

PRESENTED BY

The Center for the
Study of Southern Culture
& Square Books

THE 22ND

OXFORD

Conference for the Book

Dedicated to Mississippi Writer
Margaret Walker

www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com



Photography by William Ferris,
William R. Ferris Collection, Southern Folklife Collection,
Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

March 25-27, 2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Study the South

Two Special Essays Published in Conjunction with Conference

On March 25, in conjunction with the Oxford Conference for the Book and in honor of Mississippi writer Margaret Walker, *Study the South* will publish two new essays. The first, "Sister Act: Margaret Walker and Eudora Welty," is by Walker biographer Carolyn J. Brown. The essay examines parallels in the two Mississippi writers' careers, lives, and legacies. Brown recently published the first biography on Walker, *Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker*.

The second is "Margaret Walker: A Photography Essay," by William Ferris, which includes seventeen photographs that "capture two moments in Margaret's career—a visit in the Beinecke Library at Yale University in 1978 and a reading and book signing of her *Richard Wright, Daemonic Genius: A Portrait of the Man / A Critical Look at His Work* at Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, in 1988." Ferris, a widely recognized leader in Southern studies, African American music, and folklore, is the Joel R. Williamson Eminent Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the senior associate director of UNC's Center for the Study of the American South.

Both essays can be found on the Center for the Study of Southern Culture's website and at southernstudies.olemiss.edu/study-the-south. *Study the South*, founded in 2014, exists to encourage interdisciplinary academic thought and discourse on the culture of the American South, particularly in the fields of history, anthropology, sociology, music, literature, documentary studies, gender studies, religion, geography, media studies, race studies, ethnicity, folklife, and art.

Those interested in contributing to the journal should contact James G. Thomas, Jr. at jgthomas@olemiss.edu.

The Sarah Isom Center Student Gender Conference

The Sarah Isom Center Student Gender Conference began in 2000 as a small, intimate conference dedicated to providing undergraduate and graduate students with a supportive environment to present their own research and to enhance their professional development and presentation skills. At the conference, students teach, challenge, and inspire us with their topics. This year's lecture by David Simon, creator of *The Wire* and *Treme*, is presented in partnership with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies as part of the 15th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference.

Special Events

Welcome Lunch—Wednesday, March 25, at noon
Hosted by the University of Mississippi Library, this lunch in Archives and Special Collections is a wonderful kick-off event.

Free, but reservations appreciated. Please sign-up at oxfordconferenceforthebook.com/attend.

Opening Reception Benefiting the OCB—Wednesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m.

Held at the historic Barksdale-Isom Place, this much-loved opening reception is a lively fundraiser with wonderful food, drinks, and conversation between fellow conference attendees and guest writers. A portion of the \$50 ticket proceeds is tax deductible.

Reservations required. Purchase tickets through the conference website, or contact Rebecca Lauck Cleary at 66-015-3369

Poetry Workshop—Thursday, March 26, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Poets Geoffrey Davis and F. Douglas Brown will lead a poetry workshop, titled "The Daddy Workshop," in Lamar Hall. As fathers, as sons, as poets, Davis and Brown will use Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy" as a springboard to explore how to negotiate parenting onto the page.

Free event, advance registration required, 30 seats available. Register online at <http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/htsdi>.

Thacker Mountain Radio—Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m.

Thacker Mountain Radio will have a special OCB show at the Lyric Theater on the Oxford Square (1006 Van Buren Ave.). Authors will be Kent Russell, David Vann, and Preston Lauterbach, and Lonnie Holley will be guest musician. *Free.*

Poetry Talk and Lunch—Friday, March 27, at noon
Hosted by the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library (401 Barmlett Blvd.), this lunch includes a talk on craft by poet Barbara Ras.

Free but reservations needed. Return the form, sign up at the conference website, or call 662-234-5751 to reserve your spot.

Music Noir: An Evening of Words and Music—Friday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Acclaimed concert pianist and recording artist Bruce Levingston returns to the Ford Center with a program that brings together the music of Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Satie, and Philip Glass along with readings of the evocative prose and poetry that inspired this exquisite music. Special guest artists include poet Beth Ann Fennelly, novelist Tom Franklin, and Patricia Lewis.

Tickets can be purchased at the Ford Center box office.

