



*Walker Percy. Portrait by Baxter Knowlton
Collection of Campbell and Leighton McCool*

The Eleventh
Oxford Conference for the Book
The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi
April 1-4, 2004

Sponsored by the University of Mississippi, Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Lafayette County Literacy Council, and Square Books and partially funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Tribal-State Compact Fund, the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, and the R & B Feder Charitable Foundation for the Beaux Arts.



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 April 1994.

JULIE SMITH is the author of 18 mystery novels and winner of the 1991 Edgar Allan Poe Award for *New Orleans Morning*, the first of her nine books about the female New Orleans cop Skip Langdon. The most recent Skip Langdon novel is *Mean Woman Blues* (2003). Her next novel, *Louisiana Lament*, is due in July 2004. Smith received a degree in journalism from the University of Mississippi and, before becoming a novelist, worked as a reporter for the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



SHARMAR BRIDGES SMITH was appointed executive director of the Mississippi Library Commission in August 2001. An integral part of her duties is directing the construction of the Commission's \$13 million facility. Prior to assuming the executive director's role, Smith served as State Librarian of Iowa from 1992 to 2001. She has a master's of library science degree from George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, and a bachelor of science degree in library science/psychology from the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

WILLIAM JAY SMITH, a Louisiana native with European and Choctaw ancestry, studied at Washington University, Columbia University, and at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. Author of more than 50 books of poetry, children's verse, literary criticism, translations, and memoirs, and editor of several anthologies, he served as poetry consultant to the Library of Congress (now known as the U.S. Poet Laureate) from 1968 until 1970 and has been a member of the Academy of Arts and Letters since 1975. Smith has been recognized nationally and internationally with various awards and honors, including the Loines Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Médaille de Vermeil from the French Academy, and the René Vázquez Díaz prize from the Swedish Academy. His poetry publications include *The World below the Window: Poems, 1937-1997* (1998) and *The Cherokee Lottery* (2000). He divides his time between Cummington, Massachusetts, and Paris.



ROBERT TURNER

AMY STOLLS, Literature Specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts, advises nonprofit organizations on the creation, presentation, preservation, accessibility, and/or educational value of literary projects. Since 1998, she has reviewed more than 800 proposals from organizations and thousands more from individual writers, has moderated more than a dozen panels, and worked with more than 150 distinguished authors, translators, editors, booksellers, publishers, and other experts in the field. From 1988 to 1996, Stolls was an environmental journalist who gained international recognition for her coverage of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. She has an MFA in creative writing from American University, where she occasionally teaches a course on contemporary literature. Her first novel is forthcoming from Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

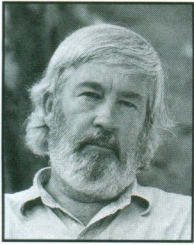


PATRICIA A. SULLIVAN is a professor of English and director of the Program for Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She has edited two books, *Pedagogy in the Age of Politics and Methods and Methodology in Composition Research*, and is currently writing a book on narrative knowledge and the cultural subconscious. She has a strong pedagogical interest in Walker Percy, using his novels in her classes to illustrate that writing is about the search for meaning.

MILDRED D. TAYLOR is the author of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry; Let the Circle Be Unbroken; Mississippi Bridge; The Road to Memphis*; and five other award-winning novels for young readers. Among her awards are a Newbery Medal, four Coretta Scott King Awards, two Christopher Awards, a *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award*, and the inaugural \$25,000 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature.



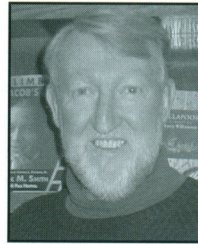
TAYLOR GROCERY BAND is the house band for *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a show that brings to the stage two of Oxford, Mississippi's greatest thriving arts—literature and music. Each Thursday evening during the spring and fall school semester at Off Square Books, host Jim Dees and the Taylor Grocery Band welcome visiting authors and musicians for an hour of readings and performance. The show is broadcast live in Oxford and surrounding communities and later aired on the radio stations of the Mississippi Broadcasting Networks. Taylor Grocery Band's founding members Bryan Ledford and Justin Showah are regularly joined by Ted Gainey, Jeff Coburn, Max Williams, Ed Dye, and Cary Hudson.



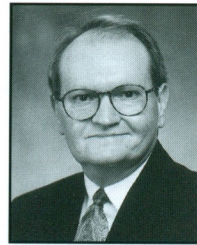
CURTIS WILKIE was a reporter for the *Clarksdale Press Register* in his home state of Mississippi during the 1960s and then served as a national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe* for 26 years. He has written for many national magazines, including *Newsweek* and the *New Republic*.

He is coauthor, with Jim McDougal, of *Arkansas Mischief: The Birth of a National Scandal* (1998) and author of *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey through Events that Shaped the Modern South* (2001). Wilkie holds the Kelly Gene Cook Chair of Journalism at the University of Mississippi.

RANDALL WILLIAMS is a writer, editor, publication designer, and book publisher. He has been a writer and editor for magazines and newspapers (among them the *Birmingham News*, *Alabama Journal*, *Southern Exposure*, *Southern Changes*) in Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.



His articles have been published in more than 200 newspapers and magazines and in several anthologies and literary and historical journals. He is the author or coauthor of three books. Williams worked for a decade at the Southern Poverty Law Center, where he was the founding director of the Klanwatch Project. He founded and from 1989 to 2000 was editor in chief of Black Belt Press. In 2000, he cofounded a new publishing house, NewSouth Books in Montgomery. He has edited and designed more than 300 books.



CHARLES REAGAN WILSON is director of the Center and professor of history and Southern Studies. Among his publications are *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause* and *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis*.

