



Flannery O'Connor. Portrait by Baxter Knowlton

The Twelfth
Oxford Conference for the Book
The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi
April 7-9, 2005

Sponsored by the University of Mississippi, Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Lafayette County Literacy Council, Mississippi Library Commission, and Square Books and partially funded by a contribution from the R&B Feder Foundation for the Beaux Arts and grants from the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.

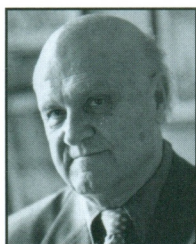


JULIA RHOLES joined the University of Mississippi Libraries as Dean of Libraries in 2003. A native Texan, she holds degrees from Mount Holyoke College, the University of Texas, and Rutgers University. She has held librarian positions at Texas A&M University and the University of Kansas.

ELAINE H. SCOTT is former chair of the Arkansas State Board of Education and member of the Education Commission of the States from 1987 to 1997. She is a leader in several organizations concerned with education, teacher training, libraries, and literacy.



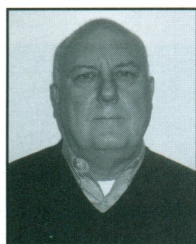
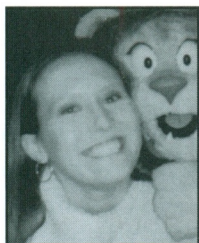
She has worked with the Reading Is Fundamental program since 1974 and received the RIF Leader for Literacy Award in April 1994.



WILLIAM A. SESSIONS, a longtime friend of Flannery O'Connor and her mother, Regina Cline O'Connor, is a member of the board of directors of the Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation, Inc. He is also the executor of the literary estate of O'Connor's

friend and correspondent Elizabeth Hester, referred to in the collected letters as "A." Regents' Professor of English Emeritus at Georgia State University, Sessions is the author of essays on Flannery O'Connor and the forthcoming authorized biography of the author.

KATIE SNODGRASS is manager of Square Books Jr., an independent children's bookstore in Oxford, Mississippi.



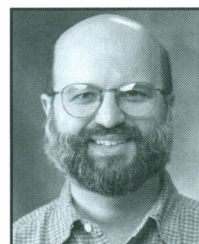
KEITH STEPHENS is senior analyst in the Research and Analysis Office of the National Endowment for the Arts. His primary duties include the analysis of applicant and grant information for internal and congressional reporting, as

well as writing and editing. He has been at the Endowment since 1978. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada.

AMY STOLLS is the author of *Palms to the Ground*, a young adult novel published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Since 1988, Stolls has also served as literature specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts, where she has worked with hundreds of distinguished authors, translators, editors, booksellers, publishers, and other literary experts around the country. She has an MFA from American University, and on occasion teaches a course there on contemporary literature.



JAMES CALDER



JOSEPH URGO chairs the English Department at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are *Willa Cather and the Myth of American Migration*; *Faulkner's Apocrypha: "A Fable," Snopes, and the Spirit of Human Rebellion*; and *In the Age of Distraction*.

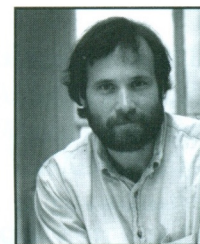
KATRINA VANDENBERG is a poet whose work has appeared in *American Scholar*, *Iowa Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and other magazines. Her first book of poems, *Atlas*, was published by Milkweed Editions in 2004. She was a 1999-2000 Fulbright fellow to the Netherlands and is currently the visiting writer at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.



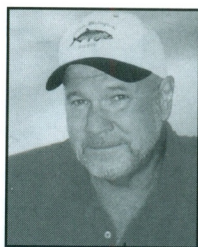
PIPER WARLICK

ASHLEY WARLICK is the author of three novels: *The Distance from the Heart of Things*, *The Summer after June*, and *Seek the Living*, all published by Houghton Mifflin. The youngest winner of the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship, she currently teaches in the MFA program at Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina.

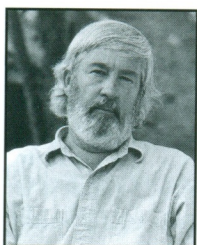
BRAD WATSON was born in Meridian, Mississippi. He received the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for the story collection *Last Days of the Dog-Men* and was a finalist for the National Book Award for his first novel, *The Heaven of Mercury*. He is currently John and Renée Grisham Visiting Southern Writer at the University of Mississippi.



RANDY WAYNE WHITE is the author of *Everglades*, *Twelve Mile Limit*, *Shark River*, *Ten Thousand Islands*, *The Mangrove Coast*, *North of Havana*, the *New York Times* best-selling *Tampa Burn*, and other novels in a series featuring marine biologist Doc Ford.



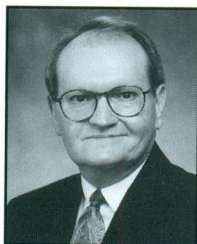
The 12th novel in the series, *Dead of Night*, was released this spring. White is also the author of a collection of essays and articles, *Batfishing in the Rainforest*, and wrote and narrated an award-winning documentary film, *The Gift of the Game*, about Little League teams founded by Ernest Hemingway before Castro came to power in Cuba.



CURTIS WILKIE was a reporter for the *Clarksdale Press Register* in his home state of Mississippi during the 1960s and then served as a national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe* for 26 years. He has written for many national magazines, including

Newsweek and the *New Republic*. He is coauthor, with Jim McDougal, of *Arkansas Mischievous: The Birth of a National Scandal* and author of *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey through Events that Shaped the Modern South*. Wilkie holds the Kelly Gene Cook Chair of Journalism at the University of Mississippi.

CHARLES REAGAN WILSON is the author of *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865-1920*, editor of *Religion in the South*, and coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. His most recent publication is a collection of essays titled *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis*. He is director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and professor of history and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi.



ETHEL YOUNG-MINOR is an assistant professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Mississippi. She is coeditor of *Black Sermons*, a collection of African American sermons delivered from 1901 to 2000, and has published articles in the *College Language Association Journal* and *Women's Studies International*. Her current research focuses on African American women in performance.

KAREN SPEARS ZACHARIAS is the author of *Hero Mama: A Daughter Remembers the Father She Lost in Vietnam—and the Mother Who Held Her Family Together*. Winner of the 2002 C. B. Bethen Award for Distinguished Feature Writing and other awards, she has lectured around the country at numerous veterans' events. Her commentary has appeared in the *New York Times*, on NPR's *All Things Considered*, and on public radio in Georgia and Oregon.