OXFORD
CONFERENCE 
for the Book

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

- 12:00 p.m. Welcome Lunch**
Hosted by the University of Mississippi Library Archives and Special Collections
Welcome by James G. Thomas, Jr.; Richard Forgette, Dean of Liberal Arts; and Julia Rholes, Dean of the University Libraries
3rd Floor of J. D. Williams Library
- Margaret Walker Exhibition**
Archives and Special Collections
3rd Floor of J. D. Williams Library
- 1:30 p.m. Keynote Lecture, Dedicated to Margaret Walker**
Maryemma Graham
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- Comments and Reflections**
Robret Luckett, Moderator, Maryemma Graham, Carolyn J. Brown, Jerry W. Ward
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 3:45 p.m. Square Books Reading**
LaShonda Katrice Barnett
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 5:00 p.m. Square Books Reading and Book Signing (Wednesday Authors)**
Kent Russell
Off Square Books
- 6:30 p.m. Opening Reception**
Barksdale-Isom Place
(Requires Purchased Ticket)

- 9:30 – Poetry Workshop:**
- 11:30 a.m. The “Daddy” Poetry Workshop**
Geoffrey Davis and F. Douglas Brown
Lamar Hall Conference Room (Room 323)
(Free Event, Advance Registration Required, 30 Seats Available)
- 10:30 a.m. Writing with Pictures, *Adventure Time* and Beyond**
Jack Pendarvis, moderator
Kent Osborne, Seo Kim, and Natasha Allegri
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own**
- 1:30 p.m. Cave Canem: Poetry Readings and Conversation**
Chiyuma Elliot, moderator
Geoffrey Davis, F. Douglas Brown, and Caroline Randall Williams
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 3:00 p.m. Square Books Reading and Conversation**
Phil Klay and John Renehan
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- 5:00 p.m. Square Books Pop-up Shop and Book Signing (Thursday Authors)**
The Lyric Theater on the Oxford Square
- 6:00 p.m. *Thacker Mountain Radio***
Featuring Kent Russell, David Vann, and Preston Lauterbach
The Lyric Theater on the Oxford Square

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. Sports and Race: How Athletics Transcended Segregation**
Curtis Wilkie, Moderator
Panelists David Maraniss, Andrew Maraniss, Charles Ross, Jody Hill, and Kyle Veazey
Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015

“But above all, the courthouse: the center, the focus, the hub; sitting looming in the center of the county’s circumference like a single cloud in its ring of horizon. . . .”—William Faulkner, *Requiem for a Nun*

- 9:00 a.m. Poetry Readings and Conversation**
Beth Ann Fennelly, moderator
Chelsea Wagenaar, Mark Wagenaar, and Barbara Ras
Lafayette County Courthouse on the Oxford Square
- 10:30 a.m. Writing Place through Food: Lowcountry Educations**
Presented by the Southern Foodways Alliance
David Shields and Sean Brock
Moderated by John T. Edge
Lafayette County Courthouse on the Oxford Square

The OCB Children’s Book Festival

The 2014 Children’s Book Festival (CBF) will be held at the Ford Center for Performing Arts, with more than 1,200 first graders and fifth graders from the public schools of Lafayette County and Oxford in attendance. Sheila Turnage, author of *Three Times Lucky*, will present at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 23, and, Adam Rubin, author of *Those Darn Squirrels* will present at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25.

- 12:00 p.m. **Poetry Talk and Lunch (advance registration required)**
Barbara Ras
Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library
Sponsored by the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library
- 1:15 p.m. **David Simon, Creator of *The Wire* and *Treme***
Introduction by Brandi Hephner LaBanc,
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Presented in partnership with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies
as part of the 15th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference
Lafayette County Courthouse on the Oxford Square
- 2:30 p.m. **Square Books Reading and Conversation**
Tim Johnston, David Vann, and Skip Horack
Lafayette County Courthouse on the Oxford Square
- 3:45 p.m. **Joel Williamson's *Elvis Presley: A Southern Life***
Susan Ferber, moderator
Peter Guralnick, Preston Lauterbach,
and Ted Ownby
Lafayette County Courthouse on the Oxford Square
- 5:00 p.m. **Closing Reception and Book Signing**
Off Square Books

Margaret Walker Center

The Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University is an archive and museum dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of African American history and culture. Founded as the Institute for the Study of the History, Life, and Culture of Black People by Margaret Walker in 1968, the Center seeks to honor her academic and artistic legacy through its archival collections, exhibits, and public programs.