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



EUDORA WELTY PROGRAM IN JACKSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2004

4:00 p.m.

Tour of the Welty Garden, led by archival gardener Susan Haltom

6:00 p.m.

Cocktails and Dinner - Old Capitol Inn

8:00 p.m.

Eudora Welty - Life and Achievements, talk by literary scholar Peggy Prenshaw
"Petrified Man," reading by actor John Maxwell

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2004

9:00 a.m.

Welty Archives - William F. Winter Archives and History Building

Tour of Research Room - Hank Holmes, MDAH

Discussion of Welty Collection - Suzanne Marrs, literary scholar

Forest Galey, MDAH

10:30 a.m.

Public Programming at the Eudora Welty House, talk by Patti Carr Black, author, museum professional

Mildred D. Taylor Day in Mississippi

April 2, 2004

Mildred D. Taylor, a native Mississippian, has been one of the foremost writers for young people in the United States for three decades. The formal proclamation of Mildred D. Taylor Day, a statewide celebration, will take place at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Mississippi on April 2 at 10:30 a.m. during a session of the 11th Oxford Conference for the Book.

Beginning with her first book, *Song of the Trees*, in 1975 and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, winner of the 1977 Newbery Medal, the most prestigious honor in children's literature, Taylor has written nine celebrated books about African American life in Mississippi, where she was born

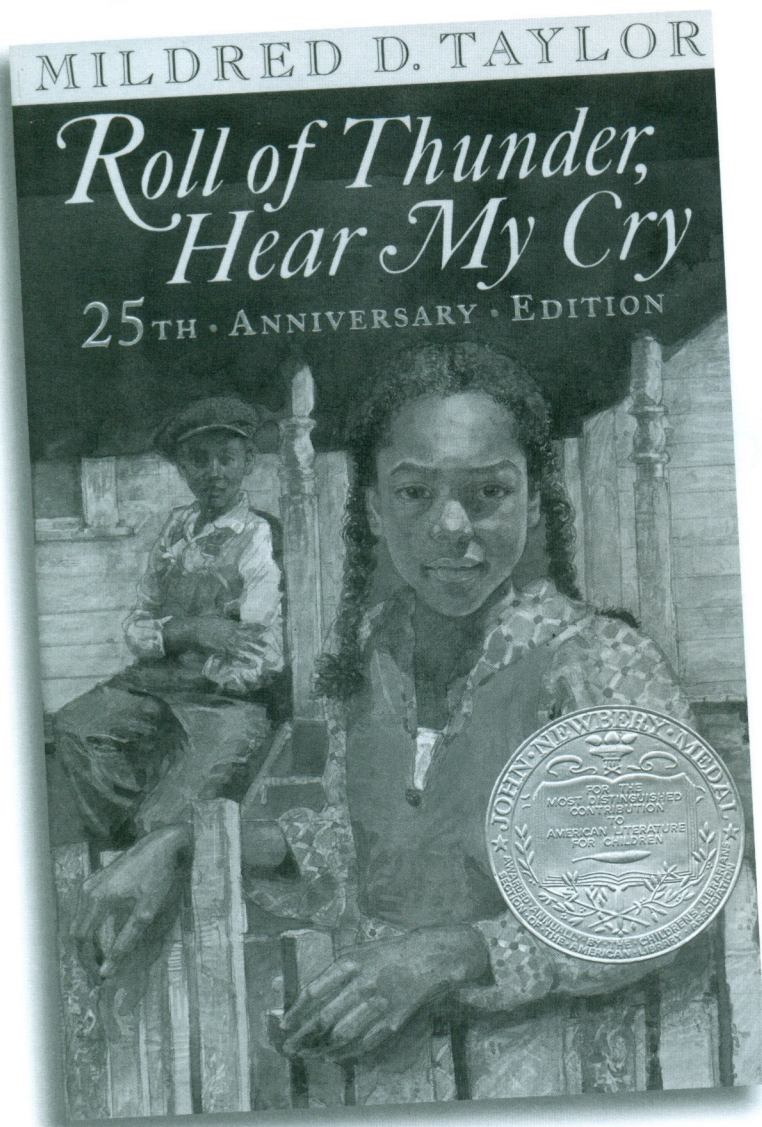
and where her father's family had lived since the days of slavery. All of Taylor's books are based on stories from her own family and are rooted in Mississippi. *Song of the Trees* won the first Council on Interracial Books for Children Award and was named a *New York Times* Outstanding Book of the Year and a Children's Book Showcase book.

Taylor's writings also have been honored with the Coretta Scott King Author Award (*Let the Circle Be Unbroken*, 1981; *The Friendship*, 1987; *The Road to Memphis*, 1990; *The Land*, 2001), the Christopher Award (*The Gold Cadillac*, 1987; *The Road to Memphis*), and the American Library Association's Best Book for Young Adults (*Let the Circle Be Unbroken*), among others. In October 2003, she was named laureate of the inaugural \$25,000 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature, awarded by the University of Oklahoma and its international quarterly *World Literature Today*.

The great-granddaughter of the son of a white plantation owner and a slave, Taylor was born in Jackson, Mississippi, but spent her childhood in Toledo, Ohio, returning to the South each year with her family. She attended Toledo's public schools in the 1950s and graduated from the University of Toledo in 1965, after which she joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Ethiopia. When she returned to the United States, she enrolled in the University of Colorado, where she earned a master's degree in journalism.

In her acceptance speech as the recipient of the 1997 ALAN Award, given by the National Council for Teachers of English to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the field of adolescent literature, Taylor said that in her books, "I have attempted to present a true picture of life in America as older members of my family remember it, and as I remember it in the days before the civil rights movement. In all of the books I have recounted not only the joy of growing up in a large and supportive family, but my own feelings of being faced with segregation and bigotry. . . . I have tried to present not only a history of my family, but the effects of racism, not only to the victims of racism but also to the racists themselves. I have recounted events that were painful to write and painful to read" in the "hope they brought more understanding."

