

Focus on the Humanities

March 2015



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Director's Message: America's "Hometown Team" and the Other Side of the Story



One of the most memorable sporting events of my childhood was the U.S. Men's National Hockey team's defeat of the Soviet Union during the 1980 Olympics. The so-called "Miracle on Ice" has been depicted in many documentaries and even a Hollywood film. It is one of the greatest sports upsets in American history: a group of no-name college players defeating arguably the best hockey team in the world. When the game was played in 1980, in the midst of the Cold War, the political ramifications of the event were apparent. The Soviet Union had recently invaded Afghanistan, which would ultimately lead the U.S. to boycott the summer Olympics in Moscow that year. This political context lent an extra significance to this remarkable victory.

Recently, I saw a fascinating documentary that presented a new perspective on this legendary match. "Of Miracles and Men" tells the story of that fateful game from the Russian point of view. In the American media at the time, the Soviets were portrayed almost as interchangeable automatons. Casual fans like my 11-year-old self could not name anyone on their team. We just knew they were dominant, having beaten several NHL all-star teams and not losing an Olympic game in 12 years. From our perspective, winning the gold medal was a victory of good over evil, as America's democratic spirit of individualism overwhelmed the repressive culture of communism.

In "Of Miracles and Men," the Soviet team becomes humanized. We see these men, most now in their 60s, talking about how unsettled they were to play in front of a belligerent American crowd in Lake Placid, New York, fired up by Cold War tensions. We learn about how innovative the Soviet team was, eschewing the

traditional Canadian/American style of play that relied on force and brutality for a more free-flowing, beautiful style. We hear about the struggles of playing on a team affiliated with the Soviet army, and having to serve as a propaganda piece for the Communist regime.

After watching these men talk about themselves, it was impossible to watch the famous game the same way. I was reminded how the humanities enable us to see the world in a new way, how they inspire us to look at a memorable event from a more complicated perspective. This is the power of the humanities, to give us a deeper understanding of our world and our shared past.

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I've been thinking a lot of about the influence of sports in our culture as we have begun to solicit proposals to host our next traveling Smithsonian exhibit, "Hometown Teams." In some ways, the U.S.A. hockey team was the ultimate hometown team, connecting Americans from different backgrounds and regions, even those (like myself) who never watched much hockey before. Cheering on the team was a way to come together as a nation. Of course, living in SEC country, we know that sports can sometimes divide us – my impression of an MSU cowbell never ceases to annoy our staff member Caroline Gillespie, a proud Ole Miss graduate!

We in Mississippi understand the potential of sports to define our state and our communities, for better or worse. Think how Ole Miss and Mississippi State's success in football last season changed many outsiders' perspective on the Magnolia state. Although being a fan is ultimately a vicarious diversion – after all, the U.S.A.'s victory over Russia had little direct impact on my life – sports carry a cultural significance that cannot be ignored. We are excited to bring "Hometown Teams" to Mississippi starting in early 2016, and encourage you to contact David Morgan at david@mhc.state.ms.us to learn more about bringing this wonderful exhibit to your community next year.

McLeod, Clark Named to Mississippi Humanities Council Board

The Mississippi Humanities Council has elected two new board members, Dr. Eric Clark of Jackson and Dr. Alisea Williams McLeod of Holly Springs. Both will serve four-year terms.

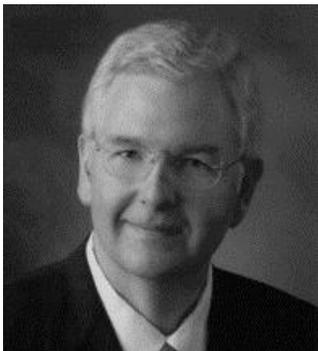


McLeod, who is chair of the Division of Humanities at Rust College, came to Rust in the fall of 2011 with an interest in bringing the digital humanities to bear on American Civil War-era records. "Specifically, I hoped to involve students of Rust, an historically black college in Holly Springs, Mississippi, in researching the lives of former slaves whose names were recorded in 'contraband' camp registers during the war," she says. "My own family members' time in a Memphis contraband camp has been documented by these records."

McLeod developed a wiki, Digisense, as the main home of her digital humanities project, which has since come to be known as the Eaton-Bailey-Williams Freedpeople's Digitization Project, named after the general superintendent of freedmen in

Tennessee and Arkansas (John Eaton Jr.) and two former slaves (Africa Bailey and Daniel Williams) who worked in his army unit. The wiki and a website, www.lastroadtofreedom.org, work hand in hand as educational tools on the subject of contraband camps and on African American family history.

