



Adam and Eve, King James Bible, 1611  
Courtesy Oxford University Press

# The Eighteenth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi  
March 24–26, 2011



# City Lights Books

Probably the best known bookstore in the United States, City Lights Books of San Francisco began as the modest enterprise of two young men in 1953. Peter Martin had come to San Francisco from New York City and started a small literary magazine, *City Lights*, the name inspired by the Charlie Chaplin film. Martin had another idea, to open the nation's first paperback-only bookstore. Upon meeting one of the fledgling magazine's contributors, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who had written under the name Lawrence Ferling, the two agreed to pool their capital—\$500 apiece—and open the small shop in a building on Columbus Avenue and Broadway.

The iconic, triangular City Lights building had been rebuilt upon the basement arches that were all that remained from

the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fires, the worst natural disaster in California history. Today both the building and the bookstore, named *Publishers Weekly* Bookseller of the Year in 2010, are officially designated historic landmarks.

In the unanimous vote from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the bookstore was cited for its "seminal role in the literary and cultural development of San Francisco and the nation, for stewarding and restoring City Lights

Bookstore, for championing First Amendment protections, and for publishing and giving voice to writers and artists everywhere."

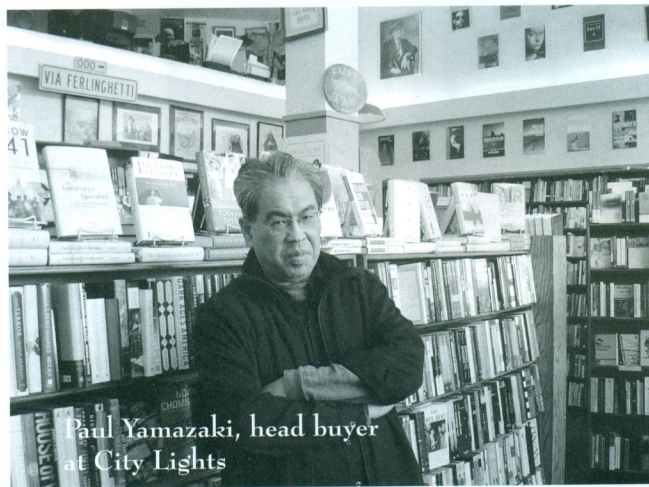
City Lights began publishing books two years after the opening of the bookstore with its Pocket Poets series, Number 1 being Ferlinghetti's *Pictures of a Gone World*. The series went on to include work by Kenneth Patchen, Denise Levertov, and Jack Kerouac, among others, known, of course, as the Beats. No volume became more notorious than its fourth issue, *Howl and Other Poems*, by Allen Ginsberg. Ferlinghetti had not met Ginsberg when he heard him read *Howl* one evening at an event organized by Kenneth Rexroth, and immediately sent the young poet a telegraph: "I greet you at the beginning of a great career. When do I get the manuscript?" *Howl* was published in November 1956. Six months later Ferlinghetti was arrested and charged for selling obscene material that "would corrupt America's youth." In a landmark First Amendment case it was ruled that material could not be considered obscene if it had "redeeming social significance." The case established precedent for similar such cases against *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Tropic of Capricorn*, and *Naked Lunch*. Publicity surrounding the case made *Howl* an underground bestseller and began a new, "wide-open" American literature.

The *Howl* experience additionally grounded the City Lights' ambitions to advance "deep literacy" and "access to knowledge."



STACEY LEWIS

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, founder/owner of City Lights



STACEY LEWIS

Paul Yamazaki, head buyer at City Lights

"Although it has been more than 50 years," states its Web site, "since tour buses with passengers eager to sight 'beatniks' began pulling up in front of City Lights, the Beats' legacy of antiauthoritarian politics and insurgent thinking continues to be a strong influence in the store, most evident in the selection of titles." For many years this selection of titles has been the responsibility of Paul Yamazaki, who has been a City Lights employee for more than 40 years. Yamazaki is one of the most highly regarded buyers in the book industry, known especially for his broad acquaintance with, and passion

for, small press colophons and their books.

Only a few years after opening the store, Peter Martin returned to New York and Lawrence Ferlinghetti bought out his share for \$1,000. In 1971 Ferlinghetti hired Nancy Peters away from her job at the Library of Congress, and over the course of her long association with the business, Peters eventually became an owner and director of publishing. She shares a place with Yamazaki on the four-member City Lights Foundation board of directors. The store has maintained its open-minded, subversive, anarchic qualities. (One of its poets, Gregory Corso, once crashed through the plate glass window in order to take bills from the till and was forgiven by the sympathetic owner, Ferlinghetti, who kindly suggested that Corso leave the country for a while, which he did.) Ferlinghetti, who is 92 on March 24, Peters, Yamazaki, store manager Andy Bellows, and the City Lights staff and community continue to advance the timeless ideals of City Lights: "Now, as information technologies change the way people live, work, and think, we are convinced of the need to nurture and protect peoples' ability to think critically, to discern truth, and to communicate knowledge. We believe that these qualities are basic to an empowered citizenry, essential to the future of a democratic society."

Richard Howorth



# Workshops

## Creative Writing Workshop

The daylong workshop, titled "In the Beginning . . . a Look at First Pages," will take place Wednesday, March 23, at the Downtown Grill on the Oxford Square and is led by Margaret-Love Denman. 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 20-minute session with the instructor, attendance at all conference events, lunch on Wednesday, lunch and dinner on Thursday, and lunch on Saturday, and a copy of *Novel Ideas: Contemporary Authors Share the Creative Process*, by Denman and novelist Barbara Shoup.

## Poetry Craft Talk and Poetry Workshop

Michael McFee will present a poetry craft talk at the Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library on Friday, March 25, 2011, at noon. The event will include lunch and is open to the public without charge. Reservations for lunch may be made by telephone (662-234-5751), fax (662-234-3155), or e-mail (dfitts@firstregional.org) by Monday, March 21.

Aspiring poets may submit work for critique by Richard Tillinghast. Send one poem to Josh Davis, 1903 Anderson Road Apt. H7, Oxford, MS 38655; e-mail joshua.davis28@gmail.com by Wednesday, March 16. Subject lines of e-mail submissions should read "OCB Poetry Workshop." The workshop will meet in the Overby Center Room 206 on Saturday, March 26, at 9:00 a.m. and is free and open to the public.

## "The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow"

Authors Jon Voelkel, Pamela Voelkel, and Ally Condie will join literacy advocates Elaine H. Scott and Claiborne Barksdale in a discussion about reading and writing problems and opportunities.

