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MWP Newsletter: Extended News Items, 2002

Note: Most internet links from the original text have expired and/or are no longer valid, and have been been disabled.

- [2002 Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference to examine 'Faulkner and His Contemporaries'](#) (February 28, 2002)
- [29th Annual Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference, 'Faulkner and His Contemporaries,' starts Sunday, lasts through Friday, July 26](#) (July 18, 2002)
- [Award-winning poets to launch Visiting Writers Series Sept. 5 at Ole Miss](#) (Aug. 20, 2002)
- [Barry Hannah one of 3 to receive Distinguished Faculty Fellowships](#) (Sep. 6, 2002)
- [Berry Morgan, 83, dies in West Virginia](#) (June 22, 2002)
- [Best-selling author, alumnus Greg Iles to visit Ole Miss April 30](#) (April 29, 2002)
- [Book conference follows Larry Brown's short stories to the screen](#) (February 13, 2002)
- [Call for papers: "Disclosing the Secret in Eudora Welty's Fiction and Photography," American Literature Association Conference, March 22-25, 2003](#) (added Aug. 6, 2002)
- [Call for papers: "Faulkner and Ideology," The Faulkner Journal, Vol. 21-22, Fall 2005-Spring 2006](#) (added Aug. 17, 2002)
- [Call for papers: "Faulkner and the Ecology of the South," 30th Annual Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference, Oxford, Mississippi, July 20-25, 2003](#) (added Aug. 6, 2002)
- [Call for papers: "Hemingway, Faulkner, and the Great American Writer: The Sound and Fury of Competition," American Literature Association Conference, March 22-25, 2003](#) (added Aug. 17, 2002)
- [Call for papers: "Sideshow Wonders: Carnivals, Parades, Pageants, and Fairs in Eudora Welty's Works," South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, November 14-16, 2003](#) (added Aug. 6, 2002)
- [Call for papers: Delta Blues Symposium IX: Defining the Delta](#) (July 28, 2002)
- [Call for papers: John Kennedy Toole](#) (added Oct. 12, 2002)
- [Call for papers: Proposed edited collection on Barry Hannah](#) (added Oct. 21, 2002)
- [Clarksdale to host Tennessee Williams Festival](#) (Oct. 11, 2002)
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- [Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference to examine 'Faulkner and His Contemporaries'](#) (April 12, 2002)
- [Faulkner home to open temporarily for conference, then close until Spring 2003](#) (July 15, 2002)
- [Faulkner newsletter ceases publication after 20-year run](#) (March 20, 2002)
- [Faulkner's work, home attract C-SPAN for live May 5 broadcast](#) (May 2, 2002)
- [Grisham's Southern campaign rallies fans around independent bookstores](#) (February 7, 2002)
- [Historian Ambrose sorry for copying phrases](#) (January 6, 2002)
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- [John Marszaleck, Mississippi State University historian, named 'best speaker' by national body](#) (June 10, 2002)
- [Journalists' need for math skills prompts prof's new book](#) (June 18, 2002)

- [Kate Freeman Clark's surprise art exhibition opens Sunday, runs through September](#) (July 18, 2002)
- [Latest issue of Yalobusha Review literary journal hits newsstands](#) (Sep. 3, 2002)
- [Legislature plans Welty home funds](#) (March 25, 2002)
- [Lewis Nordan, John Marszalek receive Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award](#) (March 15, 2002)
- [Magnolia Independent Film Festival scheduled for February 7-9, 2002](#) (January 24, 2002)
- [Man accused of stealing Faulkner letters](#) (Dec. 4, 2002)
- [Medgar Evers papers donated to state of Mississippi](#) (April 25, 2002)
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- [Mississippi State University online resource highlights state's black authors](#) (July 1, 2002)
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- [Shay Youngblood is University of Mississippi Grisham writer-in-residence for 2002-03](#) (June 3, 2002)
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- [Stephen Ambrose faces more plagiarism questions](#) (January 10, 2002)
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- [Time running out for 'Oxford American' magazine](#) (May 15, 2002)
- [Tom Franklin, Grisham writer-in-residence at Ole Miss, ends year with new novel](#) (June 17, 2002)
- [Turn Faulkner reading into literary adventure](#) (February 28, 2002)
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- [University of Mississippi library to feature Tennessee Williams exhibition](#) (April 10, 2002)
- [University of Southern Mississippi Libraries present online exhibit on Will D. Campbell](#) (March 1, 2002)

- [University Press and Bookfriends to hold 'Super Sale' Feb. 22-24](#) (February 19, 2002)
- [William Ferris, southern culture expert, former NEH chairman, joins University of North Carolina faculty](#) (April 23, 2002)
- [Workshop offers 'Novel Ideas': How to start writing, get published](#) (April 17, 2002)
- [Yazoo City remembers Willie Morris in Memorial Day weekend celebration](#) (May 17, 2002)

January

2002 Faux Faulkner Contest

Spring 2002

William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway knew just how to write a clean, well-lighted sentence or a paragraph full of sound and fury — but do you? Now's your chance to find out in Hemispheres' renowned literary parody contests, the Faux Faulkner and Imitation Hemingway competitions.

For the Faux Faulkner contest, if your entry best captures the sound and the fury of Faulkner, you receive two tickets on United Airlines to Memphis, Tennessee, for the 2002 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference in Oxford, Mississippi (where you read your entry), a rental car, five nights' lodging at the University of Mississippi Alumni House, and your winning entry is published in the July issue of Hemispheres magazine.

Entries (up to 500 words, typed, double-spaced) must be received via mail, e-mail, or fax by March 1, 2002. Entries should be sent to The Faulkner Newsletter, PO Box 248, Oxford, MS 38655, Tel and Fax: 662-234-0909, E-mail: [faulkner@watervalley.net.]

For more information or to view past winners of both the Faux Faulkner and the Imitation Hemingway contests, visit the Hemispheres magazine web site.

2002 William Faulkner Short Fiction Contest

Spring 2002

NEW ALBANY, Miss. -- As the birthplace of William Faulkner, what better place to offer a short fiction writing competition than the Tallahatchie RiverFest in New Albany, Mississippi?

On September 27-28, 2002, the arts will be celebrated in New Albany. The contest for an original, unpublished work of short fiction (up to 5,000 words) is open to adults 19 years of age or older. There is a \$10 entry fee for each work submitted.

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2002, and should include a cover sheet, three copies of the manuscript, and a copy of the work on disk.

Winners will receive \$500 for first place and \$250 for second place. Winners will be announced during the RiverFest on September 27, 2002. If winner is in attendance, he or she will be recognized and given the opportunity to read from the work.

For details, visit the RiverFest Writing Competition [web site].

Historian Ambrose sorry for copying phrases

January 6, 2002

NEW YORK (AP) -- Historian Stephen Ambrose has acknowledged that sentences and phrases in his new book *The Wild Blue* were copied from a work by another historian.

Ambrose was accused of plagiarism by Fred Barnes, the executive editor of *The Weekly Standard*, in a column in the magazine's Jan. 14 issue. Barnes charged that Ambrose borrowed passages from *The Wings of Morning* by historian Thomas Childers, published in 1995.

Ambrose footnotes Childers in the sections in question, but does not acknowledge quoting directly from the book, Barnes said.

Both books are about World War II bomber pilots.

In a statement issued Saturday (Jan. 5) through his publisher, the Simon & Schuster division of Viacom, Ambrose said, "Dr. Childers is correct. I made a mistake for which I am sorry. It will be corrected in future editions of the book."

