



Larry Brown, Oxford, 1990. © Tom Rankin

The Fourteenth
Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

March 22 - 24, 2007



Steve Yarbrough, a native of the Mississippi Delta town of Indianola, is the author of three story collections and four novels. He has taught at California State University, Fresno

since 1988. He was 1999–2000 Visiting Grisham Writer at the University of Mississippi, where he earned BA and MA degrees in English. He received an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arkansas. He won the California Book Award from the Commonwealth Club of California in 2000 and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award in Fiction in 2005.

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 Studies International*. Her current research focuses on African American women in performance.



Shay Youngblood is the author of the novels *Black Girl in Paris* and *Soul Kiss* and a story collection, *The Big Mama Stories*. Her plays *Amazing Grace*, *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*, and *Talking Bones* have been widely produced. Her other plays include *Black Power Barbie* and *Communism Killed My Dog*. Among her many awards are a Pushcart Prize for fiction, a Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, and several NAACP Theater Awards. She has taught creative writing at New York University and was the 2002–2003 John and Renée Grisham Visiting Southern Writer at the University of Mississippi.



Tatiana Zima is a poet and “culture promoter,” as she calls herself. Born in 1968 in the port of Vanino, she currently lives in Vladivostok, a city in the Russian Far East. She has been extensively published by local and national liter-

ary magazines and is the author of the award-winning book *Brackets*. She is also a publisher of the Vladivostok alternative poetry collection *Fishes and Birds*.

In Tune with Larry

In the last decade of his life, Larry Brown was as much an aspiring musician as he was a novelist. At times, maybe more so. He was a self-taught southpaw guitarist who had little interest in chords outside of G, C, and D. He loved making music late at night, usually, and almost always in the privacy of his “Cool Pad,” which is what he called his carport office, or in the company of pals. Listening to music was just as much a passion: “I lowride in the country in the evening and listen to music ... just about every day of the year,” he wrote. “Music takes me to a place where I have been over and over and will be again, and it’s a place where you go inside a song with the people who are singing it and playing ... the words and the melody are like familiar old friends you can hear from any time you want to.” His appreciation for music drew him to musicians, in Oxford and elsewhere, just as his writing as spare, haunting, and bluesy as any old-time ballad drew musicians to him. His Rolodex was a who’s who of roots music: He counted Robert Earl Keen, Ben Weaver, Brent Best, Vic Chesnutt, Cary Hudson, Duff Durrrough, and Alejandro Escovedo as friends, among others, and even toured with Escovedo. The country star Tim McGraw was another devoted fan who currently holds the film options on some of Larry’s novels. The panel “Larry Brown and Music” will explore Larry’s love for music and his affinity for musicians, as well as musicians’ affinities for him, and will further delve into the overlaps between fiction writing and songwriting. To properly cap it off, a tribute concert will be held that night at Proud Larry’s, emceed by fellow novelist/musician Clyde Edgerton and featuring some of Larry’s closest musical confidantes, with proceeds benefiting the Larry Brown Scholarship Fund at Lafayette High School. The weekend will see the release of a special, conference-edition version of *Just One More*, a Larry Brown tribute CD produced by

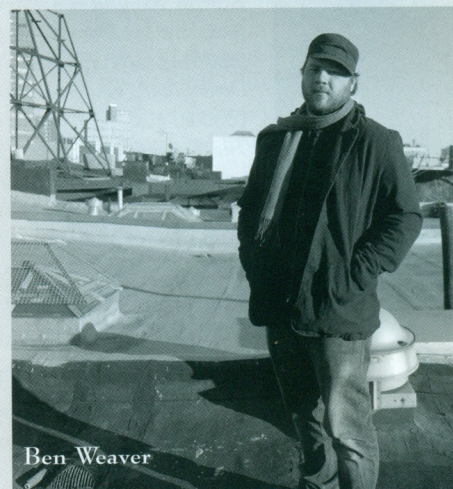
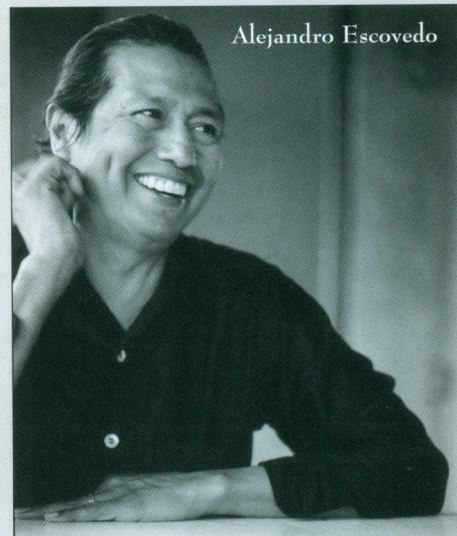


Tim Lee

Robert Earl Keen



Alejandro Escovedo



Ben Weaver

former Oxonian Tim Lee and distributed by Bloodshot Records (with proceeds, again, going to the scholarship fund). In short: a great weekend for three-chord Southern lit.

Bloodshot Records to Release *Just One More, A Musical Tribute to Larry Brown*

"Larry Brown writes like a force of nature." — Pat Conroy

"Larry Brown discovers real stuff, like great writers do. He's been out there, and reports it beautifully." — Barry Hannah

"Whatever he writes, I will read."
— Harry Crews

Larry Brown's business card listed his occupation as "Human Being." Like many other professional human beings, Larry loved music. He felt music, and it showed in his writing. As he moved through the world, Larry got to know a lot of musicians, and a lot of musicians got to know Larry, either personally or through his work. *Just One More, A Musical Tribute to Larry Brown* is a compilation of tunes by artists who were his friends, fans, and peers. With 19 tracks, 12 of which are previously unreleased, the album has contributions from a wide range of critically acclaimed artists, among them Alejandro Escovedo (with whom Larry performed periodically), T-Model Ford, Vic Chesnutt, Jim Dickinson (with Duff Dorrrough), Robert Earl Keen, Cary Hudson (Blue Mountain), Brent Best (Slobberbone, The Drams), and the North Mississippi Allstars to name a few. Some of these songs were written for the project, songs for Larry and about his characters, such as Caroline Herring's "Song for Fay," exploring the title character of *Fay*, a novel published in 2000. The album closes with a song performed by Larry himself, accompanied by Clyde Edgerton, a Southern novelist of great renown.

"The simple concept of this disc was to put together a mix tape of sorts, the type of thing that Larry would have enjoyed listening to as he drove his little truck into the gloam with a cooler full of beer and an ass pocket of something that burns a little bit on the way down," explains producer Tim Lee. "I knew him and I admired his work, and you didn't have to know Larry well to have a keen awareness of his love of music." Mary Annie Brown, Larry's wife, concurred, saying, "Larry absolutely loved music. I think he wished sometimes that he had the talent to do music for a living. He always played his guitar—every night. If he had to skip playing, he would always say he felt like the day was wasted."