Teachers, librarians, students, writers, and other interested persons are invited to attend. Continuing Education Units are available for conference and workshop participants. The session will take place at the Overby Center Auditorium on Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. Questions for the panelists may be submitted beforehand to Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, School of Education, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677; e-mail ringham@olemiss.edu. Deadline: Wednesday, March 23.

# Library Exhibition on Walter Anderson

The exhibition *Walter Anderson and World Literature* is on display at the University of Mississippi J.D. Williams Library. Curated by the artist's son John Anderson, it features 85 prints. In addition to the complete alphabet series, the exhibition includes illustrations to accompany the text of such classics as *Don Quixote*, *Paradise Lost*, *Legends of Charlemagne*, and the *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* as well as scenes from beloved fairy tales like *Rapunzel*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *Puss and Boots*.

The library has also created an online subject guide to accompany the exhibit at [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject\\_guide/anderson/intro](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject_guide/anderson/intro). It includes lists of publications on the life and work of Walter Anderson, other online resources, and books illustrated by Anderson that appear in the exhibition. The subject guide also features an essay by the curator.

The exhibition was sponsored in conjunction with the 16th annual Oxford Conference for the Book, which on March 26, 2009, presented four sessions on the role of books in Walter Anderson's life and art. Films of these sessions are posted on the Center's Web site, [www.olemiss.edu/depts/south](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/south).



From *Don Quixote*  
*The Don's Apostrophe to Dulcinea*  
Courtesy Family of Walter Anderson



# 2011 Celebrations of Tennessee Williams's 100th Birthday

Tennessee Williams, born in Columbus, Mississippi, on March 26, 1911, is being celebrated throughout the year with productions of his plays, personal tributes, scholarly presentations, elegant banquets, and theater festivals around the world. A selected few are noted here.

March 23–27, the 25th Annual Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival is celebrating with various productions of Williams's plays, dramatic readings, scholarly presentations, and other events, including world premieres of three Williams one-act plays; a new one-man piece arranged and performed by Jeremy Lawrence; and productions of *The Glass Menagerie* and *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*. "I Remember Tennessee" brings together three great ladies of the stage and screen who worked in Williams dramas—Zoe Caldwell (*Slapstick Tragedy*), Shirley Knight (*Seven Descents of Myrtle, Sweet Bird of Youth*), and Carroll Baker (*Baby Doll*)—for an evening of memories and readings. Always a popular feature of the annual program is Robert Bray's scholars conference, which takes place all day Friday, March 25, at the Williams Research Center. A Literary Walking Tour, a panel on "The Humor of Tennessee Williams," and the Stanley and Stella Shouting Contest are additional highlights of the weekend.

During the centennial week of March 26, Clarksdale's Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival, sponsored by Coahoma Community College, will celebrate Williams's 100th birthday. Williams spent part of his childhood in Clarksdale, living with his mother, his sister, and his grandparents, Rose and Walter Dakin, in the rectory of St. George's Episcopal Church. The Reverend Dakin served as rector there for 16 years. *Summer and Smoke*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Baby Doll*, *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*, and many other Williams's great Delta plays include major scenes from this area as well as real Delta characters such as *Baby Doll*, *Brick Pollitt*, and *Blanche du Bois*.

On March 24, Columbus, Mississippi, will begin its celebration with a Big Band Concert at the Trotter Convention Center as a benefit for the preservation of the Tennessee Williams birthplace home. Concluding the Williams celebration on March 27 and in connection with the opening of the town's annual pilgrimage, Bridget Pieschel and Nancy Carpenter will host an event with scholars from the Southern Literary Trail.

In Oxford, on March 26, the annual book conference will conclude with a marathon book signing and party that will celebrate Williams with toasts and a birthday cake.

Actress and director Jodie Markell will be in Columbus on March 26 and in Oxford on March 29 to show her 2008 film of Williams's *Loss of a Teardrop Diamond* and talk about her experiences in directing it.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, the Shaw Festival of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, will include a production of Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* from May 3 until October 23. Tennessee Williams called *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* his personal favorite play and critics have agreed: he won his second Pulitzer Prize for it in 1955 (his first was for *A Streetcar Named Desire*).

An international highlight in honor of Williams at 100 will take place on the campus of Nancy University in France from Thursday, June 23, until Sunday, June 26. "Tennessee Williams in Europe: A Centenary Celebration, 1911–2011" is part of the globalization of Tennessee Williams, who as a playwright has become an icon of world drama. In addition to various keynote talks and social activities, the program will include a projection of the rare *Noir et Blanc*, a 1986 French film based on Williams's short story "Desire and the Black Masseur."

Coinciding with the 2011 Centenary of Tennessee Williams, the award-winning New Group Theatre Company, in collaboration with the Tectonic Theater Project, will be performing the New York premiere of Tennessee Williams's short story and screenplay *One Arm*. This



Inset photos, left: from the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts/Billy Rose Theatre Division: Vandamm theatrical photographs, 1900–1957, *Personalities*, Tennessee Williams. Center and far right photo courtesy of New Directions Publishing

production will begin in previews on May 5, with a final performance on June 26.

Columbus, Mississippi, will once again be paying tribute to its native son Tennessee Williams at its annual Tennessee Williams Tribute Week, September 6–11. The program will include a wide variety of celebrations and presentations including a production of *The Night of the Iguana*, a consideration of Williams in China, a library exhibition focusing on Williams works, and a bus tour of Columbus.

The Sixth Annual Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, September 22–25, will feature at least five live productions: *The Hotel Plays*; *Something Cloudy, Something Clear*; *The Parade*; *Now the Cats with Jewelled Claws*; and *Neo-Benshi "Streetcar"* (Roxanne Power Hamilton's powerful reinterpretation of images from the iconic Williams film).

October 14 and 15, the Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival will be joining these global celebrations with the 19th edition of its own annual event. This festival will feature scholars' presentations, professional actors in scenes from Williams's plays, a high school acting competition, as well as a series of porch plays devoted to the Delta world of Tennessee Williams.

Colby H. Kullman



# Tennessee Williams Centennial Exhibitions

*Becoming Tennessee Williams*  
February 1–July 31, 2011

“Yes, I have tricks in my pocket. I have things up my sleeve. But I am the opposite of a stage magician. He gives you illusion that has the appearance of truth. I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion.” —Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*, 1944

The Harry Ransom Center, a humanities research library and museum at the University of Texas at Austin, is sponsoring an exhibition featuring more than 250 items from its extensive collection of Williams manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, and artwork to explore the idea, act, and process of artistic creation, illuminating how Thomas Lanier Williams became Tennessee Williams.

