

JOURNALISM
HYBRID FORMS
SQUARE BOOKS READINGS SERIES
ROBERT JOHNSON IN STORY & SONG
FICTION, MEMORY & SOUTHERN HISTORY

SESSION PANEL TOPICS

POETRY
FOOD & TRAVEL WRITING
DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY
FORUM ON ADULT & FAMILY LITERACY
FEMINISM & AMERICAN CRIME FICTION

All sessions are free and open to the public.

PRESENTED BY

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE & SQUARE BOOKS

OXFORD CONFERENCE FOR THE BOOK

2014 • *The 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE*

Writing the Southern Landscape

MARCH 26 ~ 28

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI • OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

The 11th Annual Mississippi Delta Cultural Tour

May 21–24, 2014

On May 21–24, 2014, the Mississippi Delta Cultural Tour sets out again to explore the rich literary, culinary, and musical cultures of the Delta towns of Greenwood, Greenville, Clarksdale, Indianola, Leland, Stoneville, Ruleville, Merigold, Mound Bayou, and Cleveland.

The tour begins at 4:00 on Wednesday, May 21, at Turnrow Book Company for two overview discussions on the Mississippi Delta. A happy hour reception at the Alluvian follows the opening talks. The day concludes with dinner at the famous Giardina's Restaurant, founded in 1936 by Joseph Giardina.

On Thursday, May 22, the tour will explore various blues sites, such as "where the Southern crosses the dog," and then visit the B. B. King Museum and Interpretive Center in Indianola. Lunch will be at the iconic Club Ebony juke joint. Following lunch, literary scholar Marion Barnwell will discuss the stories and novels of Delta author Lewis Nordan at the Sunflower County Library. In Greenwood, Mississippi historians Mary Carol Miller and Allan Hammons will discuss their book *Greenwood: Mississippi Memories*. Miller will lead a historical walking tour of downtown Greenwood that ends with happy hour, hot tamales, and the blues. A local hot tamales maker will join the tour to expand our understanding of the relationship of tamales with Delta. The evening concludes with Southern fare at Delta Bistro, owned and operated by the 2011 James Beard Awards "Best Chef: South" semifinalist Taylor Bowen Ricketts.

On Friday, May 23, the tour will pause at the gravesite of the "Father of the Delta Blues," Charley Patton, in Holly Ridge. A stop in downtown Leland to see the blues murals and Mississippi Blues Trail Markers will be followed by a tour of the Delta Research and Extension Center, led by Dr. Rebekah Ray. Lunch will be served at Cicero's Restaurant in Stoneville. After lunch will be a visit to the William Alexander Percy Memorial Library in Greenville for a talk on Holt Collier, His Life, His Roosevelt Hunts, and the Origin of the Teddy Bear by the author, Minor F. Buchanan, and a view the library's Greenville Writers Exhibit. Afterward, a tour of the 1927 Flood Museum and a drive south to Warfield Point Park for an up-close view of the Mississippi River are planned. Early evening will find the tour visiting a local art opening, *Delta Collects: Works from the Collection of Lester Nelkin*, at the E. E. Bass Cultural Arts Center. After a long day, the tour will have dinner at the famous Doe's Eat Place in Greenville.

Saturday, May 24, includes a trek to Clarksdale via Cleveland and Merigold. Blues scholar and host of Highway 61 Radio, Scott Barretta, will join the tour to guide us through the heart of the Delta. Along the way the tour will visit legendary bluesman Robert Johnson's gravesite, pause before the remains of Bryant's Grocery in Money, where Emmett Till allegedly made his tragic wolf whistle, stop at Fannie Lou Hamer's grave and memorial garden in Ruleville, and visit Dockery Plantation, one

of the Delta's most important plantations and occasional home to Charley Patton and other blues legends. In Cleveland the tour stops at the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum. Lunch will be catered at the Gallery, which is the restaurant of potter Lee McCarty. A visit to the McCarty Pottery showroom and garden follows lunch. In Clarksdale the tour stops at the Cutrer Mansion, the showplace residence that young Tom "Tennessee" Williams visited with his grandfather on parish calls. The residence is considered to be Tennessee's Belle Reve—the lost ancestral home of Blanche DuBois and Stella Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. A visit to the Delta Blues Museum is planned, followed by a visit to a local blues club. The long day ends at the appropriately named Rest Haven, the Delta's first stop for fine Lebanese food. Just prior to dinner, tour guide Jimmy Thomas will talk about how the Lebanese arrived in the Mississippi Delta.

Look for more information on the tour, as well as dozens of photos of past tours, on the tour's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mdct13) and on the Center's website (<http://southernstudies.olemiss.edu/mdct/>). To register for the tour, please contact tour organizer Jimmy Thomas via e-mail at jgthomas@olemiss.edu or by telephone at 662-915-3374, or visit the Center's website.