His love of music led him to write for *No*

Depression magazine on artists he loved, and to contribute liner notes for Oxford band Blue Mountain's *Homegrown* album that are a model of poetic depiction. When Brown suffered a fatal heart attack in 2004, he was nearly finished with another novel, *A Miracle of Catfish*, which Algonquin Books will publish in March 2007. *Just One More, A Musical Tribute to Larry Brown* will be in stores May 22, 2007.



Track List

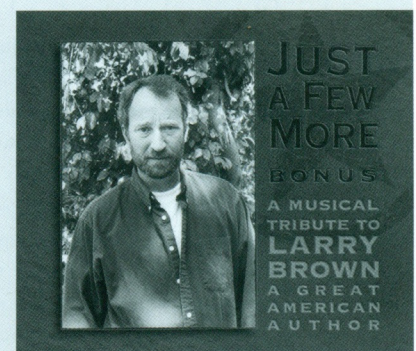
1. Greg Brown - *Blue Car*
2. Bo Ramsey - *Forget You*
3. Cary Hudson - *Song in C*
4. Caroline Herring - *Song for Fay*
5. Alejandro Escovedo - *Baby's Got New Plans*
6. Scott Miller & the Commonwealth - *Thirsty Fingers*
7. Brent Best - *Robert Cole*
8. Pieta Brown - *Another Place in Time*
9. T-Model Ford - *Love Me*
10. Robert Earl Keen - *Counting on You*
11. Ben Weaver - *Here's to My Disgrace*
12. Tate Moore - *Mountain in Mississippi*
13. Tim Lee & Susan Bauer Lee - *The Bridge*
14. Madison Smartt Bell & Wyn Cooper - *Going Down with Larry Brown*
15. Vic Chesnutt - *Fish*
16. North Mississippi Allstars w/Otha Turner & the Rising Star Fife & Drum Band - *Glory*
17. Jim Dickinson & Duff Dorrrough - *I'll Remember You*
18. Larry Brown w/Clyde Edgerton - *Don't Let the Door*

BLOODSHOT
RECORDS

Special Edition CD Available for Book Conference

To celebrate the Oxford Conference for the Book, Bloodshot Records is making available a special edition of *Just One More* featuring eight additional songs and a 12-page booklet featuring contributions from Clyde Edgerton, Jonny Miles, Tom Rankin, Madison Smartt Bell, and several musicians who participated in the project. The bonus CD includes tracks by R. B. Morris, Kenny Brown, Taylor Grocery Band, Suzy Elkins, Heiskell, Brown Mountain (Larry Brown with Blue Mountain), and two more tracks from Larry with Clyde Edgerton.

Just a Few More will only be available during the Book Conference or from www.bloodshotrecords.com.



Larry Brown: In His Own Words

A sensible writer writes what he or she knows best, and draws on the material that's closest, and the lives that are observed. I try to write as close as I can to the heart of the matter. I write out of experience and imagination, toward blind faith and hope. —“A Late Start: How I Became a Writer,” a talk given at the Fifth Biennial Conference on Southern Literature, April 8, 1989, Chattanooga, Tennessee

It was that part of the evening when the sun has gone but daylight still remains. The whippoorwills called to each other and moved about, and the choirs of frogs had assembled in the ditches to sing their melancholy songs. Bats scurried overhead, swift and gone in the gathering dusk. The boy didn't know where he and his family were, other than one name: Mississippi. —Joe

The yard was mud, the house was almost dark. I could just see that one little light inside that was Johnny Carson saying goodnight. I knew he might have a gun, and might be scared enough to use it. In my state I thought I could holler self-defense in his front yard.

I hope I didn't ruin their lives.

The door was open, and the knob turned under my hand. The barrel of the gun slanted down from under my arm, and I tracked their mud on their floor. He didn't have his cap on, and his hair wasn't like what I imagined. It was gray, but neatly combed, and his mother was sobbing silently on the couch and feeding a pillow into her mouth.

He said one thing, quietly: “Are you fixing to kill us?”

Their eyes got me.

I sat down, asking first if I could. That's when I started telling both of them what my life then was like. — “Waiting for the Ladies,” in *Big Bad Love*

I watched her for a moment. She had her legs crossed on the bar stool and about two inches of ash hanging off her cigarette. I got up and went out the door, back to the little enclosed porch. By looking sideways I could see the Rambler parked under the shade. One of the kids was squatted down behind it, using the bathroom. I thought about a lot of things for a while and then went back in and sat down beside her.

“Ain't many men'll help out a woman in trouble,” she said. “Specially when she's got a buncha kids.”

I ordered myself another beer. The old one was hot. I set it up on the bar and she said, “You not goin to drank that?”

“It's hot,” I said.

“I'll drank it,” she said, and pulled it over next to her. I didn't want to look at her anymore. But she had her eyes locked on me and she wouldn't take them off. She put her hand on my wrist. Her fingers were cold.

“It's some people in this world has got thangs and some that ain't,” she said. —“Samaritans,” in *Facing the Music*



Tom Rankin

It do something to you to kill another person. It ain't no dog lying there. Somebody. A person, talk like you, eat like you, got a mind like you. Got a soul like you. And everybody have to handle that in a different way. Cause that a heavy thing to handle. That something you don't forget. You pull the trigger on somebody, it pulled forever. Ain't like dropping a bomb on him, where you way up high in the air and can't see what's happening on the ground, even though you know it's bad.

You look somebody in the eyes, then kill him, you remember them eyes. You remember that you was the last thing he seen. —*Dirty Work*

I lived almost ten years of my early life beside a railroad track in Memphis, and I never stopped longing to live in Mississippi, where I was born, and to be in the country, a place like this.

It's one thing to have a life in a place, and to be happy in it is quite another.

... For now I can just rest in the ragged lawn chair and see the occasional splash of a feeding yearling bass. No matter what else is going wrong, I can feel better by just sitting for a while, as the leaves keep wafting down, as the wind rustles the grass and moves the water. I may not ever own much else in my life, but this is enough. Or almost enough. One of these days when I get through cleaning up from the storm, I'm going to start building a little cabin right over there above the pond, up in the deep part of that shade. —*By the Pond,* in *Billy Ray's Farm*



Mr. Pellisher, poor, lives with the constant thought that leg quarters at forty-nine cents per pound are cheaper than whole chickens at seventy-nine cents per pound, and even though he does not like dark meat, Mr. Pellisher must eat dark meat because he is not like the rich. That is to say he is not rich. He figures the rich eat only breasts and pulley bones. The rich do not know the price of a can of Campbell's chicken noodle soup. The rich have no use for such knowledge. — "The Rich," in *Facing the Music*



Glen still had the rod in his hand and now he reeled the lure in to the tip and laid it aside. He knelt in the boat and got one hand under the belly of the fish and held its head by the lower jaw and eased it over the side and immersed it in the water. It lay there breathing weakly on its side, the gills working, then with one enormous spasm of its tail it righted itself and vanished into the deep gloom of the water. He knelt there looking after where it had gone.

"You're a good man, Glen," Roy said to him.

