



# Mosaic

ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION



Pete Howard Shares Intimate Perspectives on Pompeii

Purchase Tickets Now for the 2007 Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon



Summer 2007



ARCHAEOLOGY ART CRITICISM ART  
HISTORY CLASSICS COMPARATIVE  
LITERATURE COMPARATIVE RELIGION  
CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY ETHICS  
FILM STUDIES FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
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LINGUISTICS LITERATURE  
LITERARY CRITICISM MUSICOLOGY  
PERFORMANCE STUDIES PHILOSOPHY  
THEATRE CRITICISM THEATRE HISTORY

Cover Photo:  
*The Pregnant Woman*

This body cast was on display in Mobile during *A Day in Pompeii*  
Matt Matcuk

Courtesy of the Gulf Coast Exploreum

# From the Director's Desk

## CONTENTS

Almost immediately after Katrina devastated New Orleans nearly two years ago, observers began comparing it to the destruction of Pompeii in 79 A.D. On August 31, just two dates after the hurricane hit, one blogger on [www.windsofchange.net](http://www.windsofchange.net) entitled his post, "Pompeii on the Mississippi." *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Progressive* magazine all invoked this comparison in the year to follow. Last fall a Smithsonian researcher, sifting through the ruins of New Orleans for objects of cultural significance, said, "It made me think of Pompeii, the buried city... I was only dipping into the material remains of the region and making a small extraction."

Katrina also struck Mobile County, which caught Alabamians' attention and led to AHF support of affected humanities groups in the area (see my article in the Winter 2006 Mosaic). Since then we have been directly or indirectly involved with two major museum exhibitions related to Pompeii. (See articles on page 9 of this issue). I wonder how far we can tweak this analogy. If Pompeii is to New Orleans, can we say that Herculaneum is to Biloxi or Bayou la Batre? (Don't forget that smaller communities were equally devastated in both disasters.)

On a grander scale of comparison between ancient times and our own, is America the Rome of today? Commentators recently seem to have accelerated their use of the comparison, because of our international ambitions, global economy, and (in the view of some cultural critics) increasingly "decadent" mores. Cullen Murphy, editor at large at *Vanity Fair* and guest speaker at AHF's 1998 Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon, has explicitly drawn some of the parallels (though not much on the decadence theme) in his new book, *Are We Rome?* I recommend his thought-provoking and highly readable book to you. Neither academic classicists nor today's political pundits may agree with his sweeping style and assertions. But I suspect you discerning *Mosaic* readers can find your way through the forest without becoming distracted by the trees.

We generalists in the humanities, or other simply inquisitive folks, are often tempted to draw comparisons and contrasts in order to create deeper understanding or spark conversation. They are imperfect analogies. Notwithstanding George Santayana's famous dictum ("Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."), historical events are rarely either mirrors or precedents. All of Pompeii was buried for centuries under volcanic ash; much of New Orleans was submerged for weeks under water. Vietnam was a cross-border civil war and internal insurgency, whose fall did not lead to communist takeover of all Southeast Asia; Iraq is a multi-faceted internal civil war and insurgency, whose fall may or may not lead to bigger trouble throughout the Middle East. Rome was an overburdened empire; America is....?

You, too, can find reflections – if not lessons – for your life and your world in the distant past and in not-too-distant places. Read about the ancient world. Visit the Pompeii exhibition at the Birmingham Museum of Art. Drive along the Alabama and Mississippi Gulf Coasts to the "Big Easy." Nothing in the books, objects or landscape will likely offer a guidepost to the future. But at least the plaster casts of Vesuvius's victims and the empty foundations and abandoned houses of Katrina's victims will pay homage to our timeless humanity. ■

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THE MISSION OF THE ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION (AHF) IS TO CREATE AND FOSTER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE HUMAN VALUES AND MEANING THROUGH THE HUMANITIES.



Robert C. Stewart  
Executive Director

# news

## MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2007 ALABAMA HUMANITIES AWARDS LUNCHEON

### FEATURING

Rick Bragg

### IN HONOR OF

**Jonathan "Jack" Westervelt Warner**  
2007 Alabama Humanities Award

**The Susan Mott Web Charitable Trust**  
2007 Charitable Organization in the  
Humanities Award

Monday, September 17, 2007

Noon

The Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham

Individual Tickets: \$50

Patron Tickets: \$150

Patrons will receive a gift and are invited to a reception at 10:30 a.m. honoring the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship recipients.