McLeod was educated at Stillman College (Tuscaloosa, Alabama), Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) and the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), where she completed a Ph.D. in English and education. She is married to Carter McLeod Jr. with whom she has three college-age children, Clifford, Carl and Cynthia.



Clark began serving as executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board in January 2008. He previously served 12 years as the Mississippi Secretary of State and 16 years as a member of the Mississippi Legislature. He attended Jones County Junior College and received a bachelor's degree from Millsaps College, a master's degree from the University of Mississippi and a doctorate in history from Mississippi State University. Clark taught history and government at Jones County Junior College, Mississippi College and Belhaven University.

Clark has been recognized with the American Family Association's "God and Country" Award for authoring the law that outlawed possession of child pornography in Mississippi. He was also given the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Conservation Legislator of the Year and twice awarded the Mississippi Nature Conservancy's Public Service Award for his efforts to preserve natural lands on the Gulf Coast. He currently serves on the boards of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, the State Workforce Investment Board, the Mississippi Technology Alliance, the Mississippi Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. He is married to Karan (Killebrew) and has two children, Charles and Catherine.

Twenty-two Mississippians serve four-year terms on the Council as volunteers. Five Council members are appointed by the governor and the others elected by the Council.



MHC Co-Sponsors 'Mississippi Jubilee'

As the nation remembers the conclusion of the Civil War, Mississippi Jubilee, a celebration of the 150th anniversary of emancipation, will be held Wednesday, April 15, through Friday, April 17, in Jackson. Activities will range from musical and theatrical performances at the Smith Robertson Museum and Mississippi Museum of Art to symposia at the Old Capitol Museum and Tougaloo College.

“There was no more important watershed event in Mississippi’s history,” said Dr. Stuart Rockoff, Executive Director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, one of the co-sponsoring organizations. “Emancipation transformed the lives of all Mississippians, the majority of whom had been enslaved. The symposium is designed to bridge the worlds of academia and the general public, bringing leading scholars to explain the continuing resonance of this crucial period.”

An opening reception on Wednesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. at the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center will showcase the history of African American music from slave songs to the present with performances throughout the museum. Mayor Tony Yarber will make welcoming remarks.

“The word jubilee is befitting for this event because the liberation was a mass celebration of freedom for the African,” said Pamela Junior, director of the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center. “This is a time to reflect on the feelings of our ancestors of the great jubilee of Freedom and understand the spirit and meaning of this word Freedom in the twenty-first century. I am very excited about the City of Jackson and Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center being a co-sponsors for this magnificent celebration of the anniversary of the emancipation.”

Emancipation scholar Thavolia Glymph of Duke University will deliver the keynote address “Enslaved Women and the Civil War in the Mississippi Valley” at the Old Capitol Museum on Thursday, April 16, at 1:30 p.m.

“Dr. Thavolia Glymph has devoted her entire career to study of slavery and emancipation and is one of the nation’s leading experts on the subject,” said Max Grivno, University of Southern Mississippi history professor. “Her most recent book *Out of the House of Bondage* received high praise from scholars, and her current research on violence against African Americans during the Civil War sheds new light on an important but often overlooked subject.”

A freedom celebration will follow the symposium at 5:30p.m. at the Mississippi Museum of Art and will feature theatrical and musical performances by Jackson State University’s student troupe MADDRAMA and Tougaloo College assistant professor of music Laurence Albert on the Art Garden stage. MADDRAMA will present dramatic readings of letters and other documents written by freedmen. Albert will perform spirituals, including “Sweet Jesus,” “Let Us Break Bread Together,” and “Walk Together Children.” A hors d’oeuvres reception is included. Tours of the special exhibit *Civil War Drawings from the Becker Collection* will also be available.

On Friday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to noon, Tougaloo College will host sessions on emancipation’s impact on education and the emancipation experience in Margaret Walker’s Jubilee.

Mississippi Jubilee is a joint project of the MHC and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Other co-sponsors include the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, Smith Robertson Museum, Tougaloo College, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

A complete schedule of speakers and events is available at mdah.state.ms.us/jubilee or find the Mississippi Jubilee on Facebook.