"No I ain't," he said to the water. — *Father and Son*



That winter the trees stood nearly barren of their leaves and the cold seemed to settle into the old log house deep in the woods. The old woman felt it seep into her bones. Each morning the floors seemed colder, each day it was harder to crank the truck. The boy piled wood for colder days to come. At odd times of the day they'd hear the faint honking, and they'd hurry out into the yard to see overhead, and far beyond the range of men's guns the geese spread out over the sky in a distant brotherhood, the birds screaming to each other in happy voices for the bad weather they were leaving behind, the southlands always ahead of their wings, warm marshes and green plants beckoning them to their ancient primeval nesting lands.

They'd stand looking up until the geese diminished and fled crying out over the heavens and away into the smoking clouds, their voices dying slowly, one last note the only sound and proof of their passing, that and the final wink of motion that swallowed them up into the sky and the earth that met it and the pine trees always green and constant against the great blue wildness that lay forever beyond. —*Joe*



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."

A Miracle of Catfish

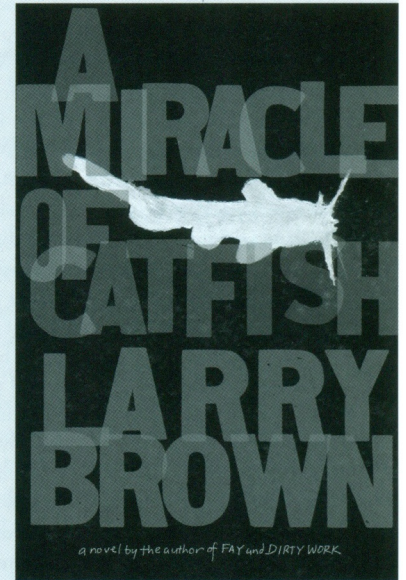
In November 2004, Larry Brown sent the nearly completed manuscript of his sixth novel to his literary agent. He died days later of a massive heart attack. He was 53 years old.

A Miracle of Catfish is that novel. Brown's trademarks—his raw detail, pared-down prose, and characters under siege—are all here. This beautiful, heart-breaking anthem to his own North Mississippi land and the hard-working, hard-drinking, hard-loving, hard-losing men it spawns is the story of one year in the lives of five characters—an old farmer with a new pond he wants stocked with baby catfish; a bankrupt fish pond stocker who secretly releases his forty-pound brook catfish into the farmer's pond; a little boy from the trailer home

across the road who inadvertently hooks the behemoth catfish; the boy's inept father; and a former convict down the road who kills a second time to save his daughter.

Larry Brown has been a force in American literature since taking critics by storm with his debut collection, *Facing the Music*, in 1988. His subsequent work—five novels, another story collection, and two books of nonfiction—continued to bring extraordinary praise and national attention to the writer *New York Newsday* called "a master."

That he died so young, and before he could see *A Miracle of Catfish* published, is a tragedy. That he had time to enrich the legacy of his work with this remarkable book is a blessing.



"It is, for me and for Algonquin, a privilege to bring this last work of a great Southern writer to print. In this novel, as in all of his fiction, the characters are as real and sinewy as Larry Brown himself. His determination, his relentless hard work, his unswerving respect for his art, and his honesty in exposing the depth of human emotion paid off. For me, it doesn't really matter that *A Miracle of Catfish* wasn't quite completed. What he meant it to say is as clear as can be."

—Shannon Ravenel

"Larry Brown's posthumous *A Miracle of Catfish* is, simply enough, a triumph of the sort of visceral intensity that we have learned to expect from Brown. It is certainly a must-read for all of those concerned with American literature in our time."

—Jim Harrison

Mississippi Reads

"Mississippi Reads" was recently initiated to encourage readers of all ages to read one specific book by a Mississippi author each year. The first book, the choice for 2007, is *Go Down, Moses* by William Faulkner, who is regarded as America's foremost writer of the 20th century. Set in the author's mythic Yoknapatawpha County and the nearby Mississippi Delta, the book tells the story of the McCaslin family, both white and black, and explores race, love, marriage, land, environment, history, religion, and other major themes. "The Bear," the fourth of the seven parts of *Go Down, Moses*, laments the vanishing wilderness and is perhaps Faulkner's best known work.

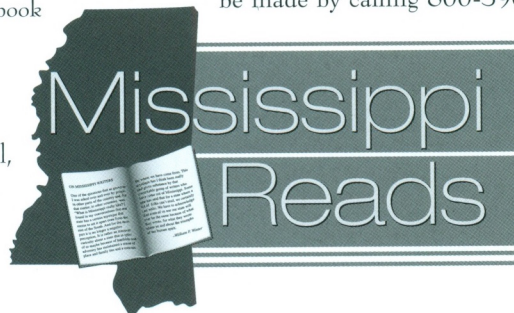
The Mississippi Library Commission has helped publicize the project by distributing 800 posters and 30,000 bookmarks illustrated with a Faulkner portrait by photographer Jack Cofield and the covers of six vintage editions of *Go Down, Moses* published between 1942 and 1995. Tracy Carr, Specialized Reference Manager and Center for the Book Coordinator for the Mississippi Library Commission, coordinated distribution of posters and bookmarks and is the contact for libraries participating in the project.

MLC is also circulating two traveling book club kits, which contain 20 copies of *Go Down, Moses* and other supporting materials. Nearly 250 libraries and bookstores throughout the state are making copies of the book available to patrons, and many are sponsoring discussion groups, readings, talks, and other programs about *Go Down, Moses*. Pamela Pridgen, director of the library at Hattiesburg and chair of the board of the Mississippi Library Commission, prepared the book club kits.

Dorothy Fitts, director of the Lafayette County and Oxford Library, has assisted "Mississippi Reads" by having Kenaz Shun Worthem design and maintain the project's Web site and assigning other staff members to respond to project e-mail. The First Regional Library System provides the server for the Web site.

Faulkner's World: Photographs by Martin J. Dain, a traveling exhibition celebrating the author's centennial in 1997, is now beginning an encore tour in conjunction with the "Mississippi Reads" project. Accompanying the 40 photographs in the exhibition are Lisa N. Howorth's video "Are You Walkin' with Me?": *Sister Thea Bowman, William Faulkner, and African American Culture* and a copy of the book *Faulkner's World: Photographs by Martin J. Dain*, published by the University Press of Mississippi. Financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, the exhibition is currently on display at the Lafayette County and Oxford Library and will begin traveling to other libraries around the state, beginning in April.

Copies of the "Mississippi Reads" poster are available to individuals for \$10.00 each plus \$2.50 postage and handling. Mississippi residents add 7 percent sales tax. Send all orders to the Center for the Study of Southern Culture with a check, made payable to the University of Mississippi, or with Visa or MasterCard account number and expiration dates. Credit cards orders also may be made by calling 800-390-3527.



The "Mississippi Reads" project is partially funded under the federal Library Services and Technology Act administered through the Mississippi Library Commission for the Institution of Museum and Library Services.

