



*Zora Neale Hurston, 1940, Photograph by Carl Van Vechten*  
Courtesy Carl Van Vechten Trust, Yale Collection of American Literature  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

The Fifteenth  
**Oxford Conference for the Book**

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

April 3–5, 2008

# REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS:  
OXFORD CONFERENCE FOR THE BOOK • CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI • P.O. BOX 1848 • UNIVERSITY, MS 38677-1848  
OR FAX TO 662-915-5814

Photocopy a separate copy of this form for each registrant. Please type or print the information requested. Return form by March 28, 2008.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION/POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I request reservations for the following:

- Oxford Conference for the Book - Entire Program (all readings, panels, talks)
- If not attending entire conference, indicate day(s) below.
  - Thursday, April 3     Friday, April 4     Saturday, April 5
- Library Lunch on Thursday, April 3 (no charge)
- Cocktail Buffet on Thursday, April 3 (\$50 contribution)     Box Lunch on Friday, April 4 (\$10 contribution)
- Creative Writing Workshop, Wednesday, April 2 (\$250)     Delta Literary Tour, March 31-April 3 (\$475)

I am making a contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the April 3 cocktail buffet, for the April 4 box lunch, and/or for conference support.

I am making a payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Creative Writing Workshop and/or the Delta Literary Tour.

**Note:** Separate checks must be made for payments and contributions. Contributions and payments made by credit card may be charged together.

Check, made payable to THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, is enclosed.

Charge to     Visa     MasterCard Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that refunds for contributions are not allowed and that payments for meals, the Writing Workshop, and the Delta tour, less a \$10 service charge, are refundable if I submit a written request for cancellation, postmarked no later than March 24. No refunds will be made after March 24.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend in 2008 but add me to the mailing list for future book conferences.

I learned about the conference from (mark all applicable sources):

Conference flyer from the University     *Southern Register*     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Posters for the 2008 Oxford Conference for the Book, illustrated with a photograph of Zora Neale Hurston, are available for \$10 each, plus shipping and handling and, for Mississippi residents, sales tax. To order, call 800-390-3527. Posters will be available in March 2008.

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## OXFORD CONFERENCE FOR THE BOOK

The conference is open to the public without charge. To assure seating space, those interested in attending should preregister. Reservations and advance payment are required for two optional events: cocktail buffet on Thursday (\$50) and box lunch on Friday (\$10). All proceeds for the box lunch on Friday will go toward support of the Lafayette County Literacy Council and are tax deductible. All proceeds of the cocktail buffet on Thursday will go toward supporting the conference and are tax deductible. Participants are invited to make additional tax-deductible contributions to help support the conference.

## LUNCH ON THURSDAY, APRIL 3

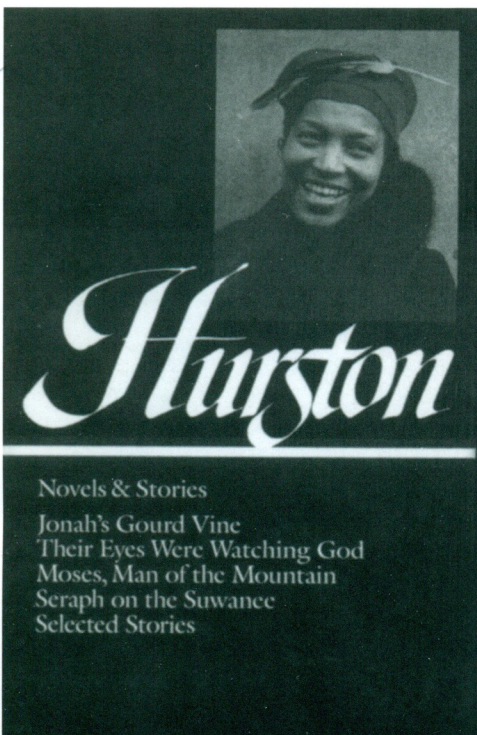
The John Davis Williams Library will host a light lunch at noon during the presentation by Tricia Walker. To accept the invitation, please check Thursday lunch on the conference registration form.

## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

APRIL 2, 2008

Margaret-Love Denman, former director of the creative writing program at the University of New Hampshire and currently coordinator of off-campus writing programs at the University of Mississippi, will offer a special workshop in conjunction with the 2008 Oxford Conference for the Book. The daylong workshop, titled "Mining Your Raw Materials," will take place Wednesday, April 2, at the Downtown Grill on the Oxford Square.

The workshop is open to 20 writers. The workshop fee of \$250 includes evaluation of up to 20 double-spaced pages of fiction submitted beforehand, a private 20-minute session with the instructor during the April 3-5 Oxford Conference for the Book, attendance at all conference events, lunch and refreshments on Wednesday, dinner on Thursday, and a box lunch on Friday. The fee does not include lodging. First come, first served.