Baxter Knowlton

Illustrating the 2005 Oxford Conference for the Book posters, printed programs, and T-shirts is a painting of Flannery O'Connor by Baxter Knowlton. His painting of Walker Percy illustrated materials for the 2004 conference.

Baxter Knowlton is a native Mississippian who currently lives in Little Rock, Arkansas. Educated at Yale University, Knowlton has exhibited throughout Mississippi, and his work appears in collections throughout the Southeast. Most recently, Knowlton completed a 2005 calendar for Woodlands Specialists, based in Selma, Alabama. His work can also be seen at L & M's restaurant in Oxford.

Flannery O'Connor

in Her Own Words

The novelist with Christian concerns will find in modern life distortions which are repugnant to him, and his problem will be to make them appear as distortions to an audience which is used to seeing them as natural; and he may be forced to take ever more violent means to get his vision across to this hostile audience. When you can assume that your audience holds the same beliefs you do, you can relax a little and use more normal ways of talking to it; when you have to assume that it does not, then you have to make your vision apparent by shock—to the hard of hearing you shout, and for the blind you draw large and startling figures.

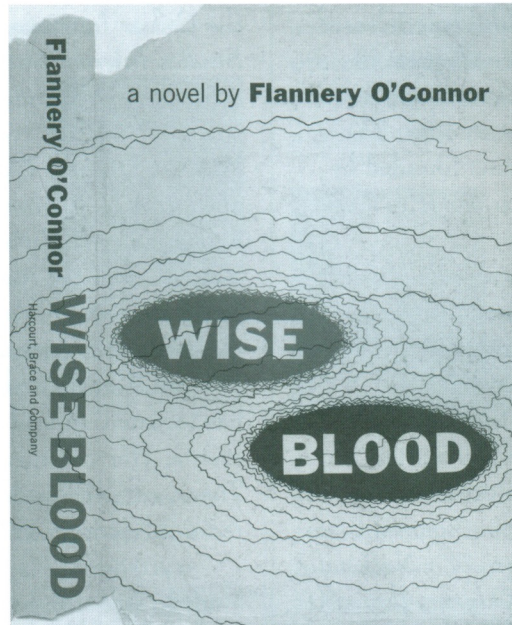
—“THE FICTION WRITER
AND HIS COUNTRY”

I often ask myself what makes a story work, and what makes it hold up as a story, and I have decided that it is probably some action, some gesture of a character that is unlike any other in the story, one which indicates where the real heart of the story lies. This would have to be an action or a gesture which was both totally right and totally unexpected; it would have to be one that was both in character and beyond character; it would have to suggest both the world and eternity. The action or gesture I'm talking about would have to be on the anagogical level, that is, the level which has to do with the Divine life and our participation in it. It would be a gesture that transcended any neat allegory that might have been intended or any pat moral categories a reader could make. It would be a gesture which somehow made contact with mystery.

—“ON HER OWN WORK”

Now I'd better stop here and explain how I'm using the word art. Art is a word that immediately scares people off, as being a little too grand. But all I mean by art is writing something that is valuable in itself and that works in itself. The basis of art is truth, both in matter and in mode. The person who aims after art in his work aims after truth, in an imaginative sense, no more and no less.

—“THE NATURE AND AIM OF FICTION”



Jacket from first-edition copy of *Wise Blood* owned by the author's friend Mildred Porter, of Milledgeville, Georgia

Whenever I'm asked why Southern writers particularly have a penchant for writing about freaks, I say it is because we are still able to recognize one. To be able to recognize a freak, you have to have some conception of the whole man, and in the South the general conception of man is still, in the main, theological. That is a large statement, and it is dangerous to make it, for almost anything you say about Southern belief can be denied in the next breath with equal propriety. But approaching the subject from the standpoint of the writer, I think it is safe to say that while the South is hardly Christ-centered, it is most certainly Christ-haunted. The Southerner, who isn't convinced of it, is very much afraid that he may have been formed in the image and likeness of God. Ghosts can be very fierce and instructive. They cast strange shadows, particularly in our literature. In any case, it is when the freak can be sensed as a figure for our essential

displacement that he attains some depth in literature.

There is another reason in the Southern situation that makes for a tendency toward the grotesque and this is the prevalence of good Southern writers. I think the writer is initially set going by literature more than life. When there are many writers all employing the same idiom, all looking about on more or less the same social scene, the individual writers will have to be more than ever careful that he isn't just doing badly what has already been done to completion. The presence alone of Faulkner in our midst makes a great difference in what the writer can and cannot permit himself to do. Nobody wants his mule and wagon stalled on the same track the Dixie Limited is roaring down.

—“SOME ASPECTS OF THE GROTESQUE IN SOUTHERN FICTION”

Probably any of the arts that are not performed in chorus-line are going to come in for a certain amount of romanticizing, but it seems to be particularly bad to do this to writers and especially fiction writers, because fiction writers engage in the homeliest, and most concrete, and most unromanticizable of all arts.

—“THE REGIONAL WRITER”

All quotations are from Flannery O'Connor's *Mystery and Manners: Occasional Prose*, selected and edited by Sally and Robert Fitzgerald.

In Memoriam

Larry Brown 1951-2004

Larry Brown is the author of five novels, two story collections, and two books of essays, all centered upon the landscape and lives of his native Mississippi. His work earned widespread critical acclaim and attracted a vast audience of devoted readers. Translated into numerous languages, his writing received the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award and the Southern Book Critics Circle Award. Harry Crews wrote that Larry Brown had "a strong, true voice that speaks with authority and compassion. Larry Brown's work is exceptional by any standard." Simply put, Barry Hannah says, "He is a master."

The Rabbit Factory, 2003

Billy Ray's Farm, 2001

Fay, 2000

Father and Son, 1996

On Fire, 1994

Joe, 1991

Big Bad Love, 1990

Dirty Work, 1989

Facing the Music, 1988



BRUCE NEWMAN/OXFORD EAGLE

Friends and admirers of Larry Brown are invited to contribute to an endowment fund that will provide an annual award to a Lafayette High School student showing promise or achievement in the arts. Please send contributions to the following address and note on the donation that it is for the Larry Brown Creative Arts Award.

Larry Brown Creative Arts Award
Greater Oxford Community Foundation
c/o Claiborne Barksdale
1003 Jefferson Avenue
Oxford, Mississippi 38655

The Greater Oxford Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization and will provide receipts for tax purposes. For details, go to the Web site www.createfoundation.com/page17813.cfm.