MHC Mourns Loss of Former Board Member Jean Chamberlain



Dr. Jean Chamberlain, a former board member, scholar and grant reviewer for the Mississippi Humanities Council, died Wednesday, March 11. Chamberlain had served as chair of the Department of English at Jackson State University and had been an instructor of honors composition, world literature, grammar and composition, literary criticism and English methods.

Chamberlain received the Humanities Educator Award in 2009 for her years of work with the Mississippi Humanities Council, first through her work with the Mississippi Council of Teachers of English and later as a coordinator of the Council's "Mississippi 4Ws" teacher workshops and advisor for the Council's family reading programs. Chamberlain was elected to the Council's board of directors in 2011. She served on the Council's grant review committee and then as board treasurer before retiring from the board in February 2015.

"She was the best kind of board member: dedicated, thoughtful and wise. While her voice was soft, her words carried incredible weight," said Dr. Stuart Rockoff, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council. "She was committed to ensuring that the Humanities Council reached all Mississippians, and I relied on her counsel a great deal. She will be dearly missed at the Council."

Among her professional involvements, Chamberlain had served as secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Council of Teachers of English and was a member of the National Council of Teachers of English. She began her tenure at Jackson State in 1999.

The Telling Project Looks to South Mississippi for Veterans' Stories

Progress continues for Mississippi's second production of "The Telling Project," which will take place in the Hattiesburg/Coast area in November 2015.

The MHC and its program partners, the University of Southern Mississippi's theatre department and the Dale Center for the Study of War and Society, have been busy setting dates and filling in details for the upcoming production. USM's theatre department will provide a venue for the performances, as well as a director and a crew comprised of theatre students for the production.

Dr. Max Rayneard, director of research and outcomes for the Telling Project, will be in Hattiesburg April 8-11 to conduct interviews in preparation for the production. Veterans or veteran family members in the Hattiesburg/Coast area who are interested in interviewing with Max are encouraged to sign up for an interview through the USM theatre department.



Once the interviews are complete and participants have decided if they wish to continue with the project, the Telling Project staff will write scripts for each veteran's story and rehearsals will begin in Hattiesburg in early fall. The production will begin on Veterans Day (Nov. 11) in Hattiesburg and will follow with shows

in Poplarville on November 12, Long Beach on November 13 and 14, and will close with two more performances in Hattiesburg on Nov. 21 and 22.

For more information or to sign up for an interview, contact John Warrick at 601-266-4995 or john.warrick@usm.edu.



Storyteller Tonya Hays presents "Fannie's Dream" to families at Prime Time reading program at the Community Arts Center at MGCCC, Perkinston.

MHC Sponsors Free Showing of 'Yazoo Revisited' at Crossroads Film Festival

David Rae Morris' look at school integration in his father's hometown of Yazoo City will be featured during the Crossroads Film Festival at the Malco Theater in Madison Saturday, April 11, at 5 p.m. "Yazoo Revisited" recounts one of the state's nationally recognized success stories of school integration. In 1970, the Yazoo City schools integrated peacefully, and for the next two decades remained racially mixed. But as Morris' work shows, the story was more complicated than has been often portrayed. And ultimately, whites left the city's schools for private academies and the suburbs. "Yazoo Revisited" shines an important light on a history that still shapes life in our state today.



To explore the crucial subject of school integration in contemporary Mississippi and what we can learn from the experience of Yazoo City, MHC Director Stuart Rockoff will lead a panel discussion following the

film with Morris; Chalmers Mayers, who is featured in the documentary; and Derrick Johnson, president of the Mississippi NAACP. Both the film and the panel discussion will be free and open to the public – no festival badge or ticket required.

Proposals Invited for ‘Hometown Teams’ Traveling Smithsonian Exhibit



A new traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit will come to Mississippi in 2016, celebrating sports and the role they play in the life of towns across America.

The exhibit will be made available to a limited number of host sites across the state for a period of 4 to 6 weeks each, beginning in March 2016. For information on how to apply as a host site for Hometown Teams please contact the Mississippi Humanities Council at 601-432-6752. Proposals are due by Friday, April 17, 2015. A Request for Proposals is available [here](#).

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites [applications](#) for the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Hometown Teams – How Sports Shape America. Developed for rural audiences and small museums, libraries, community centers and other non-profit organizations with limited access to traveling exhibits, Hometown Teams addresses sports and the integral part that they play in the life of towns across America ranging from the athletes themselves, to marching bands and pep squads to fans in the stands to the community-wide interest, support and pride that they instill.