The tour is \$600 per person for all program activities, meals, and local transportation. The fee does not include lodging. Remember to sign up early. Only 40 spots are available. Group accommodations are offered at the Alluvian, in downtown Greenwood (www.thealluvian.com), and at several other local hotels.

Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference "Faulkner and History" July 20 – 24, 2014

The 2014 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, "Faulkner and History," will gather writers, teachers, students and other lovers of Faulkner's work from the fields of History and Literary Studies for five days of lectures and discussions exploring Faulkner's imaginative vision of historical forces, processes, and events, the shaping role of such events on his literary oeuvre, his significance as a historical figure in his own right, and the impact of his ideas about history, memory, and the past on historians and their discipline.

See <http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/events/faulkner/> for more information.

Save the Date

2015 Oxford Conference for the Book

Margaret Walker at 100

March 19-21 (tentatively)

In collaboration with Jackson State University's Margaret Walker Center

Support the Conference

Friends of the conference may choose to support either by making a gift to the conference's general fund, or directing their contribution to the conference's endowment fund.

General Fund

We are proud that the conference is free and open to the public. This does, however, require fundraising in support of author travel, stipends, venue rental, and the many other things necessary for planning a three-day-long event. Any amount helps in our mission to bring celebrated writers to Oxford.

If you do wish to support the conference, visit oxfordconferenceforthebook.com for information on online giving. If you prefer to send a check, you may mail it to the following address: The University of Mississippi Foundation – OCB General Support, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677-1848.

The Abadie Endowment

An endowment, started in the summer of 2011, honors retired Associate Director Ann Abadie. Past and present members of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture's Advisory Committee started the fund, and with encouragement from the Center's partners at Square Books, many past participants in the Conference made contributions as well.

Contributions to the endowment are very much welcome. Anyone interested in making a contribution can mail it to The University of Mississippi Foundation – Abadie Endowment, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677-1848. Checks should specify that they are in support of the OCB Endowment.

Make a Gift to the Oxford Conference for the Book

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Appeal: Program

The Twenty-First Oxford Conference for the Book



The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Square Books, Southern Documentary Project, Southern Foodways Alliance, *Living Blues* magazine, Lafayette County Literacy Council, Department of English, Department of History, John Davis Williams Library, Meek School of Journalism and New Media, Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, African American Studies Program, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writers Fund, Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library, Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, and Southern Literary Trail. 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 Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and Visit Oxford. We are grateful for the conference's many private donors.



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.



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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

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OXFORD
CONFERENCE



for the Book

March 26–28, 2014

Subject to change

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

- 11:30 a.m. **Welcome Lunch hosted by the University of Mississippi Library**
Archives and Special Collections, 3rd Floor of J. D. Williams Library
- Noon **Talking and Reading Blues: Opening Talk by Greg Johnson and Derrick Harriell**
Archives and Special Collections, 3rd Floor of J. D. Williams Library
- 1:30 p.m. **Fiction, Memory, and Southern History**
Ted Ownby, moderator
Bill Cheng, Françoise Hamlin, Jonathan Odell
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 3:00 p.m. **Journalism Forum**
Curtis Wilkie, moderator
H. Brandt Ayers, Ben Bradlee, Jr., Denise Kiernan, Ed Williams
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 4:30 p.m. **Square Books Session #1 and Signing (Wednesday authors)**
Kiese Laymon reading and talk
Off Square Books
- 6:30 p.m. **Opening Reception (advance registration required)**
Barksdale-Isom Place

- 10:30 a.m. **Young Authors Fair: 5th Grade**
Obert Skye, *Wonkenstein*
Gertrude C. Ford Center for Performing Arts
*This program is for area schoolchildren but conference-goers are welcome to attend.
- 1:00 p.m. **Poetry Readings and Conversation**
Beth Ann Fennelly, moderator
Steve Scafidi, Tess Taylor, Kevin Young
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 2:15 p.m. **Hybrid Forms**
Jack Pendarvis, moderator
Michael Garriga, Luke Geddes, Aurelie Sheehan
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 3:30 p.m. **Square Books Session #2: An Editor and Author Conversation**
Deborah Johnson and Amy Einhorn
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 5:00 p.m. **Doors open for Square Books Pop-Up Shop and Signing (Thursday authors)**
The Lyric Theater on the Oxford Square
- 6:00 p.m. **Thacker Mountain Radio**
Featuring Michael Garriga and Kevin Young, and musical guests The Eisenhour Band and Yotam Haber
The Lyric Theater on the Oxford Square