Contact AHF at  
205-558-3992 for tickets.



Rick Bragg



The AHF is proud to welcome Jim Noles to its Board of Directors. Jim is a partner at Balch & Bingham LLP in Birmingham where he is a member of the firm's Natural Resources and Environment Law Section.

Jim obtained his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. During that time he interned for Texas Supreme Court Justice Craig Enoch. Jim served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. In 2005, Jim was selected to Birmingham Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40." Jim is also an author; his recently published books include *Twenty-Three Minutes to Eternity: The Final Voyage of the Escort Carrier USS Liscome Bay*, *Hearts of Dixie: Fifty Alabamians and the State They Called Home*, and *John Pelham: The Gallant Pelham*.

**Dionne Clark**, a native of Birmingham, recently joined the AHF staff in a part-time position coordinating bookings for the Road Scholars program. Dionne earned her Bachelor's degree in English from Miles College and her Master of Arts in African-American and African Studies from Ohio State University. She previously worked as an Instructional Support Aide at Simmons Middle School and as a Graduate Teaching Associate at Ohio State University. Dionne's sense of humor and hard-working attitude make her a great member of our team.

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## ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Alabama Humanities Foundation has upgraded to the Raiser's Edge software and web-based database system to keep up with our supporters and programs. With the increased capabilities of this new system, we are able to keep accurate records that are easy to access and update.

Have you moved recently? Let us know! Visit [www.ahf.net](http://www.ahf.net) to give us your new information and ensure that you're receiving all the latest news on humanities events in your area.

## AN EVENING TO SAY... THANK YOU

In late spring, the AHF hosted an event to honor the many supporters who help keep our programs and events alive. Because of their contributions and dedication to the AHF and to the humanities, we are able to offer quality programs such as Road Scholars, SUPER and Motherhead to the people of Alabama. The 2007 Reception and Reunion was our way of saying, "Thank you," and reconnecting with supporters from around the state. It was held in Birmingham at Southern Progress Corporation.

The reception included a brief program featuring **Willie Brown**, an elementary teacher at A.G. Gaston in Birmingham. Willie has participated in several SUPER Teacher Seminars and Workshops and is a former Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship recipient. He inspired us with stories from his classroom and reiterated the importance of the SUPER teacher in-service programs that provide quality content and networking for Alabama's educators. The program also honored **Bob Stewart**, AHF's Executive Director, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of his career at AHF.



Attendees listen to a brief program at the reception. Former AHF Board Member **Dianne Mooney**, *Southern Living* at HOME founder and director, opened the program with a welcome from Southern Progress.



AHF Board Members **Edgar Welden** and **Lynne Berry** with **Judy** and **Walter Cox**. Walter is a former Executive Director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

## SYMPOSIUM ON THE LEGEND OF JOHN HENRY

Where did John Henry's legendary competition with a steam drill take place? Talcott, West Virginia, claims to be the site of this heroic feat, but Leeds area residents tend to disagree. Leeds natives have long believed that the event took place during construction of railroad tunnels through Oak and Coosa Mountains in the vicinity of Vandiver, Alabama, in 1887. On Sept. 15, the Alabama Folklife Association and the Leeds Historical Society are sponsoring a symposium on John Henry, the famous "steel driving man."

The symposium will be the scholarly part of the Railroad Heritage and John Henry Festival, sponsored by the City of Leeds, Sept. 13-15. Dr. John Garst will talk about the facts behind the legend, and Dr. Carl Marbury will discuss myth, oral tradition and the historical nature of the John Henry legend. The public will be encouraged to contribute their John Henry and railroad stories. The event, sponsored in part by a grant from AHF, is free and open to the public. Call 205-558-3993 for information.



Drawing of John Henry by Revis Brasher of Leeds. Courtesy of Joyce Cauthen.