Jacket painting © Jerry Pinkney



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mildred D. Taylor was born in Jackson, Mississippi, to Wilbert Lee Taylor and Deletha Marie Davis Taylor, and moved soon thereafter with her family in search of a better way of life to Toledo, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Mildred D. Taylor graduated from the University of Toledo and served in the Peace Corps in Africa, where she remembered the stories her father had told her; and

WHEREAS, she began to write stories of the Logan family, based on the stories of her family, her family's community, and her family's history, a saga that chronicles the long arc of slavery to civil rights, bringing to life for now generations of devoted readers the scourge of racism and the beauty of love, beginning in 1975 with *Song of the Trees*, and comprising nine books, most recently (2001) with *The Land*; and

WHEREAS, those books by Mildred D. Taylor grew increasingly in popularity and critical acclaim, eventually earning specifically for *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, the most significant award for children's literature, the Newbery Medal, and for her work the ALAN Award, the Coretta Scott King Award, the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award, the Christopher Award, and the New York Times Outstanding Book Award; and

WHEREAS, Mildred D. Taylor today returns to the place her life and her work began, to Mississippi, where much of her family today remains; to a Mississippi that no longer celebrates prejudice, a Mississippi that embraces Mildred D. Taylor's work, and honors her life and her family and her people, and, indeed, a Mississippi that seeks to reconcile racism and rectify ignorance by honoring all people of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, today Mildred D. Taylor is honored by the Oxford Conference for the Book, the great State of Mississippi, the cities of Oxford, Jackson, and all the cities, towns, and hamlets of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 2nd, 2004, as

MILDRED D. TAYLOR DAY

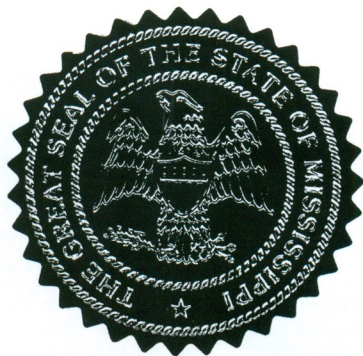
in the State of Mississippi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the twenty-fifth day of February in the year of our Lord, two thousand and four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haley Barbour".

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR



The Eleventh Oxford Conference for the Book



The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Dedicated to Walker Percy

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Department of English, Department of Journalism, John Davis Williams Library, Sally McConnell Barksdale Honors College, John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writers Fund, Barksdale Reading Institute, Sarah Isom Center for Women, Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, Lafayette County Literacy Council, and Square Books. The 2004 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 Tribal State Compact Fund, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

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

TRIBAL-STATE COMPACT FUND

The Tribal-State Compact Fund is a cooperative grant program equally administered and funded by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Mississippi Development Authority's Tourism Development Division. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is located in Choctaw. The Mississippi Development Authority is located in Jackson.

MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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

YOKNAPATAWPHA ARTS COUNCIL

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

NINTH ANNUAL NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

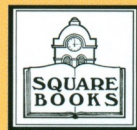
APRIL 2004 • A NATIONWIDE CELEBRATION OF POETRY

Inaugurated by the American Academy of Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month brings together publishers, bookstores, libraries, schools, and literary organizations across the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. For additional information, visit the Web site of the American Academy of Poets (www.poets.org) or inquire by telephone (212-274-0343) or e-mail (poets@artswire.org).



FOR TOURIST INFORMATION
CALL 800.758.9177

For tourist information, contact:
Oxford Tourism Council
P.O. Box 965 • Oxford, MS 38655
telephone 800-758-9177, 662-234-4680
fax 662-234-0355



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

For more information concerning the conference, contact:

Center for the Study of Southern Culture

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

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

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



The
University of Mississippi

The University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, creed, color, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, veteran, or other status.

The Eleventh Oxford Conference for the Book is dedicated to

Walker Percy (1916-1990)

in recognition of his contributions to American letters.

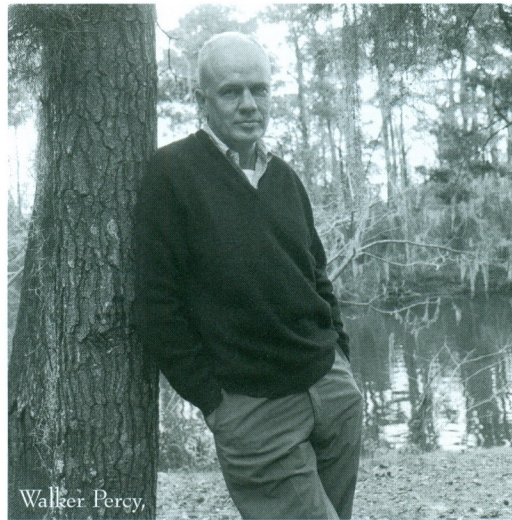
Walker Percy was one of the finest American writers of the late 20th century. Born in 1916 in Birmingham, Alabama, Percy moved with his two younger brothers to Greenville, Mississippi, when he was a teenager, following the death of his parents. There the Percy brothers lived in the home of their father's cousin, William Alexander Percy, a lawyer devoted to books, art, and music, and the author of poems and the memoir *Lanterns on the Levee:*

Recollections of a Planter's Son. Walker Percy became interested in literature and began a lifelong friendship with Shelby Foote, who achieved recognition as a novelist and author of a celebrated three-volume history of the Civil War. After receiving degrees from the University of North Carolina (B.A., 1937) and Columbia University (M.D., 1941), Percy briefly practiced medicine before contracting tuberculosis, then decided to pursue his interests in literature and philosophy.