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

- 9:00 a.m. **Young Authors Fair: 1st Grade**
Drew Daywalt, *The Day the Crayons Quit*
Gertrude C. Ford Center for Performing Arts
*This program is for area schoolchildren but conference-goers are welcome to attend.
- 10:30 a.m. **Pictures and Pages: A Documentary Photography Conversation**
David Wharton, moderator
Maude Schuyler Clay, Deborah Luster, Tom Rankin, David Skolkin, George Thompson
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

- 9:00 a.m. **Lafayette County Literacy Council Forum: Adult and Family Literacy**
Nancy Opalko, moderator
Liz Brown, Kevin Dean, Elizabeth Triplett
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 10:30 a.m. **Hellhounds, Crossroads, and a Bluesman's Women: Robert Johnson in Story and Song**
Adam Gussow, moderator
Ace Atkins, Fruteland Jackson, Snowden Wright
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics

- Noon **Poetry Talk and Lunch**
(free but advance registration is required – call 662-234-5751 to see if spaces remain)
Tess Taylor, poet
Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library
- 1:30 p.m. **Square Books Session #3: Reading and Conversation**
Amy Greene, Susan Minot, Lorrie Moore
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 2:45 p.m. **Dissecting a Bestseller: The Making of *An Italian Palate***
William Dunlap, moderator
John Langston, Robert St. John, Wyatt Waters
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 4:00 p.m. **When Harriet the Spy Grew Up: Feminism and the Second Golden Age of American Crime Fiction**
Laura Lippman, speaker
This is a keynote presented in partnership with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies and the 14th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference.
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 6:15 p.m. **Southern Literary Festival Keynote**
Megan Abbott, 2013 – 2014 Grisham Writer-in-Residence
Ballroom at the Inn at Ole Miss
- 7:15 p.m. **Closing Reception and Book Signing**
Off Square Books

Southern Literary Festival

This year's conference is held in conjunction with the Southern Literary Festival, an organization of southern colleges and schools founded in 1937 to promote southern literature. Each year a different school hosts the Festival—which is, in effect, an undergraduate writing conference that entails writing workshops in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and playwriting; a writing competition in those areas as well as in formal essay and literary-arts magazine; and a venue in which the participating students, faculty, and general public attend readings by well known writers.

The SLF has planned three events that welcome attendees of the Conference for the Book.

Thursday, March 27 at 9:00 p.m.

Open Mike Night

Oxford Depot (located behind the Ford Center for Performing Arts and down the hill from the Inn at Ole Miss)

Friday, March 28 at 6:15 p.m.

Southern Literary Festival Keynote Lecture
Megan Abbott, 2013-2014 Grisham Writer in Residence
Ballroom at the Inn at Ole Miss, 120 Alumni Drive
Beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Inn at Ole Miss, the SLF will have a cocktail reception and welcomes OCB-goers to attend. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. If you would like to attend the reception, please see the OCB info table for a free ticket.

Friday, March 28 at 9:00 p.m.

Southern Literary Festival Celebration of North Mississippi
Hill Country Music
Sharde Thomas and the Rising Stars Fife & Drum Band,
Duwayne Burnside, and the Reverend John Wilkins
The Powerhouse, 413 South 14th Street

Conference Venues

J.D. Williams Library, on the UM campus, behind the Lyceum
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, 555 Grove Loop on the UM campus
Off Square Books, 120 Courthouse Square
Barksdale-Isom House, 1003 Jefferson Avenue
Gertrude Ford Center, 100 University Avenue
Lyric Theater, 1006 Van Buren Avenue on the Oxford Square
Inn at Ole Miss, 120 Alumni Drive
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library, 401 Bramlett Blvd.

The Speakers

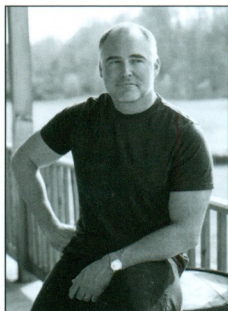


DREW REILLY

Megan Abbott is the Edgar®-winning author of the novels *Queenpin*, *The Song Is You*, *Die a Little*, *Bury Me Deep*, and *The End of Everything*. Her novel, *Dare Me*, was chosen by Entertainment Weekly and Amazon as one of the Best Books of 2012 and is soon to be a major motion picture. Her latest novel *The Fever* will be published in June 2014. Born in the Detroit area, she graduated from the

University of Michigan and received her Ph.D. in English and American literature from New York University. She is the 2013 John Grisham Writer in Residence at Ole Miss.

Ace Atkins is the *New York Times* Bestselling author of more than a dozen novels, including the forthcoming *The Broken Places* and *Robert B. Parker's Wonderland*, both out from G.P. Putnam's Sons in May 2013. A former journalist who cut his teeth as a crime reporter in the newsroom of *The Tampa Tribune*, he published his first novel *Crossroad Blues at 27* and became a full-time novelist at 30. Last year, he was selected by the Robert B. Parker estate to continue the bestselling adventures of Boston's iconic private eye, Spenser.