Childers, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, told *The New York Times* for Sunday editions, "I think it is a classy thing to do, and I appreciate it."

The two books have several similar passages, according to Barnes. For example, Childers wrote about ball turret gunners: "It was the most physically uncomfortable, isolated, and terrifying position on the ship. The gunner climbed into the ball, pulled the hatch closed, and was then lowered into position."

A section in Ambrose's book, focusing on former Sen. George McGovern, reads: "The ball turret was, as McGovern said, the most physically uncomfortable, isolated, and terrifying position on the plane. The gunner climbed into the ball, pulled the hatch closed and was then lowered into position."

Ambrose, a professor emeritus at the University of New Orleans, is the author of more than 25 books. One of his books, *Band of Brothers*, was made into a television miniseries.

Stephen Ambrose faces more plagiarism questions

January 10, 2002

NEW YORK (AP) -- Historian Stephen Ambrose is facing still more allegations of lifting material from other sources.

Forbes.com reported Wednesday that two more books by the best-selling historian, *Citizen Soldiers* and part three of his Richard Nixon trilogy, contain passages similar to those in other texts.

Four works by Ambrose are now under question. The author's son and agent, Hugh Ambrose, declined to comment.

Victoria Meyer, a spokeswoman for his publisher, Simon & Schuster, said any errors would be fixed.

"If there are indeed additional passages or sentences that are footnoted, but not in quotations marks when they should have been, we will work with our author to make the necessary corrections," she said.

Last weekend, Ambrose acknowledged that his current best seller, *The Wild Blue*, included passages from Thomas Childers' *Wings of Morning*. Ambrose footnoted Childers in the sections in question but did not acknowledge quoting directly from the book. Both books are about World War II bomber pilots.

On Tuesday, Forbes.com reported Ambrose's *Crazy Horse and Custer* included passages close to Jay Monaghan's *Custer*. In Wednesday's editions of *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*, Ambrose said: "There are places where I used some of his words, and I should have put quote marks around them."

Ambrose was unsure if his other books had similar problems.

"I don't know. It's a lot of books," said Ambrose, author of more than 20 historical works, including *Undaunted Courage* and *Nothing Like It in the World*.

In *Citizen Soldiers*, a World War II book published in 1997, Ambrose includes an author's note that says he "stole material profitably if shamelessly" from Joseph Balkoski's *Beyond the Beachhead*, which came out in 1989. (Ambrose even wrote the foreword to the paperback edition.)

The actual text includes material, without quotation marks, that closely resembles the Balkoski book.

In *Citizen Soldiers*, Ambrose writes: "Men from the 3rd Battalion draped the body with the Stars and Stripes and hoisted it on top of a huge pile of stones that once had been a wall in the Saint Croix Church, a block from the cemetery. Howie's body remained on display through the next day, July 19. GIs and some of the few civilians remaining in the town adorned the site with flowers."

Balkoski's version: "The next morning, the 29ers draped the body with the Stars and Stripes and hoisted it on top of a huge pile of stones that once had been a wall of Sainte Croix Church, one block west of the cemetery. The body remained on display throughout July 19. The 29ers and some of the few civilians remaining in the city adorned the site with flowers."

Allegations of plagiarism in history books are nothing new. Alex Haley acknowledged he had lifted material for *Roots*, his 1970s best seller. More recently, Atlantic Monthly Press canceled distribution of the biography *I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight: A Life of John Paul Jones*, after author James Mackay was found to have been accused of plagiarism in Scotland.

But neither Haley nor Mackay were professional historians like Ambrose, and notable instances of plagiarism within the field are relatively rare. Since 1993, only 14 cases have been accepted for full review by the American Historical Association.

"I don't think it's very prevalent," said Eric Foner, a professor of history at Columbia University and author of the acclaimed *Reconstruction*.

Foner did say he's had students commit the same error Ambrose acknowledged: footnoting a source but failing to note a direct quotation.

"I've had to tell them that a footnote does not solve the problem of using someone else's work," Foner said.

Historians are not questioning Ambrose's integrity. They believe Ambrose might have so internalized his source material he unconsciously replicated it, or that the problem originates with his team of research assistants. Ambrose is also highly prolific, increasing the chance of error.

"I don't see anything malicious," Foner said. "I think what happens is a sloppiness which derives from speed. You kind of throw things together and you lose sight of the difference between your language and someone else's language."

Progress continues toward erecting civil rights monument on University of Mississippi campus

January 11, 2002

by Patsy R. Brumfeld, University News Services, University of Mississippi

UNIVERSITY, Miss. -- An idea by students in 1995 for a civil rights monument on the University of Mississippi-Oxford campus took a step closer to reality Friday as a national panel of jurors considered artists for the project here.

"What we are doing today is the right thing," Dr. Gerald W. Walton, provost emeritus, said to art experts who were meeting in the historic Lyceum Building. The group is on campus through Saturday to review applications from artists across America who want to design a monument to be located in the heart of the campus, where violence broke out in 1962 over attempts to admit a black man, James Meredith.

More than 125 applications to design the privately-funded memorial have been received. The art panel will pare that number to five, who then will present models of proposals for consideration this spring.

UM Chancellor Robert Khayat presided over a morning orientation in which former and current faculty members, as well as an Oxford religious leader, talked about their experiences with civil rights events on and off the Oxford campus.

"We see the future in a very bright way," Khayat said. "We are committed to respect for the dignity of every individual, and this memorial will add to that commitment."

Dr. Edward Linenthal, a professor of religion and American culture at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, will meet with the jurors at 5:30 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 12) at Square Books in downtown Oxford and talk about his work advising on the Oklahoma City bombing memorial. The public is invited.

In 1995, organized discussions about establishment of a memorial began on campus involving students, faculty, administrators, staff and Oxford community members.

Now a former student, John T. Edge remains on campus today affiliated with the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He welcomed the jurors and expressed delight at seeing this effort coming to fruition. "I am excited that we are so close to seeing this idea become reality, and I am looking forward to seeing what designs come from the outstanding artists who will be involved."

Installation of the artwork is scheduled for April 2003.

Announcement of the art finalists is expected soon. The winning design is to be revealed in late September, when the University begins observance of the 40th anniversary of its integration.

Jurors considering artists' applications are Rene Paul Barilleaux, chief curator of the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson; Annette DeMeo Carlozzi, curator of The University of Texas at Austin's Blanton Museum of Art; Randy Hayes, a Jackson native and nationally-known artist whose work includes public art in the Seattle Center; Barbara Andrews, curator of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis; and Harriet Sanford, president and CEO of the Arts & Science Council in Charlotte, W. Va.

The public is invited to observe the jurying process in the Tupelo Room of Barnard Observatory, which houses the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

For more information or to make a donation to the project, contact the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at 661-915-5993 or by e-mail to: memorial@olemiss.edu.

Fifth annual Magnolia Independent Film Festival to showcase award-winning films

January 24, 2002

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- Mississippi's first independent film festival came about when Ron Tibbett, an independent filmmaker living in West Point, was looking for more festivals in which to enter his film *Swept Off My Feet*.

When he got to the M's, he saw that Mississippi had no such festival. So he created one.

Now in its fifth year, the Magnolia Independent Film Festival will take place Feb. 7-9, 2002, at the Starkville Cinema on Hwy. 12 in Starkville. Tickets are \$5 each for Thursday and Friday night and \$10 for all day Saturday.