Save the Dates

Southern Gardens Symposium

April 22-23, 2005

The symposium features famed Mississippi gardener Felder Rushing, landscape architect and garden historian James Cothran, and Rowan Oak restoration experts Kevin Risk and Ed Blake. Registration includes guided tours of gardens in both Oxford and nearby Holly Springs, presentations on Southern gardens and historic garden renovation, a tea party, and a lunch lecture. The fee for the symposium is \$85; no refunds will be given after April 10. For more information or to register, visit www.outreach.olemiss.edu/gardening.

Double Decker Weekend Events

April 29-May 1, 2005

A number of events have been scheduled this year to coincide with Oxford's annual Double Decker Arts Festival. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Friday is A Southern Sampler, a series of programs including talks on storytelling, Delta blues, and dirt track auto racing; a screening of a new documentary film on the Freedom Riders; and a walk through Bailey's Woods. At 7:00 p.m. on Friday is Double Decker Story Fest, featuring members of the North Mississippi Storytelling Guild. The Legends of Rock and Roll tribute concert is slated for Saturday at 8:00 p.m. at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, while a free gospel concert is set for Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the Grove. All events except the Legends of Rock and Roll concert are free and open to the public without registration. For more information, visit www.outreach.olemiss.edu/culture/double_decker/. To purchase tickets for the Legends of Rock and Roll, visit www.olemiss.edu/depts/fordcenter.

Yoknapatawpha Summer Writers' Workshop

June 24-26, 2005

The creative writing workshop in fiction and poetry features everything from workshops to lectures on craft, panel discussions, book signings, and readings, as well as Southern catfish at its finest. Featured faculty include fiction writers Tom Franklin, David Galef, and Scott Morris, and storyteller Rebecca Jernigan. Registration is open to anyone interested in writing. Preregistration is required. Tuition for the workshop is \$295 per person. After May 1, the tuition is \$325. The fee includes workshops, lectures, panel discussions, readings, and one evening reception. The registration deadline is Friday, June 10, 2005. For more information or to register, visit www.outreach.olemiss.edu/summer/yokna_writers/.

Southern Writers, Southern Writing Graduate Student Conference

July 22-23, 2005

The 11th annual program of creative and critical readings will address various topics on or about the South. Critical topics are not restricted to literature; we welcome submissions from other disciplines and are particularly interested in interdisciplinary perspectives. Students whose papers are accepted may register for the 32nd annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference without paying a registration fee. For more information, visit

either the graduate conference Web site at www.olemiss.edu/conf/sws or www.outreach.olemiss.edu/events/faulkner or write to Southern Writers, Southern Writing, Department of English, C128 Bondurant, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677-1848.

Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference

July 24-28, 2005

The 32nd annual conference will attempt to take the measure of Faulkner's "inheritance": the varied elements that went into his making and the making of his work. In addition to paper presentations by noted scholars, other program events include discussions by Faulkner friends and family, sessions on teaching Faulkner, an exhibition of Faulkner books, manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia at the University's John Davis Williams Library, "Faulkner on the Fringe"—an "open-mike" evening at the Southside Gallery, guided daylong tours of northeast Mississippi, and a picnic served at Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak. Paper presentations and most other events are free and open to the public without registration, although there is a charge for some ancillary events. For more information, visit www.outreach.olemiss.edu/events/faulkner/.

Music of the South Symposium

September 1-3, 2005

Participants will experience the whole range of Southern music, including country, bluegrass, blues, gospel, jazz, rock and roll, and art music through performances, workshops, and panel discussions. Bill C. Malone, professor emeritus of history at Tulane University and author of the groundbreaking book *Country Music, U.S.A.*, among other works, delivers the meeting's keynote address. Most conference events are free and open to the public without registration, although there is a charge for some ancillary events. For more information as it becomes available, visit www.olemiss.edu/depts./south.

Southern Foodways Field Trip and Symposium (with Delta Divertissement)

July 7-10 and October 27-30, 2005

(Delta Divertissement, October 26-27)

This year's July field trip is a sugar-fueled excursion to New Orleans and environs. The eighth annual fall symposium also has sugar as a theme and as in past years includes lectures, film screenings, concerts, and meals. The event draws cookbook authors, anthropologists, culinary historians, home cooks, organic gardeners, food journalists, and inquisitive eaters of all races and from all parts of the country, and all with a strong desire to nurture and celebrate the food-centered customs of the South. An overnight trip to Greenwood, home of Viking Range Corporation, is set to precede the symposium. For more information as it becomes available, including registrations fees, visit www.southernfoodways.com.

For further information or questions about these events, call Mary Beth Lasseter at 662-915-5993 or e-mail her at marybeth@olemiss.edu.

THE CITY OF OXFORD, originally part of the Chickasaw Cession, was incorporated by Legislative Act in 1837. The town was captured during the Civil War by Union troops, and most of its buildings were burned to the ground, although many historic structures remain. Oxford has always been known for its close relationship with the University of Mississippi, whose approximately 13,000 students make it roughly the same size as the town. Many people visit Oxford each year to see the University, Rowan Oak, and other classic Southern architecture, including the Lafayette County Courthouse, Isom Place, built in 1838, and homes on the streets surrounding the town square. Visitors and residents alike appreciate the close and gentle beauty of the Lafayette County countryside, which includes National Forest land and such buildings as College Hill Church, where William and Estelle Faulkner were married in 1929. Named by *USA Today* as one of the top six college towns in the United States, Oxford frequently is described, to the surprise of some of its residents, as a desirable place to live or visit, most recently by *Men's Journal* and *Conde Nast Traveler*.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's oldest public institution of higher learning and has been a recognized leader in teaching, research, and public service since opening in 1848. In November of that year a faculty of four offered liberal arts instruction to 80 students. From those beginnings, the student body has increased to its current enrollment of over 13,000 on the main Oxford campus. The campus itself has expanded from 640 acres in 1848 to more than 2,500 acres. The academic division of the Oxford campus is composed of the College of Liberal Arts (1848), School of Law, which is the fourth oldest state-supported law school in the nation (1854), School of Engineering (1900), School of Education (1903), School of Pharmacy (1908), School of Business Administration (1917), Graduate School (1927), School of Accountancy (1978), and School of Applied Sciences (2001). The Schools of Medicine (1903), Nursing (1958), Health Related Professions (1972), and Dentistry (1973) are located at the Jackson campus. In all, the University offers more than 100 programs of study. The University produced its 24th Rhodes Scholar in 1998 and since then has produced three Truman Scholars, five Goldwater Scholars, a Marshall Scholar, and three Fulbright Scholars.

