

The Second Annual

Emma Bell Miles Symposium on Southern Appalachian Culture & Nature

*Hosted by the UTC Lupton Library
and the UTC Department of English*

Sept. 9 & 10, 2011
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University Center

About the Participants



Roy Andrade is an Appalachian old-time musician and singer. A founding member of the popular old-time string band Reeltime Travelers, he traveled the country for years with the band. He has recorded music for several documentary films and for the film *Cold Mountain*. More recently, he has been working as an assistant professor in Bluegrass, Old-time, and Country Music Services at ETSU and just returned from leading a tour of the Czech Republic with a student old-time band.

Wes Berry grew up among green hills, hardwoods, beef cattle and tobacco fields in cave country, Barren River drainage, Kentucky, where he's returned (after a long dozen years away) to teach at Western Kentucky University. He lives on a ridgeline near the confluence of the Green and Barren Rivers, where he's fixing up an old property and managing a small flock of laying hens and currently two Duroc hogs named Short Timer and Red Bud. He specializes in 20th-century American literature and environmental humanities and has published essays on Walter Anderson, Wendell Berry, Cormac McCarthy, Anne LaBastille, Toni Morrison, Annie Proulx, Leslie Silko, and Barbara Kingsolver. His novel *Boating with the Dead* was a finalist for the Bellwether Prize for Fiction of Social Change in 2008. He also taught for a spell in Sichuan province, China, where the cuisine is as savory as western Kentucky barbecue, the topic of his current research—a comprehensive guidebook to Kentucky's best smoked meats entitled *Sweet Dreams of Kentucky Barbecue* (hopefully to be published in spring 2012).

Stephanie Downer Brewer is a graduate of UTC and currently teaches middle and high school English at the Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy, the first charter school for girls in Tennessee. She lives with her husband and daughter in St. Elmo. In addition to teaching English classes, she also teaches a ballad singing class at the Chattanooga Folk School. Stephanie says that the same “love of a good story” that led her to be an English major also led her to begin collecting ballads.

Betsy Kendrick Coogler currently lives and works in Asheville, NC. She studied painting in the eighties at the Maryland Institute of Art and in southern France. Her children were all born in Chattanooga—they resided in the St. Elmo area for several years. Like Emma, Betsy struggled to maintain her career as an artist while raising a family.

Steven Cox has been the Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga since 2001. He received his Master of Library Science from the University of Kentucky, and his Bachelor of Science and Education from the University of Arkansas. Prior to coming to Chattanooga, Professor Cox was a librarian at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. The Special Collections at UTC hold over one hundred collections, including two collections with Emma Bell Miles material. In addition to working on the various collections in the Special Collections, Professor Cox has spent the past few years scanning, transcribing, and editing the journals of Emma Bell Miles for future publication.

Painter **Anne L. S. B. Davis** has been inspired by the beauty of Signal Mountain for nearly forty years. In 2000, her one-person show “Signal: A Different View” celebrated the unique culture of the present-day mountain and since then she has published an annual calendar featuring a dozen water color paintings of Signal Mountain/ Walden’s Ridge. She enjoys hiking and flat-water kayaking, finding inspiration in the diversity of our landscape and natural world. The 2010 calendar was dedicated to Emma Bell Miles.

Peggy Douglas has a Ph.D. in Environmental Economics from the University of Tennessee and teaches at Baker College. She is a member of the Chattanooga Writers Guild, former coordinator of the Knoxville Writers Guild Poetry Workshop. Her poems have appeared in the *Kakalak Anthology of Carolina Poets*; *Bleeding Heart Anthology* of the Knoxville Writer’s Guild; the University of Maine’s *Binnacle Poetry Journal*; *Maypop: The Tennessee Writers Alliance Journal*; *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*; *The Light of Ordinary Things Anthology* by Fearless Books; *Chantarelle’s Notebook*; *Now & Then: The Appalachian Magazine*; *Still Journal*, and *Xanadu: Long Island Poetry Collective*. Her first book of poems, *Twisted Roots*, was published in May 2011 by Finishing Line Press.

Kenneth H. Dubke was born and reared in the area of Mankato, Minnesota. After his discharge from the military, he attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. In January 1966 he entered into the National Park Service at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace,

Kentucky, and later that year transferred to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. He retired in 1991 as the District Ranger at Point Park on Lookout Mountain. Ken Dubke has had a life-long interest in natural history, especially birds. This interest was intensified when he moved to Tennessee. He is a past president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society as well as their Chattanooga Chapter. For several years he served the TOS as their Conservation/Education Committee Chairman and for many years as the official statistician of the local chapter. Most recently he has been concentrating his time on establishing a breeding population of the Golden Eagle in the Southern Appalachians and working with others in establishing a new migratory population of the endangered Whooping Crane in the eastern United States.