With his plays *The Glass Menagerie* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Williams (1911–1983) reinvented the American theater. “There is no more influential 20th-century American playwright than Tennessee Williams,” said Charlotte Canning, curator of the exhibition. “He inspired future generations of writers . . . and his plays remain among the most produced in the world.”

His keen insights gave rise to a body of work unequaled by almost any other 20th-century playwright. Although he was also a gifted poet and short story writer, it was the metamorphic possibilities of live performance that most inspired him.

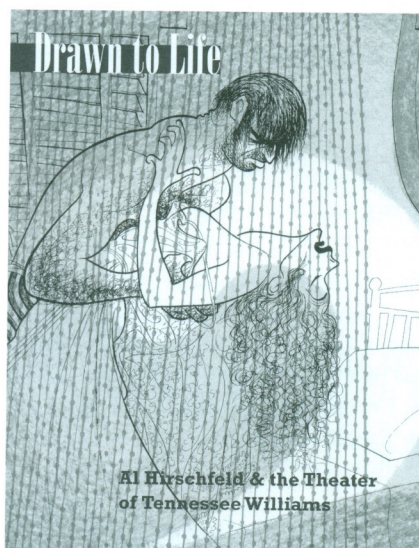
*Becoming Tennessee Williams* can be seen in the Ransom Center Galleries on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended Thursday hours to 7 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays the galleries are open from noon to 5 p.m.



The Ninth  
**Oxford Conference for the Book**  
The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi  
April 11-14, 2002

*Drawn to Life: Al Hirschfeld and the Theater of Tennessee Williams*  
January 11–April 3, 2011

The Historic New Orleans Collection and the Al Hirschfeld Foundation collaborated on an exhibition and companion publication that bring together highlights from the Collection’s permanent holdings and 50 drawings by the legendary artist. Hirschfeld, a self-described “characterist,” was the foremost chronicler of Williams’s productions on and off Broadway for six decades. With his signature linear calligraphic style, Hirschfeld’s drawings compose a fascinating archive of the playwright’s career while capturing the personalities of the actors who portrayed his characters on stage and screen. The exhibition also includes



correspondence, programs, and family photographs documenting Williams’s talent for drawing from his own life to create some of the most compelling characters in American theater history.

The exhibition marks the first time Hirschfeld’s art has been pulled from collections around the country to give an account of the work of Tennessee

Williams. The companion catalog includes a foreword by film critic Rex Reed and essays by co-curators Mark Cave of the William Research Center and David Leopold of the Al Hirschfeld Foundation.

*Drawn to Life* is on view at the Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street, New Orleans, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday; no admission is charged.

Illustrating the 2002 Oxford Conference for the Book poster is a portrait of Tennessee Williams, used courtesy Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. The poster is available at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture or by calling 800-390-3527. Posters are \$10.00 each plus \$3.50 postage and handling, if mailed. Mississippi residents add 7 percent sales tax.



# Future of the South Symposium *The Gulf Oil Spill after One Year*

April 1–2, 2011  
Barnard Observatory  
The University of Mississippi

## Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 1

3:00 p.m. "Covering the Oil Spill"  
David Hammer, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*  
Steve Lerner, *Commonweal*  
Mac McClelland, *Mother Jones*  
Karen Nelson, *Biloxi Sun Herald*

4:30 p.m. "Living, Working, Eating, Part 1"  
Ellis Anderson, author, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi  
Louis Kyriakoudes, University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage  
Drew Landry, Louisiana musician  
Liz Williams, Southern Food and Beverage Museum, New Orleans

Saturday, April 2

9:30 a.m. "Living, Working, Eating, Part 2"  
J. Steven Picou, University of South Alabama, Sociology  
Shana Walton, Nicholls State University, English  
Joe York, University of Mississippi, Media and Documentary Projects

11:00 a.m. "The Oil Spill and the Wetlands"  
Alex Kolker, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and Tulane University  
Kristine Willett, University of Mississippi, Pharmacology

2:00 p.m. "Perspectives on Recovery"  
Craig Colten, Louisiana State University, Geography and Anthropology  
David Butler and Edward Sayre, University of Southern Mississippi, Economics  
Richard Mizelle, Florida State University, History

A short concluding discussion will follow the 2:00 panel.

Please check the Center's Web site, [www.olemiss.edu/depts/future\\_south.html](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/future_south.html), and our Facebook page for details.

# Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference Faulkner's Geographies/Southern Literary Geographies July 17–21, 2011

Consideration of the geography of William Faulkner's life and fiction might well begin with the location of Rowan Oak, the home he purchased in 1930, renovated, and lived and wrote in for over 30 years. He selected the house with great care, drawn to it partly for the dilapidated condition that reduced its price to something he could afford, partly for its antebellum origin, but perhaps mostly for its isolation, which, even in 2011 Oxford, still exists. Tucked into a sharp elbow of Old Taylor Road, the front door a good 50 yards up the path from the gate, and backed by more than 30 acres of Bailey's Woods, Rowan Oak remains, like its former owner, an entity apart, within, yet not quite of, the community it has made famous. Visitors to Oxford, if without a local guide, still complain: "Rowan Oak is almost as difficult to find as Faulkner's mythical Yoknapatawpha County."

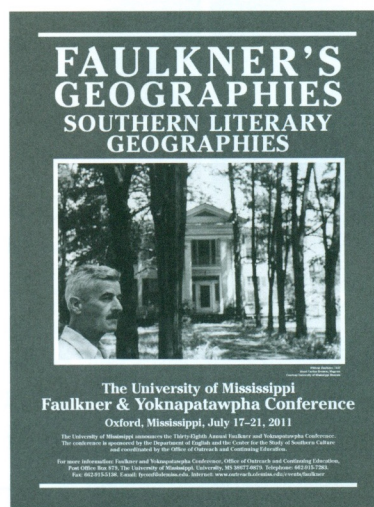
The photograph selected for this year's Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha poster positions the writer, the cedars, and the portico columns as echoing lines of identity. Henri Cartier-Bresson took a series of photographs of Faulkner in 1947, including a widely reproduced shot of Faulkner and two of his dogs (whose names, Faulkner later told an interviewer, were "Cartier" and "Bresson"). The conference poster photo, however, has rarely been seen and was recently acquired by the University of Mississippi Museum, under the directorship of William Andrews.

In 1963, following Faulkner's death the previous year, the University of Mississippi leased the house and surrounding land from his widow, Estelle Oldham Faulkner, and in 1973, following her death, purchased the house from the late Jill Faulkner Summers, the Faulkners' daughter. Since that time, the house has been open to the public. As part of the 2011 conference, four of the curators and assistant curators of Rowan Oak, spanning the years from 1980 to the present, will make up a panel of unique perspectives on what is perhaps the most famous literary home in the United States.