## MISSISSIPPI DELTA LITERARY TOUR

MARCH 31-APRIL 3

Experience the place, the people, the food, and the music that inspired Mississippi writers by joining an annual spring tour organized by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. Focusing on the area's legendary blues, writers, and food—along with its tumultuous history—the program is based in Greenwood, with day trips to Greenville and Clarksdale as well as a visit to McCartys pottery in Merigold.

The program on Monday, March 31, will give an overview of the Mississippi Delta and take a close look at Cleveland, seat of Bolivar County and home of Delta State University. On Tuesday, April 1, the group will travel to Greenville, home of William Alexander Percy, David L. Cohn, Ellen Douglas, Shelby Foote, Bern Keating, Walker Percy, Julia Reed, Ben Wasson, and many other writers—so many that Greenville was once known for having "more published writers per capita than any place in the United States." On Wednesday, April 2, the group will journey to Clarksdale to tour places connected to the life and work of playwright Tennessee Williams. In addition to talks and slide presentations, the program will offer readings by several authors and visits to two major Delta bookstores.

Literary scholar Kenneth Holditch will give talks on Tennessee Williams, the author of the play *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the screenwriter of the film *Baby Doll*, and on David Cohn, author of *Where I Was Born and Raised*, a meditation on the relationship between blacks and whites in the Mississippi Delta during the 1930s and '40s. Author and critic Marion Barnwell will discuss Keith Frazier Somerville's *Dear Boys*, a collection of letters to soldiers overseas during World War I. Dorothy Shawhan will read from her fiction and discuss her novel, *Lizzie*, and her biography of Cleveland native Judge Lucy Somerville Howorth. Hillary Jordan will read from her debut novel *Mudbound*, the story of two soldiers—one black and one white—who return home to the Mississippi Delta after World War II. Other speakers are artists William Dunlap and Nan Sanders, photographer Maude Schuyler Clay, and scholars Luther Brown, Henry Outlaw, and Ted Ownby.

Also scheduled are meals at Doe's, Giardina's, and other restaurants as well as live blues and gospel performances. On April 3, after breakfast at the Alluvian—Viking Range Corporation's boutique hotel—participants will be free to travel on their own to Oxford, arriving in time to attend the Oxford Conference for the Book.

The Delta tour is \$475 per person for all program activities, eight meals, and local transportation. **The fee does not include lodging.** Remember to sign up early. Only 35 spots are available, and they will go fast.

Group accommodations have been arranged at the Alluvian, in downtown Greenwood ([www.thealluvian.com](http://www.thealluvian.com)). **Rooms at the Alluvian require a separate registration** and are priced at a discounted rate of \$155. Rooms may be reserved by calling 866-600-5201 and asking for the special "Literary Tour" rate. In the event that the Alluvian sells out, call the Greenwood Best Western, 662-455-5777; the Hampton Inn, 662-455-7985; or the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, 662-455-1885.

Additional details about the Delta Literary Tour (March 31-April 3, 2008), and the 15h Oxford Conference for the Book (April 3-5, 2008), and related events are posted on the Web site [www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com](http://www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com).

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The preliminary program schedule that follows is subject to change. An exact schedule will be distributed at the conference.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Thursday's luncheon program will be at the John Davis Williams Library on the University campus; three program sessions on Thursday afternoon will be at the Oxford Conference Center, located at 102 Ed Perry Boulevard. *Thacker Mountain Radio* will be at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center, located at 413 South 14th Street.

- 10:00 a.m. Registration Begins
- 11:30 a.m. Exhibition  
*In Her Own Words: An Exhibition of Mississippi Women*  
 Performance and Comments  
 Jennifer Ford, moderator  
 Tricia Walker, performer and songwriter  
 John Davis Williams Library
- Light Lunch  
 Mississippi Hall of Writers  
 Hosted by Julia Rholes  
 Dean of University Libraries
- 1:30 p.m. Welcome  
 Richard Howorth, Mayor
- Zora Neale Hurston: Her Work and Legacy  
 Erin D. Chapman, moderator  
 Deborah Plant
- 2:30 p.m. Zora Neale Hurston and Her Friends at Yale  
 Jan Murray, moderator  
 Patricia Willis
- 3:30 p.m. Zora Neale Hurston and Folk Culture  
 Ted Ownby, moderator  
 Adam Gussow, Anne Goodwyn Jones, John Lowe
- 5:30 p.m. *Thacker Mountain Radio*  
 Jim Dees, host  
 Kevin Brockmeier, Christopher Paul Curtis  
 The Yalobushwhackers, house band  
 Colour Revolt, visiting musicians
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner  
 Meet the Speakers  
 Isom Place  
 (Reservations Required)
- 9:00 p.m. Open Mike - Poetry & Fiction Jam  
 Christine Davis, moderator  
 Bouré

## FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Program sessions on Friday morning will be at the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts on University Avenue; all program sessions on Friday afternoon will be at the Oxford Conference Center, located at 102 Ed Perry Boulevard.