The Magnolia will screen 31 award-winning films, including five feature-length films, 19 short films, 2 animated films, and six documentaries (one of feature length). The films have garnered close to 100 first-place prizes at leading film festivals around the world. Twenty-four of the filmmakers are attending, from the USA, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, and Israel, and will be available for questions at a Filmmakers' Forum on Saturday at 4 p.m.

"It's the strongest line-up of films we've ever had," Tibbett said. "I know I said that last year, but each year our line-up of films just keeps getting stronger. It's an honor to show them."

The schedule includes *Odessa or Bust*, a short comedy featuring Red Buttons, George Wendt (*Cheers*) and Jason Alexander (*Seinfeld*), which screens Thursday night; *Gregor's Greatest Invention*, a terrific comedy that has recently won Best Comedy at the Los Angeles International Film Festival, and Best Short, Audience Award at The Austin Film Festival, which screens Friday night; *G-Spots?*, which stars Sandy Duncan (*Peter Pan*) and Keith David (*Platoon*), which screens Saturday night; and the multi-award winning film *Acts of Worship*, that vividly deals with drug addiction, loss and redemption on the mean streets of New York, which closes the festival Saturday night.

Among the documentaries to be screened are Bill Brown and Ron Tibbett's *Buffaloe Common*, a look at the implosions of the ICBM missile silos in North Dakota, which screens Saturday; *Look Back, Don't Look Back*, a multi-award winning documentary made by two Harvard students about their search for Bob Dylan, which screens Friday night; and the feature-length, multi-award winning *Loop Dreams*, about the making of the noirish crime drama *Blackmale*, which screens Saturday night.

A native of Chicago, Tibbett and his wife, Charlotte, and their daughter, Christine, have lived in West Point since 1994. He studied English literature at the University of Illinois and the University of Chicago. His first film, *Toni, Randi and Marie*, won the Canadian Film Award for Best Cinematography in 1977. He founded the Magnolia Film Festival in 1997 following the completion of his second film, *Swept Off My Feet*.

He also teaches a five-day filmmaking workshop at the University of Mississippi in July. The two films made by the 34 students last July will be screened Saturday.

Tibbett will speak on Monday, Jan. 28, at 3:30 p.m. in the Tupelo Room of Barnard Observatory on the University of Mississippi campus in Oxford. He will be talking about the festival and independent filmmaking and will show some short indy films from the festival.

For more information and a complete schedule for the festival, visit the festival web site at [www.magfilmfest.com.]

For advance tickets or additional information, you may also call (662) 494-5836.

Southern Culture Center to compile encyclopedia of Mississippi

January 28, 2002

By Deidre Jackson, University News Services, University of Mississippi

UNIVERSITY, Miss. -- The University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture has received a \$50,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to compose the Mississippi Encyclopedia, an exhaustive historical reference book.

"Mississippi is a place with a strong sense of the past to our present and future," said Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson, center director. "Mississippi Encyclopedia will not only provide authoritative information on our state's history and culture, but will help enrich our appreciation for the diversity of our experience."

Featuring listings from Adams County and Alcorn State University to author Stark Young and the town of Zion Hill, the one-volume hardback edition will include some 2,500 entries contained within 800 pages.

The project will total some \$400,000, with additional funding from outside sources disbursed over four years. Mississippi Encyclopedia is set to be published in late 2005 or 2006.

In 2000, the center began the joint project with the Mississippi Humanities Council, the University Press of Mississippi and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Distinguished as the first regional studies center to offer bachelor's and master's degree programs in Southern studies, the UM center this fiscal year (2002) is the recipient of one of 363 NEH grants totaling \$21.6 million.

"This is truly a collaborative effort project that will require our working with institutions and individuals throughout the state and nation," said Wilson, also professor of history on the Oxford campus.

Among an impressive list of achievements of the center, which has been studying the South since its founding in 1977, is the publication of the award-winning *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, (University of North Carolina Press, 1989), which Wilson co-edited. Seetha Srinivasan, director of the Mississippi Press, asked the center to lead the project based on its successful experience with *The Encyclopedia*, Wilson said.

"Those of us at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture are excited at the opportunity to work in developing the Mississippi Encyclopedia," Wilson said. "This encyclopedia will not only provide authoritative information on our state's history and culture, but help enrich our appreciation for the diversity of our experience."

In addition to text, images and excerpts from primary sources, Mississippi Encyclopedia will feature entries from more than 400 authors. An online component of the resource will offer interactive digital media formats, including text, still images, audio and video.

Twenty-eight consulting editors will suggest topics and contributors to the volume. The major areas to be featured include geography, archaeology, fiction, poetry, drama, nonfiction, music, visual arts, architecture, folklife, food, sports, women, religion, law, politics and political history, Native Americans, social and economic history, the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, environment, education, ethnic diversity, business and industry, agriculture, the press, and Mississippi's myths and representations.

The NEH was created in 1965 as an independent federal agency to support learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the classroom. The largest funder of humanities programs in the United States, NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, museum exhibitions and programs in libraries and other community places.

NEH's past chair, William R. Ferris, is the former director of the UM Center for the Study of Southern Culture and UM professor of anthropology.

February

Oxford American cuts back publication schedule to four issues per year

February 1, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- *Oxford American*, an independent "Southern magazine of good writing," has been forced to cut back its publication schedule from six to four issues per year, according to the magazine's associate editor, Lisa Dixon.

The reduction in publication schedule comes in response to the magazine's shortage of subscribers. Letters published in issues last year appealed to readers to support the magazine by becoming subscribers or to give subscriptions as gifts to others.

The magazine was founded in 1992 under the leadership of Marc Smirnoff, who is now editor. In 1995, novelist John Grisham became publisher of the magazine. In 2000, Grisham published *A Painted House*, a novel set in his childhood home state of Arkansas, in serial form over the course of the year's six issues.

In addition to the Grisham novel, which has now been published as a single volume and continues to top the bestseller lists, the magazine has scored a number of other literary coups, including the publication in 1995 of "Rose of Lebanon," a previously unpublished short story by the Nobel Prize-winning novelist William Faulkner, who lived just a few blocks away from the *Oxford American's* business office in Oxford. Previously unpublished stories by Walker Percy and Zora Neale Hurston have likewise first appeared in the *Oxford American*.

Other acclaimed writers whose work has appeared in the magazine include William Styron, Florence King, Donna Tartt, Steve Martin, Willie Morris, Wendell Berry, Rosanne Cash, Peter Guralnick, and Tony Earley.

The magazine has also featured a number of theme issues, including its annual "Southern Music" issue, which includes a free music CD with recordings by the artists featured.

Now on newsstands is the Winter 2002 issue, a themed issue on Southern movies which features articles by Allen Gurganus, Joseph McBride, and Gary Hawkins, and scenes from an unpublished and unfilmed screenplay by William Faulkner.

For more information on the *Oxford American*, including subscription rates and past issues, visit the magazine's web site at <http://www.oxfordamerican.org>.

William Faulkner 'American Writers' program on C-SPAN rescheduled for May 5

February 6, 2002

C-SPAN has announced the resumption of its *American Writers: A Journey Through History* series, postponed in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001. The series explores the lives and works of selected American writers who have chronicled, reflected upon or influenced the course of our nation's history, from Plymouth Rock to Vietnam.

The segment on William Faulkner is scheduled for live telecast on Sunday, May 5, 2002, beginning at 3 p.m. ET on C-SPAN. The program will be broadcast live from Rowan Oak, the antebellum home in Oxford, Mississippi, that Faulkner bought in 1930 and refurbished. Except for temporary stays as a screenwriter in Hollywood and as writer in residence at the University of Virginia, Faulkner lived at Rowan Oak until his death in 1962.