The 38th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, "Faulkner's Geographies," will explore the complexities of place and space, borders impenetrable or porous, the unexpected parallels of places and peoples whose cultural interactions overcome their spatial distances. Lectures, panel discussions, teaching Faulkner sessions, guided tours of Oxford, the Delta, Memphis, and north Mississippi, and the usual round of social gatherings, including a picnic served at Rowan Oak, will introduce new approaches to the surfaces and depths of Faulkner's imagined land and people.

Contact Robert Fox at [rfox@olemiss.edu](mailto:rfox@olemiss.edu) for details.

Donald M. Kartiganer



Illustrating the 2011 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha poster and program is a photograph of William Faulkner at his home, Rowan Oak, in 1947 by French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson. Flat copies of this poster are available at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture or by calling 800-390-3527. Posters are \$10.00 each plus \$3.50 postage and handling, if mailed. Mississippi residents add 7 percent sales tax.



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 nearly 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), School of Applied Sciences (2001), and the Meek School of Journalism and New Media (2008). 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 25 Rhodes Scholars, and since 1998 alone produced six Truman Scholars, eight Goldwater Scholars, six Fulbright Scholars, a Marshall Scholar, a Gates-Cambridge Scholar, and a Udall Scholar.

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 house, was built by Colonel Shegog 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 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday 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 J. R. Cofield and Martin Dain. Special Collections' Blues Archive houses the *Living Blues* Archival Collection and over 60,000 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. A new exhibition titled "*This Fiery Trial: An Exhibit on Mississippi and the American Civil War*" features a large collection of Civil War artifacts and documents. Also on display in the hall outside Special Collections is *Walter Anderson and World Literature*, an exhibition curated by the artist's son John Anderson. On March 24 at 11:30 a.m. the 18<sup>th</sup> Oxford Conference for the Book will begin with Peggy Preshaw speaking about Southern women and autobiography. Special Collections is open from 8:00 a.m. to 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: J&P Voelkel and Ally Condie are participating in the 2011 Young Authors Fair sponsored by the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, the Lafayette County Literary Council, Square Books Jr., and other collaborators on Friday, March 25. J&P Voelkel will speak to fifth graders, who will receive personal copies of their novel *Middleworld* and attend their program at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts during the Oxford Conference for the Book. Ninth graders received their own copies of Ally Condie's *Matched* to read and write about before attending her session at the Ford Center during the conference. This year students from Mississippi Teacher Corps and Teach for America schools will also attend the sessions and receive copies of the visiting authors' books. Students, teachers, parents, and other fans of the authors' work are invited to attend a book signing at Square Books Jr. 3:30–4:30 p.m. on March 25.



# The Eighteenth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Philosophy and Religion, John Davis Williams Library, Meek School of Journalism and New Media, 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, Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, Southern Literary Trails, and Square Books. The 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 National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and the Oxford Tourism 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 ARTS COMMISSION

The program is funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, funded by the Mississippi legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Wallace Foundation, and other private sources.

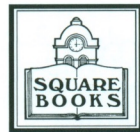


## MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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.



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  
[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  
[www.squarebooks.com/](http://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 • e-mail [cssc@olemiss.edu](mailto:cssc@olemiss.edu) • [www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com](http://www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com)



The  
University of Mississippi

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# The King James Bible at 400

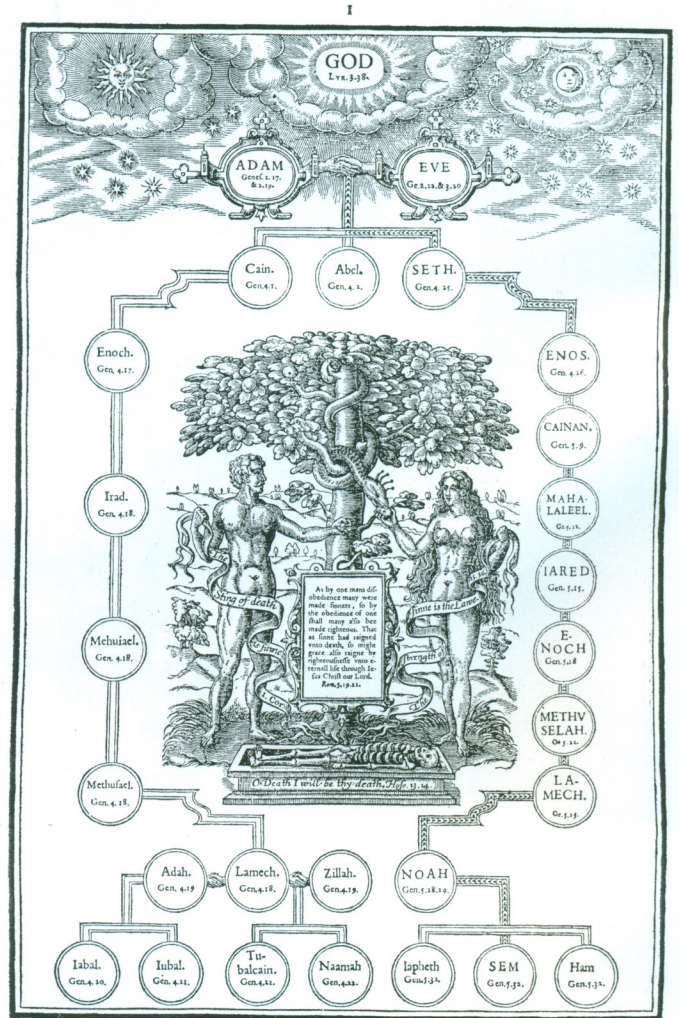
This year, the King James Bible marks its 400th birthday with a worldwide celebration of its existence. The Authorized Version, as it became commonly known in the United Kingdom, was the ultimate product of King James I of England's 1604 meeting with the Church of England and a group of Puritan leaders. Referred to now as the Hampton Court Conference, the meeting was called after the Puritans' request for church reform.

The bible itself—the third English translation—was translated over the following seven years and completed in 1611. King James appointed 47 scholars, all from the Church of England and all but one ordained clergy, to do the work. The Old Testament was translated from the Hebrew texts, the New Testament from the Greek, and the Apocrypha from both Latin and Greek sources. Interestingly, none of these men were paid for their work. The copperplate engravings on the title page and genealogies (the Adam and Eve genealogy page illustrates the 2011 Oxford Conference for the Book poster, shirt, and other materials) were made by the Belgian portraitist Cornelius Boel. Eventually, though not by direct order of the King, the Authorized Version fully replaced the Great Bible in the 1662 edition of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer and on all parish lecterns, and to this day, nearly all versions of the bible used by mainline Christian denominations stem from the 1611 version. "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings" (Psalm 17:8) appears practically verbatim in the King James Version, the American King James Version, the New American Standard Version, the English Revised Version, and the New International Version, among others.