JOE WORTHEN



Harry Brandt Ayers is chairman and publisher of *The Anniston Star*, twice named by *Time* "one of the best small newspapers in the United States." Ayers had written articles for the *New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Southern Living*, the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Washington Post* and writes the syndicated column entitled "Out Here" carried by some

thirty newspapers. He has received numerous awards including the Alabama Academy of Honor recognizing the accomplishment of 100 living Alabamians; a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University; a Gannet Fellowship at Columbia University and was awarded the Doctorate of Humane Letters by the University of Alabama.

Ben Bradlee, Jr. is the author of three previous books. He spent 25 years at *The Boston Globe* as a reporter and editor. As Deputy Managing Editor, he oversaw many critically acclaimed stories, including the *Globe's* Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church in 2002. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Sister Liz Brown grew up in central New York State and received BS and MS Degrees in Education from the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York. She has been in Okolona, Mississippi since 1985 and during that time has been one of the founders and Executive Director of Excel, Inc. Excel works extensively in the area of Education offering after school and summer learning programs as well as ABE-

GED preparation for those who have not completed high school. Liz also oversees Excel sites in Calhoun City and Morton, MS that offer educational programs appropriate to each community.

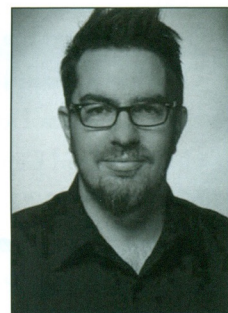
Bill Cheng is the author of *Southern Cross the Dog*. He received a BA in creative writing from Baruch College and is a graduate of Hunter College's MFA program.



Maude Schuyler Clay was born in Greenwood, Mississippi. After attending the University of Mississippi and the Memphis Academy of Arts, she assisted photographer William Eggleston. She received the Mississippi Arts and Letters award for photography in 1988, 1992, and 2000, and the Mississippi Art

Commission's Individual Artist Grant in 1998. She published her monograph *Delta Land* in 1999 (University Press of Mississippi). She was the Photography Editor of the literary magazine *The Oxford American* from 1998-2002. Her work is in museum collections, including: The Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and The National Museum for Women in the Arts. *Delta Dogs*, will be published by the Univ. Press of MS June 2014, with a foreword by Brad Watson and essay by Beth Ann Fennelly.

Drew Daywalt Ever since his childhood in one of Ohio's most haunted houses, writer/director Drew Daywalt has been writing escapist fantasy and building worlds of his own. With a degree in Creative Writing and a concentration in Children's Literature from Emerson College in Boston, he set off to Hollywood where he spent years writing for Disney and Universal and where his



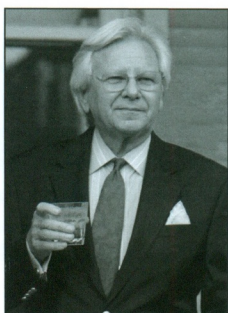
animated series *The Wacky World of Tex Avery* garnered an Emmy nomination. With an eye toward picture book writing, his first book, *The Day The Crayons Quit*, debuted on the New York Times Best Seller's List in June 2013, and has since become a No. 1 Best Seller.



Kevin Dean is the Executive Director of Literacy Mid-South. He received his Bachelor's in Communications from the University of Memphis in 2002. In 2009, he completed his Master's Degree in Executive Leadership from Christian Brothers University and in 2011, was named one of Memphis' Top 40 Under 40 by *Memphis Business Journal*. He is the 2013 recipient of the Ruth J. Colvin

and Frank C. Laubach Award for Excellence in Community-Based Adult Literacy from ProLiteracy.

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.



Amy Einhorn, Vice President and Publisher of Amy Einhorn Books, has been in publishing for over 20 years. Some of the books and authors that she has published include Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*, Liane Moriarty's *The Husband's Secret*, Jenny Lawson's *Let's Pretend this Never Happened*, Eleanor Brown's *The Weird Sisters*, Sarah Blake's *The Postmistress*, David Gillham's *City of*

Women, Amy Sedaris' *I Like You*, and Robert Hicks' *The Widow of the South*.

Beth Ann Fennelly directs the MFA program at Ole Miss, where she was named the 2011 Outstanding Liberal Arts Teacher of the Year. She's won grants from the N.E.A., United States Artists, and a Fulbright to Brazil. She has published three books of poetry and one of nonfiction, all with W.W. Norton. She recently co-authored *A Titled World* with her husband, Tom Franklin. They live in Oxford with their three children.