If Only She Were a Man: Women Composers from 18th to the 21st Centuries

The University of Southern Mississippi will present “...If only she were a man...”: *Women Composers from the 18th to the 21st Centuries* as part of its annual University Forum Lecture Series, Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bennett Auditorium on the USM campus. The Mississippi Humanities Council awarded a grant to the University to bring flutist and musicologist Dr. Ulrike Anton, an internationally-recognized scholar, teacher and performer, to discuss the life and works of selected women composers from the past four centuries. She will consider the historical and cultural contexts of six

artists of various backgrounds who were celebrated in their times (including Nancy van der Vate, who received graduate training at the University of Mississippi), but whose works have been largely lost to history. Dr. Anton will speak briefly about each composer, and then she will perform representative chamber works for flute and piano, accompanied by pianist Russell Ryan.

SPRING 2015 UNIVERSITY FORUM

“IF ONLY SHE WERE A MAN...”: WOMEN COMPOSERS FROM THE 18TH TO THE 21ST CENTURIES

Ulrike Anton, Flutist
Russell Ryan, Pianist

3/24
Bennett Auditorium
6:30 p.m.

“Our goal is to increase the public’s awareness of the important musical contributions of these composers, but also to examine the societal challenges of composing as a woman over the past four centuries,” says Dr. Edward Hafer, associate professor of music history at USM. The program is free and open to the public.

Humanities Calendar Offers Impressive Array of Public Programs

The Mississippi Humanities Council website [calendar](#) showcases an impressive array of public humanities programs taking place throughout the state this fall. Highlights include:

- **If Only She Were a Man...”: Women Composers from the 18th to the 21st Centuries** – March 24, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
- **2015 Oxford Conference for the Book** – March 25–27, University of Mississippi, Oxford
- **Let’s Celebrate Margaret Walker: C. Liegh McInnis (Lecture)** – March 26, Medgar Evers Library, Jackson
- **Winning the Race Through Hearts and Minds** – March 30–31, Delta State University, Cleveland
- **Philosophical Fridays: Dr. Robert McCauley** – March 31, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
- **Culinary Communities: Dr. Wendy Atkins–Sayre** – April 1, Peck House, Hattiesburg
- **Behind the Big House Tour** – April 7–12, Holly Springs
- **African American Treasures from the Kinsey Collection (Lecture)** – April 9, Mississippi State University, Starkville
- **Philosophical Fridays: Dr. Timothy Yenter** – April 10, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
- **Let’s Celebrate Margaret Walker: Dr. Jerry Ward** – April 16, Richard Wright Library, Jackson
- **Let’s Celebrate Margaret Walker: Terrence Roberts** – April 21, Richard Wright Library, Jackson
- **Myth of Absence: An Exhibition of African American Culture through Historical Documents, Photographs, and Art in the Kinsey Collection (Lecture)** – April 23, Mississippi State University, Starkville



'United States Soldiers at Camp William Penn,' 1863, Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments. Chromolithograph print, from the Kinsey Collection.

For more events and details, please visit our website [calendar](#).

Changes Announced in MHC Grants Programs, Forms

The Mississippi Humanities Council’s [grants program](#) has undergone several changes. While the types of projects the Council funds remains unchanged, new forms and application requirements are being introduced. Key changes include:

- Proposals may now be submitted via email as PDF files.

- Proposals must be emailed or delivered to the MHC office (in person or via the mail) by 5 p.m. on deadline dates. The Council will no longer accept applications postmarked by the published deadline dates.
- Deadlines for Regular Grants will now be May 1 and Sept. 15 (formerly, the deadlines were April 15 and Sept. 15).
- Applicants must consult with MHC's executive director or assistant director regarding project viability before submitting an application.

Applications should always be made on forms downloaded from the [MHC website](#), since the forms are updated periodically.

The MHC grants program seek to fund projects that stimulate meaningful community dialogue, attract diverse audiences, are participatory and engaging and apply the humanities to our everyday lives. Grants may be used to support public humanities programs, exhibits, the planning of larger projects, and the development of original productions in film, television, radio or online resources. The MHC also offers special grants to support oral history projects around the state.

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 Literacy Project](#).

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 reading and discussion series in the Mississippi Humanities Council's [Family Literacy Project](#).

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

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

To donate online, visit our [website](#). Or call 601-432-6752.



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