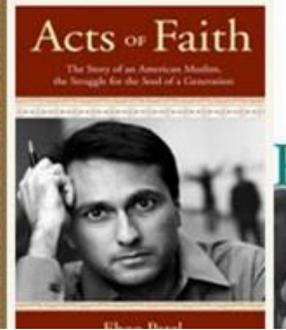
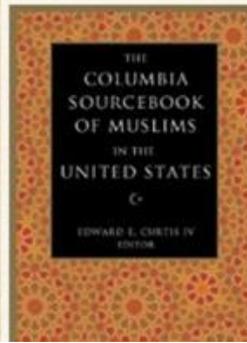
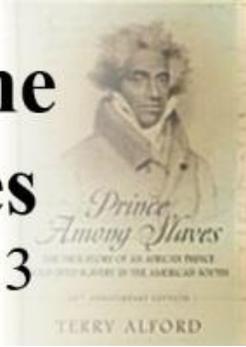


Focus on the Humanities

October 2013



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

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Stuart Rockoff Named MHC's Next Executive Director



The executive committee of the board of directors of the Mississippi Humanities Council has named Stuart Rockoff as the organization's new executive director of the organization. Rockoff comes to the Council from the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute for Southern Jewish Life where he has been director of the history department since 2002.

Rockoff will be the third executive director of Mississippi Humanities Council, an independent nonprofit established in 1972 by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He will succeed Barbara Carpenter, who is retiring after 27

years with the Council, 17 of them as director. He will manage a staff of five and be responsible for an annual budget of just under \$1 million. He will officially assume his duties November 1.

Rockoff received a bachelor of arts degree in U.S. history from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. He received a master of arts and a Ph.D. in the same field from the University of Texas at Austin.

“(Dr. Rockoff) is a well-respected scholar, known as an active research historian, who also has a talent for public programming in the humanities,” said board chair Pamela Pridgen. “He has worked on many projects with the Mississippi Humanities Council, including the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, *Journey Stories*. In 2010, he received the Preserver of Mississippi Culture Award from the Council in recognition of his work with the Council as a project director for grant-funded programs, scholar, oral historian, evaluator and lecturer. Additionally, he authored a chapter on Jews in Mississippi in the Council’s second volume of *Ethnic Heritage in Mississippi*, published by the University Press of Mississippi.

Please visit www.mshumanities.org to read Dr. Rockoff’s first column as he prepares to become the Council’s third executive director.

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, 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 through 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. For information call 601-432-6752.

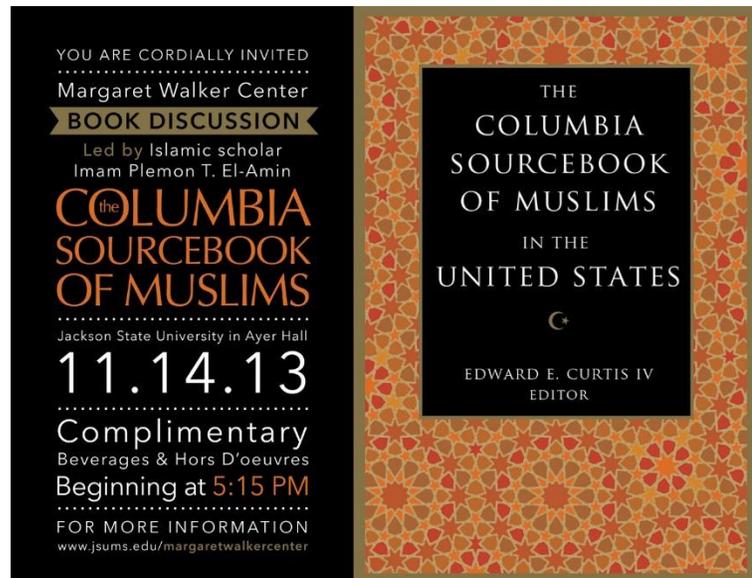
***Muslim Journeys* Discussion Series Examines African Muslim Immigration to U.S.**

The Mississippi Humanities Council will continue its *Muslim Journeys* reading and discussion series Thursday, November 14, focusing on *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States* by Edward

E. Curtis IV, editor. Imam Plemon T. El-Amin will serve as scholar for the discussion and Rev. Don Fortenberry will facilitate.

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. On November 14, a reception hosted by the International Museum of Muslim Cultures will be held at 5:15 p.m. prior to the book discussion.



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.

The remaining discussions will be held 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.

MHC Awards Grants for Humanities Programs Statewide

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

- **Alabama Art Casting Presentation at Soulé Live Steam Festival – Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum**

Program to accompany Smithsonian Institution *The Way We Worked* traveling exhibit at the Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum. Craftsmen will demonstrate mold-making and discuss the history of iron casting and its role in the industrial revolution.



- **Philosophical Fridays – University of Southern Mississippi**

A series of lectures featuring guest speakers who speak on philosophical topics of general interest.

- **Photographic Interpretations: The Culture & Geography of the Delta Blues – Delta State University**
Museum-based program featuring a photographer who has been documenting the culture and geography of the Mississippi Delta through his art.
- **All Our Friends Hill Country Blues Celebration – Emily J. Pointer Public Library**
Public lectures by blues historian, recalling visits to north Mississippi in the late 1960s, collecting oral histories, field recordings and photographs of Hill Country musicians.
- **Spring Sonata Lecture – University of Southern Mississippi**
Annual music lecture and performance.
- **Women, Work & Food Graduate Student Symposium – University of Mississippi**
National graduate symposium exploring how issues of race, class, gender, labor and sexuality intersect at different historical moments and are important parts of any social and cultural moment and central points of investigation in food studies.

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! Try your hand at flintknapping at Native American Days at Winterville Mounds near Greenville. Watch a live demonstration of molten iron being poured into molds at the Soulé Live Steam Festival in Meridian. Learn the story behind the case of “The Scottsboro Boys,” nine black teenagers falsely accused of raping two white women on a train more than 80 years ago in Montgomery, AL. Join the War and Society Roundtable in Hattiesburg, a monthly discussion group that studies books related to the history of war and society. Participate in “Philosophical Fridays” at the University of Southern Mississippi and mull this month’s question, “Do I have a Duty to Give to Charity and Go Vegan?” 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.

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. 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. 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.



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