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE was established at the University of Mississippi in 1977. Since then, the Center has gained an international reputation for innovative education and scholarship on the American South. The Center administers BA and MA programs in Southern Studies, sponsors research and documentary projects on all aspects of Southern culture, and encourages public understanding of the South through publications, media productions, lectures, performances, and exhibitions. Among the programs the Center sponsors or cosponsors are the Oxford Conference for the Book in the spring, the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference in the summer, and a history symposium and the Southern Foodways Symposium in October. Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., except for University holidays. Telephone: 662-915-5993.

ROWAN OAK, William Faulkner's home, was built by Colonel Sheegog in 1844 and bought by Faulkner in 1930. This plantation-style house was his home until his death in 1962. Open 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Mondays. Telephone: 662-234-3284.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS: The Mary Buie Museum (1939) and the adjoining Kate Skipwith Teaching Museum (1976) house collections representing the fields of archaeology, art, anthropology, decorative arts, history, science, and technology. Particularly outstanding are the David M. Robinson Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, the Millington-Barnard Collection of 19th-century scientific instruments, and the Southern Folk Art Collection, centered on the paintings of Oxford artist Theora Hamblett. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays and on University holidays. Telephone: 662-915-7073.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY: Over 500 manuscript collections and over 30,000 volumes of Mississippiana are housed here. Among its permanent exhibits are William Faulkner's Nobel Prize and signed first editions and manuscripts. The Seymour Lawrence Room, a gift of the late publisher, contains signed first editions, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence, and memorabilia of the dozens of authors he published, including J. P. Donleavy, Barry Hannah, Jim Harrison, and Jayne Anne Phillips. The Southern Media Archive and Visual Collections contain the images of generations of Mississippians and include the collections of photographers Martin Dain and J. R. Cofield. A recent addition to Special Collections, the Blues Archive houses the *Living Blues* Archival Collection and over 50,000 sound recordings and personal collections of blues artists such as B. B. King. During the 2005 Oxford Conference for the Book, Archives and Special Collections will also be featuring an exhibition devoted to the life and work of Flannery O'Connor and Southern gothic novels, including a hand-painted invitation sent by O'Connor to Mrs. Mildred Porter. It shows two geese in flight with the words "If you don't hurry, we won't get there in time to say: 'Merry Christmas from M. F. O'Connor.'" Other exhibitions include *Murder with Southern Hospitality: An Exhibition of Mississippi Murder Mysteries* and *Blinking Buzzards and Marble Fauns: The Young Lives of Eudora Welty and William Faulkner*. Open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for University holidays. Telephone: 662-915-7408.

THE LAFAYETTE COUNTRY LITERACY COUNCIL is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote literacy and adult education throughout the county by means of adult one-on-one tutoring, family literacy programs, and working with partner agencies. Services are free of charge. The Council depends on community support for volunteers and financial contributions. Telephone: 662-234-4234.

YOUNG AUTHORS FAIR: Richard Peck will participate in the 2005 Young Authors Fair sponsored by the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford. This year, in preparation for the fair, students in the fifth grade are reading Peck's *A Year Down Yonder* and taking advantage of opportunities to write, illustrate, and bind a book to be displayed on April 8. Members of Junior Auxiliary are encouraging every fifth grader in the county to write a book for the fair as well as making it possible for them to attend the Richard Peck program at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts and to have him sign their books at Square Books Jr. 3:30-4:30 p.m. on April 8. The Lafayette County Literacy Council is assisting with the project and giving each child a T-shirt as part of the occasion. For information about the book signing, call Square Books Jr. at 662-236-2207.

The Twelfth Oxford Conference for the Book



The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Dedicated to Flannery O'Connor

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Department of English, Department of Journalism, John Davis Williams Library, Sally McConnell Barksdale Honors College, John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writers Fund, Barksdale Reading Institute, Sarah Isom Center for Women, Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Lafayette County Literacy Council, Mississippi Library Commission, and Square Books. The 2005 conference is partially funded by the University of Mississippi, a contribution from the R&B Feder Foundation for the Beaux Arts, and grants from the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.

MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL

This program is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council. MHC's purpose is to provide public programs in traditional liberal arts disciplines to serve nonprofit groups in Mississippi.

YOKNAPATAWPHA ARTS COUNCIL

The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council is a nonprofit organization established in 1975 to access, celebrate, and promote the arts with all citizens of Oxford and Lafayette County, Mississippi. The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council is the official arts agency for the City of Oxford and Lafayette County.

TENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

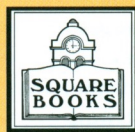
APRIL 2005
A NATIONWIDE CELEBRATION
OF POETRY

Inaugurated by the American Academy of Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month brings together publishers, bookstores, libraries, schools, and literary organizations across the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture.

For additional information, visit the Web site of the American Academy of Poets (www.poets.org) or inquire by telephone (212-274-0343) or e-mail (academy@poets.org).



For tourist information, contact:
Oxford Tourism Council
106 Ed Perry Boulevard • Oxford, MS 38655
telephone 800-758-9177 • 662-234-4680
fax 662-234-0355



For information about books and authors, contact:
Square Books
160 Courthouse Square • Oxford, MS 38655
telephone 800-468-4001 • 662-236-2262
fax 662-234-9630

For more information concerning the conference, contact:

Center for the Study of Southern Culture

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

P.O. Box 1848, University, MS 38677-1848 • telephone 662-915-5993 • fax 662-915-5814 • email cssc@olemiss.edu

Internet: <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/south>



The
University of Mississippi

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The Twelfth Oxford Conference for the Book is dedicated to Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) *in recognition of her contributions to American letters.*

For the first time in its 12-year history, the Oxford Conference for the Book has strayed beyond the borders of Mississippi to select its honored author for 2005—Flannery O'Connor, a writer of uncommon talent and enduring readership. Perhaps no Southern writer, with the exceptions of William Faulkner and Eudora Welty, is so often cited by modern writers and critics as bearing a vital influence on today's fiction.