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome  
 Literature for Young Readers 1  
 Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, moderator  
 Readings/Remarks  
 Christopher Paul Curtis
- 10:30 a.m. Literature for Young Readers 2  
 Kathryn McKee, moderator  
 Readings/Remarks  
 Margaret McMullan

- Noon Box Lunch Available from Oxford-Lafayette County Literacy Council
- 1:30 p.m. Poetry: Readings and Remarks  
 Celebration of National Poetry Month  
 Beth Ann Fennelly, moderator  
 Rob Griffith, A. Van Jordan
- 2:30 p.m. From the Page to the Stage and Beyond  
 Rhona Justice-Malloy, moderator  
 Rebecca Eaton
- 3:30 p.m. Richard Wright's *Uncle Tom's Children*  
 Charles Reagan Wilson, moderator  
 Jerry W. Ward Jr.
- 4:30 p.m. 40th Anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Death  
 Curtis Wilkie, moderator  
 Hank Klibanoff, Houston Roberson
- 9:00 p.m. Readings by Russian Writers  
 Open World Program Event  
 Doug Robinson, Moderator  
 Vasily Chepelev, Dmitry Danilov, Zakhar Prilepin,  
 Olga Zondberg

## SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Program sessions on Saturday will be at the Nutt Auditorium on University Avenue.

- 9:00 a.m. The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow  
 Elaine H. Scott, moderator  
 Claiborne Barksdale, Daniel Born, Pamela Pridgen
- 10:00 a.m. Book Reviews  
 Jonathan Miles, moderator  
 Dwight Garner, Fredrick Koeppel, Peder Zane
- 11:00 p.m. Readings and Remarks  
 Patrick Quinn, moderator  
 Michael Schmidt
- Noon Lunch - on your own
- 2:00 p.m. Readings and Remarks  
 William Dunlap, moderator  
 Sallie Bingham, Ellen Gilchrist
- 3:00 p.m. Readings and Remarks  
 Tom Franklin, moderator  
 Susan Choi, Jack Pendarvis
- 4:00 p.m. Considering the Legacy: Hurston's Influence on Contemporary Writers  
 Ethel Young-Minor, moderator  
 Jeffery Renard Allen, Nichelle D. Tramble
- 6:00 p.m. Book Signing  
 Off Square Books

## Other Events

Screenings of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and other films featuring the work of Zora Neale Hurston will be scheduled throughout the day and evenings on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Oxford-Lafayette County Library.

# The Fifteenth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

## Dedicated to Zora Neale Hurston

The 2008 conference is dedicated to writer, folklorist, and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston (1891–1960), who was associated with the Harlem Renaissance and who helped bring Southern African American culture to mainstream America through her fieldwork, novels, short stories, and dramatic presentations during the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. Since the 1970s Hurston has enjoyed a revival of interest thanks to admirers such as Alice Walker, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Color Purple*; biographers Robert Hemenway and Valerie Boyd; an annual Hurston festival in her hometown of Eatonville, Florida; and enthusiastic teachers and critics throughout the world.

Among the speakers who will discuss Hurston's life and legacy at the conference are Patricia Willis, curator of the Collection of American Literature at Yale's Beinecke Library, and literary scholars John Lowe, Adam Gussow, Anne Goodwyn Jones, Deborah Plant, and Ethel Young-Minor. Authors Jeffrey Renard Allen and Nichelle D. Tramble will discuss Hurston's influence on contemporary writers. Film adaptations of Hurston's fiction and a documentary about her life will be shown.

Other sessions will include an address by literary scholar Jerry Ward commemorating the 100th anniversary of Richard Wright's birth, a program marking the 40th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr., a talk by *Masterpiece Theatre* producer Rebecca Eaton, and

Michael Schmidt's discussion of his work as editorial director of Carcanet Press Limited, general editor of *Poetry Nation Review*, and professor of poetry at the University of Glasgow. Local schoolchildren will join the conference audience for presentations by Christopher Paul Curtis and Margaret McMullan, award-winning authors of books for young readers. There will also be a variety of readings and panels, performances at the university library and during *Thacker Mountain Radio*, and a marathon book signing at Off Square Books.

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Journalism, John Davis Williams Library, African American Studies Program, 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 2006 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 Mississippi Arts Commission, 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.



MISSISSIPPI  
ARTS  
COUNCIL

The Mississippi Arts Council is a state agency, funded by the Mississippi legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Wallace Foundation, and other private sources.



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](http://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](http://www.squarebooks.com)

For more information concerning the conference, contact:

## Center for the Study of Southern Culture

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University of Mississippi

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