While convalescing, Percy read the great Russian novelists, the modern French novelists, Kierkegaard, and many of the other existentialists. After moving to Covington, Louisiana, in 1950, with his wife, Mississippi native Mary Bernice Townsend, Percy began to write primarily of characters in search of a more authentic existence than could be found in the modern culture of the industrial world. His first novel, *The Moviegoer* (1961), won the National Book Award and was followed by five highly regarded works of fiction: *The Last Gentleman* (1967), *Love in the Ruins: The Adventures of a Bad Catholic at a Time Near the End of the World* (1971), *Lancelot* (1977), *The Second Coming* (1981), and *The Thanatos Syndrome* (1987).

Today more than ever, readers are increasingly drawn to Percy's nonfiction, which is interested in language and its relationship to consciousness, as well as a host of other philosophical quandaries concerned with the human condition. His nonfiction books include *The Message in the Bottle: How Queer Man Is, How Queer Language Is, and What One Has to Do with the Other* (1975); *Lost in the Cosmos: The Last Self-Help Book* (1983); and *Signposts in a Strange Land* (1991), a posthumous publication of his uncollected essays on fiction, science, language, and his life as a writer. Percy's writing also appears in several limited editions: *Going Back to Georgia* (1978), *Questions They Never Asked Me* (1979), *Bourbon* (1982), *How to Be an American Novelist in Spite of Being Southern and Catholic* (1984), *The City of the Dead* (1985), *Diagnosing the Modern Malaise* (1985), *Novel Writing in an Apocalyptic Time* (1986), and *The State of the Novel: Dying Art of New Science* (1988).

In addition to the 1962 National Book Award, Percy received the 1972 National Catholic Book Award for *Love in the Ruins*, the 1980 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for *Lost in*



Walker Percy.

KEATING COLLECTION, SOUTHERN MEDIA ARCHIVE, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

the Cosmos, the 1980 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Literature Award, the 1986 St. Louis Literary Award, the 1988 T. S. Eliot Award, a National Book Critics Circle citation, a Notable Book Citation from the American Library Association, a PEN/Faulkner award, and other honors. In 1972, Percy was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters. He was selected as the 1989 Jefferson Lecturer, the highest honor the federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual and public achievement in the humanities. The

title of Percy's Jefferson Lecture is "The Fateful Rift: The San Andreas Fault in the Modern Mind."

In their memorial tributes to Walker Percy, two other Mississippi authors offered perceptive comments on his literary achievements. Eudora Welty wrote, "His reader is free to conclude—and I do—that Walker's work—novels, essays, all the forms he reached for as needed—is in its strongest intention concerned with truth. I think that only a judicious portion of this truth is the factual kind; much of it is the truth of human nature, and more of it is spiritual."

His friend Shelby Foote said, "I would state my hope that Walker Percy will be seen in time for what he was in simple and solemn fact—a novelist, not merely an explicator of various philosophers and divines, existentialist or otherwise. . . . Like Flannery O'Connor, he found William Faulkner what Henry James called Maupassant, "a lion in the path." He solved this leonine problem much as Dante did on the outskirts of hell: he took a different path, around him. Their subject, his and Faulkner's—and all the rest of ours, for that matter—was the same: "the human heart in conflict with itself."

BAXTER KNOWLTON

Illustrating the 2004 Oxford Conference for the Book posters, printed programs, and T-shirts is a painting of Walker Percy by Baxter Knowlton. The image is reproduced by permission of Campbell and Leighton McCool, owners of the painting.

Baxter Knowlton is a native Mississippian who currently lives in Little Rock. Educated at Yale, Knowlton has exhibited throughout Mississippi, and his work is in the collections of many individuals and corporations throughout the Southeast. Most recently, Knowlton showed in Oxford with a collection of a dozen oils of Mississippi literary greats such as Walker Percy, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Richard Ford, and Barry Hannah. The collection was entitled *My Inspiration*.

The Eleventh Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Program sessions on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday will be in the Education Auditorium.
Program sessions on Friday will be at the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

- 1:30 p.m. *Welcome*
Richard Howorth, Mayor
Editors and Authors, Cats and Dogs
Tom Franklin, moderator
Gary Fisketjon, Beverly Lowry, Bruce Murkoff
- 3:30 p.m. *Robert E. Lee, Turtle Queens, and Other Southern Preoccupations*
William Dunlap, moderator
Roy Blount Jr., Julia Reed
- 5:30 p.m. *Thacker Mountain Radio*
Off Square Books
Jim Dees, host
Taylor Grocery Band, house band
Tom House, visiting musician and author
Roy Blount Jr., visiting author
Mildred D. Taylor, visiting author
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Meet the Speakers
Isom Place (Reservations Required)

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

- 9:00 a.m. *The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow*
Elaine H. Scott, moderator
Claiborne Barksdale, Leigh Ann Morgan, Carol Hampton Rasco, Susan Nicholas, Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, Sharman Bridges Smith

- 10:30 a.m. *Welcome*
Robert C. Khayat, Chancellor
Mildred D. Taylor Day in Mississippi
Ethel Young-Minor, moderator
Reading of Proclamation
Jason S. Dean, Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
Comments
Richard Howorth, Sharman Bridges Smith
Remarks
Mildred D. Taylor
(Myldthryth)
- 11:30 a.m. *Reception for Mildred D. Taylor*
- Noon Lunch - On Your Own
- 2:00 p.m. *Walker Percy: His Work and Legacy*
Paul Elie
Collecting Walker Percy
Lucius "Luke" Lampton
Remembering Walker Percy
Paul Elie, moderator
Mary Pratt Percy Lobdell, Robert Livingston Lobdell, William Jay Smith, Patricia Sullivan
- 4:00 p.m. *Readings/Remarks*
Jamie Kornegay, moderator
Gail Collins, Kaye Gibbons, Jon Meacham