Open to the public, the Center houses significant records like the papers of the late Margaret Walker; those of the former US Secretary of Education, Roderick Paige; and a large oral history department that includes nearly 2,000 interviews. It also offers museum and exhibit spaces that highlight the Centers collections and the history of Jackson State University.

The Margaret Walker Center continues to collect living memories, archival records, and personal papers for scholarly use; advocates the preservation of the built environment such as historic 1903 Ayer Hall, which is the oldest structure on the Jackson State University campus and was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977; engages the community through public programs, literacy projects, and educational workshops; and works with other JSU departments.

Margaret Walker (1915–1998)

Margaret Walker, a poet, novelist, biographer, and essayist, was groomed for a literary life since birth. Born on July 7, 1915, in Birmingham, Alabama, Margaret Walker was surrounded by numerous educated and gifted family members. Her grandfather, father, and mother all received college degrees—and expected the same of their children. She finished elementary school by the age of eleven and graduated from high school by fourteen in order to attend the University of New Orleans. She received her BA from Northwestern before attending the University of Iowa for graduate school.

The poet belonged to an illustrious group of African Americans writing in the 1940s. Her college poetry was published in W. E. B. DuBois's *Crisis*, and she was the first African American writer to win the Yale Series of Younger Poets competition. Her true literary career began, however, with the publication of her first book of poetry, *For My People*, in 1942. In her first published poem, "Why I Write," published in *Crisis* when she was just nineteen, Walker made clear the connection between her life as a poet and the voices of African Americans. The poem begins "I want to write / I want to write the songs of my people / I want to hear them singing melodies in the dark." "For My People," her best known, most loved, and most often read-aloud poem, is a work for African Americans, showing her attempt to write of their beauty, wisdom, music, religion, anger, frustration, certainties and uncertainties, hopes, and determinations.

Margaret Walker's most critically acclaimed work did not come until twenty-three years later, with the publication of *Jubilee* (1966). Her only novel, *Jubilee* won the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship and also breathed new life into her career, igniting new academic interest in her poetry. *Jubilee* follows Walker's great-grandmother from slavery to her new life after Reconstruction. The novel addresses a major theme in her work: the overcoming spirit of black people. Walker believed that she was a social activist, fighting for the rights of African Americans. "I'm always looking back in order to understand what's happening today, and what may happen tomorrow," Walker said in an interview. "If we understand yesterday, then we know what's happening tomorrow."

Walker's other literary endeavors include *Prophets for a New Day* (1970), *October Journey* (1973), and *A Poetic Equation: Conversations between Nikki Giovanni and Margaret Walker* (1974). She also published two collections of essays, *How I Wrote Jubilee and Other Essays of Life and Literature* (1990) and *On Being Female, Black, and Free: Essays by Margaret Walker, 1932–1992* (1997). In *Richard Wright: Daemonic Genius* (1988), Walker offers a biography of her famous friend and literary contemporary.

Outside her writing, Walker dedicated herself to education. She was a professor of English at Jackson State University for thirty years until she retired in 1979.

Lisa Sloan
University of Mississippi

Excerpted from biography that will appear in the forthcoming Mississippi Encyclopedia (University Press of Mississippi)

The Speakers

Natasha Allegri is a writer, storyboard artist, and comic book artist. She has created and produced her own animated short, *Bee and PuppyCat*, an online animated series, and works as a storyboard revisionist for Cartoon Network's *Adventure Time*.

LaShonda Katrice Barnett was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1974, and grew up in Park Forest, Illinois. She is the author of the novel *Jam on the Vine*. She received the College Language Association's Margaret Walker Award and the Barbara Deming Foundation's Artist Grant for her short fiction and holds a PhD in American studies from the College of William and Mary.



ELLEN POCH



ANDREA BEHREND

In 2010 chef **Sean Brock**, owner of the restaurants Husk, in Charleston, and Husk Nashville, won the James Beard Award for "Best Chef Southeast" and hosted season two of Anthony Bourdain's *The Mind of a Chef* on PBS, for which he was nominated for an Emmy. Only serving food that is indigenous to the South, Husk is a celebration of Southern ingredients, with an emphasis on the ingredients and the people who grow them. Brock's first cookbook, *Heritage*, was released in October 2014.