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 15,000 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 Sardis Lake, Holly Springs National Forest, and such buildings as College Hill Church, where William and Estelle Faulkner were married in 1929. *USA Today* named Oxford as one of the top six college towns in the United States, and many local citizens are now worried that recent growth and development are threatening its historic small-town charm.

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 15,000 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 has produced 24 Rhodes Scholars and 11 Truman Scholars, and since 1998 alone produced five Goldwater Scholars, a Marshall Scholar, and four 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 MUSEUM: 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 1:00–4:30 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 46,000 volumes of Mississippiana are housed in this department. 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. Special Collections' 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. A recent addition to Special Collections, the Modern Mississippi Political Archive contains the papers of some of Mississippi's most well-known politicians. During the 2007 Oxford Conference for the Book, Archives and Special Collections will be featuring an exhibition devoted to the life and work of Larry Brown, whose papers are one of the highlights of the department. During the conference, Special Collections and the J. D. Williams Library will also be hosting a lecture by Dr. Jerry Leath Mills, a longtime friend of Larry Brown. Dr. Mills recently donated his collection of letters from Larry Brown dating from 1988 through 2001 to the archives. His lecture entitled "Larry Brown as a Man of Letters" is scheduled for Friday, March 23rd, at noon in Special Collections (3rd floor of the J. D. Williams Library). 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 non-profit 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: Laurie Halse Anderson and Karen Hesse are participating in the 2007 Young Authors Fair sponsored by the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, the Lafayette County Literary Council, and other collaborators. In preparation for the fair, every fifth grader in the county read Hesse's *Out of the Dust*. All fifth graders are invited to attend the Hesse program at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts during the Oxford Conference for the Book. Ninth graders will also participate in the Young Author's Fair. Just as all fifth graders received their very own copy of *Out of the Dust*, all ninth-grade students received a copy of one of Anderson's books (*Speak*) and to read and write about before attending her session at the Ford Center during the book conference. Students are also meeting the visiting authors during a book signing at Square Books Jr. 3:30–4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22.

The Fourteenth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Dedicated to Larry Brown

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Journalism, John Davis Williams Library, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writers Fund, Barksdale Reading Institute, Sarah Isom Center for Women, School of Education, Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Lafayette County-Oxford Public Library, Lafayette County Literacy Council, Oxford Middle School PTA, Mississippi Library Commission, Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, and Square Books. The 2007 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, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



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.



For tourist information, contact:
Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau
102 Ed Perry Boulevard, Oxford, MS 38655
telephone 800-758-9177 662-232-2367
fax 662-232-8680
Internet: www.oxfordcvb.com



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
Internet: www.squarebooks.com/

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 csc@olemiss.edu

Internet: www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com/



The
University of Mississippi

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The Fourteenth Oxford Conference for the Book is dedicated to

Larry Brown (1951–2004)

in recognition of his contributions to American letters.

Larry Brown's first book, *Facing the Music*, was published in 1988. He would go on to write and publish another seven books, including two collections of stories, *Facing the Music* and *Big Bad Love* (1990); five novels, *Dirty Work* (1989), *Joe* (1991), *Father and Son* (1996), *Fay* (2000), and *The Rabbit Factory* (2003); and two books of essays, *On Fire* (1994), a memoir that referred to his life as a firefighter, and *Billy Ray's Farm* (2001), personal essays reflecting on his family and the places that he was so close to: the mostly outdoor environment of southeast Lafayette County, familiar to Faulkner's readers and Lafayette County natives as Beat Four, a beautiful landscape of bottomland farms and hardwood hills that show a generous sprinkling of dogwoods this time of year, and the Tula-Yocona area, surrounded by Oxford, Denmark, Toccoola, Sarepta, and Paris. He once wrote that "It is one thing to have a life in a place, and to be happy in it is quite another."

Shortly before Larry Brown died so unexpectedly, on November 24, 2004, he had sent his agent a nearly completed manuscript of a sixth novel, entitled *A Miracle of Catfish*. This novel very recently has been published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill and his longtime editor, Shannon Ravenel, and will be the subject of many lively and happy conversations at this year's Oxford Conference for the Book.

Larry Brown's work was acclaimed critically from the beginning, and he became successful enough at writing to resign as a captain from the Oxford Fire Department, where he had worked for 16 years, and still manage to support his family. He traveled a fair amount through several teaching stints and extensive book tours when a new book was published, and grew to dislike both of these—teaching and touring—a great deal, although he valued the friendships he made with students and others. He really only wanted to write, to be free to be close to the land he loved, around his family or his friends, companions, and dogs, to have available the distractions offered by projects around his place, to play his guitar, to fish, and to lowride, driving slowly at night through the quiet countryside supplied with his cigarettes, a stash of refreshments, and a few tapes of favorite musicians, some of whom will be in Oxford to pay tribute at the conference.

While he wanted mostly to write, he often disliked the more laborious aspects of it. His office off his carport where he wrote, known as the "coolpad," was a refuge, a room the size of a large closet, cluttered with papers on his desk, and pictures and mementos on the walls. He was a prolific letter writer, and kept numerous correspondences with friends near and far.

Larry's intense connection to this place and its people some might say made him provincial; more likely, it is the source of much of his artistic wisdom. When he traveled to New York, or Nashville, or Montana, he took with him the same great native intelligence and curiosity that he had about everything here—flora or fauna, or physical



or mechanical things. Applied in a different place or context, once he began his open inquiry—which he did to the world around him—he developed a sort of deep and immediate knowledge about wherever he was, any situation he was in. He was a "human being of the world." Indeed, he once printed up business cards, as a lark, that had his name and address, and, for occupation: Human Being. Luckily I kept one of these, printed here.

It is somewhat consoling that Larry Brown received much recognition while he was living. He was known for the effort by which he earned excellence, continuing to write while routinely being rejected for publication, and learning his craft by studying those writers whose work he admired, including Flannery O'Connor, Cormac McCarthy, and Harry Crews. In a first meeting between Jim Harrison and Larry Brown, Mr. Harrison was astonished when the young, soft-spoken Mississippian recited to him the opening paragraphs from one of his own books, *Legends of the Fall*. Larry Brown is the only writer to have won twice the Southern Book Critics Circle Award. His works were translated into many foreign language editions. Gallimard, the great French publishing house, issued six of his books.

Larry Brown continues to be missed by not just his family and friends, but all the literary world, his readers in particular. Within days of his passing, I received an e-mail message from a stranger, in Canada, which included the following remarks:

"I was shocked and saddened to learn tonight that Larry Brown had died. I got your name from an Associated Press story and wanted to contact you to say how much I admired the work of one of your State's most talented residents.

People in Oxford must have been very proud of him.

I'm sorry to bother you, but I didn't know who else to write to and wanted in some way to express my feelings. I thought you might like to know that Larry Brown had a longtime and devoted fan way up here in Edmonton, Alberta, thousands of miles and a vast, cultural ocean removed from Mississippi. I have never seen kudzu or walked through a hardwood forest, or driven the back roads of Mississippi, but Larry's books gave me the chance to do the next best thing."

