduce readers to new and diverse perspectives on the people, places, histories, beliefs, practices and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world.



# Save the Date



## 2014 Public Humanities Awards

February 28, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Hilton Hotel

Jackson, MS

More details to follow

For questions please call the MHC at 601.432.6752

### MHC Awards Grants for Humanities Programs Statewide

The Mississippi Humanities Council has recently awarded funding for several humanities programs throughout the state:

- ***25<sup>th</sup> Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration: 60 Years and Counting – Voices of the Civil Rights Museum*** – Copiah–Lincoln Community College  
Multifaceted conference exploring the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the South and on the world.
- ***Freedom Summer: The Public Service Announcement Project*** – Mississippi Public Broadcasting  
Series of one-minute public service announcements (“micro-messaged documentaries”) commemorating Mississippi’s Civil Rights milestones.
- ***“10 Most Endangered Historic Places in Mississippi” Traveling Exhibits*** – Mississippi Heritage Trust  
Traveling photographic exhibit, including computer kiosks, to bring awareness for 10 historic sites in Mississippi deemed endangered by the Trust.
- ***21<sup>st</sup> Oxford Conference for the Book*** – University of Mississippi  
Annual conference celebrating books, reading and writing. The 2014 conference will explore Writing and the Rural South, including sessions on documentary photography; bluesman Robert Johnson; fiction, memory and southern history; Depression-era southern writers; and contemporary poetry.
- ***From the Flatlands to the Coast: Bringing the Mississippi Delta to the Mississippi Gulf Coast*** – University of Southern Mississippi

Two-day cultural program aimed at fostering discussions, at a Gulf Coast venue, about the Delta's influences on Mississippi's music, culture, traditions and landscape.

- ***Disparities in Mississippi: Moving Toward Reconciliation between Black and White Physicians in Mississippi*** – University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Symposium to bring together black and white health professionals who remain professionally estranged from each other, and to recognize the role black physicians and UMMC academic leaders played in the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi.
- ***12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Miss Powwow*** – University of Southern Mississippi  
Annual intertribal powwow on a university campus, including programs for school children as well as the surrounding community to encourage cultural understanding of Mississippi's Native communities.
- ***Mississippi Prison Writes*** – Yoknapatawpha Arts Council  
An 18-week writing and reading course for student inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman. Students will work with a range of literary materials, with emphasis on Mississippi writers.
- ***Behind the Big House Tour – Preserving the Histories and Architecture of Slavery*** – Preserve Marshall County & Holly Springs, Inc.  
Tours and other programming to interpret slave narratives and architecture, in conjunction with annual pilgrimage of homes.
- ***The Way We Worked Traveling Smithsonian Exhibition*** – East Central Community College  
Local programs to complement traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit exploring work in America from the late 19th to late 20th centuries.
- ***Three Fiction Mystery Writers: Using Place as Text to Explore the Culture and History of the Mississippi Delta*** – Delta State University  
Conference featuring lectures and panel discussions by Mississippi authors on place as text in exploring the life and culture of a region and its people.
- ***Webb School Centennial Celebration Oral History Project*** – University of Southern Mississippi  
Project to collect oral histories related to a 100-year-old Bay St. Louis school that survived Hurricane Katrina.
- ***Community Conversations for a Shared Vision*** – Emmett Till Memorial Commission  
Planning grant to develop a year-long “community conversations” project using the history of the death of Emmett Till near Money, MS, to encourage racial reconciliation in Tallahatchie County.
- ***Exhibition and Programming for the Exhibit “The Way We Worked”*** – Union County Historical Society and Heritage Museum  
Local programs to complement traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit exploring work in America from the late 19th to late 20th centuries.
- ***Black History Expo 2014 – Oral History Project*** – Trojan Alumni Association  
Oral history project focusing on a segregated Gulfport school.



*The “Behind the Big House Tour” sheds light on the stories and architecture of slave dwellings.*

## Have You Seen Our Events Calendar?

Did you know our Calendar page is updated weekly with humanities events all over Mississippi? Even better, most events are free and open to the public! This month, sit in on a lecture by Mississippi Humanities Council Executive Director Dr. Stuart Rockoff addressing the important Jewish connections to



*The Mississippi Museum of Art's Dec. 17, 2013, Unburied Treasures program will focus on "A Unique Slant of Light: The Bicentennial History of Art in Louisiana," with author Michael Sartisky present to lead the discussion.*

the case of the Scottsboro Boys, nine black youths falsely charged with assaulting two white women in Alabama. Enjoy an evening of art and the humanities at the Mississippi Museum of Art's "Unburied Treasures" discussion series. Visit *The Way We Worked*, a Mississippi Humanities Council-sponsored Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit presenting work in America from the late 19th to late 20th centuries, during its tour stop in Indianola, through January 4, 2014. Keep coming back to our Calendar page; there will always be new events added each week for you to attend. Click this [link](#) to find a humanities program occurring in your community.

## Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation Seeks Director

The Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation seeks to fill the position of executive director with an energetic individual who can balance the varied responsibilities of the organization. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and a resume to Search Committee, SCHF, 1302 Adams Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183 by Friday, November 22, 2013. Letters should address the applicant's ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position, as described in the Job Description (click link to view Job Description). Salary competitive, commensurate with experience, plus a benefits package. For details, visit [http://www.southernculture.org/Executive\\_Director\\_job\\_description.pdf](http://www.southernculture.org/Executive_Director_job_description.pdf).

## Next MHC Grant Deadline January 15, 2014

January 15, 2014, is the next MHC mini-grant application deadline for proposals for amounts up to \$1,500. Application guidelines and forms are available at [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org). Mini-Grant deadlines are January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 each year. Mini-Grant applications must be submitted a minimum of 8 weeks before the proposed program begins.

April 15, 2014, is the next MHC Regular Grant application deadline for proposals up to \$7,500. Application guidelines and forms are available at [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org). Regular Grant deadlines are April 15 and September 15 each year. Regular Grant applications must be submitted a minimum of 12 weeks before the proposed program begins.

The Council invites grant proposals that address one or more of four focus areas: Books and Reading, Mississippi History and Culture, Civil Discourse and Capacity Building.

## 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](#)

To donate online, visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/Donor/Donations.asp>. Or call 601-432-6752.



### Disclaimer

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