Carolyn J. Brown is a writer, editor, and independent scholar. Her first book, *A Daring Life: A Biography of Eudora Welty*, won the Mississippi Library Association's Award for Nonfiction in 2013 and was selected by the Mississippi Library Commission to represent the state of Mississippi at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., in 2012. She published her second biography, *Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker*, in November 2014. She lives in Jackson, Mississippi, with her husband and two sons.



F. Douglas Brown of Los Angeles, California, is the 2013 Cave Canem Poetry Prize recipient for *Zero to Three*. An educator for twenty years, he teaches English at Loyola High School, an all-boys Jesuit school. He is both a Cave Canem and Kundiman fellow. His poems have appeared in *Toegood Poetry*, the *Sugar House Review*, *Cura*, *Muzzle*, *Transfer*, and *Santa Clara Review*.

Geoffrey Davis grew up in Tacoma, Washington, and teaches creative writing at the University of Arkansas. He is the author of *Revising the Storm*, winner of the A. Poulin Jr. Poetry Prize. Other distinctions include the Wabash Prize for Poetry, the Leonard Steinberg Memorial/Academy of American Poets Prize, nominations for the Pushcart, and fellowships from the Cave Canem Foundation and Penn State's Institute for the Arts and Humanities. Davis's poetry has appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *Mississippi Review*, among other places.



JASON THRASHER

John T. Edge is the director of the Southern Foodways Alliance and author or editor of more than 10 books, including the *Foodways* volume of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, *Cornbread Nation: The Best of Southern Food Writing*, and *Southern Belly: The Ultimate Food Lover's Companion to the South*. Most recently, he coedited *The Larder: Food Studies Methods from the*

American South with Elizabeth Engelhardt and Ted Ownby.

Chiyuma Elliott is assistant professor of English and African American studies at University of Mississippi. A former Stegner Fellow, Elliott's poems have appeared in the *African American Review*, *Callaloo*, the *Notre Dame Review*, the *PN Review*, the *Langston Hughes Review*, *MARGIE*, and other journals. Elliott's first book of poems, *California Winter League*, will be published in 2015 by Unicorn Press.



ANDY ANDERSON

Beth Ann Fennelly directs the MFA program at the University of Mississippi, where she was named the 2011 Outstanding Liberal Arts Teacher of the Year. She's won grants from the NEA, United States Artists, and a Fulbright to Brazil. She has published three books of poetry and one of nonfiction, all with W. W. Norton. In 2014 she coauthored *A Titled World* with her husband, Tom Franklin. They live in Oxford with their three children.

Susan Ferber is the executive editor for American and world history at Oxford University Press USA. Her list includes titles that have won the Pulitzer Prize and the Bancroft Prize, and five have become national bestsellers. In addition to teaching at the Columbia Publishing Course and giving regular talks on academic publishing, she has also written essays for a variety of publications, including the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Passport*, *Perspectives on History*, and the *Digital Digest*. Recently, Ferber edited and Oxford University Press published Joel Williamson's *Elvis Presley: A Southern Life*.



Maryemma Graham is a professor of English and African American studies at the University of Kansas where she has taught since 1998, including one year as the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor. In 1983 she founded the Project on the History of Black Writing, which has been in the forefront of inclusion efforts in higher education for 29 years. It is the only archive of its kind dedicated to liter-

ary recovery, professional development, public outreach, and digital access. Graham is the author or editor of ten books, including *The Cambridge History of African American Literature* (with Jerry W. Ward Jr.), *On Being Female, Black, and Free: Essays by Margaret Walker, 1932–1992*, “How I Wrote *Jubilee*” and *Other Essays on Life and Literature by Margaret Walker*, and *Fields Watered with Blood: Critical Essays on Margaret Walker*.

Peter Guralnick has been called “a national resource” by critic Nat Hentoff for work that has argued passionately and persuasively for the vitality of this country’s intertwined black and white musical traditions. His books include the prize-winning two-volume biography of Elvis Presley, *Last Train to Memphis* and *Careless Love*. He is a recent inductee in the Blues Hall of Fame. Guralnick’s other books include *Sweet Soul Music*, *Lost Highway*, *Feel Like Going Home*, *Searching for Robert Johnson*; and *Nighthawk Blues*. He is currently working on a biography of Sam Phillips.