The Faulkner program will be re-aired on C-SPAN on Friday, May 10, at 8 p.m. ET.

Originally begun in March 2001, *American Writers: A Journey Through History* takes viewers throughout the United States for live telecasts featuring the novels, speeches, diaries, essays, and life stories of writers like Benjamin Franklin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, and of course, William Faulkner. In all, the series chronicles more than 45 American writers over the course of eight periods in American history.

In September, C-SPAN announced the postponement of future installments in the series so that the public affairs network could devote all its resources and editorial attention to coverage of the aftermath of September 11.

The series resumes March 31, 2002, with a program on poet Langston Hughes.

Each installment is devoted to one of the featured authors and originates live from a historic site associated with the writer's life and works.

The series invites experts to discuss the program's featured writer and his or her body of work. Historians and archivists discuss the writer's background, literary significance, and the time period the writer lived in or wrote about. The series also takes a look at the homes and historic sites important to the writer and his or her work.

As an additional resource, C-SPAN offers an online complement to the series, [www.americanwriters.org]. The site provides detailed information on each featured writer and information on C-SPAN's live program dedicated to the author. Schedules of upcoming American Writers programming and a RealAudio/Video® archive of previously aired programming are also included on the site.

Grisham's Southern campaign rallies fans around indies

February 7, 2002

By Bob Summer

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the PW Daily email newsletter from *Publishers Weekly* (publishersweekly.reviewsnews.com)

Although this week's PW Forecasts, which called John Grisham's new legal thriller, *The Summons*, (Doubleday) not "one of his most satisfying books," 75 fans lined up in five inches of snow outside Burke's Book Store in Memphis, Tenn., to secure one of the 200 tickets for his signing next Wednesday. It will be the 12th time the former Mississippi lawyer and state legislator has held an event at the 127-year-old independent. Co-owner Cheryl Mesler told PW Daily that by the end of the day on Wednesday, almost all 200 tickets -- for which a purchase of at least one copy of *The Summons* is required -- had been snapped up, with the rest expected to go before noon today.

There's been similar excitement over Grisham's return at Mississippi bookstores, where Lemuria in Jackson, Square Books in Oxford and Reed's Gumtree in Tupelo, all of which, in tandem with Burke's and That Bookstore in Blytheville, Ark., began hosting Grisham for signings long before he became an international bestselling phenomenon.

Lyn Roberts, manager of Square Books, notes that Grisham's first signing was for *A Time to Kill* in 1989, when it was first published by tiny Wynwood Press. At the time, Grisham lived year-round in Oxford.

That Bookstore in Blytheville owner Mary Gay Shipley vividly recalls that Grisham was there for a signing of 1991's *The Firm* (Doubleday), when he learned his thriller had hit national bestseller lists.

Alluding to the five Deep South independents that have supported Grisham from the beginning and to which he has remained loyal, Shipley adds, "all of us have sort of grown up with him and have developed similar procedures for handling the signings."

The mutually appreciated (and rewarding!) mini-tour that will open this time at Shipley's store on February 11 and end at John Evan's Lemuria on February 19 is "by turn something we do for him and he does for us. We work all arrangements out with him, not Doubleday."

While two tour participants wouldn't peg the size of their orders for the signings, Burke's indicated it is ordering 2,500 copies while Lemuria and Reed's Gumtree's are stocking 3,000. At each store Grisham will extend his reach beyond the formal signing event and will sign copies for phone, e-mail and Web site orders or stock as well as committing to a couple of press conferences.

Will Grisham's return to a Mississippi setting in *The Summons* swell attendance at the signings? "Perhaps somewhat," says Evans, "but Grisham readers in Jackson are interested in everything he writes, whatever its settling and nature. Our phones begin ringing off the hook as soon as we announce another Grisham signing."

"Grisham signings are major events for us," echoes Shipley. "In fact, John's books sell so well here that they're the main reason we're still in business after 25 years. People come down from Little Rock and as far away as Nashville for his signings. One regular fills a bus with 30 people, and often high school teachers bring sizable student groups. Being known as a store John comes to on each new book has brought us customers from throughout the nation, in addition to helping us attract other authors for signings."

Reed's Gumtree manager Camille Sloan posits another reason for Grisham's continuing regional popularity, however, even if he does live part of the year now in Charlottesville, Va.: "He's unfailingly gracious, and his signings are like reunions of old friends."

In other words, as they say in the South, he hasn't forgotten where he came from.

Book conference follows Larry Brown's short stories to the screen

February 13, 2002

By Lucy Schultze

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in Feb. 13, 2002, edition of *The Oxford Eagle*.

The Ninth Oxford Conference for the Book will follow one story's journey from page to screen as it features a special screening of the new movie *Big Bad Love*.

The film, which premieres this weekend in New York, is based on a collection of short stories by local author Larry Brown and stars Arliss Howard and Debra Winger.

"Larry Brown is one of our great Oxford writers, and he has been involved with the book conference since it started in 1993," said Dr. Ann Abadie, associate director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi.

"We are thrilled for him that the movie is coming out at this time, and delighted that we in Oxford and Lafayette County will be able to share it with all the visitors who come to this literary center."

Oxford Mayor Richard Howorth has been working with representatives at IFC Films to plan the event since November, when he attended a screening of the film in New York. Because the film was scheduled to be released in April, he arranged the screening to coincide with the conference.

Celebrating books, writing and reading, the annual conference also explores the practical concerns of those involved in the literary arts, such as literacy, freedom of expression and the book trade itself.

This year's conference is dedicated to Mississippi playwright Tennessee Williams, and will include discussions on his life, career and influence. The program will also include readings from Williams' plays, and a presentation of his one-act play *The Gnadiges Fraulien*.

The screening for *Big Bad Love* will be held on the first evening of the conference, April 11, at 8 p.m. in Fulton Chapel. Beyond the 375 tickets allotted for conference attendees, an additional 500 free tickets will be available through the university's central ticket office.

Abadie said a panel discussion with Howard, Winger and Brown will precede the movie screening, with a reception following to honor the stars and author.

Brown, an Oxford native and former city firefighter, has published four novels, two essay collections and two story collections including *Big Bad Love*.

The film, which is rated R for language and some sexuality, explores the lives of struggling Mississippi writer Leon Barlow (Howard) and his ex-wife Marilyn (Winger). Also starring in the film are Paul Le Mat, Rosanna Arquette and Angie Dickinson.

Big Bad Love marks Howard's debut as a director; he and brother James also wrote the screenplay for the film. It also marks Winger's first film since 1995, when she vowed to leave movies for good. Howard, her husband, convinced her to return to the screen as his co-star.

Filming for *Big Bad Love* took place in Oxford and Holly Springs in the fall of 2000, and the film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2001.

Ninth annual book conference to focus on Tennessee Williams

February 14, 2002

Since its inauguration in April 1993, the Oxford Conference for the Book has celebrated books, writing, and reading and has also dealt with practical concerns on which the literary arts depend, including literacy, freedom of expression, and the book trade itself.

The 2002 program, scheduled for April 11-14 at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, is the ninth in the series and will consist of readings, lectures, and discussions on current issues affecting book culture.

This year's conference is dedicated to Tennessee Williams (1911-1983). Drama critic Mel Gusso and literary scholar W. Kenneth Holditch will discuss the life and career of this great American playwright. Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist Paula Vogel will comment on Williams's work and his impact on her own writing. There will also be readings of selections from Williams's plays and a presentation of his one-act play *The Gnadiges Fraulein*.