Larry Brown's stories about his people and his place, his gritty characters thrown up against bad luck and hard times, his terse sentences, and plain but poetic descriptions of nature, his sense of timing, sense of humor, and the mellifluous prose that ran through his books like nature itself, will be read and remembered for a long, long time. At this conference we may join the beginning of celebrating this great man's work.

RICHARD HOWORTH

The Fourteenth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Program sessions on Thursday morning will be at the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts on University Avenue. Beginning at noon, program sessions, lunch, and dinner will be at the Oxford Conference Center, located at 102 Ed Perry Boulevard.

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome
Robert C. Khayat, Chancellor
Literature for Young Readers 1
Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, moderator
Karen Hesse
- 10:30 a.m. Literature for Young Readers 2
Lauren Lanza, moderator
Laurie Halse Anderson
- Noon The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow
Pamela Pridgen, moderator
Claiborne Barksdale, Sarah Combs
Box Lunch Available from Oxford-Lafayette County
Literacy Council
- 1:30 p.m. Welcome
Richard Howorth, Mayor
Larry Brown: Friends and Writers
Mark Richard, moderator
Rick Bass, Kevin Canty, Ellen Douglas, Steven Rinella
- 3:00 p.m. Larry Brown on Music
Jonathan Miles, moderator
Shane Brown, Clyde Edgerton, Alejandro Escovedo,
Robert Earl Keen, Tim Lee, Ben Weaver
- 5:30 p.m. *Thacker Mountain Radio*
Jim Dees, host
The Yalobushwhackers, house band
Tim Lee Band, Clint Jordan, and others
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner
(Reservations Required)

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Friday's luncheon program will be at the John Davis Williams Library on the University campus; all other program sessions and dinner on Friday will be at the Oxford Conference Center.

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast with Russian Writers
Open World Program Event
Doug Robinson, Moderator
Anastasia Chekhovskaya, Elena Fanailova,
Yana Tokareva, Tatyana Zima

- 9:00 a.m. Readings/Remarks
Ethel Young-Minor, moderator
Thomas Sayers Ellis, Shay Youngblood
- 10:30 a.m. Poetry: Readings and Remarks
Celebration of National Poetry Month
Beth Ann Fennelly, moderator
Nickole Brown, David Galef, Kimiko Hahn
- Noon Larry Brown Exhibition
Larry Brown as a Man of Letters
Jennifer Ford, moderator
Jerry Leath "Jake" Mills
John Davis Williams Library
- Light Lunch
Mississippi Hall of Writers
Hosted by Julia Rholes
Dean of University Libraries
(Reservations Required)
- 1:30 p.m. Larry Brown on Stage and Screen
Tom Rankin, moderator
Richard Corley, Gary Hawkins, Arliss Howard, Debra
Winger
- 3:00 p.m. Writing about Larry Brown
Jay Watson, moderator
Kay Bonetti Callison, Suzanne W. Jones, Matthew
Guinn
- 4:00 p.m. Teaching Larry Brown
Margaret-Love Denman, moderator
Jean W. Cash, John Osier, Steve Yarbrough
- 5:00 p.m. Editing Larry Brown
Patrick Quinn, moderator
Shannon Ravenel
- 7:00 p.m. Catfish Dinner
(Reservations Required)
- 9:00 p.m. Open Mike—Poetry & Fiction at Bouré

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Lunch will be at Brandt Memory House on University Avenue, and program sessions on Saturday afternoon will be at the Nutt Auditorium, also on University Avenue.

- Morning The regular conference schedule is suspended to allow participants to attend a national broadcast of *Whad'Ya Know?* from the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Mississippi campus.

- 11:30 a.m. Barbecue Lunch from Handy Andy Grocery
(Reservations Required)
- 12:30 p.m. *Notebooks* by Tennessee Williams: "Almost a New
Literary Genre"
Ann Fisher-Wirth, moderator
Margaret Bradham Thornton
- 1:30 p.m. Readings/Remarks
Gary Fisketjon, moderator
Carlo Feltrinelli
- 2:30 p.m. Readings/Remarks
Robbie Ethridge, moderator
LeAnne Howe
- 3:00 p.m. Remembering Larry Brown
Charles Reagan Wilson, moderator
Billy Ray Brown, Mary Annie Brown, Lynn Hewlett
- 4:00 p.m. Writers Remember Larry Brown
Curtis Wilkie, moderator
Harry Crews, Andre Dubus III, Jill McCorkle
- 6:00 p.m. Book Signing
Off Square Books

Other Events

Screenings of *The Rough South of Larry Brown*, *Big Bad Love*, and *100 Proof* as well as *The Rough South of Harry Crews*, in which a very young Larry Brown appears, are scheduled throughout the day and evenings on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at the Lafayette County-Oxford Library.

An exhibition of 24 photographs of Larry Brown by Tom Rankin are on display during the conference. The exhibition opened at Barnard Observatory on March 19 and will hang through May 14.

Larry Brown's musician friends will play at Oxford bars on the conference weekend.

Young Authors Fair

Students, teachers, and parents are invited to attend a book signing for Laurie Halse Anderson and Karen Hesse at Square Books Jr. 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22.

Thacker Mountain Radio



From left:
Jim Dickinson,
Slade Lewis,
Duff Dorrrough

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 Dorrrough, formerly of "Mississippi's House Band," the Tangents, bassist Slade Lewis, who performs locally with Wiley & the Checkmates, and Wallace Lester on drums.



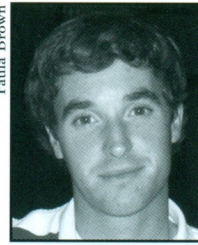
For the past two decades, Tim Lee has been a part of the indie rock scene in the South. Starting with his early '80s recordings with the Windbreakers, Lee's work has been praised by the likes of *Rolling Stone*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and *Creem*. Since the late 1980s, Lee has released a half dozen solo records, including three in the past three years. Following the release of 2004's *No Discretion, No Depression* hailed Lee as "a veteran artist still making quality music that you can be proud to turn up loud." His latest, *Concrete Dog*, was released in April 2006. Since late summer Tim has been busy compiling *Just One More: A Musical Tribute to Larry Brown* (see page 9).

The Speakers

Laurie Halse Anderson is the author of American Girl's new animal adventure series, *Wild at Heart*. She is perhaps best known for her novel *Speak*, which was a National Book Award Finalist, a Michael L. Printz Honor book, a *New York Times* best seller, and an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults. Anderson has also published four other novels—*Fever 1793*, *Catalyst*, *Prom*, and *Twisted*—and five picture books, including *No Time for Mother's Day* and *Turkey Pox*.



Joyce Tennison



Paula Brown

Shane Brown, Larry Brown's younger son, is a teacher at Water Valley Elementary School and a coach at Water Valley High School in Water Valley, Mississippi. He lives with his wife and son in Lafayette County.