Grace Toney Edwards is Professor Emeritus of English and Appalachian Studies at Radford University and a Research Faculty Associate in the Appalachian Regional Studies Center. She retired in 2010 after thirty years of teaching and administration at RU, where she was the founding director of the Appalachian Regional Studies Center and chair of the interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies Program. Edwards first “met” Emma Bell Miles in 1975 upon reading the facsimile edition of *The Spirit of the Mountains* as a doctoral student at the University of Virginia. That was the beginning of a long love affair with this multi-talented artist who became the subject of Edwards’ Ph.D. dissertation. Happily, her research led her to Signal Mountain, Tennessee, and a fruitful meeting with Kay Baker Gaston; then to Miami, Florida, and Aline, Oklahoma, for extended visits and interviews with two of Emma’s children, Jean Miles Catino and Judith Miles Ford. Over the thirty-six year span since that initial introduction to Emma Bell Miles, Edwards’ teaching, writing, and professional presentations have continually featured the artist whose life and work have been a major influence in Edwards’ own life and work.

Elizabeth Engelhardt is Associate Professor of American Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of *The Tangled Roots of Feminism, Environmentalism, and Appalachian Literature* (2003), the lead author of *Republic of Barbecue: Stories Beyond the Brisket* (2009), and the author of the forthcoming *A Mess of Greens: Southern Gender and Southern Food* (2011). She is the editor of the first anthology in the field of Appalachian Women’s Studies, *Beyond Hill and Hollow* (2005), and a co-editor of a forthcoming volume in the emerging field of southern food methodologies. She also helped bring *The Power and the Glory*, Grace MacGowan Cooke’s 1909 novel of cotton mill life, back into print. She is a founding member and board member of Foodways Texas, a statewide organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and celebration of the diverse food cultures of Texas; that work emerges from her collaborations with the Southern Foodways Alliance, of which she is also a member. She received her doctorate from Emory University in 1999.

Allison R. Ensor is Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he taught for more than forty years. A native of Cookeville, he received his B.A. from Tennessee Tech, his M. A. from UTK, and his Ph.D. from Indiana University. Most of his scholarly research and publication has concerned Mark Twain, particularly his book on Twain's use of the Bible and his Norton Critical Edition of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, though he has also written about the literature of Tennessee. He wrote the entry on "Literature" for the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* and an essay on Tennessee literature before 1920 for *A History of Tennessee Arts*. He has served as president of the Tennessee Philological Association and the Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association and was for more than twenty years secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee College English Association. He has twice lectured at the Center for Mark Twain Studies in Elmira, NY, and has read three papers at the international conferences on Twain that are held at the Center every four years.

Matt Evans grew up in Chattanooga, and earned a degree from UTC, where he now teaches writing and literature. Interested in the culture, especially the music, of the Southern Appalachians and Cumberland Plateau, he has a deep appreciation for folklorists such as Emma Bell Miles and Bobby Fulcher. Matt is the current President of the Friends of the Cumberland Trail, and co-founder and co-director of the Folk School of Chattanooga, where he teaches banjo, guitar, and fiddle.

Bob Fulcher developed a deep admiration for Emma Bell Miles early in his career as a Tennessee naturalist, folklorist, and State Park manager. A recipient of the Botkin Prize in Folklore, a career achievement award presented by the American Folklore Society, Fulcher established the Tennessee State Parks Folklife Project in 1979, which documented traditional culture in over 80 counties. He has worked with the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, *National Geographic Magazine*, the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many state and regional organizations devoted to cultural conservation. For the past ten years, he has worked on the acquisition, development, and management of the Cumberland Trail State Park and State Scenic Trail as Park Superintendent, protecting almost 30,000 acres of the Cumberland Plateau's scenic beauty. The Tennessee State Museum's collection of art and belongings of Emma Bell Miles and her daughter, Jean Catino, was donated by Bob in 2000.

Kay Baker Gaston is the author of *Emma Bell Miles*, published by the Walden's Ridge Historical Association in 1985. She earned her B.A. degree at Vanderbilt University, an M.A. in French at Tulane, and her M.A. in U.S. History from Middle Tennessee State University. She has published numerous articles in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and has taught Tennessee and American History at UTC. She and her husband Joe, formerly an attorney with Chambliss Bahner, lived on Signal Mountain for twenty-five years before moving to a Pioneer Century Farm near Springfield, Tennessee, where they currently reside.