## NEWS

### STATE LEGISLATURE APPROVES INCREASE IN AHF FUNDS

The AHF has received an increase in state funding for fiscal year 2008. The legislature approved and Governor Bob Riley signed the education budget, including \$200,000 earmarked for SUPER, beginning October 1, 2007. AHF funds are included in the budget of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE).

"We are grateful to Governor Riley, Senators Jabo Waggoner, Hank Sanders and Pat Lindsey, Representative Richard Lindsey, and ACHE Executive Director Greg Fitch for playing important roles in supporting the AHF appropriation," said Bob Stewart, AHF Executive Director. "We are excited about the increase and pleased that the state legislature recognizes the importance of adequate funding for our SUPER program for teachers."

The 2007 SUPER programs were a great success. Turn to page 12 for details and photos of this summer's seminars and workshops.

### AHF PUBLICATIONS HONORED

The Alabama Humanities Foundation was honored to receive four First Place ribbons in the Alabama Museums Association's annual publications competition. The 2006 Awards Luncheon Invitation, 2006 Fall *Mosaic*, 2006 SUPER brochure and 2007-2008 Road Scholars Catalogue were each awarded a blue ribbon.

## *Between Fences* Comes to a Close

The traveling Smithsonian exhibition *Between Fences* makes its last Alabama stop this summer in West Blocton. The exhibit opened with a reception at the Cahaba Lily Center.



AHF Board Member **Bob Whetstone** (far left) and former Board Member **Janet Seaman** stand with Myrtle Jones, West Blocton coordinator, as she cuts the ribbon and opens the exhibit.



*Between Fences* spent the month of May in Henry County before moving to West Blocton.

### REMEMBERING MARION "COOKIE" CARTER

The Alabama Humanities Foundation lost a dear friend on February 20, 2007, with the sudden passing of **Marion Carter**. Known to many as "Cookie," Marion served the state of Alabama and the humanities as Deputy Director of the AHF until her retirement in 2005. During her 16 years at AHF, Marion's leadership and dedication made a significant and lasting impact on the humanities in our state.

AHF Executive Director **Bob Stewart** said, "We lost a great champion of the humanities. Marion was dedicated to every program and grant we offered, every community and group we served, and every individual whom she met. In the months that have passed since her death, we all still feel that something is missing at AHF."

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Dr. Kit C. Carter II and Marion (Cookie) Carter scholarship fund established at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS. Donations may also be made to the Alabama Humanities Foundation in memory of Marion. ■

## Decatur Hosts a Successful Training

The AHF completed its second *My United States* training in Alabama. The training was hosted by the Morgan County Board of Education and held in Decatur. We had 20 trainees complete the training. The trainees had such varied backgrounds as teachers, migrant liaison employees, workers from the Department of Youth Services and several from a family service program in Decatur. *My United States* is a civics and government training that helps people who are working toward their citizenship. It also helps students with their American history needs. This two-day training is the newest training offered through Motherhead. The trainees were very impressed with the many ways this curriculum could be used.

It was exciting to me to watch the participants come up with creative ideas to introduce a practice lesson. I know that this training will be especially useful in Alabama as our state's population continues to change and grow.



A group of participants talk about what they learned during the *My United States* training in Decatur.



**Ida White** illustrates a few key concepts.

### CHANGES FOR MOTHERHEAD

In July, the Motherhead National Office offered me a position with their non-profit. I have accepted their offer and am now working as a Regional Coordinator for Motherhead. This new initiative will help Motherhead reach several additional states in the Southeast region and provide the opportunity for me to work with programs dedicated to helping Alabama's children. This will be a new focus for me, as AHF does not generally work with programs created for children. I will continue my work with adults in Alabama, and AHF will continue its support of the Motherhead program. I have enjoyed my work with AHF. It is very hard to leave after 11 years, but this is a great opportunity for all of us. Change is in the air, and I am excited about the future of the Motherhead program. ■



Tara Holman

## THE GIVING MESSAGE



Paul Lawson  
Director of Development

A storyteller sat in the town square in a small south Alabama town and began spinning one of his favorites. As the story goes, a famous preacher had rolled into his hometown to hold a tent meeting. A large crowd turned out to hear his message, including a curious farmer. The great minister was speaking this particular evening on money and examining it in three different ways.