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. Barksdale lives in Oxford

with his wife and three children.

Rick Bass was born in Texas and lived in Mississippi from 1979 to 1987 as a petroleum geologist, an experience that formed the basis for his book *Oil Notes*. He is the author of 21 other books, including *The Watch*, his first story collection, winner of the PEN/Nelson Algren Award, and a second collection, *The Hermit's Story*, a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book of the Year. Among his other awards are the Pushcart Prize and the O. Henry Award. He currently lives and works in Montana's Yaak Valley.



Nicole Blaisdell

Billy Ray Brown, the eldest son of author Larry Brown, works for the City of Oxford and raises cattle in Yocona, Mississippi, where he lives with his wife and three children.



Paula Brown



Paula Brown

Mary Annie Brown was married to Larry Brown for 30 years and lives in the home that they built in Yocona, Mississippi. She works as an administrative assistant in Oxford.

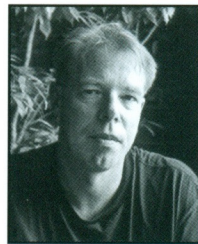
Nickole Brown is a poet and fiction writer. Her work has appeared in the *Courtland Review*, *Chautauqua Literary Journal*, *32 Poems*, *Kestrel Review*, the *Writer's Chronicle*, *Poets & Writers*, and Mammoth Books' *Sudden Stories* anthology. She also coedited the anthology *Air Fare: Stories, Poems, and Essays on Flight*. Her debut book, a novel-in-poems entitled *Sister*, is forthcoming. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where she is director of marketing and development for a nonprofit, independent, literary press, Sarabande Books.



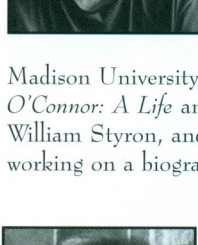
Kay Bonetti Callison is founder of the American Audio Prose Library, Inc., and winner of eight national spoken audio and broadcasting awards. As director of the American Audio Prose Library, Callison produced recorded reading performances and companion interviews with 132 distinguished authors as well as 55 related radio programs for local broadcast and national public radio distribution. Her interviews were edited for publication in the *Missouri Review*, and 15 are collected in the volume *Conversations with American Novelists*.



Michael Richards



Kevin Canty is the award-winning author of the novels *Into the Great Wide Open*, *Nine Below Zero*, and *Winslow in Love*, as well as the short-story collections *Honeymoon and Other Stories* and *A Stranger in This World*.



Jean W. Cash, professor of English at James Madison University, is the author of *Flannery O'Connor: A Life* and of articles on O'Connor, William Styron, and others. She is currently working on a biography of Larry Brown.



Anastasia Chekhovskaya is a writer and journalist. Born in 1981, she currently lives in Ulyanovsk, a town on the Volga River. She graduated from the Department of Philology of the Ulyanovsk State University. Chekhovskaya is the author of ironic and sentimental stories that deal with social issues and feature ordinary people. She is also a scriptwriter for soap operas and

writes for regional and federal newspapers and magazines covering youth issues, education, and culture.

Sarah Combs is the assistant director of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington, Kentucky. She previously worked as a librarian, as a Latin and creative writing teacher, and as a library specialist in the Collection Development Department of BWI, a book and audiovisual distributor that specializes in children's and young-adult literature for public libraries.





Richard Corley and Larry Brown collaborated on the stage version of Brown's novel *Dirty Work*. It originally played at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., in January 1994 and has enjoyed subsequent performances, including productions at the Dallas Theatre Center and at the Hoka Theatre in the author's hometown. Corley is artistic director of Madison Repertory Theatre in Wisconsin and has directed at Hartford Stage, Magic Theatre in San Francisco, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and the Sovremennik Theatre in Moscow.

Harry Crews is the author of 23 books, including *The Gospel Singer*, *Naked in Garden Hills*, *The Hawk Is Dying*, *A Feast of Snakes*, *A Childhood: The Biography of a Place*, *Blood and Grits*, *All We Need of Hell*, *The Knockout Artist*, *The Mulching of America*, *Celebration*, and *An American Family: The Baby with the Curious Markings*. *Getting Naked with Harry Crews* is a collection of 26 interviews with Crews from the publication of his first novel in 1968 to his retirement from the University of Florida in 1997. He is featured in the documentaries *The Rough South of Harry Crews* and *Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus*.



Jim Dees is the host of *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a literature and music program broadcast live in Oxford and rebroadcast 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*.

Margaret-Love Denman, a native of Oxford and a graduate of the University of Mississippi, is associate professor and director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of New Hampshire. She is the author of the novels *A Scrambling after Circumstance*, chosen for the Penguin Contemporary American Fiction series, and *Daily, Before Your Eyes*. With novelist Barbara Shoup she published the interview collection *Novel Ideas: Contemporary Writers Share the Creative Process* and *Story Matters*, a textbook that combines stories, author interviews, instruction on elements of fiction, and writing exercises.



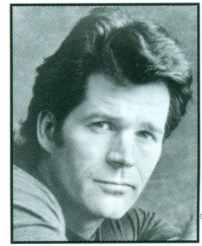
Perry Smith



Kurt Richter

Ellen Douglas, the pseudonym of Mississippi author Josephine Ayres Haxton, is a National Book Award finalist and the author of six novels and two story collections. She has also published two books of nonfiction, *Truth: Four Stories I Am Finally Old Enough to Tell* and *Witnessing*, a collection of essays. 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 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.

Andre Dubus III is the author of *The Cage Keeper and Other Stories* and the novels *Bluesman* and *House of Sand and Fog*, which was a finalist for the 1999 National Book Award and was made into a movie in 2003. He was one of three finalists for the 1994 Prix de Rome and has been awarded the Pushcart Prize and the 1985 National Magazine Award for Fiction. Dubus has taught writing at Harvard University, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. He and his wife, performer Fontaine Dollas Dubus, live in Massachusetts with their three children.



Marion Etkin



Clyde Edgerton is the author of eight best sellers, including *Raney*, *Walking across Egypt*, and *Where Trouble Sleeps*. The critical reception to his work led to his receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lyndhurst Fellowship, the North Carolina Award for Literature, and five notable book awards from the *New York Times*. He is also a musician and songwriter and a professor of creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Thomas Sayers Ellis is the author of three books: *The Good Junk*, *The Genuine Negro Hero*, and *The Maverick Room*. He coedited *On the Verge: Emerging Poets and Artists* and is a contributing editor of *Callaloo*. His *Quotes Community: Notes for Black Poets* is forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press (Poets on Poetry Series). Ellis teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and the Lesley University low-residency MFA program.



Alejandro Escovedo has been hailed as a poet, as a storyteller, and as one of the most important musicians of the last quarter-century. He blends rock, folk, blues, and classically influenced music into a boundary-defying style that has won him a devoted following all over the world. Born into a large Mexican immigrant family in San Antonio, Escovedo has recorded eight albums under his own name, in the process winning numerous awards and accolades, including "Artist of the Decade" from *No Depression* magazine.