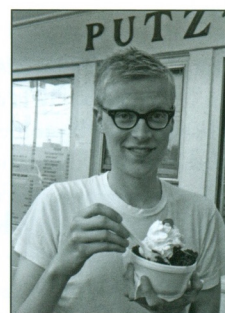


STEPHANIE KRELL

Michael Garriga Born and raised on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, Garriga comes from a long line of noted Creole outlaws and tall-tale tellers. His whole family's big and anchored in and around Biloxi. He has held jobs as a sound man at Proud Larry's, a shrimp picker, and a bartender, but for the last ten years he's been teaching writing, and is currently an assistant professor at Baldwin Wallace

University. He holds degrees in English from the University of Mississippi (BA), where I worked with Barry Hannah, who was his next door neighbor; the University of Louisville (MA); and Florida State University (PhD). He's been married to Megan Garland Garriga for ten years, and they live as smiling ex-pats with their two boys--Jaume and Pax--in Berea, Ohio.

Luke Geddes's fiction has been published in *Mid American Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Conjunctions*, and other journals. His short story collection *I am a Magical Teenage Princess*, which *Publishers Weekly* praised as "a rewarding and unusual collection," was published in 2012. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cincinnati.



ADAM GREENE

Amy Greene is the author of the national best seller *Bloodroot*. She was born and raised in the foothills of East Tennessee's Smoky Mountains, where she lives with her husband and two children. Her new novel, *Long Man*, will be published by Knopf in February.

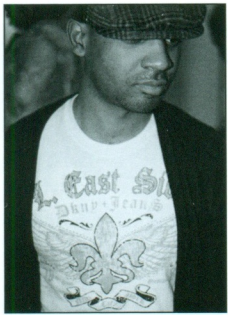
Adam Gussow is an American scholar, memoirist, and blues harmonica player and is the author of *Mister Satan's Apprentice*, the story of an unlikely musical partnership, the blues, and race in America. He is currently an associate professor of English and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi.



after World War II (University of North Carolina Press, 2012),

Françoise N. Hamlin is the Hans Rothfels Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies at Brown University. Born and raised in London, England, an exchange year in Clarksdale, Mississippi changed her path from a projected career in law to a scholar activist and teacher. She is the author of *Crossroads at Clarksdale: The Black Freedom Struggle in the Mississippi Delta*

which won the 2012 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize and the 2013 Lillian Smith Book Award. Hamlin's new research focuses on young people, trauma and activism.



Derrick Harriell was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He's worked as assistant poetry editor for *Third World Press* and *The Cream City Review* and has taught community writing workshops for individuals of all ages, including senior citizens. A two-time Pushcart Nominee, Harriell's poems have appeared in various literary journals and anthologies. *Cotton* (Aquarius Press-Willow Books 2010) is

his first collection of poems.

Electro-Fi recording artist **Fruteland Jackson** is a History Maker (www.thehistorymakers.com). He is an author, storyteller and oral historian, who grew up in Chicago. He is a three-time Blues Music Award Nominee and a recipient of the Blues Foundation's "Keeping the Blues Alive" award. Fruteland performs Americana, acoustic blues, folk traditional and singer-songwriter styles around the world. Fruteland Jackson created the award winning *All About the Blues Series - Blues in the School Programs*. Fruteland plays acoustic guitar with a focus on pre-war and post-war blues ranging from Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy to Elizabeth Cotton, plus his personal interpretations. He studies mandolin, lap steel and the banjo, and has published an instructional book on Delta Blues for Beginners with Alfred Publishing.



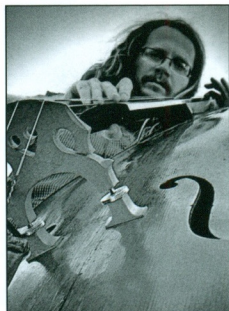
SELTICO/ARND



Deborah Johnson's first novel, *The Air Between Us*, received the Mississippi Library Association Award for fiction. She grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, where she attended a Catholic girls' school. She went on to attend Lone Mountain College, which now forms part of the University of San Francisco. She lived for nearly two decades in Rome, Italy, where she worked as a translator and an editor, as well as at

Vatican Radio. After returning to the United States, she became executive director of a small charitable foundation in the South. She now lives and writes in Columbus, Mississippi.

Greg Johnson has served as Associate Professor and Curator of the Blues Archive in the Department of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi since 2002. He received his Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2002, where he also received a Bachelor of Music in history



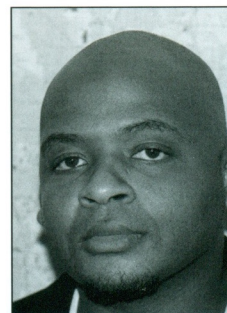
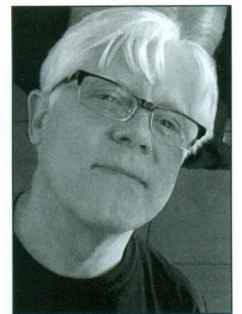
and literature in 2000. He is the co-author of the recently published *100 Books Every Blues Fan Should Own*.