His first thought was, "Get all you can."

The farmer nudged his neighbor and said, "This man has got something in him, this is admirable preaching!"

The minister then bellowed his second thought. "Save all you can." The farmer became quite excited and wondered aloud if there had ever been any other sermon like this one. The preacher went on to denounce thriftlessness and waste, getting and hoarding and on and on. The farmer knew this message was especially reassuring for him and that surely paradise was forthcoming from the minister's mouth.

But then the preacher went on to his third thought which was, "Give all you can."

"My, my," said the farmer, "Why did he go and spoil it all?"

Contrary to the farmer's reaction, giving creates a win-win situation for both the donor and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Community giving creates a sense of inner satisfaction and can be very gratifying to the donor. It is a marvelous opportunity to help expand AHF's already substantial role in improving lives in our communities.

The continuing dedication and contributions of our loyal donors provide vital support to AHF programs, such as **Road Scholars** (Speakers Bureau) and **Museum on Main Street (MoMS)**. Recently, several corporations and foundations have made multi-year commitments to support programs like **Motheread** and **SUPER (School and University Partners for Educational Renewal)**. These vital commitments have sparked higher levels of interest and giving from the community. As you read more about the quality AHF programs throughout this edition of *Mosaic*, you can be assured that charitable giving has played a significant role in their success.

To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope, or visit our web site and click on the membership link on our homepage at [www.ahf.net](http://www.ahf.net). For further information, please contact **Paul Lawson** at the Alabama Humanities Foundation, 1100 Ireland Way, Suite 101, Birmingham, Alabama 35205 or phone (205) 558-3992. ■



## Another Day in Pompeii

The highly acclaimed exhibit "A Day in Pompeii," sponsored in part by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, closed recently at the Exploreum in Mobile. The exhibit has since moved on to the Science Museum of Minnesota, but the impression left on its many Alabama visitors, including student groups from around the state, could be described as "indelible."

"A Day in Pompeii" is now on display in a distant state, but let me just touch on what is perhaps the most memorable part of the exhibit – the final room in which were displayed on a bed of volcanic ash the plaster-cast remains of eight victims of Vesuvius.

## POMPEII

Having visited Pompeii on five separate occasions, including ten days spent roaming through usually inaccessible parts of the town with a distinguished archaeologist, I have many memories associated with this ill-fated community destroyed in 79 A.D. by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. I did not, however, on any of my visits take personal photographs. Opting not to have a camera hanging from my neck like an albatross, I chose rather to take "mind pictures," using the lenses of my eyes and the print paper of my mind. A thirty-minute "time exposure" of Mt. Vesuvius that I took years ago from the balcony of a Sorrento hotel remains sharp to this day, but equally sharp is the more recent image of a plaster cast of a dog featured in the exhibit "A Day in Pompeii."

For many years, the cast of this dog was on display in a small museum at Pompeii, but when that museum closed, it was no longer to be seen. When the exhibit "A Day in Pompeii" was announced, word spread quickly and excitedly among the state's teachers of Latin that the famous dog cast was in fact coming to Alabama!



There in a room containing the casts of seven human victims gasping in agony their final breaths, my attention was drawn strangely and inexplicably to the one canine victim. Was I being drawn by the soft spot in my heart for animals, or was I simply diverting my mind from a demise that could just as easily have been mine?

As I looked down at the cast of this dog cradled in a bed of volcanic ash, I remembered fondly a dog named "Billy" whom I had once befriended near the house of Caecilius in Pompeii. The many dogs roaming Pompeii today are in fact pets of the site's guards, who often give them special names. This particular one had been named after the current President of the United States. Billy was always glad to spot me arriving with a portion of prosciutto snatched from the hotel's breakfast buffet. Seeing the remains of Billy's ancestor lying there on a bed of "sad ash" brought to mind a sorrowful Latin poem by his human contemporary Martial:

Hic est pampineis viridis modo Vesvius umbris;  
presserat hic madidos nobilis uva lacus;  
haec iuga, quam Nysae colles plus Bacchus amavit;  
hoc nuper Satyri monte dedere choros;  
haec Veneris sedes, Lacedaemone gratior illi;  
hic locus Herculeo numine clarus.  
cuncta iacent flammis et tristi mersa favilla:  
nec superi vellent hoc licuisse sibi.