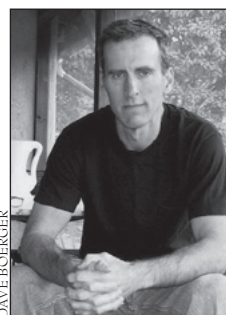


In the fall of 1988 **Jody Hill** became friends with Chucky Mullins when they were both freshmen on the Ole Miss Rebels football team. He is the pastor of Ripley Presbyterian Church in Ripley, Mississippi, and the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *38: The Chucky Mullins Effect*. Hill lives in Corinth, Mississippi, with his wife, Monya, and two sons, Noah and Luke.

Skip Horack is a former Jones Lecturer at Stanford University, where he was also a Wallace Stegner Fellow. His story collection *The Southern Cross* won the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference Bakeless Fiction Prize, and his novel *The Eden Hunter* was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors’ Choice. His second novel, *The Other Joseph*, was published by Ecco in March 2015. A native of Louisiana, he is currently an assistant professor at Florida State University.



STAVIA HORACK



DAVE BERGER

Tim Johnston is the author of the novel *Descent*, the story collection *Irish Girl*, and the young adult novel *Never So Green*. Published in 2009, the stories in *Irish Girl* won an O. Henry Prize, the New Letters Award for Writers, and the Gival Press Short Story Award, while the collection itself won the 2009 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction. Johnston’s stories have also appeared in *New England Review*, *New Letters*, the *Iowa Review*, the *Missouri Review*, *DoubleTake*, *Best Life Magazine*, and *Narrative Magazine*, among others. He currently teaches in the creative writing program at the University of Memphis.

Seo Kim was born in Seoul, Korea, and then immigrated to Toronto, Canada, just a few months later. Kim began drawing on napkins at her parents’ restaurant at two years old and hasn’t stopped since. A graduate of the acclaimed animation program at Sheridan College, Kim has focused primarily on comics and illustration. In 2012 she started uploading daily slice-of-life comics on Tumblr, often starring the artist and her adorable cat, Jimmy, which have gone on to earn a large following. Kim currently lives in Los Angeles and works as a storyboard artist for the massively successful Cartoon Network show, *Adventure Time*. *Cat Person*, her first book, was published in 2014.





HANNAH DUNPHY

Phil Klay was born in White Plains, New York. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 2005 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group from January 2007 to February 2008. Klay left the Corps in July 2009 and received his MFA from Hunter College, where he studied with Colum McCann and Peter Carey and

worked as Richard Ford's research assistant. His first published story, "Redeployment," led to the sale of his collection *Redeployment*, which won the 2014 National Book Award. Klay's writing has also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Daily News*, *Tin House*, and in *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2012*.

Preston Lauterbach's first book, *The Chitlin' Circuit: And the Road to Rock 'n' Roll*, was named a best book of the year by the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, and NPR. Currently a Curb Visiting Scholar in the Arts at Rhodes College in Memphis, Lauterbach lives near Charlottesville in Nelson County, Virginia. His next book, *Beale Street Dynasty*, was published this March.



APRIL BENNETT



Robert Luckett received his PhD from the University of Georgia with a focus on civil rights movement history. A native Mississippian, he returned home to accept the positions of assistant professor of history and director of the Margaret Walker Center for the Study of the African American Experience at Jackson State University. His book, *Joe T. Patterson and the Dilemma of the White South: Evolving*

Resistance to Black Advancement is due out with the University Press of Mississippi in 2015.

Andrew Maraniss, the former associate director of media relations at the Vanderbilt Athletic Department and the first-ever media-relations manager for the Tampa Bay Rays, is now a partner at McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations. His book, *Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South*, was published in 2014.



David Maraniss, is an associate editor at the *Washington Post*. In addition to *Barack Obama: The Story*, Maraniss is the author of five critically acclaimed and bestselling books, *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi*; *First in His Class: A Biography of Bill Clinton*; *They Marched into Sunlight: War and Peace, Vietnam and America, October 1967*; *Clemente: The Passion and Grace*

of Baseball's Last Hero; and *Rome 1960: The Summer Olympics That Stirred the World*. He has won several notable awards for achievements in journalism, including the Pulitzer Prize.