Denise Kiernan has been working as a writer for nearly 20 years. She has been published in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Village Voice*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Reader's Digest*, *Discover* and many more publications. She has authored several popular history titles including *Signing Their Lives Away*, *Signing Their Rights Away* and *Stuff Every American Should Know*. Her most recent book, *The Girls of*

Atomic City, is a *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and NPR Bestseller. She was recently named to the board of the Atomic Heritage Foundation.

John Langston has worked at the University Press of Mississippi for 30 years. His titles have included book designer, production manager, art director, and assistant director. His designs for Mississippi writers and artists have been crucial to the development of the Press's regional publishing program.



Kiese Laymon is a black southern storyteller, born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. Laymon attended Millsaps College and Jackson State University before graduating from Oberlin College. He earned an MFA from Indiana University and is the author of the novel, *Long Division*, and a collection of essays, *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others*

in America. Laymon is a contributing editor at gawker.com. His work has appeared in *Esquire*, *ESPN*, *NPR*, *Gawker*, the *Best American* series, *Guernica*, *Truthout*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Longman's Hip Hop Reader*, *Mythium* and *Politics and Culture*. Laymon is currently an Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Vassar College.

Laura Lippman is the author of the new novel *After I'm Gone* (William Morrow, Feb. 11, 2014). She began her career as a journalist; she was a reporter for twenty years, including twelve at *The Baltimore Sun*. She began writing novels while working fulltime, publishing seven Tess Monaghan books before leaving daily journalism in 2001. Her Tess books, eleven in all, have won virtually every major mystery prize. Her novel *Every Secret Thing*, optioned by Academy Award-winning actor Frances McDormand, is now in post-production. She lives with her husband David Simon, and their daughter. They split their time between Baltimore and New Orleans.





Deborah Luster is best known for her long-term documentary series, *One Big Self: Prisoners of Louisiana* (1998–2003, with poet C. D. Wright), a photographic archive of portraits of prisoners from three Louisiana prisons, including the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola; and *Tooth for an Eye: a Chorography of Violence in Orleans Parish* (2008–2011), a photographic archive of cityscapes

documenting locations in New Orleans where homicides have been committed. Twin Palms Publishing has issued monographs of both collections.

Susan Minot is an award-winning novelist and short story writer, whose books include *Monkeys, Folly, Lust & Other Stories*, and *Evening*. She lives with her daughter in both New York City and an island off the coast of Maine.



ZANE WILLIAMS

Lorrie Moore is the author of *Birds of America*, *Like Life*, and *Self-Help* and the novels *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?*, *Anagrams.*, and *A Gate at the Stairs*.

Jonathan Odell is the author of the novels, *The Healing* (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2012) and *The View from Delphi* (Macadam/Cage 2004) His short stories and essays have appeared in *Stories from the Blue Moon Café* (Macadam/Cage 2004), *Men Like That* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), *Letters of the Twentieth Century* (Dial Press, 1999), *Breaking Silence* (Xanthus Press, 1996), *Speakeasy Literary Magazine*, and the *Savannah Literary Journal*. He has also written for *Commonweal Magazine* and has had his work featured in the *Utne Reader*. He is currently at work on a book of personal essays entitled *Growing Up As A Gay, Fundamentalist, Southern Baptist in Mississippi, or God, What Were You Thinking?*



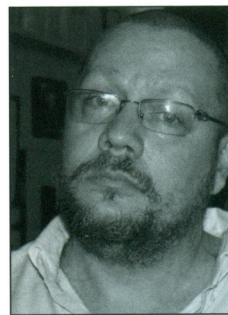
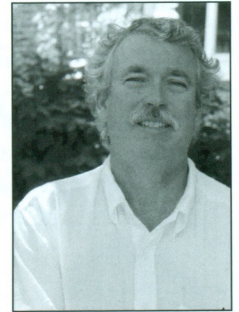
Nancy Opalko earned her BA in English from the University of South Carolina-Coastal Carolina, her MA in English from the University of Mississippi and her MLIS in Library Science from the University of Alabama. She has been the Children's Librarian and the Assistant Head Librarian at the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library for sixteen years. She loves working with children of all ages and connecting



HUGER FOOTE

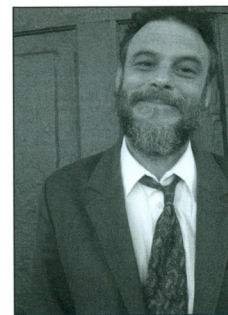
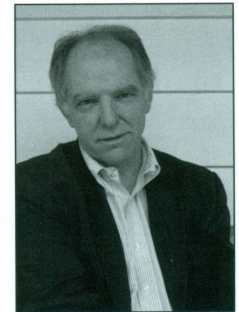
them with books, and her love of books extends into her work as president of the Lafayette County Literacy Council.