Here lies Vesuvius, once green with shadowy vines,  
Its vats once filled to dripping with the noble grape,  
Its ridges once loved by Bacchus more than his own,  
A mountain once alive with the dancing of Satyrs,  
A haunt of Venus once dearer to her than Helen's,  
A place of renown once sacred to Hercules.  
All lies buried now, drowned by flames and sad ash.  
The gods themselves would not have wanted this.

Martial, Epigrams, IV.44.

Those who missed the Mobile exhibit will be glad to learn that another display of artifacts from Pompeii will be featured October 14 - January 27, 2007, at the Birmingham Museum of Art. I look forward to that exhibit, but for now the images of "A Day in Pompeii" remain as indelible for me as Martial's mournful line . . . cuncta iacent flammis et tristi mersa favilla.

Peter N. Howard,  
Professor of Classics,  
Troy University ■

Man holding cloth to mouth  
Copyright Soprintendenza archeologica di Pompei

# SUPER Teacher Institute

## Presents the 2007 Summer Seminars and Workshops

The 2007 SUPER Teacher Seminars and Workshops were a great success. Teachers from all over the state gathered to learn and discuss a variety of topics led by some of our nation's top scholars. Read below what the teachers and scholars themselves had to say about the 2007 SUPER Teacher Institute.

### Lincoln's 'Gettysburg Address' and the Transformation of the American Union

June 14

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

Led by Dr. Robert M. Schaeffer, University of Mobile

"Dr. Schaefer gave a very interesting and informative description of the battle of Gettysburg, and followed with insightful information about Lincoln's reference to and influence by the Greeks, the original founding fathers, and the Declaration of Independence. More interesting to me was the connection he made between today's political parties and the "natural law" doctrine established by Socrates, continued with Pericles, Jefferson, and Lincoln. I think this lecture helps us all put into perspective the whole idea of a country going to war; the necessity of it, the brutality of it, but also the honor given to its heroes by a president."

- Jennifer Reblin, American History, Leeds High School

"We had to think. Thinking about ways to make better American citizens and empowering our students to own our democracy - this is awe inspiring."

- Betty Christian, American History, Selma Early College High School

"Honestly, I've always dodged the teaching of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," a selection that is in our literature anthology, not because I don't think the piece is important, but because I never really understood the rhetorical significance of it. I will definitely teach this speech to my honors and Pre-AP students next year; in fact, I look forward to it. Dr. Schaeffer has inspired me to read more on my own. If an instructor can inspire that in his students, then he is a success.

- Karen Powell, English, Prattville High School



### Composition & Technology: Strategies to Help Prepare Students for College Writing

June 12

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

- Led by Dr. Karen Gardiner,  
University of Alabama

"Writing is like going to the prom. You get asked, and you're so excited, and the first thing you do is what? Go look for a dress. But you don't get your makeup done before you know what dress you're wearing. And you probably won't buy the dress until you call all your friends and ask for their opinion of it. Does it matter whether you have lipstick on your teeth when you're trying on the dress? No! That's what you check right before you walk out the door. Writing is the same way. There is a process that is followed from start to finish. Rough drafts, revisions and peer critiques all have a place in it, and it's important to put them in order."

- Karen Gardiner

Participants critique each other's writing in a peer review exercise. According to Dr. Gardiner, peer reviews teach high school students to provide feedback to each other that enhances their writing skills.

## SUPER



Dr. Halli, Professor of English and Founder and Dean of the University of Alabama Honors College, lectures on the spirit of Hamlet's inner self and his well-known soliloquies.

### Why Hamlet? The Power and Presence of Shakespeare's Best Known and Most Enigmatic Character

June 19

Altamont School

Led by Dr. Robert Halli, University of Alabama

"Why are we so taken with a fellow who is indecisive, procrastinating, verbose, hotheaded and less than successful in his relationships with others? I have been teaching about the Prince of Denmark for over 35 years, and you'd think I would know him pretty well. But there are still speeches I don't quite grasp, actions I don't completely understand, and motivations which remain obscure. That which is not perfectly understood or understandable teases us into thought. Learning about Hamlet, we learn about ourselves."