Another special event of the conference will be a gathering of authors who have served as John and Renée Grisham Southern Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. Tom Franklin, current Grisham Writer in Residence, and seven of the eight former holders of the visiting position will participate in the conference: Tim Gautreaux, Mary Hood, Randall Kenan, Mark Richard, Darcey Steinke, Claude Wilkinson, and Steve Yarbrough. The gathering will celebrate the University's new Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing.

The conference will celebrate American Poetry Month with readings by poets Beth Ann Fennelly, Natasha Tretheway, and William Trowbridge. The Young Authors Fair, sponsored in collaboration with the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, will bring an outstanding children's author to local schools and to the conference.

The conference is open to the public without charge. To assure seating space, those interested in attending should preregister. Reservations and advanced payment are required for four optional events honoring conference speakers: a cocktail buffet on Thursday at Isom Place (\$50 per person), a cocktail party on Friday at Off Square Books (\$25 per person), a country dinner on Saturday at Taylor Catfish (\$25 per person), and a lunch on Sunday (\$15 per person). All proceeds for the cocktail buffet on Thursday and the cocktail party on Friday will go toward supporting the conference and are tax deductible. Participants are invited to make additional tax-deductible contributions to help support the conference.

For more information on the conference, including a downloadable registration form, visit the [conference web site].

University Press and Bookfriends transform booksale to create 'Bookfriends Super Sale'

February 19, 2002

JACKSON, Miss. -- The traditional University Press of Mississippi "Dirt Cheap Book Sale" will transform into the "Bookfriends Super Sale" and add select new titles and limited editions to the sale tables.

"The Bookfriends Super Sale" will be held February 22-24 in Jackson at the Education & Research Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Universities Center, Room 4-1. Friday hours will be from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday hours will be 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. And Sunday hours will be from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

A Bookfriends only "Preview Party" will be held Thursday, February 21, from 5-7 p.m. For more information on the preview party and how to join Bookfriends, the public support group for the University Press of Mississippi, call (601) 432-6205.

The change from "Dirt Cheap" to "Super Sale" is not in name only. This year the "Bookfriends Super Sale" gives the public the chance to nab super discounts on new releases and limited and first editions signed by Ellen Douglas, Birney Imes, Beth Henley, Lynn Green Root, Elizabeth Spencer, Charlotte Capers, and Patti Carr Black. Limited editions of Willie Morris's *My Mississippi* will be on sale as well as some signed first editions of books by other authors. There will also be a "Buck a Book" grab bag of hardcover classics on sale for one dollar per book.

"This is a chance to take a much anticipated event and enhance it with superb deals on new releases," said Steve Yates of the University Press. "And it is a chance for people to meet with Bookfriends and see the kind of company the literary-minded can keep in Mississippi."

For more information, call (601) 432-6205 or visit the University Press web site, <http://www.upress.state.ms.us/>.

Unique Faulkner portrait donated to University of Mississippi library

February 27, 2002

By Tobie Baker, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. -- A one-of-a-kind portrait of Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner has been donated to The University of Mississippi.

One of six known paintings created from the same photograph of Faulkner in his red riding gear, the artwork is the smallest of all and the only one signed by both the photographer, Col. J.R. Cofield, and the artist, Laucene Clements.

The 13.5-by-11-inch portrait, circa 1969, was given to the University of Mississippi's J.D. Williams Library by Oxford resident Ann Rayburn. It hangs in the library's Special Collections.

University archivist Dr. Thomas Verich assessed the portrait as "the most important image we have added to the collection in more than 20 years."

With the donation, the University now owns three of the six original Faulkner portraits. One hangs in the University of Mississippi Chancellor's Office and another at Rowan Oak, Faulkner's historic home, which was purchased by the university in 1972. Another, damaged in a fire at the Cofield Studio, hangs at Square Books in Oxford. Yet another was done for the West Point Military Academy, and the remaining copy is in a private collection.

Established in Oxford in 1928, the Cofield Studio was used first by Faulkner in 1931 when he needed a portrait to help promote his new book *Sanctuary*. He sat for his last portrait there in March 1962.

Rayburn has made other donations to the library, including movie posters, post cards, Victorian valentines and sheet music. "Mrs. Rayburn has been very generous to Special Collections," said librarian Jennifer Ford.

Turn Faulkner reading into literary adventure

February 28, 2002

By Elizabeth Kelly, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. -- Nobel laureate William Faulkner's fabled home, Rowan Oak, may be closed for renovations, but perhaps you'd still like to visit Oxford, stroll the grounds or find it a good time to read -- or re-read -- some of his work.

Although Faulkner's prose is notorious for being difficult to comprehend -- on the first try, at least -- there are ways to make reading Faulkner more enjoyable, according to Drs. Joseph Urgo and Donald Kartiganer, University of Mississippi English professors and Faulkner scholars.

"There is more than one way to read, just as there is more than one way to eat," says Urgo, who chairs the Department of English. "Just as one snacks on potato chips with a set of expectations different from when dining on a gourmet meal, there is more than one way to have written words act on one's mind."

Urgo suggests that modern styles of journalism and pulp fiction have misled many of today's readers into thinking that all reading should produce immediate factual comprehension. He offers the following approaches for pleurably digesting the words of Faulkner:

- Don't worry too much about comprehension. For example, when you pick up a book like Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and you read: "Through the fence, between the curling flower spaces, I could see them hitting..." it will be hundreds of pages and hours of reading before you fully comprehend the meaning of the line, Urgo says. Faulkner's writing asks us to suspend our need to understand and to surrender ourselves to the experience.
- Don't worry about feeling confused. Sometimes being off-balance is where Faulkner's prose wants to put you. Don't be surprised if you sense a need to read the piece again to know it well. This is something we are able to return to again and again, always getting more or different experiences.

Kartiganer, the Howry Chair in Faulkner Studies at Ole Miss and organizer of the University's annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, offers this advice:

- Focus on the history of the Yoknapatawpha saga. Many of the characters who inhabit Faulkner's fictitious county appear in more than one book. Read the novels in the order of the histories they tell rather than in the order in which the books were written, says Kartiganer. Start with *The Unvanquished*, then move to *Flags in the Dust* for the story of the Sartoris family. Turn to *The Sound and the Fury*, followed by *Absalom, Absalom!* for the tale of the Compson family. *Go Down Moses* offers the McCaslin history in one volume.
- Be aware that Faulkner is a "vertical" writer. One way of describing his narrative style is to say that it is not horizontal but vertical. Faulkner doesn't sweep the reader forward with a rapid, page-turning flow but rather asks the reader to dive downward into the multi-significant and detailed ramifications of action.

Reading Faulkner is definitely worth the time, says Urgo. "Faulkner is the greatest American writer of the 20th century -- not because the world needed to know about northern Mississippi but because of his use of the English language. The marriage of Faulknerian prose and prosaic Mississippi resulted in a writer to whom subsequent writing in English will be indebted forever."

Rowan Oak, which is administered by the University, is expected to reopen for tours in July. The surrounding grounds remain open to the public from dawn to dusk daily.

2002 Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference to focus on 'Faulkner and His Contemporaries'

February 28, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- Information is now available about an annual conference that brings together critics, readers, and fans of the life and works of Nobel Prize-winning novelist William Faulkner.

The 29th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, which will be held July 21-26, 2002, at the University of Mississippi, will address the topic "Faulkner and His Contemporaries" through six days of lectures and discussions by literary scholars and critics.