Hayley Graham: I am a singer/actor from Nashville, TN, who migrated to Chattanooga in 2006 to attend UTC. I was asked to sing for this symposium by a dear friend and talented musician, Butch Ross. Though I initially was unaware of her, in reading about Ms. Miles, I am inspired by her gifts in writing and art as well as by her tenacity and courage and am proud to lend my voice to her words.

Katie Hoffman earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Tennessee, writing her dissertation on the works of Anne W. Armstrong, an important Appalachian activist and author whose work should garner more attention. She currently lives in Richmond, Virginia, and teaches classes in research writing, Southern Literature, and textual analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University. A musician and singer/songwriter, Katie has a special interest in Appalachian ballads. She co-chaired the Appalachian portion of the Smithsonian Folklife festival in 2003, and served as the Traditional Music Producer for the recent 4-part PBS series *Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People*—a project that allowed her to work closely with Roy Andrade. She currently serves as a consultant for the Appalachian Regional Commission on a sustainable economic development initiative involving local food systems. She is also on the Traditional Music Planning Committee of the Crooked Road Project, Virginia’s music heritage trail.

Iuliia Ievstignieieva is currently a Ph.D. student at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. The topic of her dissertation is “The Byronic Hero in Selected Novels by Southern Women Writers.” She also works as an English lecturer at the same university. Iuliia grew up in the Ukraine and received an honors Master’s degree in Spanish and English Philology from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University.

M. Jaynes is a lecturer in English at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. His research interests include animal advocacy and ethics, women’s studies, poetry, and fiction. He has lectured and written on various environmental issues including anthropocentrism, Sustainable Use, and various animal issues. His current favorite writers are John Kennedy Toole and Ben Loory. His current favorite tree is the Water Oak.

Catherine Meeks grew up in Nashville, Tennessee. She studied Literature and Creative Writing at Berry College in Rome, GA, then earned a Master’s of Science in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Environmental Writing at the University of Montana in Missoula. She is currently a lecturer in the English Department at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, where she regularly teaches Rhetoric and Composition and Scientific Writing courses. She is also a Registered Yoga Teacher, and completed her 230-hour certification through the Asheville Yoga Center and Clear Spring Yoga in Chattanooga. She is currently working on an essay collection about the people and places of the Tennessee Valley.

Best known for his nature-based personal tales told with a distinctly southern delivery, storyteller and East Tennessee native **Jim Pfitzer** has been lauded a “true Tennessee treasure” and his work called “avant-garde and old fashioned at the same time.” Pfitzer has performed from coast to coast and teaches storytelling workshops for all ages. If asked, he will tell you that he “would rather paddle a canoe than drive a car and prefers watching birds to watching television,” and his passion for land and community issues has deeply influenced his work. Along with his storytelling and public speaking, Pfitzer is a woodcarver and installation artist, whose eagle nest sculptures have been declared by eagle experts to be “as good as the eagles build.” Currently, Pfitzer is working on a long story about the life and work of naturalist and ecologist Aldo Leopold.

Katerina Prajznerova teaches American and Anglophone Canadian literature at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. She has also been a guest-lecturer at Alice Lloyd College, KY, at the University of Victoria, BC, and at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Her interest in Southern Appalachian culture began to develop in 1993 when she came to Chattanooga through an exchange program and read Lee Smith’s *Oral History*. She received her doctorate from Baylor University in Waco, TX, and her dissertation, *Cultural Inter marriage in Southern Appalachia: Cherokee Elements in Four Selected Novels by Lee Smith*, was published by Routledge in 2003. Additionally, she has written on Harriette Simpson Arnow, Wilma Dykeman, and Barbara Kingsolver, and her article, “Emma Bell Miles’s Appalachia and Emily Carr’s Cascadia: A Comparative Study in Literary Ecology,” appeared in the online journal *49th Parallel* (Winter 2006-2007). She is currently at work on a book that aims to establish Miles’s position as a seminal figure in a continuing tradition of Appalachian women’s environmental writing.

Verbie Lovorn Prevost is the Connor Professor of American Literature in the English Department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She specializes in American literature, particularly literature of the American South. The work of Emma Bell Miles correlates with her special interest in Appalachian women writers.

John Rawlston is a guitarist who has the good fortune of playing music with Kathy Veazey, both as a duo and with their band, Lumbar Five. John has been a newspaper photographer for 35 years in Chattanooga, and is a staff member of the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. John grew up in Daisy, Tennessee, and spent a lot of time at his grandparent’s property in Falling Water. He has always had an appreciation for life in the country as well as life in the city, at least as defined by the city of Chattanooga, where he has lived most of his adult life. John has also worked with a wide variety of musical performers as stage manager of the Nightfall concert series in downtown Chattanooga.