Ted Ownby has a joint appointment in History and Southern Studies, and is the director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He is the author of *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1908* and *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920*. He is editor of the Gender volume of *The New Encyclopedia for Southern Culture*, and *The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi*. He is the co-editor of the *Mississippi Encyclopedia* and writes and teaches classes on the social and cultural history of the American South.



Jack Pendarvis has written three books of fiction as well as numerous articles, columns, short stories and essays. He is the staff writer for the television show *Adventure Time*.

Tom Rankin is Professor of the Practice of Art and Documentary Studies at Duke University where he directs the MFA in Experimental and Documentary Arts. For the past 15 years he was director of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke. He is a graduate of Tufts University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Georgia State University. His books include *Sacred Space: Photographs from the Mississippi Delta* (1993), which received the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Photography; *Deaf Maggie Lee Sayre: Photographs of a River Life* (1995); *Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain* (1997); and *Local Heroes Changing America: Indivisible* (2000). His most recent book is *One Place: Paul Kwilecki and Four Decades of Photographs from Decatur County, Georgia*. (2013)



Steve Scafidi is the author of four poetry collections: *Sparks from a Nine-Pound Hammer*, *For Love of Common Words*, *The Cabinetmaker's Window* and *To the Bramble and the Briar*. He works as a cabinetmaker and lives in Summit Point, West Virginia.

Aurelie Sheehan is the author of four books of fiction, most recently *Jewelry Box: A Collection of Histories* (BOA Editions, Ltd.). Her work has appeared in journals including *Conjunctions*, *Epoch*, *Fence*, *New England Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Southern Review*. She teaches fiction at the University of Arizona in Tucson.



David Skolkin is a partner in the design firm of Skolkin + Chickey in Santa Fe, New Mexico which specializes in the design and production of hi-quality art books. He is also Founder and Production Director for Radius Books. An award-winning book designer, he works with many publishers and museums around the country. His awards include AIGA 50

Books/50 Covers, International Center of Photography Infinity Award, American Association for Museums Design competitions, Pubwest Design Awards, and LMP Award (Literary Market Place) for individual achievement in Design & Production.

Obert Skye is the author and illustrator of the three books in *The Creature from My Closet* series—*Wonkenstein*, *Potterwookiee*, and *Pimocula*. He has also written the bestselling children's fantasy adventure series *Leven Thumps and Pillage*.



Robert St. John has spent more than three decades in the restaurant business. Twenty-five of those years have been as the owner of the Purple Parrot Café, Crescent City Grill, Mahogany Bar, Branch and Tabella in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. St. John, a restaurateur, chef, columnist, and author, writes a weekly syndicated food column

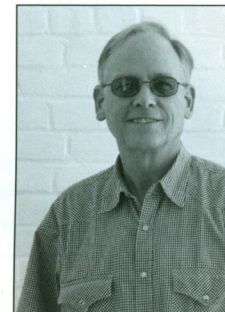
for newspapers and has written nine books. His latest book, *An Italian Palate*, his third collaboration with watercolor artist, Wyatt Waters is in its second printing. In 2009, St. John founded Extra Table, a non-profit organization that delivers healthy foods to soup kitchens and mission pantries.

Tess Taylor has received writing fellowships from Amherst College, the American Antiquarian Society, the Headlands Center for the Arts, and the MacDowell Colony. Her chapbook, *The Misremembered World*, was selected by Eavan Boland and published by the Poetry Society of America. Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Boston*



Review, *Harvard Review*, *Literary Imagination*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *The New Yorker*. She lives in El Cerrito, California, where she reviews poetry for NPR's All Things Considered and other venues. Her book of poems, *The Forage House*, is published by Red Hen Press.

George F. Thompson joined the Johns Hopkins University Press in 1984 as an acquisitions editor. After founding and directing the Center for American Places, he founded his own imprint, George F. Thompson Publishing, based in Staunton, Virginia. Books that he has published have won more than 100 of the top book awards, including multiple 'best-book' honors in thirty-one professional fields of study. He is also the editor and author of five books, including *Landscape in America* (Texas, 1995), which was designated a Notable Book in 1995 by *Harper's magazine*, and *Ecological Design and Planning*. Born in Colorado, raised in Connecticut, and educated at the universities of Pennsylvania, Alabama, and Wisconsin-Madison, George has lived in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia since 1983 with his wife, Cynthia, and daughter, Haley.