In addition to formal lectures, there will be a performance of the folk opera *As I Lay Dying*, by the Nashville singer-songwriters group Reckon Crew, discussions by Faulkner friends and family, and sessions on "Teaching Faulkner" directed by James Carothers (University of Kansas), Robert W. Hamblin (Southeast Missouri State University), Arlie E. Herron (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga), and Charles Peek (University of Nebraska at Kearney).

The University's John Davis Williams Library will display Faulkner books, manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia; and the University Press of Mississippi will exhibit Faulkner books published by university presses throughout the United States. Films relating to the author's life and work will be available for viewing during the week. *Ms. Booth's Garden*, an exhibition of photographs by Jack Kotz, will be on display in the Gammill Gallery at Barnard Observatory.

The conference will begin on Sunday, July 21, with a reception at the University Museums for *Paradox in Paradise*, an exhibition of mixed media artworks by Lea Barton. This will be followed by an afternoon program of readings from Faulkner and the announcement of the winners of the thirteenth Faux Faulkner Contest. The contest, coordinated by the author's niece, Dean Faulkner Wells, is sponsored by Hemispheres Magazine/United Airlines, Yoknapatawpha Press and its Faulkner Newsletter, and the University of Mississippi.

Other events will include a Sunday buffet supper served at the home of Dr. and Mrs. M. B. Howorth Jr., "Faulkner on the Fringe" — an "open-mike" evening at Southside Gallery, guided day-long tours of North Mississippi on Tuesday, a picnic served at Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak, on Wednesday, and a closing party Friday afternoon at Square Books.

Among the invited speakers are Michel Gresset, Houston A. Baker Jr., Deborah Clarke, W. Kenneth Holditch, Thomas S. Rankin, Merrill Maguire Skaggs, Peggy Whitman Prenshaw, Danièle Pitavy-Souques, Grace Elizabeth Hale, and George Monteiro, along with other presenters to be announced later.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Mississippi's Department of English and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and is coordinated by the university's Institute for Continuing Studies.

The registration fee for the conference before July 1 is \$150 for students, \$175 for Friends of the Center, and \$200 for other participants. The fee after July 1 is \$175 for students, \$200 for Friends, and \$250 for others. The fee includes admission to all program events, a buffet supper on opening day, a reception on Tuesday, a picnic at Rowan Oak, conference session refreshments, and a closing reception. The fee does not cover lodging, the optional tours of Faulkner Country, and meals, except for those aforementioned.

More information about the conference, including a printable registration form, is available at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture [web site].

March

University of Southern Mississippi Libraries present virtual exhibit on Will D. Campbell

March 1, 2002

HATTIESBURG, Miss. -- The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries' Special Collections is presenting a virtual exhibit based on the Will D. Campbell Papers held at the McCain Library & Archives.

Will D. Campbell: A Man of the Word emphasizes Campbell's work as a preacher, writer, and public speaker with digital reproductions of manuscript materials and photographs, audio excerpts from the Will D. Campbell oral history interview, narrative text, and video clips from the PBS Documentary God's Will. Mr. Campbell donated his papers to USM in 1999, and the exhibit links to the online finding aid. Word also links to the transcript of the Will Campbell oral history.

Born in Amite County, Mississippi in 1924, Will Campbell was ordained as a Baptist minister at the young age of seventeen. Campbell served in WWII and attended Wake Forest, Tulane, and Yale Universities before receiving his first pastorate at a Baptist church in Taylor, Louisiana.

Will's social activism in regard to racial justice and human rights made him ill-suited for the confines of the small-town Southern pulpit, and he left in 1954 to become Director of Religious Life and Chaplain at the University of Mississippi. Again, his views proved too controversial, and he left his post after only two years.

Will proclaimed his "radical Christianity" through civil and human rights movements, religious organizations such as the National Council of Churches and the Committee for Southern Churchmen, sermons, speeches and books. The only white present at the first meeting of Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Will Campbell became a behind-the-scenes operator for the Movement. He could be relied on to show up in a crisis and do what needed to be done, like walking beside black schoolchildren through a mob in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Probably best known for his writing, Campbell's autobiographical work, *Brother to a Dragonfly*, was a finalist for the National Book Award and won the Lillian Smith Prize and the Christopher Award in 1978. He is the author of seventeen works of fiction and non-fiction, including two children's books.

Campbell's lectures present themes on the commonness of all mankind and the importance of relationships with God, the land, and one another. His talks sparkle with Southern humor and a distinct voice known to mention rednecks, the evil of institutions, and racial reconciliation.

Sometimes described as a "bootleg" preacher, Will Campbell professes a great love and affection for Country Music. Will was close friends with the late Waylon Jennings, even traveling along on Jennings's

tour bus. Campbell currently resides near the "Country Music Capital of the World" of Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife, Brenda. They have three children.

Explore original manuscript materials, complete with hand-written notations, from Will Campbell's books and speeches. Listen and watch Will Campbell discuss his views on life in media clips, and browse photographs from the Will D. Campbell Papers in the virtual exhibit Will D. Campbell: A Man of the Word at [website].

Retired journalism Professor Jere Hoar to be honored with reception April 5

March 13, 2002

By Patsy R. Brumfeld, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. -- Donors to an honorary scholarship fund and other friends of retired University of Mississippi journalism professor Dr. Jere Hoar are invited to an April 5 reception on the University of Mississippi-Oxford campus.

"Jere has meant a great deal to our program and to his students -- it is only fitting that we recognize him," said journalism department chair Dr. Stuart J. Bullion.

The event honoring Hoar begins at 5:30 p.m. in Brandt-Memory House on University Avenue. Held during the university's Red-Blue Weekend, the reception immediately follows the annual Journalism Awards Day program in Farley Hall. Hoar is the program's featured guest speaker.

"Dr. Hoar has all the attributes of a good, tough editor, and he made us appreciate the importance of sound reporting and lucid writing. He impressed on us his unswerving dedication to truth and ethics," wrote Curtis Wilkie, a 1963 UM graduate, in a letter inviting donations to the Jere Hoar Scholarship fund. Wilkie, of New Orleans, is a book author and former international reporter for *The Boston Globe* and a visiting journalism professor this spring at UM-Oxford.

"There can be no greater honor for a teacher than for his former students to found a scholarship in his name, giving opportunity to students of the future," Hoar said. "I'm touched and very pleased."

According to University of Mississippi Foundation officials, the Hoar scholarship fund is among the University's fastest growing endowments of its kind. Bullion attributes this response to the respect and admiration Hoar's students have for him. "They are doing this out of gratitude for what Jere gave to journalism education, and because they want to support the department," he said.

While no longer in the educational system, Hoar has by no means retired, as he is working on his second book -- a thriller -- and living on his small farm outside of Oxford where he raises, trains and hunts with English setter bird dogs, trains herding dogs and enters them in competition trials, and tends three Tennessee Walking horses and a flock of registered St. Croix sheep.

For details about the journalism events, contact the department at 662-915-7146. To contribute to the Hoar Scholarship fund, contact the University Foundation at 662-915-5944.

Lewis Nordan, John Marszalek receive Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award

March 15, 2002

NATCHEZ, Miss. — Two Mississippi writers were honored recently for their literary work.

Novelist Lewis Nordan and historian John F. Marszalek received the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award presented by the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Nordan, a native of Forest, Mississippi, holds a master's degree from Mississippi State University and currently teaches at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of four novels, including the award-winning *Wolf Whistle* and *Sugar Among the Freaks*.