Born on March 25, 1925, the daughter of Regina Cline and Edward Francis O'Connor, Mary Flannery, as she was called, was raised a devout Catholic in Savannah and Milledgeville, Georgia. An only child, she enjoyed reading, drawing, and raising domestic fowl, including the "frizzled" chicken she taught to walk backward. This feat prompted Pathé News of New York to send a cameraman to Savannah to record O'Connor and her chicken for news broadcasts at theaters throughout the country. She later wrote that the experience, in her fifth year, "marked me for life." As a young child, she spent summer vacations in Milledgeville with numerous aunts, great-aunts, uncles, and cousins who lived in or visited the Cline family home, where her mother grew up and which was once the governor's mansion when the town served as the Georgia state capital.

In the late 1930s, after the Depression affected Edward O'Connor's real estate business and he became ill with lupus, the family moved to the Cline home in Milledgeville. O'Connor drew cartoons and wrote for her high school newspaper and attracted attention by sewing clothes for her pet bantam hen in home economics class. Her father died in 1941, and the next year she enrolled at Georgia State College for Women, a block from her home in Milledgeville. She majored in sociology and English, wrote stories and poems for the literary magazine, and was art editor of the yearbook, for which she created humorous cartoons.

She began writing in earnest as a graduate student at the University of Iowa, where she had received a journalism scholarship in 1945 and introduced herself as Flannery O'Connor. She eventually abandoned journalism to enroll in the Writer's Workshop, publishing her first story, "The Geranium," in *Accent* at the age of 21. O'Connor stayed in Iowa City a year after receiving her MFA and the \$750 Rinehart-Iowa Fiction Award in 1947, during which time she began her first novel, *Wise Blood*, and sold "The Turkey" to *Mademoiselle* magazine and "The Train" to the *Sewanee Review*. In 1948, she continued working on *Wise Blood* at the artists' colony Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, New York. While there, she met Robert and Sally Fitzgerald, who would serve as mentors and lifelong friends.

Late in 1950, O'Connor experienced the first symptoms of lupus, an illness with which she would contend for the rest of her days. She returned to Georgia in 1951, not to the family home in Milledgeville but to the family farm, Andalusia, four miles away. At Andalusia, with the company of her mother, O'Connor dedicated herself to writing and famously raising peafowl.



Flannery O'Connor

COURTESY/ JEAN W. CASH, FLANNERY O'CONNOR: A LIFE

Her life was not reclusive, however, and despite her debilitation, she and her mother entertained family and friends at the farm, made frequent trips to town for social events and services at Sacred Heart Church, and even went to Europe for a visit to the healing waters at Lourdes and to Rome for an audience with the Pope. In addition, O'Connor traveled extensively in the United States for speaking engagements at colleges and universities.

While living at Andalusia, O'Connor published two novels and two story collections. Her debut, *Wise Blood*, appeared in 1952 and showcased her expert satiric voice as well as her thematic interest in religion and outsiders in search of grace—aspects that would mark her small yet tremendous body of work. *Wise Blood* featured one of the most memorable characters in Southern literature, Hazel Motes, a wandering antipreacher on a crusade to denounce the divinity of Jesus Christ. Many readers and critics were confounded by O'Connor's

grotesque rendering of religion in the South.

O'Connor's fiction would ultimately be labeled as Southern Gothic, and this style came to full shape in her first collection of stories, *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*, published in 1955. Featuring some of her most famous work, these "nine stories about original sin" include such classics as "Good Country People," in which a rural Bible salesman steals the wooden leg of a woman who has tried to seduce him, and the title story, in which a vacationing family crosses paths with a fugitive killer on a deserted country back road. These stories exemplify the craft of short fiction.

In 1960, O'Connor published her second novel, *The Violent Bear It Away*. This tale of religious fanaticism and a mad prophet's inner conflict once more illustrated the author's skillful expression of religion without moralizing. "I have found, in short, from reading my own writing, that my subject in fiction is the action of grace in territory held largely by the devil," O'Connor observed. "I have also found that what I write is read by an audience which puts little stock either in grace or the devil. You discover your audience at the same time and in the same way that you discover your subject; but it is an added blow."

In the late stages of her career, O'Connor focused on nonfiction works. She died on August 3, 1964, and was buried in Milledgeville beside her father. A significant portion of her work was published posthumously, including a second collection of stories, *Everything That Rises Must Converge* (1965). Her literary executor, Robert Fitzgerald, and his wife, Sally, edited a collection of essays and refurbished speeches, *Mystery and Manners* (1969), which shed light on her literary designs. *The Complete Stories*, edited by Robert Giroux, won the 1971 National Book Award for Fiction, and in 1971 Sally Fitzgerald compiled a large volume of O'Connor's letters, *The Habit of Being*, which earned the National Book Critics Circle Award. In 1988, the Library of America published a single definitive volume of O'Connor's collected works.

The Twelfth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi



Program sessions on Thursday, April 7, will be at the Oxford Conference Center.

Program sessions on Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, will be at the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

- 1:30 p.m. Welcome
Tribute to Larry Brown
Richard Howorth, Mayor
- Readings/Comments
Joseph Uργο, moderator
Ellen Douglas, Ashley Warlick, Brad Watson
- 2:30 p.m. Readings/Comments
Tom Franklin, moderator
John Green, Julia Reed,
Karen Spears Zacharias
- 4:00 p.m. The Perfect Crime
Jere Hoar, moderator
George Pelecanos, Randy Wayne White
- 5:30 p.m. *Thacker Mountain Radio*
Jim Dees, host
George Pelecanos, Randy Wayne White
The Yalobushwhackers
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Meet the Speakers
Isom Place
(Reservations Required)
- 9:00 p.m. Open Mike - Poetry & Fiction Jam
David Galef, moderator
Two Stick

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome
Robert C. Khayat, Chancellor
- Literature for Young Readers
Ethel Young-Minor, moderator
Leigh Ann Morgan, Susan Nicholas,
Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, Katie Snodgrass

Introduction
Sheldon Fogelman
Readings/Remarks
Richard Peck

- 10:30 a.m. The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow
Elaine H. Scott, moderator
Claiborne Barksdale, John Y. Cole,
Jon Parrish Peede, Keith Stephens

Noon Center for the Book and Its State Affiliates
John Y. Cole, Constance Lawson
John Davis Williams Library

Light Lunch
Mississippi Hall of Writers
Hosted by Julia Rholes
Dean of University Libraries

- 2:00 p.m. Flannery O'Connor: Her Work and Legacy
Charles Wilson, moderator
Introducing Flannery O'Connor
Beverly D. Fatherree
Flannery O'Connor and Her Father
William A. Sessions
Flannery O'Connor's Cartoons
Kelly Gerald
Flannery O'Connor's Contributions
to American and Southern Literature
Paul Elie

- 3:30 p.m. Young Authors Fair
Book Signing - Richard Peck
Square Books Jr.

