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Michael Taplin

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Glitterary Festival Examines Boundaries of Literature and Gender

Organizers hope to spark community conversation surrounding race, class and intersectionality

APRIL 26, 2022 BY MICHAEL TAPLIN



OXFORD, Miss. – Members of the [University of Mississippi](#) and Oxford communities can listen and learn about queer ideas and representation in literature by attending the Glitterary Festival, a queer literary festival with a broad definition of what is literature and what is queer.

The festival, set for Friday (April 29) in the Gertrude C. Ford Ballroom at The Inn at Ole Miss, is intended to spark conversation about boundaries surrounding queer identity and about race, class and issues of intersectionality.

Beth Ann Fennelly, UM professor of [English](#) and co-founder of the festival, is ready for community members to celebrate the university's queer writers.

"I founded the festival with one of the graduate students in our MFA program, Kate Leland, to celebrate the robust population of queer writers in our communities," Fennelly said. "Unlikely as it seems, Oxford has become a place where important and soulful work is being done in the intersection of queer studies and literature.

"We want to create a space for these nontraditional conversations to take place."

Hosted by the [Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies](#) in conjunction with Oxford Pride, the festival will feature roundtable discussions with renowned writers, including Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jericho Brown.

"We were delighted to partner with Beth Ann Fennelly to organize the Glitterary Festival as part of this year's Oxford Pride," said Jamie Harker, director of the Isom Center. "One of our core goals at the Sarah Isom Center is the creation of inclusive spaces, both on campus and in the larger community."

"We have been expanding events, with community and university partners, over the years as part of Oxford Pride. A literary festival focusing on LGBTQ+ authors was a welcome addition to our broader array of events, including the Pride parade, Lavender Graduation and an annual drag show at the Lyric."

The festival schedule includes:

- 9-10 a.m. – Queer Ecology Roundtable
- 10:15-11:15 a.m. – ACE Roundtable
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Writing the Queer Body
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Getting Queer Words into the World
- 3:45-4:45 p.m. – Queer Intersections
- 5-6 p.m. – Happy Hour

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Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

- 6:15-7:30 p.m. – Keynote Readings

All events are free and open to the public. For more information on the Glitterary Festival, go to <https://glitteraryfestival.com>, and click [here](#) for all Oxford Pride events.

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“James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier,” a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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