John F. Marszalek is a longtime Mississippi State University historian who has written eight books and more than 150 articles. He is a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor at MSU. His books include *Assault at West Point: The Court Martial of Johnson Whitaker*, which became a Showtime cable movie, and *The Petticoat Affair* and *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order*, which were main selections of the History Book Club.

Named for the famed African-American writer who was born near Natchez, the Wright Award has been presented annually since 1994 to living authors with strong Mississippi connections and a significant body of literary work. Eudora Welty, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, Richard Ford, and John Grisham are among previous winners.

Faulkner Newsletter & Yoknapatawpha Review ceases publication after 20 years

March 20, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- A quarterly newsletter devoted to Nobel Prize-winning writer William Faulkner has ceased publication after a 20-year run.

The Faulkner Newsletter & Yoknapatawpha Review, which began publication in 1981, has ceased publication as of its October 2001 issue, according to a notice on the Yoknapatawpha Press [web site], which published the newsletter.

Edited by William Boozer and published by Lawrence Wells and Dean Faulkner Wells, William Faulkner's niece, the newsletter covered a variety of news and information about the life, the writings, and the places associated with William Faulkner.

A total of 80 issues were published during the publication's two decades. In 1994, a bound edition of the first 54 issues was published, along with an index, under the title *The Faulkner Newsletter: Collected Issues*. According to the publisher's web site, plans are underway to produce a similar index for the remaining 26 issues, though the publication date is not yet available.

A limited number of back issues are available from the publisher at \$10.00 per issue.

On the web page announcing the cessation of publication, the newsletter staff "expresses regret that its publication must cease, along with their gratitude to longtime subscribers for loyal support and encouragement."

Saks Incorporated Fellowships available to high school teachers for 2002 Faulkner Conference

March 21, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- Thirty high school teachers chosen from applicants in five Southern states will be attending the University's 29th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, July 21-26, 2002, without cost, thanks to fellowships funded by Saks Incorporated Foundation, on behalf of McRae's,

Proffitt's and Parisian department stores. English and literature instructors in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee are eligible to apply.

The Saks Incorporated Fellowships will provide the registration fee and cover expenses for the six-day conference and teacher workshops, including instructional materials and supplies, dormitory lodging, a travel stipend, and a meal stipend. The University will award 3.9 Continuing Education Units for the teacher workshops and the conference sessions.

The application deadline is April 10. Notification will be made by May 10.

Requests for fellowship application forms should be submitted to Faulkner Conference-Saks Incorporated Fellowships, The University of Mississippi, P.O. Box 879, University, MS, 38677-0879. For further information regarding the teacher workshops, teachers may contact the University of Mississippi Center for Non-Credit Education by telephone (662-915-7282) or e-mail.

Legislature plans Welty home funds

March 25, 2002

JACKSON, Miss. -- (AP) The historic home where the late Eudora Welty grew up and wrote all of her books will get at least \$700,000 from the state while family and supporters map out the house's preservation.

Both the House and the Senate have included the money in separate versions of a bond bill to finance repairs at Mississippi universities, junior colleges and state buildings.

Governments issue bonds to borrow money. As with a person who takes out a loan, the state repays the debt over a number of years.

The Senate, in major bond programs, plans to allocate about \$121 million; the House, \$163 million. The chairmen of the tax-writing committees in both chambers expect a compromise to be somewhere between those figures. The bond proceeds for the Welty home restoration will be used to match a \$3 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is working with the Eudora Welty Foundation on the renovation of the Tudor-style home near Belhaven College. Welty deeded the house to the department in 1986 and continued to live there until her death in July at age 92.

Historians have said the house needs a new roof and still has the original 1925 electrical wiring. Other work is to include new plumbing, a central heating and cooling system, and foundation stabilization. Welty's niece, Mary Alice White of Jackson, said the family is working with the department to keep the interior and contents almost completely intact. "I am very grateful the Legislature saw the value in honoring Mississippi's literary heritage. I'm prejudiced. I think Eudora is one of the most distinguished authors in America. Her home will be one of the most intact literary home museums in the country," White said. Rep. Billy McCoy, D-Rienzi, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said selling lawmakers on the renovation of Welty's home was an easy task. "Her home is a place of not only state significance but national significance," McCoy said. "Miss Welty is one of the most famous contributing citizens. She is nationally and internationally known. We want to do everything we can to preserve it and promote the great heritage she left us." White said plans are to restore the home's gardens to the way they looked in the 1930s. "When people go into the house they will see the home as Eudora left it

with all the paintings and books," White said. "I have continued to be amazed reading the fan letters from all over the world, from as far away as Japan, France and Germany and from people that really appreciated Eudora's work. "Another area of agreement between the House and the Senate is to set aside \$15 million for campus improvements at historically black Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University and Alcorn State University.

The Legislature began setting aside the money last year, part of a five-year commitment with the money tied to the settlement of the college desegregation case signed in February by a federal judge. The campus improvements are part of the overall \$500 million settlement. The Senate included the \$15 million in a bond bill and, while the House did not, McCoy said the money will be available.

"This money will be provided. We're not going to begin to spend these dollars as long as there is an appeal out there. And then we're going to spend them according to the settlement," McCoy said.

He said the College Board and Attorney General Mike Moore have presented lawmakers with long-range plans for spending the money. Both chambers also have agreed to at least \$9 million for a new building for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and at least \$12 million for construction of a new Mississippi Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The diagnostic lab will be constructed in Rankin County.

"We've been planning these for sometime, and we're trying to bring to them to fruition this year," McCoy said.

The bills are Senate Bill 3197 and House Bill 1835.

Oxford Book Conference Celebrates Tennessee Williams, Grisham Writers-in-Residence

March 26, 2002

By Deidra Jackson, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. -- Acclaimed American playwright Tennessee Williams, who is credited with transforming the contemporary image of Southern literature, is paid tribute in the Ninth Oxford Conference for the Book April 11-14 at The University of Mississippi.

This year's comprehensive four-day seminar of panel discussions, readings, signings and social events also honors UM's John and Renee Grisham Southern Writer-in-Residence Tom Franklin and the 2002-03 Grisham Writer appointee Shay Youngblood, as well as six past holders of the prestigious post.

All conference sessions are in Johnson Commons on the UM-Oxford campus unless otherwise noted.

"Year after year, the Oxford Conference for the Book draws a fine assemblage of writers, literary critics, publishers and Southern literature lovers to the Southern literary mecca that is Oxford," said Dr. Ann Abadie, associate director of the UM for the Study of Southern Culture. "This year is no different. We have a spectacular lineup planned."

Williams was born in 1911 in Columbus, Miss., where his first home is now the town's Welcome Center. He is most noted for his plays *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

"There is little doubt that as a playwright, fiction writer, poet and essayist, Williams helped transform the contemporary idea of the Southern literature," writes UM English doctoral student and writer Eric W. Cash. "However, as a Southerner he not only helped to pave the way for other writers, but also

helped the South find a strong voice in those auspices, where before it had only been heard as a whisper."

Drama critic Mel Gusso and literary scholar W. Kenneth Holditch talk about Williams' life and career in panel discussions. Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist Paula Vogel comments on Williams' work and his impact on her own writing.

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, UM departments of English and History, Square Books, and other UM departments and town organizations, the Conference for the Book examines book culture from the seeds of a writer's inspiration to the marketing of a completed work. The event attracts book lovers from throughout the world to discuss issues that affect readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, scholars and others in the publishing industry.