The KJV is certainly a book worth celebrating, and the aptly named King James Bible Trust, headquartered in Swindon, England, was created specifically for this cause. The trust has organized or sponsored dozens of events across the United Kingdom and the world, ranging from lectures and readings to choral evensong events, bible exhibitions, and children's speech contests.

Closer to home, the 2011 Oxford Conference of the Book will not only use an engraving by Cornelius Boel on its poster but will also dedicate a panel discussion to the KJV titled "The King James Bible at 400." Charles Reagan Wilson, who has written extensively on religion in the South, and Norman W. Jones, who, with Hannibal Hamlin, coedited the book *The King James Bible after 400 Years*, will talk about the bible's significance and cultural influence over the last four centuries.

Regionally, throughout 2011, churches, universities, museums, and other groups are dedicating events to the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Consider, if you are so inclined, "The KJV@400: From Hampton Court, around the Globe, and



the Moon" at the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University in Houston, Texas; "The History and Impact of the King James Bible" by Dr. Philip Stine at St. James Episcopal Church in Wilmington, North Carolina; the King James Bible Conference at Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion in Waco, Texas; the King James Bible Expo at the Capitol Reflecting Pool on the National Mall, Washington, D.C.; *Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible* at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.; and the Symposium on Shakespeare and the Bible at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee.

Sally Cassady Lyon



# The Eighteenth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

## Schedule of Events

### THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Thursday's luncheon program will be at the John Davis Williams Library on the University campus; program sessions on Thursday afternoon will be at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, 555 Grove Loop, on the University campus. *Thacker Mountain Radio* will be broadcast from Off Square Books.

- 10:00 a.m.** Registration Begins: Barnard Observatory  
Registration will be held at Barnard Observatory on Thursday, March 24, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Thereafter, registration materials will be available at the various meeting sites.
- 11:30 a.m.** Lunch  
Opening Session  
Kathryn McKee, moderator  
"Southern Women Making Up Themselves"  
Peggy Whitman Prenshaw  
Lunch Hosted by Julia Rholes,  
Dean of University Libraries  
John Davis Williams Library
- 1:30 p.m.** Welcome  
Chancellor Daniel W. Jones  
Celebration of National Poetry Month  
Beth Ann Fennelly, moderator  
Michael McFee, Richard Tillinghast
- 2:30 p.m.** Readings and Remarks  
W. Ralph Eubanks, moderator  
Natasha Trethewey, Jesmyn Ward
- 4:00 p.m.** "Reading in the Post-Gutenbergian Age"  
William Dunlap, moderator  
Sven Birkerts, Sarah Kennedy, R. T. Smith
- 6:00 p.m.** *Thacker Mountain Radio*  
Jim Dees, host  
Kevin Brockmeier, Téa Obreht, Karen Russell  
The Yalobushwhackers, house band  
Big Smith, guest musicians

- 7:00 p.m.** Dinner with the Speakers  
Barksdale-Isom Place (Reservations Required)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 25

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 Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, 555 Grove Loop, on the University campus. The 8 o'clock Poetry & Fiction Jam will be at Off Square Books.

- 9:00 a.m.** Literature for Young Readers 1  
Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, moderator  
Readings/Remarks: Jon Voelkel, Pamela Voelkel
- 10:30 a.m.** Literature for Young Readers 2  
Susan Phillips, moderator  
Readings/Remarks: Ally Condie
- Noon** Poetry Craft Talk and Lunch  
(Reservations Required)  
Michael McFee  
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library
- 1:30 p.m.** Readings  
Lyn Roberts, moderator  
Téa Obreht, Justin Taylor
- 2:30 p.m.** Narrative Nonfiction  
Jamie Kornegay, moderator  
Mark Richard, Curtis Wilkie
- 4:00 p.m.** "Writing about Sports"  
Thomas Oliphant, moderator  
Rick Cleveland, Wil Haygood, Wright Thompson

### Young Authors Fair

Students, teachers, parents, and other fans of the authors' work are invited to attend a book signing at Square Books Jr. 3:30-4:30 p.m. on March 25.



8:00 p.m. Open Mike: Poetry & Fiction Jam  
Dorothy Knight, Travis Smith, moderators

## SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Program sessions on Saturday will be at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, 555 Grove Loop, on the University campus. The 6 o'clock book signing and party will be at Off Square Books.

8:00 a.m. Breakfast (No Charge; Registration Required)

9:00 a.m. "The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow"  
Overby Center Auditorium  
Elaine H. Scott, moderator  
Claiborne Barksdale, Ally Condie, Jon Voelkel, Pamela Voelkel

Poetry Writing Workshop  
Overby Center Rooms 206  
Richard Tillinghast  
(Registration Required)

10:00 a.m. "Texts and Technologies"  
Ivo Kamps, moderator  
Jennifer Drouin, Mary Hayes, Gregory Heyworth

11:00 a.m. "The King James Bible at 400"  
Ted Ownby, moderator  
Norman W. Jones, Charles Reagan Wilson

Noon Lunch – picnic celebrating books  
Barnard Observatory (Registration Required)

2:00 p.m. "Comic Book Auteurs"  
Jack Pendarvis, moderator  
Joyce Farmer, Michael Kupperman, Joe Matt

3:00 p.m. "City Lights: A Dialogue"  
Richard Howorth, Paul Yamazaki

4:00 p.m. Readings and Remarks  
Tom Franklin, moderator  
Kevin Brockmeier, Karen Russell

6:00 p.m. Marathon Book Signing and Party

## Art Exhibition

William Gay, paintings  
Claude Wilkinson, paintings and pastels

March 1–April 2

Artists' Reception: Friday, March 25, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Southside Gallery • 150 Courthouse Square

# Thacker Mountain Radio

## Big Smith, guest musicians

Big Smith is a band from Springfield, Missouri, composed of five cousins: Mark and Jody Bilyeu, Bill and Rik Thomas, and Jay Williamson. The newest member, fiddle player Molly Healey, brings the total to six creative individuals bound together by blood and harmony.



After coming together in the fall of 1996, the cousins quickly earned a devoted following playing raucous acoustic music that captured the spirit of their native Ozarks, equipped only with an acoustic guitar, mandolin, bass fiddle, and washboard. These early gigs demonstrated the joy and liberation of Ozarks culture, interpreted by modern, intellectually astute neohillbillies.