Kent Osborne is an Emmy-nominated writer and storyboard artist for animated television shows, including *SpongeBob Squarepants*, *Phineas and Ferb*, *The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack*, and *The Amazing World of Gumball*. He currently serves as head of story for Cartoon Network's *Adventure Time*. He has also written six issues of the popular *Adventure Time* comic book *Banana Guard Academy* and writes and draws the comic and webseries *Cat Agent*, which can be seen on YouTube.



Ted Ownby is the director of the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He has a joint appointment in history and Southern Studies and is the author of *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1998* and *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920*, editor of *Black and*

White: Cultural Interaction in the Antebellum South, and coeditor with Elizabeth Engelhardt and John T. Edge of *The Larder: Food Studies Methods from the American South*. Most recently, Ownby contributed the foreword to Joel Williamson's *Elvis Presley: A Southern Life*.

Jack Pendarvis has written three books of fiction (*The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure*, *Your Body Is Changing*, and *Awesome*) as well as numerous articles, columns, short stories and essays. He is the staff writer for the television show *Adventure Time*.





Barbara Ras is the author of three poetry collections: *Bite Every Sorrow*, which won the Walt Whitman Award and was also awarded the Kate Tufts Discovery Award; *One Hidden Stuff*; and *The Last Skin*, winner of the Award for Poetry from the Texas Institute of Letters. Ras has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, among others.

Her poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Tin House*, *Granta*, *American Scholar*, *Massachusetts Review*, and *Orion*.

John Renahan served in the Army's Third Infantry Division as a field artillery officer in Iraq. He previously worked as an attorney in New York City. He lives with his family in Virginia. *The Valley* is his first novel.



SCOBIA DEHN



Charles Ross is a native of Columbus, Ohio, and is currently the chair of the African American studies program and associate professor of history and African American studies at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *Outside the Lines: African Americans and the Integration of the National Football League* and the editor of *Race and Sport: The Struggle for Equality On and Off the*

Field. He has appeared on ESPN's *Outside the Lines* and on ESPN Radio.

Adam Rubin is the *New York Times* best-selling author of half a dozen children's stories, including *Dragons Love Tacos*, *Secret Pizza Party*, *Big Bad Bubble*, and the *Darn Squirrels* Trilogy. He lives in New York City, went to school at Washington University in St. Louis and spent his "formative" years in Chicago. Adam's interests include puzzles, camping, magic tricks, improv comedy, 3D printing, fine dining, and cartoons.



Kent Russell's essays have appeared in the *New Republic*, *Harper's*, *GQ*, *n+1*, the *Believer*, and *Grantland*. He is also a contributing editor at the *New Republic*. *I Am Sorry to Think I Have Raised a Timid Son*, published in March 2015, is his first book.

David S. Shields is the Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina and chairman of the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation. He is the author of several works on food studies, including *Southern Provisions: On the Creation and Resuscitation of Regional Cuisine*, a table-to-farm history on the formation of Lowcountry cuisine in light of the larger formation of southern cooking during the "age of experiment" from 1820 to 1880. Shields is also the editor and chief author of *The Golden Seed: Writings on the History and Culture of Carolina Gold Rice*.



SIDNEY J. PALMER



David Simon is a Baltimore-based journalist, author, and television producer. A former crime reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*, he is the creator of the celebrated HBO series *The Wire*, which depicts the social fissures in an American City. His other credits include the NBC drama *Homicide* and HBO's *The Corner* and *Generation Kill*. His most recent project, *Treme*, is a drama about

post-Katrina New Orleans, and his books include *Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets* and *The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

Sheila Turnage is from eastern North Carolina, just like Miss Moses LoBeau, the protagonist from *Three Times Lucky*. Turnage's first novel for children, *Three Times Lucky*, is a Newbery Honor winner, a *New York Times* bestseller, an E. B. White Read-Aloud Honor Book, and an Edgar Award finalist. Her follow-up book was *New York Times* best-selling *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing*. Turnage is also the author of two nonfiction adult titles: *Haunted Inns of the Southeast* and *Compass American Guides: North Carolina*, as well as one picture book, *Trout the Magnificent*. Her next children's book, *The Odds of Getting Even* (a Mo & Dale mystery), will be available in October 2015.



PAUL SCHIRALDI



David Vann's previous books—*A Mile Down*, *Legend of a Suicide*, *Caribou Island*, *Last Day on Earth*, *Dirt*, and *Goat Mountain*—have been published in twenty languages and have won enormous critical acclaim. A former Guggenheim fellow, Wallace Stegner fellow, John L'Heureux fellow, and National Endowment for the Arts fellow, he has taught at Stanford, Cornell, Florida State University,

University of Southern Florida, holds degrees from Stanford and Cornell, and is currently a professor at the University of Warwick in England and an honorary professor at the University of Franche-Comté in France. *Aquarium* is his latest novel.