- 4:30 p.m. Poetry: Readings and Remarks
Celebration of National Poetry Month
Beth Ann Fennelly, moderator
Davis McCombs, Katrina Vandenberg

7:00 p.m. Country Dinner
Taylor Grocery
Taylor Grocery Band
Taylor, Mississippi
(Reservations Required)

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

- 9:00 a.m. Finding a Voice/Reaching an Audience
Amy Stolls, moderator
Steve Almond, Paul Elie, Sheldon Fogelman,
Elizabeth Gaffney, Jeff Kleinman
- 10:30 a.m. Writing about Truth, Art, and Sex
William Dunlap, moderator
Steve Almond, Ellen Douglas,
Ronald Goldfarb, Julia Reed, Ashley Warlick
- Noon Lunch - On Your Own
- 1:30 p.m. Writing for Young People and Crossover
Literature
Phyllis J. Fogelman, moderator
John Green, Richard Peck, Amy Stolls
- 2:30 p.m. Readings/Remarks
Jamie Kornegay, moderator
Steve Almond, Tayari Jones, Amy Stolls
- 3:30 p.m. Sense of History Panel & Readings
Ted Ownby, moderator
John Bailey, Elizabeth Gaffney,
Ronne Hartfield
- 4:30 p.m. Writing about Politics
Curtis Wilkie, moderator
Hendrik Hertzberg, Nick Kotz
- 6:00 p.m. Book Signing
Closing Party
Off Square Books

Breakfast with Russian Writers

On Friday, April 8, at 7:30 a.m., conference participants are invited to Off Square Books for a breakfast honoring four visiting writers from Russia.

Nataliya Kurchatova, poet and literary critic

Yevgeniy Mayzel, fiction writer, essayist, and critic

Aleksandr Skidan, poet and literary critic

Yuri Sorochkin, fiction writer and poet

Bottletree Bakery will serve tea, coffee, and Russian cake.

The writers will read briefly from their works.

The event is part of the Open World Program, with the Library of Congress, and is sponsored by the University of Mississippi's English Department and coordinated by Doug Robinson.

The Open World Program was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1999 as a result of discussions between Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and members of Congress on ways to increase mutual understanding between Russia and the United States and to support Russia's efforts to strengthen its democratic reforms. The program was designed to bring Russian leaders to the United States to meet their American counterparts and gain firsthand knowledge of how American civil society works.

BRUCE NEWMAN

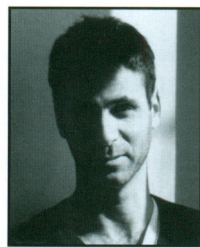


From left:
Jim Dickinson,
Slade Lewis,
Duff Dorrough

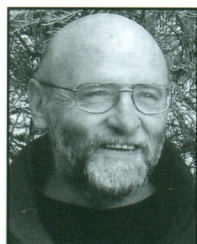
The Yalobushwhackers is *Thacker Mountain Radio's* house band each week. The band is led by Jim Dickinson, the legendary musician and producer whose career includes work with Sam Phillips at Sun Records, the Rolling Stones at Muscle Shoals, and Bob Dylan, with whom he shared a Grammy for Album of the Year in 1997. The band also includes Delta guitarist Duff Dorrough, formerly of "Mississippi's House Band," the Tangents, and bassist Slade Lewis, who performs locally with Wiley & the Checkmates.

The Speakers

STEVE ALMOND is the author of the story collections *My Life in Heavy Metal* and *The Evil B. B. Chow and Other Stories*, as well as the nonfiction work *Candyfreak*. Almond has published stories and poems in such publications as *Playboy*, *Tin House*, and *Zoetrope*:



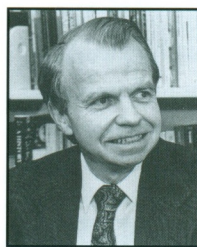
All-Story; and many have been anthologized. He is a regular commentator on the NPR affiliate WBUR in Boston and teaches creative writing at Boston College.



JOHN BAILEY is an attorney and author from Australia. His fourth book, *The Lost German Slave Girl: The Extraordinary True Story of the Slave Sally Miller and Her Flight for Freedom*, portrays a sensational trial that took place in pre-Civil War New Orleans.

Bailey spent two years researching the book, making several journeys to Louisiana and one to Germany. His previous book, *The White Divers of Broome*, won the New South Wales Premier's Award for History and the Australian Premier's Literary Award for Nonfiction.

CLAIBORNE BARKSDALE is executive director of the Barksdale Reading Institute at the University of Mississippi. After earning BA and JD degrees from Ole Miss, he practiced law in Jackson for five years, was legislative coordinator for Senator Thad Cochran for four years, spent a year as a clerk for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and has served as counsel for communications companies since 1983.



JOHN Y. COLE is director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Among his publications are *For Congress and the Nation: A Chronological History of the Library of Congress*, *The Library of Congress: The Art and Architecture of the Thomas Jefferson*

Building, and the *Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress: For Congress, the Nation, and the World*. He coordinates the National Book Festival, has helped all 50 states and the District of Columbia establish centers for the book, and inspired the creation of centers in several other countries. In 2000 the American Library Association presented him with its prestigious Lippincott Award.

JIM DEES is the host of *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a literature and music program on Mississippi's public radio stations. He has written for the *Oxford Eagle* and is a former editor of *Oxford Town*, for which he still contributes a weekly column. Most recently, he edited the collection *They Write among Us: New Stories and Essays from the Best of Oxford Writers*.



CURT RICHTER

ELLEN DOUGLAS, the pseudonym of Mississippi author Josephine Ayres Haxton, is the author of six novels, two story collections, and, most recently, two collections of nonfiction: *Truth: Four Stories I Am Finally Old Enough to Tell* and *Witnessing*. Her first novel, *A Family's Affairs*, was named one of the ten best fiction titles of the year by the *New York Times*, as was *Black Cloud, White Cloud*. She received Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Awards in literature for *The Rock Cried Out* and *A Lifetime Burning*, was honored for her body of work by the Fellowship of Southern Writers in 1989, and received the 2000 American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature.



WILLIAM DUNLAP has distinguished himself as an artist, arts commentator, and educator since receiving his MFA from the University of Mississippi in 1969. His work can be found at museums across the nation and at United States embassies throughout the world.

Recipient of many awards for his paintings, he received an Emmy Award for his work as visual arts commentator of *Around Town* on WETA-TV, Washington, D.C.