Big Smith now performs upwards of 100 shows annually. They are still adored in the Ozarks, but years of travel have earned them a place as a Midwest institution. They have made their mark outside their region with several forays to Chicago, Nashville, Austin, and Colorado; several tours to the West Coast; and along the length of the Mississippi from the Twin Cities to New Orleans. In 2008 they traveled to Europe for the 21st Annual Country Rendez-Vous Festival in Crappone, France.

## The Yalobushwackers, house band

Jerry "Duff" Dorrrough is probably best known as the lead guitarist for the Tangents, a hard-touring Mississippi Delta soul band. His fine songwriting is showcased on his album *Peace in the Lily of the Valley* (Black Dog Records). His latest release is a gospel CD, *The Holy Rollers*, on which he collaborates with singer/songwriter Carl Massengale.

Multi-instrumentalist Slade Lewis (bass) has been the backbone of many bands over the years, most recently with Oxford soul ensemble, Wiley and the Checkmates. Slade is also a composer who scores soundtracks for documentary films.



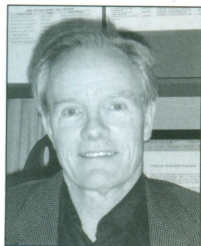
Pianist Mark Yacovone joined the band in 2009

after moving to Mississippi from Providence, Rhode Island. He has played keyboards and accordion with, among others, Guitar Mikey and the Real Thing, Driving Blind, and Ben Rudnick and Friends.

Drummer Wallace Lester had been a mainstay of the New Orleans music community until Hurricane Katrina forced his relocation to North Mississippi. Wallace currently lives in Holly Springs with his wife, singer/songwriter Shannon McNally, who is a frequent Thacker guest.

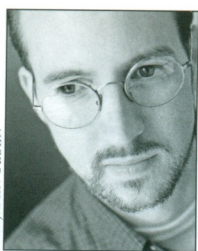


# The Speakers



**Claiborne Barksdale** is executive director of the Barksdale Reading Institute at the University of Mississippi. He has practiced law in Jackson, served as legislative coordinator for Senator Thad Cochran, spent a year as a clerk for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and served as counsel for communications companies since 1983.

**Sven Birkerts** is the author of *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age* and seven other books, including *The Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again*. He writes for the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Washington Post*. He is the director of the Bennington College Writing Seminars in Vermont and the editor of the literary journal *Agni*, published at Boston University.



BENJAMIN KRAIN

**Kevin Brockmeier** is the author of the novels *The Brief History of the Dead*, *The Truth about Celia*, and *The Illumination* as well as the story collection *Things That Fall from the Sky* and two children's novels. His stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Georgia Review*, and numerous other publications.

Recently he was named one of *Granta* magazine's Best Young American Novelists. He lives in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Rick Cleveland** has been writing about sports for 43 years, 30 years at the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Mississippi. He is the author of three books: *It's More Than a Game*, a collection of his newspaper articles; *Vaught: The Man and His Legacy*, about the legendary University of Mississippi football coach Johnny Vaught; and *Boo: A Life in Baseball, Well-Lived*, about the life of David "Boo" Ferriss and his impact on the sport.



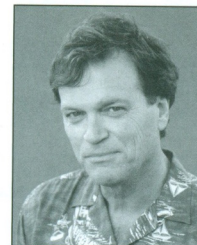
BROCK ANDREHETI



**Ally Condie**, a teacher who lives in Salt Lake City with her husband and three sons, wrote five novels for young readers published by small Utah companies before Penguin featured her book *Matched* at BookExpo America 2010. *Matched* has become immensely popular since its release

in November. Condie's earlier titles are *Yearbook*, *First Day*, *Reunion*, *Freshman for President*, and *Being Sixteen*.

**Jim Dees** is the host of *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a literature and music program on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. He is the author of *Lies and Other Truths*, a collection of his newspaper columns, and the editor of *They Write among Us*, a collection of fiction, nonfiction, and verse by Oxford, Mississippi, writers.



PERRY SMITH

**Margaret-Love Denman**, coordinator of off-campus writing programs at the University of Mississippi, was previously the director of the creative writing program at the University of New Hampshire for 12 years. She is the author of the novels *A Scrambling after Circumstance* 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 writing textbook.

**Jennifer Drouin** teaches Shakespeare and Renaissance drama at the University of Alabama. She is working on a book entitled *Shakespeare in Québec: Nation, Gender, and Adaptation* and an online database entitled *Shakespeare au/in Québec*.



**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. *Dunlap*, the book about his work, won the 2007 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Visual Arts Award.

**W. Ralph Eubanks** is the author of two books: *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past* and *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*. He has contributed articles to the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Preservation*, and National Public Radio. He has been director of publishing at the Library of Congress since 1995.







JODY HOY

Joyce Farmer is the author of *Special Exits*, a 208-page graphic memoir that details the decline and death of her elderly parents and addresses caregiving issues for the elderly today. She was a pioneer of feminist underground comics with the *Tits and Clits* series, published between 1972 and 1985.

Farmer's work has also appeared in *Wimmen's Comix* and other alternative publications.

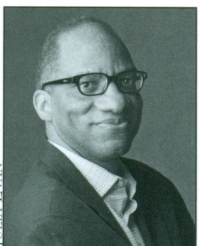
Beth Ann Fennelly is the author of three poetry collections, *Open House*, *Tender Hooks*, and *Unmentionables*, and a book of essays, *Great with Child: Letters to a Young Mother*. Fennelly has three times been included in the Best American Poetry series and is a winner of a Pushcart Prize. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi.



MAUDE SCHUYLER CLAY

Tom Franklin is a widely published author of fiction and nonfiction. He has published the story collection *Poachers* and three novels, *Hell at the Breech*, *Smonk*, and *Crooked Letter*. Recipient of a 2001 Guggenheim Fellowship, he teaches in the University of Mississippi's MFA program.

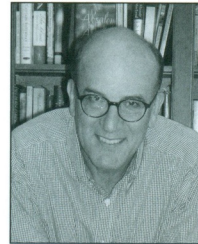
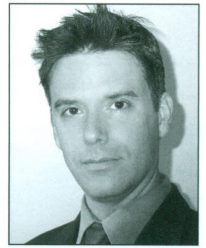
Mary Hayes is an assistant professor of English and director of Medieval Studies at the University of Mississippi. Her research interests include the history of the senses/sound theory and magic and the occult. She is currently involved in the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible.