Robbie Ethridge is McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Mississippi. She is the coeditor, along with Charles Hudson, of the volume *The Transformation of the Southeastern Indians, 1540-1760* and the author of *Creek Country: The Creek Indians and Their World, 1790-1816*. Her current research focuses on the involvement of the 17th-century Chickasaws in the Indian slave trade and the modern world economy.



Elena Fanaylova is a poet and journalist. Born in 1962 in Voronezh, a town in Central Russia, she is a graduate of the Voronezh Medical Institute and the Voronezh State University, where she majored in linguistics. Fanaylova has worked as a doctor and as a university teacher. Currently, she lives in Moscow and is a host of the radio program *Far from Moscow*, which covers various topics from the Beslan siege to new Russian prose. Fanaylova's poems have been published in leading literary magazines in Russia and abroad. She is the author of four books, and a book of her poetry will soon be published in the United States by Ugly Duckling Press.

Carlo Feltrinelli operates much of the Feltrinelli literary enterprise, which consists of approximately 90 bookstores and the publishing firm begun in 1954—initially as a library and gathering place for intellectuals and antifascists—by his father, Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. The firm, also led by Carlo's mother, Inge Feltrinelli, published the first edition of *Dr. Zhivago* and has issued over 7,000 titles, including the works of Italo Calvino, Che Guevara, Simone de Beauvoir, Italo Svevo, and Richard Ford. Carlo Feltrinelli wrote the incredible story of his father's life, published in the U.S. in 2002 under the title *Feltrinelli: A Story of Riches, Revolution, and Violent Death*.

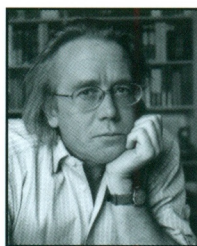


Maude Schuyler Clay

Beth Ann Fennelly is the author of two poetry collections, *Open House* and *Tender Hooks*. Her poems have been 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, *Great with Child: Letters to a Young Mother*, was published last year by W. W. Norton. Fennelly is assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi.

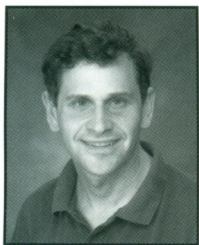
Ann Fisher-Wirth is the author of two books of poems, *Blue Window* and *Five Terraces*; two chapbooks, *The Trinket Poems* and *Walking Wu-Wei's Scroll*; and a critical book, *William Carlos Williams and Autobiography: The Woods of His Own Nature*. Among the awards she has received are a *Malahat Review* Long Poem Prize, the Rita Dove Poetry Award, and six Pushcart nominations. She is professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where she teaches a wide range of courses in poetry and in environmental literature.

Gary Fisketjon is vice president and editor at large at Alfred A. Knopf. He has edited the works of Raymond Carver, Don DeLillo, Andre Dubus, Richard Ford, Cormac McCarthy, Jan McInerney, Donna Tartt, Tobias Wolff, and others. He won the 2006 Maxwell E. Perkins Award, which celebrates "excellence in the field of fiction."



Jayne Wecker

Jennifer Ford is head of the Department of Archives and Special Collections in the University of Mississippi's John Davis Williams Library.



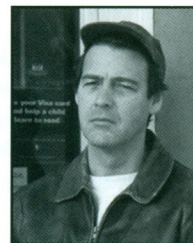
David Galef has published 13 books, including the novels *Flesh*, *Turning Japanese*, and *How to Cope with Suburban Stress*; the short-story collection *Laugh Track*; an edited anthology of essays called *Second Thoughts: A Focus on Rereading*; a coedited anthology of fiction called *20 over 40*; and, most recently, the poetry collection *Flaws*. He is a professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where he also administers the MFA program in creative writing.

Matthew Guinn, assistant professor of English at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is the author of *After Southern Modernism: Fiction of the Contemporary South* and articles in *South to a New Place* and *A Companion to the Literature and Culture of the American South*. He has also published a novel, *The Resurrectionist*.



Kimiko Hahn is an American poet of partly Japanese ancestry. She is the author of seven collections of poetry, including *The Narrow Road to the Interior*; *The Artist's Daughter*; *Mosquito and Ant*; *Volatile*; and *The Unbearable Heart*, which received an American Book Award. Hahn is the recipient of a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award, the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize, and an Association of Asian American Studies Literature Award. She is Distinguished Professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York.

Gary Hawkins has written and directed six films. His second, *The Rough South of Harry Crews*, won an Emmy. *The Rough South of Larry Brown*, the latest in Hawkins's ongoing series about working-class Southern authors, was picked by the *Oxford American* as one of 13 Essential Southern Documentaries. He teaches classes at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and is adapting two novels into screenplays for Capricorn Studios.



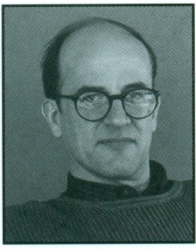
Karen Hesse has won popular and critical acclaim and numerous awards for her books for young readers, including most recently *Aleutian Sparrow*, *Witness*, and *Stowaway*. Her most famous book, *Out of the Dust*, won nine different awards ranging from a Newbery to an American Library Association Notable Children's Book to a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year. Each of her other books has also received multiple awards. She is also the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship.

Lynn Hewlett, lifelong friend of Larry Brown, owns and operates the Taylor Grocery restaurant in Taylor, Mississippi.



Arliss Howard has appeared in many American Repertory Theatre productions and in *Full Metal Jacket*, *Ruby*, and other films. He made his debut as screenwriter and film director with an adaptation of Larry Brown's *Big Bad Love*, in which he starred with his wife, Debra Winger.

LeAnne Howe, an American Indian author, playwright, and scholar, is an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She writes fiction, creative nonfiction, plays, poetry, and screenplays that primarily deal with American Indian experiences. Her plays have been produced in Los Angeles, New York City, New Mexico, Maine, Texas, and Colorado, and she is the screenwriter and on-camera narrator for the 90-minute PBS documentary *Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire*. She is currently the John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi.



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

Suzanne W. Jones, professor of English at the University of Richmond, has published many articles on Southern literature and a book, *Race Mixing: Southern Fiction since the Sixties*. She is the editor of a collection of essays, *Writing the Woman Artist*, and two story collections, *Crossing the Color Line: Readings in Black and White* and *Growing up in the South: An Anthology of Modern Southern Literature*. She is coeditor of the essay collection *South to a New Place: Region, Literature, Culture*.



Jonathan Miles is a columnist for the *New York Times*, a regular contributor to the *New York Times Book Review*, and a contributing editor to *Men's Journal*, where he has overseen books coverage since 2001. His work has been selected for inclusion numerous times in the *Best American Sports Writing* and *Best American Crime Writing* anthologies. During his years living in Oxford, which stretched from the late '80s to 2001, he developed a close friendship with Larry Brown, and he currently serves as an advisor to Brown's literary estate. He lives in New York.