- Dr. Robert Halli

### The Middle East Faces the 21st Century

June 25-29

Birmingham-Southern College

Led by Dr. Steven Ramey, University of Alabama

#### A CONVERSATION WITH STEVEN RAMEY

*The Middle East is significant in historical context, but it's also a topic of current debate and interest. How will a better understanding of the Middle East benefit seminar participants both as teachers and as Americans?*

The Middle East is a complex and diverse area with a range of competing ethnic interests, social realities, ideologies, and religious interpretations. In the seminar we discussed this complexity in both a general sense and through specific stories of people in the region.

Participants gained a broader vision of these complexities than what is readily available in the media, which will help them present those complexities to their students and reflect on world issues as citizens.



## SUPER

*Why is it important for teachers to incorporate teaching about the Middle East into their curriculum?*

Their students need a stronger understanding of the complexity within Islam and within the Middle East because of its significance to US foreign policy, world economics and life in the contemporary United States. Helping future leaders and workers to acquire the tools of cross-cultural inquiry and knowledge about the Middle East is vital for the future of Alabama, the United States and the world.



East participants enjoy a meal of hummus, kebabs and baklava at The Pita Stop. Dr. Lamia Ben Youssef Zayzafoon, UAB, joined the group to offer insight into Middle Eastern culture.



Dr. Nadar Entessar, Chair of Political Science and Criminal Justice at the University of South Alabama, answers questions after a session on political dynamics in the Middle East.



Tom Bryant

The 2007 SUPER Teacher Institute was a success this year thanks to the assistance and generosity of many. The Alabama Humanities Foundation staff would like to extend its grateful thanks to Jimmy Wiygul and The Altamont School, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, University of Alabama, St. James School and Dr. John H. Lindsell, the Auburn University Office of Outreach, and Auburn University Montgomery. In addition, we would like to thank all of the scholars and presenters whose expertise and passion created a productive environment of learning and idea exchange. ■

# SUPER

## Prisms of Place II: Stories From Alabama's Black Belt

July 15-20

Led by Nancy Grisham Anderson,  
Auburn University Montgomery

The two years of study of the Black Belt have led me to a new vision of my state. I have come to recognize its problems and their consequences, its people and their contributions. I have a new appreciation of Alabama writers and scholars.

- Sharon Andress, History, St. James School

An easy and simplistic overview of anything is easy. Thankfully, we delved into the rich and complex depths of the Black Belt – its artists, writers, personae – and immersed ourselves in this place in order to carry it back to help others understand.

- Foster Dickson, Creative Writing, Booker T. Washington Magnet High School



Guest Scholar Dr. Bert Hitchcock lectures on humor in the stories of early Alabama.



Dr. Wayne Flynt, a guest scholar from Auburn University, poses with Linda Thomas, Jeffrey Murphy and Sharon Andress

Photos courtesy of Nancy Anderson

## East Asia

### A Cultural Studies Tour of China, Korea and Japan

July 9-13 and 16-18

Led by Dr. Ronald R. Robel, University of Alabama



Lead Scholar Dr. Ron Robel displays several artifacts that he accumulated during his travels throughout East Asia.



East Asia Seminar participants pose underneath authentic Asian scrolls.



East Asia participants took a tour of the Birmingham Museum of Art's Asian collection during their field trip to Birmingham. 1000-armed Avalokitesvara (Sahasrabhuja) Sino-Tibetan, 18th century gilt bronze. Collection of the Birmingham Museum of Art; Museum purchase with funds provided by the 1998 Museum Dinner and Ball 1999.9



# Using the Past to Reshape the Future

Rosa Parks Library and Museum, ~~Montgomery~~

*Alabama*  
SHARE THE WONDER.

## Civil Rights Education Summit

On August 2nd and 3rd, teachers, students, community members and scholars gathered for the 2007 Civil Rights Education Summit, funded by AHF. They had a noteworthy goal: To reshape the future using the past.

“It is vitally important that we heal the wounds of history,” Georgette Norman, program coordinator, said. “In order to do that we must study and present history with a more comprehensive human approach, i.e. the causes of oppression, poverty and conflict, so that more just solutions can be formed.”