JULIA EVAN

Wil Haygood is a journalist and the author of five books, most recently, *Sweet Thunder*, a 2009 biography of the great prize-fighter Sugar Ray Robinson. Currently a staff writer for the Style section of the *Washington Post*, Haygood previously served for 17 years as a feature writer and national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe*.

Gregory Heyworth, associate professor English at the University of Mississippi, is the author of *Desiring Bodies: Ovidian Romance and the Cult of Form*. He developed a portable, digital imaging laboratory to recover a unique medieval manuscript damaged during World War II, contributing to medieval studies and offering possibilities for helping recover other manuscripts such as William Faulkner's fire-damaged poems.



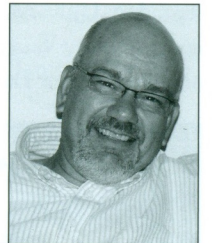
Richard Howorth is founder of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, and past president of the American Booksellers Association. He served as mayor of Oxford from 2001 to 2009 and was honored with the 2008 Authors Guild Award for Distinguished Service to the Literary Community.

Daniel W. Jones has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since July 2009. He previously served as vice chancellor for health affairs, dean of the School of Medicine, and Herbert G. Langford Professor of Medicine at the University Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson. A native Mississippian, he graduated from Mississippi College in 1971 and earned his MD and completed residency training at UMMC.



Norman W. Jones is associate professor and English Department coordinator at Ohio State University, where he teaches courses in 20th- and 21st-century American literature, film, and the Bible. He is coeditor of *The King James Bible after Four Hundred Years: Literary, Linguistic, and Cultural Influence* and the author of *Gay and Lesbian Historical Fiction: Sexual Mystery and Post-Secular Narrative*.

Ivo Kamps is chair of the English Department at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of a book on Stuart drama and editor of *Materialist Shakespeare, Shakespeare Left and Right*, and six other collections. The Early Modern Cultural Series, which he and Jean Howard edit for Palgrave Press, has 25 titles in print so far.







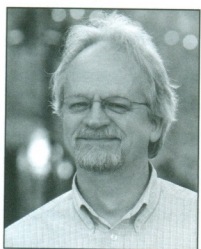
**Sarah Kennedy** is the author of six books of poetry, including *Home Remedies*, *A Witch's Dictionary*, and *Consider the Lilies*. She is the coeditor of the anthology *Common Wealth: Contemporary Poets of Virginia* and a contributing editor for *Pleiades* and *West Branch*. She is the book review editor for *Shenandoah* and teaches at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia.

**Dorothy Knight**, a native of Kingsland, Georgia, received a BA in English from Valdosta State University in 2006. She is now an MFA student in the University of Mississippi's poetry program.



**Jamie Kornegay** is owner of Turnrow Book Company in Greenwood, Mississippi. His fiction has appeared in *Stories from the Blue Moon Café II*, *The Alumni Grill*, and *They Write among Us: New Stories and Essays from the Best of Oxford Writers*.

**Michael Kupperman** is an American cartoonist and illustrator whose work has appeared in magazines ranging from the *New Yorker* to *Fortune*, newspapers from the *New York Times* to the *Village Voice*, and numerous books. His work has been collected in *Snake 'n' Bacon's Cartoon Cabaret* and *Tales Designed to Thrizzle*.

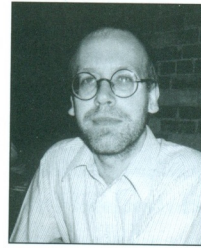


**Michael McFee** is professor of English and director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of nine collections of poetry, most recently, *The Smallest Talk*, and *The Napkin Manuscripts: Selected Essays and an Interview*. McFee is also the editor of *This Is Where We Live: Short Stories by 25 Contemporary North Carolina Writers* and two other anthologies.

**Kathryn McKee** is McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. She has published articles about various Southern writers and is coeditor of a special issue of the journal *American*



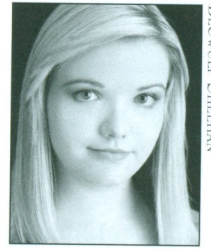
*Literature* called "Global Contexts, Local Literatures" and the collection *American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary*.



**Joe Matt** studied at the Philadelphia College of Art and then started drawing autobiographical comic strips that were collected in 1992 and published as *Peepshow: The Cartoon Diary of Joe Matt*. *Peepshow* has subsequently been collected as *The Poor Bastard*, *Fair Weather*, and *Spent*.

In addition to cartooning, Matt has developed a large collection of vintage Gasoline Alley comic strips.

**Téa Obrecht** was born in the former Yugoslavia, spent her childhood in Cyprus and Egypt, and immigrated to the United States in 1997. An excerpt from her newly published debut novel, *The Tiger's Wife*, appeared in 2010 in the *New Yorker*, which named her as one of the 20 best American fiction writers under 40. She was also included in the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" list.

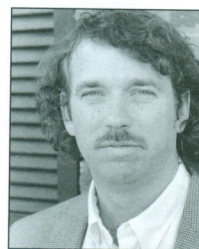


BROWNE SHEEHAN



**Thomas Oliphant** is the author of *Praying for Gil Hodges*, a book about the Brooklyn Dodgers and their championship season. Oliphant began as a correspondent for the *Boston Globe* in 1968 and was its Washington columnist from 1989 until his retirement in 2007. A noted political commentator, he was a frequent guest on *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*.

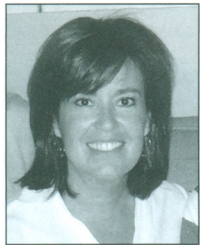
**Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham** is professor and coordinator of English education at the University of Mississippi, where she teaches children's and adolescent literature. She has published a biographical sketch of Louisa May Alcott and a biography of Karen Hesse.



**Ted Ownby** is professor of Southern Studies and history and director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He is the author of *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1905-1920* and *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1908*.



**Jack Pendarvis** is the author of the novel *Awesome*, two collections of stories, *The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure* and *Your Body Is Changing*, and jackpendarvis.blogspot.com. He is a columnist for *Oxford American* and the *Believer*. His work has appeared in *McSweeney's*, the *New York Times*, and the 2006 Pushcart Prize anthology. He teaches creative writing at the University of Mississippi.



**Susan Phillips** is director of the Lafayette County Literacy Council and director of Discovery Day School in Oxford. A native Oxonian and a graduate of the University of Mississippi, she has taught reading and creative writing to students from kindergarten to the university level.