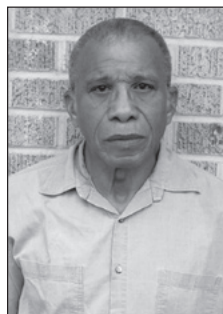
Kyle Veazey is the sports enterprise reporter at the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis. He reports features, investigative stories, sports business news and projects across a variety of subject areas, such as the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, the University of Memphis, the Big East Conference, Southeastern Conference sports, and Memphis's professional golf and tennis tournaments. He published *Champions for Change: How the Mississippi State Bulldogs and Their Bold Coach Defied Segregation* in 2012.



Chelsea Wagenaar is the author of *Mercy Spurs the Bone*, the 2013 winner of the Philip Levine Prize. She is a doctoral fellow in English literature with a concentration in creative writing at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Wagenaar received her BA from the University of Virginia. Her poems have recently appeared or been accepted in the *Southeast Review*, *Plume*, the *Journal*, and

Mid-American Review. She lives in Denton, Texas, with her husband, fellow poet Mark Wagenaar.

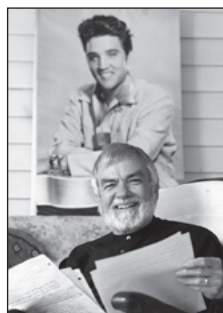
In the past few years, **Mark Wagenaar** has won the New Letters Poetry Prize, the Mary C. Mohr Prize, the James Wright Poetry Prize, the Poetry International Prize, and the Yellowwood Poetry Award. This past summer he served as the University of Mississippi's 2014 Summer Poet in Residence. His debut manuscript, "Voodoo Inverso," was the 2012 winner of the University of Wisconsin Press' Felix Pollak Prize. Recent acceptances or publications include the *New Yorker*, *Field*, and the *Laurel Review*. He and his wife Chelsea Wagenaar are doctoral fellows at the University of North Texas in Denton.



Jerry Ward was a founding member of the Jackson (Mississippi) Writers Workshop, and in 1990 he published *Redefining American Literary History*. In 1992 he published *Black Southern Voices*, which worked to widen the notions of black southern writing. In 1993 Ward wrote the introduction to Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, and in 1997 he released the seminal *Trouble the Water: 250 Years of*

African American Poetry. Ward spent 32 years (1970–2002) as the Lawrence Durgin Professor of Literature at Tougaloo College, and in 2003 he became distinguished professor of English and African American world studies at Dillard University in New Orleans.

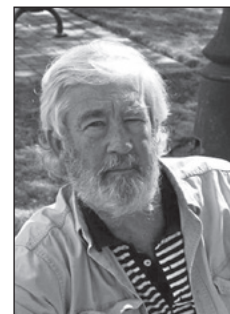
Caroline Randall Williams, an award-winning poet and Harvard graduate, is currently pursuing her MFA at the University of Mississippi. She spent two years teaching public school in the Mississippi Delta as a corps member with Teach for America, during which time she coauthored *The Diary of B. B. Bright, Possible Princess* with her mother, Alice Randall. She and her mother recently published *Soul Food Love*, a cookbook and African American culinary anthology, and her first poetry collection, *Lucy Negro, Redux*, comes out in April 2015.



Joel Williamson, Lineberger Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the author of a number of landmark works on southern culture, including *William Faulkner and Southern History* and *The Crucible of Race: Black-White Relations in the American South since Emancipation*, which won the Francis Parkman Prize, the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, and the

Ralph Emerson Award. Both books were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent book is *Elvis Presley: A Southern Life*.

Curtis Wilkie was a reporter for the *Clarksdale Press Register* in his home state of Mississippi during the 1960s and then served as a national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe* for 26 years. He is the author of *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey through Events that Shaped the Modern South*, *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer*, and, most recently, *Assassins, Eccentrics, Politicians, and Other Persons of Interest: Fifty Pieces from the Road*. Wilkie holds the Kelly Gene Cook Chair of Journalism at the University of Mississippi.