According to Georgette, that meant adopting a new approach to examining the history of the Civil Rights Movement and taking responsibility for the effects of that movement on the future.

The Summit, held on the Montgomery Campus of Troy University, asked partici-

pants an important question: What is the role of civil society in meeting the challenges of minority-majority tension in the modern nation? The Civil Rights Education Summit created a forum for public intellectual exchange and innovation by forming an interdisciplinary perspective on reshaping how the past is studied and presented. Troy University Rosa Parks Museum, Southern Poverty Law Center’s Civil Rights Memorial Center, and Auburn University Center for Arts and Humanities co-sponsored the Civil Rights Education Summit.

Using the events of the 1950s, the scholars placed special emphasis on the world that created the events, race and class perspectives and the need for effective communication among diverse audiences. The content of sessions included history, literature, music and popular culture and crossed historical periods and cultures.

One unique aspect of the Summit was “learning communities,” in which diverse groups of participants gathered in small groups to discuss culture, prejudice and the meaning of political participation in America. These groups allowed for the exchange of ideas and different viewpoints in response to speakers and workshops. The Summit will feature a follow-up session in December.

“We want to let teachers know that we are not a one-shot deal but are here to be a resource. We want to see how the information was processed and used,” Georgette said. “With more clarity, we hopefully will see that we are all woven into the same tapestry - one cloth of different colors and persuasions - and begin to act on the true possibility, probability and the can be’s so that we have a future of inclusion in one America.” ■

Photo courtesy of the Alabama Department of Tourism and Travel

# Humanities Grants Awarded

The AHF awarded grants totaling \$62,444.35 to date in FY 2007

## November '06

- Writing Today 2007  
Birmingham-Southern College  
\$2,000 outright
- 2007 Southern Voices Conference:  
Portraits of Strength and Courage  
Hoover Public Library  
\$2,000 outright
- Between Fences  
Cherokee Historical Museum  
\$2,000 outright
- Montevallo Arts Fest: A Humanities  
Dimension  
Montevallo Arts Council  
\$1,825 outright
- Alabama Frontier: Cultural Crossroads VI  
Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery  
\$2,000 outright
- The Gorham's Bluff Lecture Series  
Gorham's Bluff Institute  
\$1,988.69 outright
- Symposium on Czech History & Culture:  
Czech Nationalism  
Birmingham International Center  
\$2,000 outreach
- Storyteller in the House  
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College  
\$2,000 outright

- Red Mountain Reading Series 2006-07  
Jefferson State Community College  
\$2,000 outright
- Celebrating the Life & Contributions of  
Martin Luther King  
St. Dunstan's-The Episcopal Church at  
Auburn University  
\$1,448.91 outright
- Heritage Expo  
AAMU Family & Consumer Sciences  
Department  
\$1,922.47 outright

## February '07

- Henry County "Between Fences" Speakers  
Series  
Henry County Historical Group  
\$2,000 outright
- Bringing Tallulah to Demopolis  
Demopolis Public Library  
\$1,402.28 outright
- Hazel Brannon Smith Story  
University of Alabama Center for Public  
TV & Radio  
\$2,000 outright
- Montevallo Literary Festival  
University of Montevallo  
\$2,000 outright

## March '07

- Voices of Heritage: The Negro Spiritual  
Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.  
\$2,000 outright
- Using the Past to Reshape the Future:  
Civil Rights Education Summit  
Troy University Rosa Parks Museum  
\$7,757 outright
- W.I.L.D. (Weekend Immersed in  
Language Development)  
Alabama Association of Foreign Language  
Teachers (AAFLT)  
\$6,600 outright
- Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project,  
2007-2008 Humanities Course  
AU Center for the Arts + Humanities  
\$8,500 outright

## May '07

- Symposium on the Legend of John Henry  
Alabama Folklife Association  
\$2,000 outright
- Our Mockingbird  
Birmingham Pledge Foundation  
\$2,000 outright, \$2,000 matching
- Community Read 2007  
IMPACT Learning Center  
\$2,000 outright ■



Alabama Humanities Foundation  
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Birmingham, AL 35205

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