5:00 p.m. *Poetry: Readings and Remarks*
Celebration of National Poetry Month
Ann Fisher-Wirth, moderator
Jonathan Galassi, Graham Lewis,
William Jay Smith

7:00 p.m. Cocktail Party
Off Square Books
(Reservations Required)

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

9:00 a.m. *Submitting Manuscripts/Working One's Way into Print*
Barry Hannah, moderator
Tom Bissell, Roy Blount Jr., Jonathan Galassi, Margaret McMullan, Amy Stolls

10:30 a.m. *Finding a Voice/Reaching an Audience*
Barry Hannah, moderator
Paul Elie, Gary Fisketjon, Kaye Gibbons, Beverly Lowry, Julia Reed

Noon *Opening of Mississippi Mystery Writers Exhibition*
Department of Archives and Special Collections
John Davis Williams Library
Jennifer Ford, moderator
Jere Hoar, introduction
Julie Smith, readings and comments
Light Lunch
Mississippi Hall of Writers
Hosted by Julia Rholes
Dean of University Libraries

1:30 p.m. *Family Stories in Life and Fiction*
Charles Reagan Wilson, moderator
Ralph Eubanks, Ben W. McClelland, Margaret McMullan

3:00 p.m. *Earth, Wind, and Fire*
Curtis Wilkie, moderator
Tom Bissell, Alan Huffman, Sebastian Junger

4:30 p.m. *Adapting Fiction to the Musical Theater: William Faulkner, Connie Mae Fowler, Lee Smith, Others*
Reckon Crew: Tommy Goldsmith, Tom House, Karren Pell

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

9:00 a.m. *Readings/Remarks*
Kathryn McKee, moderator
Ann Fisher-Wirth, Beth Ann Fennelly, Janisse Ray

10:30 a.m. *Where We Stand: The Literature of Politics*
Janisse Ray, moderator
Dan T. Carter, Tony Dunbar, Randall Williams

Noon *Book Signing*
Off Square Books

2:00 p.m. *Open Mike - Poetry & Fiction Jam*
David Galef, moderator

Reckon Crew is a group of musicians who have translated several works of fiction to the musical theater, including William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Lee Smith's *Fair and Tender Ladies*. Members of the group are Tommy Goldsmith, features editor of the *Raleigh News and Observer*; Tom House, a poet and folk singer; and Karren Pell, a country music songwriter, producer, and performer.

PROGRAM - APRIL 3, 2004

As I Lay Dying

As I Lay Dying
Nail It Up
Cotton Patch

Light in August

Martha & Me
Martha's Theme
Varner's Store

As I Lay Dying Revisited

Buzzards

Fair and Tender Ladies

John Arthur Rowe
Old Dry Fry
Majestic
Ivy's Dilemma

Remembering Blue

Remembering Blue
Circus
Beautiful Singing

Letters

Dancing in Kitchen
The Time Is Now
Recipe Medley: Boiled
Custard/Spaghetti
Supper/Sticks & Stones
Trying to Get It Right

End

I Have Loved

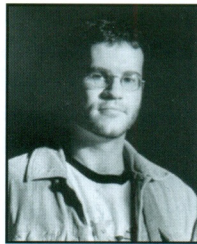
The Speakers



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

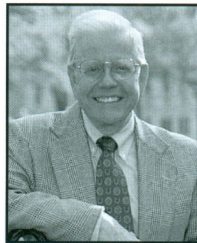
counsel for communications companies since 1983. Barksdale moved to Oxford in July 2000 with his wife and three children.

TOM BISSELL, formerly an editor at Henry Holt and Company, is the author of *Chasing the Sea: Lost among the Ghosts of Empire in Central Asia*. Drawing on extensive research and his travels in Uzbekistan as a Peace Corps volunteer in the mid-1990s, the author narrates the historical, political, and economic conditions that created the world's largest manmade environmental disaster. Bissell's criticism, fiction, and journalism have appeared in *Harper's*, *Men's Journal*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, and *Best American Travel Writing 2003*.



ROY BLOUNT JR. is one of America's best-known humorists. He is the author of 17 books, including *Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor* (1994), the memoir *Be Sweet: A Conditional Love Story* (1998), and a biography of Robert E. Lee (2003). His essays, articles, stories, verses, and drawings have appeared in 160 different periodicals, among them the *New Yorker*, *Playboy*, *Vanity Fair*, *GQ*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vogue*, *Organic Gardening*, and in 160 books, including *The Best of Modern Humor*, *The Ultimate Baseball Book*, and *The Elvis Reader*. He lives in western Massachusetts and Manhattan.

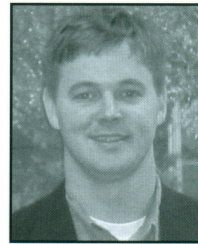
DAN T. CARTER is Educational Foundation University Professor at the University of South Carolina and former president of the Southern Historical Association. He is the author of *Scottsboro: A Tragedy of the American South* (1969), *When the War Was Over: The Failure of Self-Reconstruction in the South, 1865-1867* (1985), *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics* (1995), and *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: Race in the Conservative Counterrevolution, 1963-1994* (1999), all of which have won top history and literary awards.