Butch Ross is well-regarded mountain dulcimer player, singer and songwriter. He is known for his innovative style of playing the dulcimer and for the broad and eclectic

repertoire he brings to the instrument. He tours incessantly and can be found at clubs and festivals all over the eastern United States and in the UK. When he's in town, he sings with the Chattanooga Symphony Chorus. He has a Master's Degree in Folk Studies from Western Kentucky University.

Viki Dasher Rouse is an associate professor of English at Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tennessee, where she teaches composition, World Literature, and Appalachian Literature. She has long been interested in Appalachian women writers, especially those who have not received a great deal of recognition world-wide. Her master's thesis through the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, was on Hamblen County, Tennessee, writer Mildred Haun, and she is currently completing her doctoral dissertation on Wilma Dykeman, a writer born in North Carolina and living much of her life in Newport, Tennessee. Viki also directs the Mildred Haun Conference: A Celebration of Appalachian Literature, Culture, and Scholarship which is in its second year.

Priscilla Seaman has worked in the Chattanooga library community for over 14 years. She began her career as a reference librarian at the Chattanooga Public Library, and has continued her work as a reference/instruction librarian at UTC's Lupton Library for the past 11 years. She enjoys her role as a campus and community hunter and gatherer of information. Priscilla lives on Signal Mountain, and in her free time, she spends countless hours exploring its nooks and crannies on her bicycle, and hiking the mountain's many trails. She feels an affinity with Emma Bell Miles' appreciation of the nature and beauty of the area.

Karen Paul Stone is a native of Walden's Ridge and daughter of the late Sherman and Virginia Lowry Paul. She studied folklore under the renowned Dr. William Hugh Jansen at the University of Kentucky and earned a B.A. in French and Spanish. With her husband, Charlie, Karen founded Waldenhouse Publishers, Inc. where they have published over 100 titles in the last few years. She is author of several books. Among them are *100 Years The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood*, and *Walden's Ridge: The Early Years*. She is a member of the Association of Personal Historians and serves on the Board of Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park.

Michelle Justus Talbott grew up on Guesses Fork in Hurley, a small coal mining community in Southwest Virginia. After graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in English from Park College in Missouri, she returned home and worked as a newspaper reporter and high school English teacher for more than a decade. Michelle entered graduate school at the University of Kentucky in 2009 and received a master's degree in English last May, completing a thesis entitled, *Debunking the Stereotypes: The Changing Representation of Women in Appalachian Literature*. She is currently working on her doctorate at UK, continuing her focus on Appalachian literature.

Laurie Perry Vaughen is a native of Chattanooga and is completing her Master of Arts in Creative Writing at UTC with a focus on poetry. She also holds a BS degree from UTC in sociology and anthropology. Her awards include the James Dickey Award at Emory and Amon Liner Award from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her poems have been published in *The Other Side*, *Chattahoochee Review*, *Greensboro Review*, *Minnesota Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *The Panhandler*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, and *Lullwater Review*. She has worked as a newspaper reporter for *The Summerville News* and *The Chattanooga Times*; a communications specialist for a Fortune 500 company; an editor of *EnviroLink Southeast* and *Chattanooga Magazine* (Williams Company) and as adjunct faculty at UTC. She serves on the planning committee for the Emma Bell Miles Symposium and works full-time as a senior technical writer in the IT Division of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

Kathy Veazey: I am a singer/songwriter who has lived in Chattanooga all my life. I first heard about Emma Bell Miles from an interview I did with Kay Gaston when I was writing for the *Chattanooga News Free Press*. Ms. Gaston's biography moved me because Emma was a thoughtful writer, artist and naturalist who had to fight for the time and resources to do the things she loved. Creativity was woven fiercely into her difficult life, and she continues to inspire me.

Over the last 30 plus years, **Pattee Wilbanks** has undeniably become one of the most successful and busiest old time musicians in the Chattanooga area, performing at numerous festivals and concerts, armed with acoustic string instruments, a powerful voice, and a passionate flair for a life less ordinary.

Joe Wilferth teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in professional writing, intermediate and advanced composition, ancient rhetoric, medieval and renaissance rhetoric, rhetorical analysis, and modern rhetorical theory. His scholarly interests are in areas such as hypertext/hypermedia and teaching with technology. He recently published a co-edited collection of essays concerning image events and visual rhetorics.