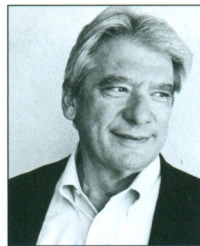
**Peggy Whitman Prenshaw** teaches at Millsaps College and is the former Fred C. Frey Chair of Southern Studies at Louisiana State University. She is author and editor of volumes on Eudora Welty, Elizabeth Spencer, contemporary Southern women writers, and Southern cultural history. Her *Composing Selves: Southern Women and Autobiography* received the 2011 Jules and Frances Landry Award, given annually to the best new book in Southern Studies published by LSU Press.



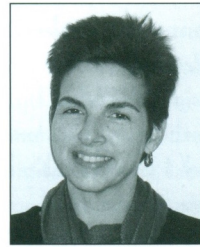
**Julia Rholes** is dean of libraries at the University of Mississippi where she leads efforts to develop distinctive research collections and innovative library services and programs. She has held elected positions within the American Library Association, the Association of Southeastern Research

Libraries, and the EPSCOR Science Information Group (ESIG).

**Mark Richard** is the author of two collections of stories, *The Ice at the Bottom of the World* and *Charity*, the novel *Fishboy: A Ghost Story*, and scripts for film and television. His newly published memoir, *House of Prayer No. 2*, tells the story of his life beginning as a "special child" growing up amid racial tension and religious fervor in the American South. Richard was John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 1994–1995.



JEFF VESPA



**Lyn Roberts** has been manager of Square Books since completing her law degree at the University of Mississippi. She is a member of the planning committee for the Oxford Conference for the Book and helps coordinate arrangements for the annual program.

**Karen Russell** was featured in the *New Yorker's* debut fiction issue and named a 2009 National Book Foundation "5 Under 35" young author honoree for her first book, the story collection *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*. Her stories have appeared in several magazines and in *The Best American Short Stories* (2007 and 2008). Russell's newly published first novel, *Swamplandia!*, tells about a family of alligator wrestlers in the Florida swamp.

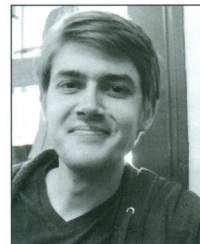


MICHAEL LONSTAR



**Elaine H. Scott** is former chair of the Arkansas State Board of Education, a member of the Education Commission of the States (1987–1997), and 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 1994.

**R. T. Smith** is writer in residence at Washington and Lee University where he also edits *Shenandoah* and teaches fiction writing. He recently published two volumes of stories, *The Calaboose Epistles* and *Uke Rivers Delivers*. His 12 collections of poetry include *Outlaw Style* and *Messenger*, both of which received the Library of Virginia Poetry Book Award.



**Travis Smith** is a first-year Grisham Fellow in the University of Mississippi MFA program. He completed a minor in creative writing at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2009. His poems have been published in *Tar River Poetry*, *storySouth*, and *Wag's Revue*.

**Justin Taylor** is the author of *The Gospel of Anarchy* and the story collection *Everything Here Is the Best Thing Ever*. He also edited the short fiction anthology *The Apocalypse Reader* and coedited *The Word Made Flesh: Literary Tattoos from Bookworms Worldwide*.



BILL HAWARD





**Wright Thompson**, a senior writer for ESPN.com and *ESPN The Magazine*, covers topics ranging from baseball to bullfighting. In 2010 he set a record by appearing for the fifth consecutive year in the annual *Best American Sports Writing* with "Shadow Boxing," about the fate of

Jim Robinson, who fought Muhammad Ali in Miami in 1961. Thompson's latest honor is a Media Eclipse Award for "The Legend of Zanyatta," the super mare who was just retired after an epic career with 19 victories in 20 races.

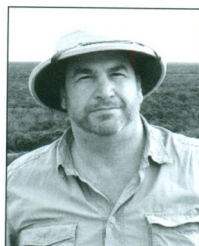
**Richard Tillinghast** is the author of 10 collections of poems and three nonfiction works, including *Damaged Grandeur*, a critical memoir of Robert Lowell, with whom he studied at Harvard, and *Finding Ireland: A Poet's Explorations of Irish Literature and Culture*. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Tillinghast now lives in South Tipperary, Ireland.



**Natasha Trethewey** is the author of three poetry collections—*Domestic Work*, *Bellocq's Ophelia*, and *Native Guard*, for which she won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. Her latest book, *Beyond Katrina*, is a moving and personal portrait of her home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and her family's struggle to recover from the hurricane's devastation. She holds the Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University.



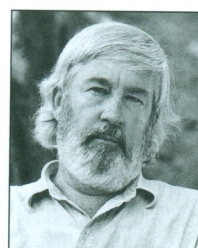
**Jon Voelkel** lived in Peru, Costa Rica, and Colombia before going to college in Minneapolis and to business school in Barcelona. After working in advertising agencies in Spain, Holland, and England, he started an agency in London with four other partners, one of whom became his wife. In 2001 the Voelkels moved to rural Vermont and began work on *Middleworld*, a collaborative book based on his childhood memories. Together, he and his wife, Pamela, publish under the name J&P Voelkel.



**Pamela Craik Voelkel** grew up in the north of England and, after graduating from Leeds University, went to London where, after stints reviewing books, writing catalogs, and penning speech bubbles for photo-romances, she became an advertising copywriter. As creative director of Craik Jones Watson

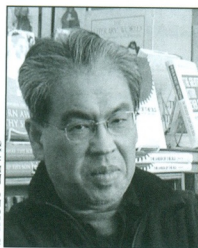
Mitchell Voelkel, she helped the agency win numerous creative awards. After moving to Vermont in 2001, she and her husband collaborated on *Middleworld*, the first of their Jaguar Stones trilogy.

**Jesmyn Ward** grew up in Delisle, Mississippi, the setting for her first two novels, *Where the Line Bleeds* and the forthcoming *Salvage the Bone*. She holds an MFA from the University of Michigan and bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University, where she was awarded a Stegner Fellowship in the Creative Writing Program. Ward is the 2010–2011 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi.



**Curtis Wilkie** is a journalist and the author of three books, most recently, *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer*. He 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. Wilkie teaches journalism and is a fellow at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at the University of Mississippi.

**Charles Reagan Wilson** is Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Chair of History and Professor of Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. He 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 two collections of essays, *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis* and the forthcoming *Flashes of a Southern Spirit: Meanings of Spirit in the U.S. South*.



**Paul Yamazaki** is head buyer at San Francisco's landmark independent bookstore City Lights. He began his career there packing books in 1970 and celebrated his 40th year in 2010, when the store received *Publishers Weekly's* "bookseller of the year" award. Yamazaki attributes his longevity to the "amazing environment" created by poet and artist Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who founded the store in 1953, and Nancy J. Peters, author, editor, and co-owner of City Lights since 1984.