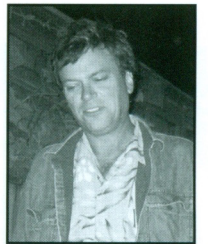
GAIL COLLINS is the editorial page editor of the *New York Times*. Before joining the *Times*, in 1999, she had been a columnist for *New York Newsday* and at the *New York Daily News*. She is the author of *America's Women: Four Hundred Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines* (2003) and *Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity, and American Politics* (1998). With her husband, Dan Collins, she wrote *The Millennium Book* (1991).



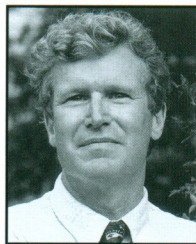
JASON S. DEAN lives and works in Jackson, Mississippi. He received his BA in International Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi and his MA and PhD from the University of Mississippi. Before joining Governor Haley Barbour's staff as policy advisor, Dean served as visiting assistant professor in the School of Education and as the assistant dean of students at the University of Mississippi.



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



TONY DUNBAR is a practicing New Orleans attorney and author of *Mississippi: Our Land, Too* (1971), winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award; *Against the Grain: Southern Radicals and Prophets, 1919-1959* (1981), winner of the Louis Melcher Book Award; and, with Linda Kravitz, *Hard Traveling: Migrant Farm Workers in America* (1976). He has also written six novels in the popular Tubby Dubonet mystery series.





WILLIAM DUNLAP has distinguished himself as an artist, arts commentator, and educator since receiving his MFA from the University of Mississippi in 1969. Recipient of such prestigious awards as the Danforth Award in the Visual Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation International Fellowship, and a grant from the Warhol Foundation, he has

exhibited at, and is included in the permanent collections of, such museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Roger Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and United States embassies throughout the world. In addition, Dunlap received an Emmy Award for his work as visual arts commentator of *Around Town* on WETA-TV, Washington, D.C.

PAUL ELIE has been an editor at Farrar, Straus, and Giroux since 1993. His writing has appeared in *Commonweal*, the *New Republic*, and elsewhere. He is the author of *The Life You Save May Be Your Own: An American Pilgrimage* (2003), which examines the work of Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Flannery O'Connor, and Walker Percy. The book was nominated for a 2003 National Book Critics Circle award. Elie also is the editor of *A Tremor of Bliss: Contemporary Writers on the Saints* (1994), a collection of essays by 17 authors, including Kathleen Norris, Martin Marty, and Richard Bausch.



RALPH EUBANKS is the author of *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past*. He was director of book publishing at the American Psychological Association from 1990 to 1995, when he was appointed to his current position as director of publishing at the Library of Congress. He is an adviser and adjunct faculty member in the University of Virginia's Publishing and Communication Program. A graduate of the University of Mississippi (BA, 1978) and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (MA, 1979), he lives in Washington, D.C.

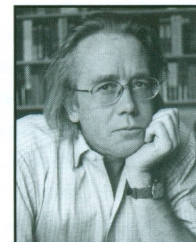
BETH ANN FENNELLY is the author of three poetry collections: *A Different Kind of Hunger*, winner of the 1997 *Texas Review* Chapbook Breakthrough Award; *Open House*, awarded the 2001 *Kenyon Review* Prize in Poetry for a First Book; and *Tender Hooks*, recently published by Norton. Her poems have appeared in *The Best American Poetry 1996*, the *Pushcart Prize 2001*, and other anthologies. She was awarded a 2003 Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts. Fennelly is assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi.



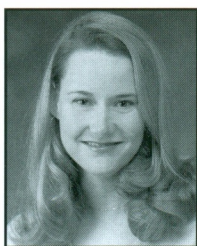
ANN FISHER-WIRTH is the author of two collections of poetry, *Blue Window* and the chapbook called *The Trinket Poems*, which was runner-up in the 2003 Quentin R. Howard Poetry Chapbook Competition from *Wind*. She also won a 2003 *Malahat Review* Long Poem Prize for "Olaus Magnus, *Carta Marina*," the first section of

a book-length manuscript by the same name. She is the author of more than 70 poems in journals, as well as a critical book, *William Carlos Williams and Autobiography: The Woods of His Own Nature*, and numerous articles on American writers. She teaches creative writing and American literature at the University of Mississippi.

GARY FISKETJON is vice president and editor at large at Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Random House, which is owned by the world's largest publishing conglomerate, Bertelsmann. He has edited the works of Raymond Carver, Don DeLillo, Richard Ford, Tobias Wolff, Jay McInerney, Cormac McCarthy, Donna Tartt, Bret Easton Ellis, Steve Yarbrough, and others.



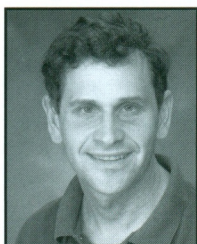
JENNIFER FORD is interim head of the Department of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi's John D. Williams Library. She graduated with a BA in English from Millsaps College in 1993 and received her MA and MLS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997. She is currently working on a PhD in history at the University of Mississippi.

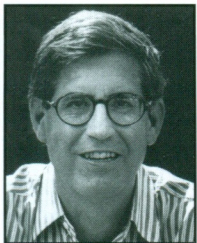


TOM FRANKLIN, writer in residence at the University of Mississippi, is a widely published author of essays and stories. The title story of his first book, *Poachers* (1999), won the Edgar Award for Best Short Story and was selected for inclusion in several prestigious anthologies. His first novel, *Hell at the Breech* (2003), was named by independent booksellers in all 50 states as one of the six best books in the country.