Blues Today Symposium, April 9, 2015

“North Mississippi Hill Country Blues”

The 2015 Blues Today Symposium will be Thursday, April 9, 2015, at the University of Mississippi. The program’s theme, “North Mississippi Hill Country Blues,” will focus on the region’s distinctive blues sound and culture. David Evans, director of the ethnomusicology and regional studies doctoral program of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis, will deliver the keynote address. Evans is a specialist in American folk and popular music, particularly blues, spirituals, gospel, and African American folk music. Additionally, George W. K. Dor, the McDonnell-Barksdale Chair of Ethnomusicology and associate professor of music at the University of Mississippi, will discuss Africanisms in Otha Turner’s life and band music.

Other presentations include filmmakers Joe York and Scott Barretta previewing portions of their upcoming documentary feature film on Como, Mississippi’s legendary blues artist



Fred McDowell. Greg Johnson, curator for the Blues Archive in Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi, will highlight holdings in the archive, featuring numerous North Mississippi blues musicians. Karlos K. Hill, assistant professor at Texas Tech University, will present his paper, “The Lynching Blues: Robert Johnson’s ‘Hellhound on My Trail’ as a Lynching Ballad,” which will also be published online in *Study the South* on April 9.

The Blues Today Symposium is presented by *Living Blues* magazine and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. The symposium coincides with Clarksdale, Mississippi’s annual Juke Joint Festival (April 10–12) providing attendees an opportunity to see and hear dozens of musicians from the region.

Program updates will be posted at <http://southernstudies.olemiss.edu/events/music-of-the-south/>.

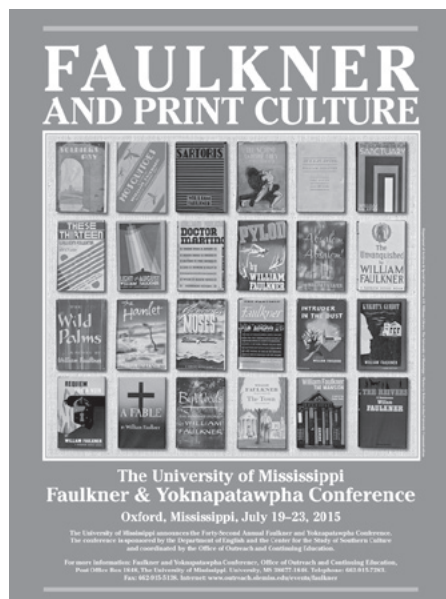
Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference

“Faulkner and Print Culture”

July 19–23, 2015

The 42nd annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, scheduled for July 19–23, 2015, will bring together scholars, teachers, students, and other fans of William Faulkner’s work for five days of lectures, panels, and other stimulating interactions on the subject of “Faulkner and Print Culture.” The conference aims to explore the place of Faulkner and his writings in the creation, design, publishing, marketing, collecting, and reception of books, in the culture of 20th-century magazines, journals, newspapers, and other periodicals (from pulp to avant-garde), in the history of modern readers and readerships (including reading groups from the Book of the Month Club to Oprah’s Book Club), and in the construction and cultural politics of modern authorship.

In addition, the Department of English will offer a 3-credit-hour course, ENGL 566, in conjunction with the conference. The intent of ENGL 566 is to complement the conference program by providing students with a deeper in-



terpretive and pedagogical encounter with Faulkner’s work in relation to the conference theme. With that goal in mind, the class will be organized around the topic of “Popular Faulkner.”

Taught by professor Jaime Harker of the University of Mississippi, ENGL 566 may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit and hopes to attract high school teachers, students at the UM or other universities, and other attendees seeking a more intensive conference experience. Course tuition will include the conference registration fee, and the credit hours will be transferable and can be applied to advanced degree programs or teacher certification requirements. Interested participants should contact Professor Harker at jlharker@olemiss.edu at their earliest convenience.

For more information about “Faulkner and Print Culture,” visit the conference website at www.outreach.olemiss.edu/events/faulkner/index.html#class or contact Jay Watson, conference director, at jwatson@olemiss.edu.

In Fond Memory of

Thomas Henry Freeland IV
November 3, 1955–February 21, 2015

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 Center 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.

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The conference is partially funded by the University of Mississippi, a contribution from the R&B Feder Foundation for the Beaux Arts, grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi Humanities Council, and promotional support from Visit Oxford.



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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