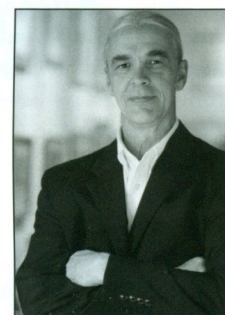


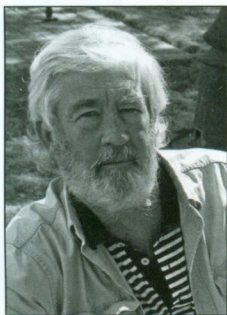
Elizabeth Triplett earned a degree from the Mississippi University for Women and is the co-founder and Director of the Itawamba Learning Center.



Wyatt Waters is a watercolor artist who received the lifetime achievement at the 2010 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

David Wharton is Assistant Professor of Southern Studies and Director of Documentary Projects at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. His most recent book of photographs, *Small Town South*, was published in 2012. In 2013, he was honored as a Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters award winner for photography. He is almost finished with a book-length project titled *The Power of Belief: Spiritual Landscapes from the American South*, which examines the visual impact of traditional spirituality through landscape photography.

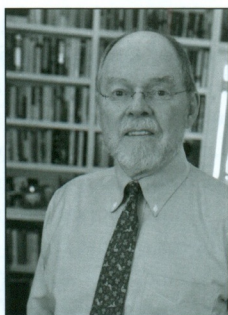




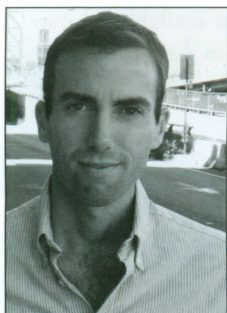
Curtis Wilkie graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1963. He was a national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe* for 26 years. Wilkie is the author of *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey through Events That Shaped the Modern South*, and *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer*, and co-author of *Arkansas Mischief: Birth of a National*

Scandal. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Oxford where he teaches journalism and is a fellow at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics.

Ed Williams is author of *Liberating Dixie: An Editor's Life, from Ole Miss to Obama*, a collection of work from his 50 years as a newspaperman. An Ole Miss graduate, he edited the *Daily Mississippian* then was a reporter for the *Clarksdale Press-Register* and (Greenville) *Delta Democrat-Times*. After a year as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, he joined *The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer* and for 25 years was editor of its editorial pages. His commentaries were part of two *Observer* projects that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. In 2012 he was inducted into the N.C. Journalism Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Marylyn, live in Charlotte.



NANCY PIERCE



Snowden Wright is the author of the novel *Play Pretty Blues* (Engine Books, 2013). He has written for *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *Salon*, and the *New York Daily News*. Recipient of the Summer Literary Seminar's 2012 Graywolf Prize for best novel excerpt, Wright can be found online at snowdenwright.com.

Kevin Young is the author of seven previous books of poetry, including *Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels*, winner of a 2012 American Book Award, and *Jelly Roll*, a finalist for the National Book Award. He is also the editor of eight other collections, most recently *The Hungry Ear: Poems of Food & Drink*. Young's book *The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness*, won the Graywolf Nonfiction Prize and the PEN Open Book Award. He is the Atticus Haygood Professor of Creative Writing and English, curator of Literary Collections and curator of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library at Emory University.



MELANIE DUNEACER

Spring Events at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture

All Brown Bag lectures are free and held in Barnard Observatory each Wednesday at noon.

April 2014

- 2 – 3: Music of the South Symposium: Songwriting and the South
- 2: Brown Bag Panel Discussion: Songwriting and the South
- 2: Music of the South Concert featuring Tyler Keith, Amy Andrews, and musicians TBA
- 7: Screening of *Freedom Riders* as part of the NEH's *Created Equal* Initiative
- 9: Brown Bag Lecture: "Faith, Powers, and Gambling Spirits: Working-Class Belief and the Creation of Pentecostalism at the End of the Gilded Age" Jarod Roll, UM Assistant Professor of History
- 9: Forum and panel discussion of *Freedom Riders* organized by the Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation
- 16: Brown Bag Lecture: "'This Ain't Chicago': Race, Class, and Regional Identity in the Post-Soul South" Zandria Robinson, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Memphis
- 23: Brown Bag Lecture: "Magic City Agriculture Project: Research in Practice in Birmingham" Zac Henson, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Southern Foodways Alliance

May 2014

- 21 – 23: Southern Documentary Project Film Workshop
- 21 – 24: Mississippi Delta Cultural Tour
- 30 – 31: *Living Blues* Magazine's Blues and the Spirit Symposium at Dominican University

June 2014

- 20 – 22: Southern Foodways Alliance Summer Symposium in Jackson, Mississippi

July 2014

- 14 – 18: Southern Foodways Alliance Oral History Workshop
- 20 – 24: Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference: "Faulkner and History"

For more details on events, visit southernstudies.olemiss.edu or follow the Center on Facebook, [facebook.com/SouthernStudies](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernStudies), or on Twitter, @SouthernStudies.