PAUL ELIE has been an editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux since 1993.

His writing has appeared in *Commonweal*, the *New Republic*, and elsewhere. His book *The Life You Save May Be Your Own: An American Pilgrimage*, which examines the work of

Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Flannery O'Connor, and Walker Percy, was nominated for a 2003 National Book Critics Circle award. Elie also is the editor of *A Tremor of Bliss: Contemporary Writers on the Saints*, a collection of essays by 17 authors, including Kathleen Norris, Martin Marty, and Richard Bausch.



BEVERLY D. FATHERREE teaches English at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. She has performed *Flannery O'Connor: In Her Own Words*, a one-woman show based on the author's prose, for the O'Connor Birthplace Foundation in Savannah, Georgia, and numerous other groups.

BETH ANN FENNELLY is the author of two poetry collections: *Open House*, awarded the 2001 *Kenyon Review Prize* in Poetry for a First Book, and the recently published *Tender Hooks*. Her poems have appeared in the Best American Poetry Series volumes in 1996 and 2005, *The Pushcart Prize 2001*, and other anthologies. She received a 2003 Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her book of essays, *Letters to a Young Mother*, will be published by W. W. Norton next spring. Fennelly is assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi.



PHYLLIS J. FOGELMAN, longtime children's book editor and publisher, began at Dial, then an imprint of Dutton, in 1966 as editor in chief and eventually was named president and publisher of Dial Books for Young Readers. She was given her own imprint in 1998 and retired in 2002. During her career, authors and illustrators published by Fogelman won two Newbery Medals and two Caldecott Awards. She is known as one of the first children's publishers to encourage the publishing of African American children's books, including the works of last year's Oxford Conference for the Book and Young Authors Fair speaker Mildred D. Taylor.



SHELDON FOGELMAN began representing authors and illustrators through his law firm and did so for ten years before starting the Sheldon Fogelman Agency in 1975. At that time, most of the authors and illustrators who came through his door

were already established, but the agency now regularly takes on unpublished clients. His first client was a young Maurice Sendak. Among the authors Fogelman represents are Oxford Conference for the Book speakers Mildred D. Taylor (2004) and Richard Peck (2005), both Newbery Medal recipients.

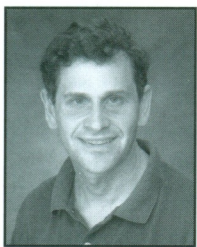
TOM FRANKLIN, writer in residence at the University of Mississippi, is a widely published author of essays and stories. The title story of his first book, *Poachers*, won the Edgar Award for Best Short Story in 1999 and was selected for inclusion in several prestigious anthologies. His first novel, *Hell at the Breach*, was named by independent booksellers in all 50 states as one of the six best books in the country for 2003. Recipient of a 1999 Guggenheim Fellowship, he has held the John and Renée Grisham position at Ole Miss and the Tennessee Williams Fellowship at Sewanee.



ELIZABETH GAFFNEY is a veteran staff editor at the *Paris Review*, where she worked for 16 years under George Plimpton. Her short stories have appeared in many magazines, and she has translated three books from German. Her first novel, *Metropolis*, set in post-Civil War New York City, was published this spring. She is now working on her second novel, *The War Effort*, set in New York between World War I and the Vietnam War. Gaffney lives in Brooklyn and teaches writing at New York University.

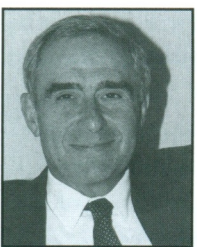


CARINE KLEIN



DAVID GALEF has published nine books: the novels *Flesh* and *Turning Japanese*; two children's books, *The Little Red Bicycle* and *Tracks*; two translations of Japanese proverbs, *Even Monkeys Fall from Trees* and *Even a Stone Buddha Can Talk*; a work of literary criticism, *The Supporting Cast*; an edited anthology of essays called *Second Thoughts: A Focus on Rereading*; and, most recently, the short-story collection *Laugh Track*. He is a professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where he also administers the MFA program in creative writing.

KELLY GERALD earned her doctorate in literature from Auburn University, where she wrote a dissertation on Flannery O'Connor's early work as a visual artist. She has given presentations on O'Connor's cartoons in the United States, England, and Europe and is working on a book on the cartoons. Former assistant director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, Gerald is currently pursuing a career as a nonprofit publications specialist in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

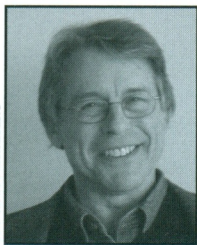


RONALD GOLDFARB is a lawyer, writer, and literary agent based in Washington, D.C. The general counsel of the Associated Writing Programs, he is the author of 10 nonfiction books, including *Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes: Robert F. Kennedy's War against Organized Crime*. He served in the Justice Department from 1961 to 1964.



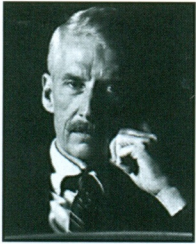
JOHN GREEN has received starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *School Library Journal*, and the *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* for his debut novel, *Looking for Alaska*, published in March 2005 by Dutton, an imprint of Penguin. He says that, like the book's narrator, Miles "Pudge" Halter, "I'm a skinny dork with a last-words obsession who attended a boarding school in Alabama." Green is a production editor and book reviewer for the American Library Association's *Booklist* magazine and a regular contributor to NPR and Chicago's public radio station WBEZ.

RONNE HARTFIELD is the author of *Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family*, which describes the journey of the author's mother from a Mississippi plantation to New Orleans and then to Bronzeville, the epicenter of black Chicago early in the 20th century. This family memoir portrays crucial moments in African American history, from the race riots of 1919 and the Great Depression to the murder of Emmett Till and the dawn of the civil rights movement. Hartfield is a senior research fellow in religion and art at the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions and an international museum consultant. She is the former Woman's Board Endowed Executive Director of Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago and was executive director of Chicago-based Urban Gateways: The Center for Arts in Education.



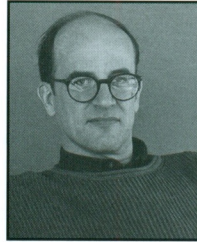
KATRINA HERTZBERG

HENDRIK HERTZBERG, the author of *Politics: Observations and Arguments, 1966-2004*, is a writer and editor for the *New Yorker* magazine and frequently contributes to its "Talk of the Town" section. Hertzberg was on the staff of the *New Republic* magazine for much of the 1980s and on the White House staff throughout the Carter administration, serving as the president's chief speech writer from 1979 to 1981.