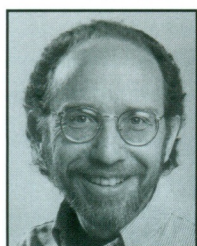
DAVID GALEF has published nine books: the novels *Flesh* and *Turning Japanese*; two children's books, *The Little Red Bicycle* and *Tracks*; two translations of Japanese proverbs, *Even Monkeys Fall from Trees* and *Even a Stone Buddha Can Talk*; a work of literary criticism, *The Supporting Cast*;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





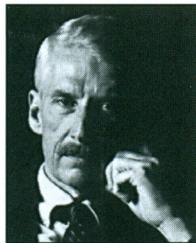
JONATHAN GALASSI is president and publisher of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. A board member and honorary chairman of the Academy of American Poets, he is the author of two volumes of poetry, *Morning Run* and *North Street*, and translator and editor of four volumes of poems by Eugenio Montale. He received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature in 2000.

KAYE GIBBONS is the author of seven novels: *Ellen Foster* (1986), *A Virtuous Woman* (1989), *A Cure for Dreams* (1991), *Charms for the Easy Life* (1993), *Sights Unseen* (1995), *On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon* (1996), and *Divining Women* (2004). For her work she has received the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction, an Ernest Hemingway Foundation Special Citation, and numerous other awards. Currently, she is working on a sequel to *Ellen Foster* and a short biography of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.



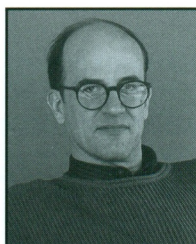
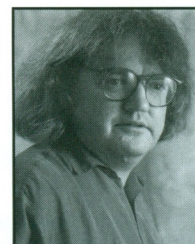
TOMMY GOLDSMITH lived in Nashville for 30 years, working as city editor for the *Tennessean* and as a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and record producer. His songs have been widely recorded, and he has produced many artists as well as *Fair and Tender Ladies* and *Alabama Troubadour* CDs. His writings on music have been printed by a variety of publications, and he edited *The Bluegrass Reader* (2004), published by University of Illinois Press. Goldsmith relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina, in 2003 to become the *News and Observer's* features editor.

BARRY HANNAH is the author of 11 works of fiction, including his first novel, *Geronimo Rex* (1972), which was awarded the William Faulkner Prize and nominated for the National Book Award; *Ray* (1980), nominated for the American Book Award; and *Airships* (1978), a collection of stories widely regarded as a contemporary classic. He received the 2003 PEN/Malamud Award honoring excellence in the art of the short story. He is writer in residence and director of the MFA program in creative writing at the University of Mississippi.



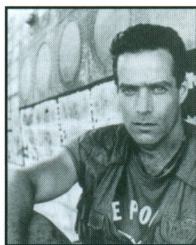
JERE HOAR is an emeritus professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi and an attorney. His debut story collection, *Body Parts* (1997), was a notable book of the year selection by three publications: the *New York Times*, *Booklist*, and *Bookman News*. His critically acclaimed first novel, *The Hit* (2003), tells the story of a Vietnam veteran who is a mental patient at a VA hospital in Mississippi. Hoar has also written three television scripts for public broadcasting and published more than 40 scholarly and other magazine articles, six monographs, a textbook chapter, and several short stories that have been anthologized.

TOM HOUSE lives in Nashville but his songs, performances, and poetry push the boundaries of country music and have gained worldwide attention for their unique qualities and rough edges. His latest CD, *Long Time Home from Here*, brings the total to seven. He is the author of over 500 poems published nationally and internationally; his poems have been translated into Italian, German, French, and Japanese. His new poetry book, *The World according to Whiskey*, is published by NewSouth Books.

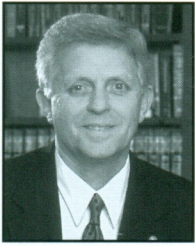


RICHARD HOWORTH was elected mayor of Oxford in 2001. He is founder of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, and past president of the American Booksellers Association.

ALAN HUFFMAN has been a farmer, a journalist, and a historical researcher. His work has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Clarion-Ledger*, *Smithsonian*, and *National Wildlife*. He is the author of two books: *Ten Point: Deer Camp in the Mississippi Delta* (2000) and *Mississippi in Africa: The Saga of the Slaves of Prospect Hill Plantation and Their Legacy in Liberia Today* (2004).

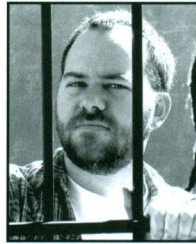


SEBASTIAN JUNGER is an award-winning journalist who writes for numerous publications, including *Outside*, *American Heritage*, and *Men's Journal*, and has published two books *Fire* (2001) and *The Perfect Storm: A True Story about Men Against the Sea* (1998). He has lived most of his life on the Massachusetts coast and now lives in New York.



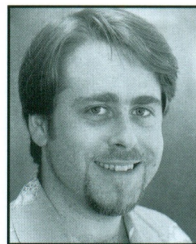
ROBERT C. KHAYAT, an avid reader, has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since 1995.

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



DR. LUCIUS "LUKE" LAMPTON is a family physician in Magnolia and Tylertown, Mississippi. He is editor/publisher of the award-winning *Magnolia Gazette* newspaper and associate editor of the *Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association*. His work on Mark Twain and Southern history has been featured on the BBC, C-SPAN, the History Channel, and Turner South. He is an avid reader and book collector.

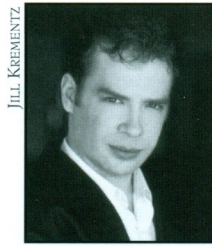
GRAHAM LEWIS is the author of a recently published poetry collection, *Forever Came Today* (2004). His poetry, fiction, cartoons, and film criticism have appeared in, among others, *New Letters*, *New American Writing*, *William and Mary Review*, *Asian Cult Cinema*, and *Chattahoochee Review*. He earned English/writing degrees from Eastern Illinois University (BA), Columbia College Chicago (MA), and the University of Arkansas (MFA). Lewis currently teaches composition and writing at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois.