Jerry Leath "Jake" Mills, a retired English professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, recently donated his correspondence with Larry Brown to the University of Mississippi's Department of Archives and Special Collections. The collection includes 31 letters as well as photographs and manuscripts.



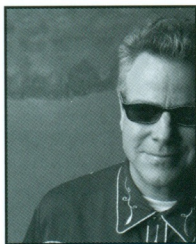
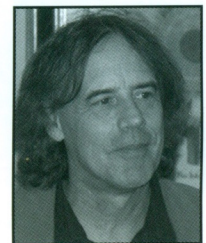
Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham is associate professor of English education at the University of Mississippi, where she teaches children's and adolescent literature. She has published a biographical sketch of Louisa May Alcott and a biography of Karen Hesse.

John Osier grew up in Tennessee, worked as a newspaper reporter for the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, and taught English at various Southern colleges. He is the author of three novels, *Covenant at Coldwater*; *Rankin*, *Enemy of the State*; and *Edge*. Osier was Larry Brown's first creative writing teacher.



Pamela Pridgen received a master of library science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and is director of the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County. She has served as president of the Mississippi Library Association and is a board member of the Mississippi Library Commission.

Patrick Quinn chairs the English Department at the University of Mississippi. He coedited *An Anthology of Colonial and Post-Colonial Fiction* and is now researching American Decadent literature during the early 1900s.



Glen Rose

Robert Earl Keen is a Texas singer-songwriter who has released more than a dozen CDs and written more than 100 songs. Among his albums are *Live Dinner, No Kinda Dancer*, *Gringo Honeymoon*, *Farm Fresh Onions*, and *What I Really Mean*. He discovered Larry Brown through the novel *Dirty Work*, and the two eventually met and became friends. Brown wrote a feature story on Keen for *No Depression* in 2001.



Robert C. Khayat, an avid reader, has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since 1995.

Lauren Lanza is manager of Square Books Jr. in Oxford, Mississippi.



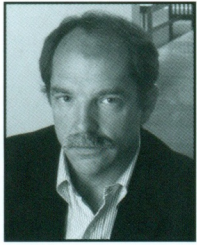
Tim Lee for the past two decades has been a part of the indie rock scene in the South. Starting with his early '80s recordings with the Windbreakers, Lee's work has been praised by the likes of *Rolling Stone*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and *Creem*. He has released a half dozen solo records. He and his wife, graphic artist Susan Bauer Lee, served, respectively, as producer/compiler and art director for *Just One*

More, A Musical Tribute to Larry Brown.

Jill McCorkle is the author of five novels—*The Cheer Leader*, *July 7th*, *Tending to Virginia*, *Ferris Beach*, and *Carolina Moon*—and the story collections *Crash Diet*, *Final Vinyl Days*, and *Creatures of Habit*. McCorkle has received numerous awards, and in 2003 she was inducted in the Fellowship of Southern Writers.



Tom Rankin



Tom Rankin is director of the Center for Documentary Studies and associate professor of the Practice of Art and Documentary Studies at Duke University. A photographer, filmmaker, and folklorist, he currently chairs the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. His books include *Sacred Space: Photographs from the Mississippi Delta*, which received the Mississippi Institute of Arts

and Letters Award for Photography; "Deaf Maggie Lee Sayre": *Photographs of a River Life*; *Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain*; and *Local Heroes Changing America: Indivisible*.

Shannon Ravenel was series editor of *The Best American Short Stories* annual for 14 years and of *New Stories from the South* for 25 years. Formerly editorial director of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, she now directs her Algonquin imprint, Shannon Ravenel Books.



Julia Rholes is dean of libraries at the University of Mississippi.

Mark Richard is the author of numerous short stories and three books of fiction: *Charity*, *Fishboy*, and *The Ice at the Bottom of the World*, which won the 1990 PEN/Ernest Hemingway Foundation Award. Among his other awards are a Whiting Foundation Writers' Award and the Mary Francis Hobson Medal for Arts and Letters. He has taught creative writing at Arizona State University, the University of Mississippi, the University of the South, and the Writer's Voice in New York City. Richard now lives in Los Angeles, where he is working on his next novel and also writing for television and films.



Steven Rinella is a Michigan native and correspondent for *Outside* magazine. His essays and reporting have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Nerve*, *DoubleTake*, *The Best American Travel Writing* (2004), and *Field and Stream*. His first book, *The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine*, a combination memoir, cookbook, and travelogue, was published in March 2006 to enthusiastic reviews from literary and food critics. While earning an

MFA from the University of Montana, he took a nonfiction workshop Larry Brown taught there in late 1999. "Of all my teachers, he had the strongest influence on me," Rinella says.

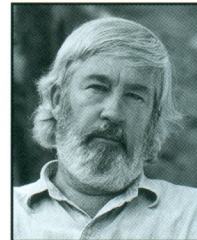
Doug Robinson is professor of English at the University of Mississippi and local coordinator of the Open World Program, which the Library of Congress administers to increase mutual understanding between Russia and the United States.

Margaret Bradham Thornton is the editor of Tennessee Williams's *Notebooks*, recently published by Yale University Press. Her work has appeared in the *Paris Review*, the *Seattle Review*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, and *World Literature*. She is a writer and independent scholar based in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Yana Tokareva is a poet, translator, and singer/songwriter. Born in Moscow in 1976, she graduated from the Historical-Philological Faculty at the Russian State University for the Humanities with a major in American culture and a minor in Italian. She has taught English at that same university and worked as a translator and interpreter, translating literary works mostly from English and Italian but also some poems and songs from Yiddish, German, and Swedish. She is a literary editor of Internet sites devoted to British art, Jewish books, and Japanese films. Her poetry collection *Warm Clothes* won a Moscow Score literary prize for best first book.

Jay Watson, associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, is the author of *Forensic Fictions: The Lawyer Figure in Faulkner* and numerous essays on Faulkner, Freud, legal theory, Lillian Smith, and Erskine Caldwell. He was Visiting Fulbright Professor of English at the University of Turku and at Abo Akademi University, Finland, 2002–2003. He is editor of the newly published *Conversations with Larry Brown*, a collection of interviews Brown gave between 1988 and 2004.

Ben Weaver is a Minnesota singer-songwriter whose songs have been referred to as "gutter pulpit sermons." Larry Brown called him "an American original whose voice and guitar are matched only by the power of his words. His songs are an incredible, haunting gift of music."



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 is coauthor, with Jim McDougal, of *Arkansas Mischief: 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. In 2005 he received a special award for excellence in nonfiction from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

Charles Reagan Wilson is the author of *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865–1920*, editor of *Religion in the South*, coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, and editor of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. His other publications include a collection of essays titled *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis*.



Debra Winger made her acting debut in *Wonder Woman* in 1977 and received Academy Award nominations as Best Actress for *Urban Cowboy*, *Officer and a Gentleman*, and *Shadowlands*. She joined her husband, Arliss Howard, on screen in *Big Bad Love*, based on Larry Brown's story collection by that name.