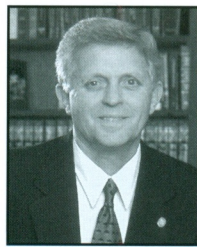
JERE HOAR is an emeritus professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi and an attorney. He is the author of the story collection *Body Parts*, which was a notable book of the year selection by the *New York Times*, *Booklist*, and *Bookman News*, and the critically acclaimed novel *The Hit*. Hoar has also written three television scripts for public broadcasting and published more than 40 articles, six monographs, a textbook chapter, and several short stories that have been anthologized.

RICHARD HOWORTH was elected mayor of Oxford, Mississippi, in 2001. He is founder of Square Books in Oxford and past president of the American Booksellers Association.



TAYARI JONES is the author of *Leaving Atlanta*, based on her experiences living in Atlanta during the Atlanta Child Murders, and *The Untelling*, a follow-up novel published this spring. *Leaving Atlanta* received the 2002 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, was named Best Novel of the Year by *Atlanta Magazine*, and was the basis for *Black Issues Book Review* naming Jones Best New Author that year. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *New Stories from the South*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and other publications. She teaches at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

ROBERT C. KHAYAT, an avid reader, has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since 1995.

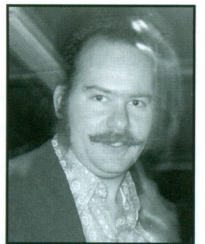


JEFF KLEINMAN is an agent with Graybill & English Literary Agency in Washington, D.C. His recent sales include Robert Hicks's *The Grove* to Warner Books for six figures and bonuses, film options pending, and Ron McLarty's *Memory of Running* to Viking Penguin for over \$2 million. He prefers narrative nonfiction with a historical bent, but also considers nature, travel, politics, espionage, and biography, among other categories. His taste in fiction includes science fiction, suspense, thrillers, mainstream commercial, and literary fiction.



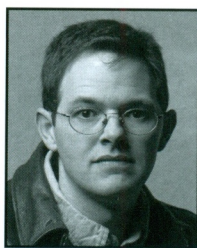
NICK KOTZ is the author of *Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Law that Changed America*, his fifth book examining American history and public policy. As a reporter for the *Des Moines Register* and the *Washington Post*, and as a freelance writer, he has won many of journalism's most important honors, including the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Washington correspondence, the Raymond Clapper Memorial Award, and the first Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award.

JAMIE KORNEGAY is a bookseller at Square Books and a producer for *Thacker Mountain Radio*. His fiction has appeared in *Stories from the Blue Moon Café II* and *They Write among Us*.



CONSTANCE LAWSON is coordinator for the Mississippi Center for the Book at the Mississippi Library Commission. Programs and activities for which she is responsible include coordinating the 2004 "Mississippi Reads" statewide reading initiative, Mississippi's annual participation in the National Book Festival, and other events to promote reading. She also serves as editor of the Center's quarterly newsletter, *The Mockingbird*, and cultivates partnerships with local libraries, educators, writers, bookstores, and other entities.

DAVIS MCCOMBS won the 1999 Yale Younger Poets Prize for his book *Ultima Thule*. His poem "The River and under the River" was selected by Adrienne Rich for inclusion in *The Best American Poetry 1996*. His work has appeared in the *Missouri Review* (which in 1998 named McCombs its Tom McAfee Discovery Feature poet), *no roses review*, and the *Columbia Poetry Review*. He lives in Munfordville, Kentucky, and works as a park ranger at Mammoth Cave.



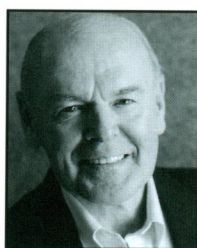
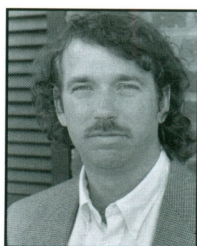
LEIGH ANN MORGAN chairs the Young Authors Fair for the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Mississippi.

SUSAN NICHOLAS has been managing director of the Lafayette County Literacy Council in Oxford since 2002. Under her leadership the Council has established "My First Chapter," an early intervention literacy program, and distributed thousands of books to the children of Lafayette County.



ROSEMARY OLIPHANT-INGHAM is associate professor of English education at the University of Mississippi, where she teaches children's and adolescent literature. As a reviewer for the National Council of Teachers of English, she has contributed to two editions of *Books for You* and has served on the international Reading Association's Children's Choices committee. She has published a biographical sketch of Louisa May Alcott and is currently writing a biography of Karen Hesse.

TED OWNBY is the author of *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920* and *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1908*. He teaches Southern Studies and history at the University of Mississippi.



RICHARD PECK has written more than 30 novels for middle graders and young adults. He has won almost every national children's fiction award and was the first children's author to be awarded a National Humanities Medal. His *A Year Down Yonder* won the 2001 Newbery Medal, and its prequel, *A Long Way from Chicago*, was a National Book Award finalist and a Newbery Honor Book. His recent books are the story collection *Past Perfect, Present Tense* and *The River between Us*, a Civil War novel for young adults. He lives in New York City.

JON PARRISH PEEDE is counselor to the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and director of NEA's program Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience. After receiving a BS from Vanderbilt and an MA in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi, he worked as an editor for Mercer University Press and was director of communications at Millsaps College. Peede has published widely and is coediting an essay collection on Flannery O'Connor.



GEORGE P. PELECANOS is the author of 13 crime/noir novels set in and around Washington, D.C., including *The Sweet Forever*, *Shame the Devil*, *Right as Rain*, *Hell to Pay* (the recipient of the 2003 *Los Angeles Times* Book Award), *Hard Revolution*, and his latest, *Drama City*, released this spring. He is an award-winning journalist and essayist who has written for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *GQ*, *Uncut*, *Mojo*, and numerous other publications. *Esquire* magazine called Pelecanos "the poet laureate of the D.C. crime world." In addition to writing, he has produced several feature films and is a staff writer and story editor for the acclaimed HBO dramatic series *The Wire*.

JULIA REED is a senior writer for *Vogue* magazine, corresponding editor at *Newsweek*, and contributing writer for the *London Telegraph* and the *New York Times*. The Greenville, Mississippi, native published her first book, *Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena*, in April 2004. A paperback edition, with additional essays, will be issued this spring.