JILL KREMENTZ

MARY PRATT PERCY LOBDELL is the daughter of Walker Percy and Mary Bernice Townsend Percy. Lobdell earned degrees at St. Mary's Dominican College (BS, Speech Pathology/Audiology) and Xavier University of Louisiana (MEd, Curriculum and Instruction). She began teaching at the elementary level in 1971 and is now a Parish Reading Teacher

Leader and English chair for Lee Road Junior High School. She is a lifelong resident of Covington, Louisiana, but spent 1998 teaching in Switzerland.



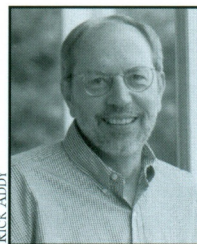
JILL KREMENTZ

ROBERT LIVINGSTON LOBDELL III is one of four grandsons of Walker Percy and Mary Bernice Townsend Percy. After graduation from St. Paul's School in 1989, Lobdell served three years in the U.S. Navy. After residing in Los Angeles and Houston for several years, he returned home to Covington, Louisiana. He completed EMT training in 2003 and pursues his interests in acting, computer technologies and their applications, and automobile racing.

BEVERLY LOWRY was born in Memphis and grew up in Greenville, Mississippi. She is the author of six novels, among them *Come Back, Lolly Ray* (1977), *Daddy's Girl* (1981), and *The Track of Real Desires* (1994); two books of nonfiction, *Crossed Over: A Murder, A Memoir* (1994) and *Her Dream of Dreams: The Rise and Triumph of Madam C. J. Walker* (2003); and numerous stories and articles. Lowry has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Texas Institute of Letters, and the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. She lives in Washington, D.C., and is director of the Creative Nonfiction Program at George Mason University.



Marion Ehlinger



RICK ANDY

BEN W. MCCLELLAND is a professor of English and holder of the Schillig Chair of English Composition at the University of Mississippi, where for 18 years he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in writing and literature. He is the author of essays and books on writing and a memoir, *Soldier's Son*. He is currently working on a book-length study of a small town story in mid-20th-century America under the working title *Murder in Klondike*.

KATHRYN MCKEE is McMullan associate professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. She has published essays and lectured on Ellen Glasgow, Kaye Gibbons, Bobbie Ann Mason, and other authors.



DAVID WHARTON



MARGARET MCMULLAN is the author of three novels: *In My Mother's House* (2003), *How I Found the Strong* (2004), and *When Warhol Was Still Alive* (1994). Her work has appeared in such publications as *Glamour*, *Southern Accents*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *TriQuarterly*, and several anthologies. She has received fellowships from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. McMullan received her MFA from the University of Arkansas and is currently professor and chair of English at the University of Evansville, where she teaches creative writing and literature.

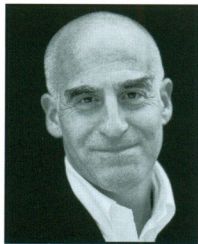


JON MEACHAM joined *Newsweek* in 1995 and served as national affairs editor before being named managing editor in 1998. His editing of *Newsweek's* groundbreaking coverage of the Monica Lewinsky scandal was honored with a prestigious 1999 National Magazine Award for Reporting. He is a contributing editor at *Washington Monthly*

and edited the anthology *Voices in Our Blood: America's Best on the Civil Rights Movement*. His book *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*, an eloquent, well-researched account, has been a *New York Times* Best Seller since shortly after its publication in October 2003.

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

BRUCE MURKOFF attended New York University and the American Film Institute. He spent many years in California writing for television. He now lives with his wife, the artist Suzanne Caporaal, in Stone Ridge, New York. His first novel, *Waterborne*, was published by Knopf in February 2004.



JOYCE RAVID



SUSAN NICHOLAS has been managing director of the Lafayette County Literacy Council in Oxford, Mississippi, since 2002. Under her leadership the Council has established "My First Chapter," an early intervention literacy program and distributed thousands of books to the children of Lafayette County. A lifelong reader, she is also a busy wife and mother of two.

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



KARREN PELL is a country music songwriter, producer, and performer who worked in Nashville for over 10 years and performs nationally and internationally. Since the fall of 1997 she has lived in Alabama and been an adjunct professor of English at Auburn University Montgomery. She is the creator of *Alabama Troubadour*, a collection of songs and essays about unique sites in the state. The book, illustrated by Tim Henderson's photographs, was published by River City Publishing in 2003. Also, Pell formed a four-piece acoustic band, the Alabama Troubadours, that recorded a CD in May 2000 and continues to perform across the southeast.



CAROL HAMPTON RASCO is president and chief executive officer of Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., America's oldest and largest nonprofit children's and family literacy organization. From 1997 through 2000, she served as the senior advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and director of the America Reads

Challenge, a four-year national campaign to promote the importance of all children reading well and independently by the end of the third grade.

JANISSE RAY is the author of the American Book Award-winning *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* (1999) and *Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home* (2003). She has published essays and poems in *Audubon*, *Hope*, *Natural History*, *Orion*, and *Sierra*, among others, and her work has appeared in *American Nature Writing 2000* and other anthologies. She has also provided commentaries for Peach State Public Radio and NPR's *Living on Earth*. She is Grisham Writer at the University of Mississippi for 2003-2004.



RAVEN BURCHARD



FRANCIS HALLARD

JULIA REED is a senior writer for *Vogue Magazine*, corresponding editor at *Newsweek*, and contributing writer for the *London Telegraph* and the *New York Times*. The Greenville, Mississippi, native will publish her first book, *Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena*, in April 2004.

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