In addition to selected readings from Williams' plays, a presentation of his one-act play *The Gnadiges Fraulein* is set April 14 at 11 a.m. It is directed by Michele Cuomo, assistant professor of theatre arts, with Dr. Colby Kullman, professor of English, providing its commentary.

The conference also celebrates American Poetry Month, with readings by poets Beth Ann Fennelly, Natasha Trethewey and William Trowbridge. The Young Authors Fair, sponsored in collaboration with the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, brings outstanding children's author Gloria Jean Pinkney (*Back Home*, *The Sunday Outing*) to local schools and to the conference.

The conference begins Thursday, April 11, at 5:30 p.m., with a segment on the Thacker Mountain Radio Show, broadcast on 95.5 FM from Off Square Books in Oxford. Fennelly and novelist Richard Flanagan (*The Sound of One Hand Clapping*, *Death of a River Guide*) are guests.

That evening at 8, a special free screening of the film version of novelist Larry Brown's short story collection *Big Bad Love* is set at Fulton Chapel on the UM-Oxford campus.

Panel discussions begin Friday, April 12, at 9 a.m., with a welcome by Oxford Mayor Richard Howorth, owner of Square Books, and a writers workshop, "Submitting Manuscripts/Working One's Way Into Print." Barry Hannah, UM's longtime writer-in-residence and author of *Yonder Stands Your Orphan*, moderates that discussion. Panelists include Franklin; Amy Hundley, a senior editor (and Hannah's editor) at Grove/Atlantic, Inc.; Sheri Joseph (*Bear Me Safely Over*); Carol Houck Smith, an editor at W.W. Norton; Nat Sobel, founder of Sobel Weber Associates; and Brady Udall (*Letting Loose in the Hounds*, *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint*).

Hannah also moderates a second writer's workshop April 12 at 10:30 a.m., "Finding a Voice/Reaching an Audience." Expected on the panel are Steve Almond (*My Life in Heavy Metal*); Fiona McCrae, director of Graywolf Press; Rick Moody (*Purple America*, *The Ice Storm*); Aishah Rahman (*Chiaroscuro: A Light -- and Dark -- Comedy*, *Chewed Water*); and poet Natasha Trethewey (*Domestic Work*, *Bellocq's Ophelia*).

In addition to various readings by noted poets and writers Saturday and Sunday, April 13-14, other workshops include "The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow," April 13 at 9 a.m.; "The Book Business," April 13 at 10:30 a.m.; "Covering Trouble," April 13 at 1:30 p.m.; and "Poetry: Readings and Remarks," April 13 at 3 p.m.

For more information, call the UM Center for the Study of Southern Culture at 662-915-5993 or see [website] for a schedule. Those requiring special assistance because of a disability also should contact the sponsor.

Museum exhibit to feature Welty photographs alongside her contemporary artists

March 31, 2002

JACKSON, Miss. -- Eudora Welty's photographs of the 1930's Great Depression will be presented together with paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and photographs of notable American artists of the era in an exhibit to begin this spring.

The exhibition, "Passionate Observer: Eudora Welty -- Among Artists of the Thirties" will open April 6 at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson and will run through June 30.

The exhibit will offer comparisons between Welty's artistic motivation and other visual interpretations of the times. She once said her purpose in photography, as in fiction, was "not to point the finger in judgment but to part a curtain, that invisible shadow that falls between people, the veil of indifference to each other's presence, each other's wonder, each other's human plight."

More than just a chronicle, Welty's photographs, like her celebrated story writing, reveal the courage and dignity of the American people during this pivotal era.

Among those whose work will be displayed alongside Welty's are Southern artists Walter Anderson, William Hollingsworth, Marie Hull, John McCrady, and Karl Wolfe; photographers Walker Evans, Berenice Abbott, Margaret Bourke-White, and Dorothea Lange; and national artists Thomas Hart Benton, Edward Hopper, and Grant Wood.

For more information about the museum, including admission price and hours of operation, please contact the Mississippi Museum of Art by telephone at (601) 960-1515. The museum web site address is <http://www.msmuseumart.org/>.

For more on the Welty exhibition as well as a number of special programs associated with the exhibition, visit the museum's [web page on the exhibition].

April

University of Mississippi Special Collections to offer Tennessee Williams exhibition

April 10, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- A special exhibition on Tennessee Williams will open in conjunction with the 2002 Oxford Conference for the Book, which is dedicated this year to the famous playwright from Mississippi.

The exhibition, assembled by the University's Department of Archives and Special Collections, will feature several cases devoted to Williams' life and career. The exhibition will open on April 11 and continue through the end of the year.

Unique items on display include a signed copy of the August 1928 issue of *Weird Tales Magazine*, which contains Thomas Lanier Williams' first published work, a short story, "The Vengeance of Niocris"; a Williams poem printed in the 1932 University of Missouri yearbook; and the annotated typesetting draft

for the screenplay of *Baby Doll*. Also in the exhibition will be several vintage movie posters based on Williams' work and other paper ephemera.

A number of rare Tennessee Williams items are also included in Special Collections 1975-2000: A Silver Anniversary Exhibition. Highlighting a quarter century of acquisitions, this exhibition includes literary rarities of William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Larry Brown, and Richard Wright.

The Department of Archives and Special Collections is located on the third floor of the J. D. Williams Library on the University of Mississippi campus. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for university holidays.

For more information, call (662) 915-7408, or visit the library [web site].

Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference to feature 'Faulkner and His Contemporaries'

April 12, 2002

By Donald M. Kartiganer

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Winter 2002 edition of The Southern Register, the newsletter of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi.

OXFORD, Miss. -- One of the most striking aspects of William Faulkner's relationship to the literature of his time is the combination of his physical remoteness from its leading figures and urban centers and his intellectual grasp of its underlying dynamics. He spent the bulk of his life in the small North Mississippi town of Oxford, rejecting the "revolt against the village," versions of which most of his major contemporaries were carrying out, often to the point of leaving not only their birthplaces but the country itself. Faulkner remained where he was, and yet he was keenly aware of the extraordinary developments taking place elsewhere in the nature of literary expression, and the philosophical, psychological, and cultural shifts that were driving them.

"Faulkner and His Contemporaries," the 29th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, will explore the literary and intellectual relations Faulkner shares with other writers as well as the extent to which his work is a reflection of, and a commentary on, theirs. Six scholars appearing at the conference for the first time are Houston A. Baker, Jr., of Duke University, Grace Elizabeth Hale, of the University of Virginia, George Monteiro, of Brown University, Danièle Pitavy-Souques, University of Burgundy, France, Peggy Whitman Prenshaw, of Louisiana State University, and Merrill Maguire Skaggs, of Drew University.

Baker, author and editor of more than 25 volumes of criticism and poetry, including *Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance* and *Turning South Again: Re-Thinking Modernism, Re-Reading Booker T.*, will discuss his personal odyssey through Faulkner: he first studied him at Howard University with Toni Morrison, later taught his work in Paris, and has now returned to the South to read him again in North Carolina. Hale, author of *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940*, will explore the shifting politics and aesthetics of "loving and hating" the South for Faulkner and his white male contemporaries.

By the 1950s, toward the end of both of their careers, the American writer with whom Faulkner was most often linked and compared was Hemingway. Monteiro, author and editor of studies in both American and Portuguese literature, including *Robert Frost and the New England Renaissance*, *The Correspondence of Henry James* and *Henry Adams, Fernando Pessoa and 19th-Century Anglo-American*

Literature, and Stephen Crane's *Blue Badge of Courage*, will trace some "debts" each may have incurred from the other, Faulkner's to Hemingway in the "Wild Palms" section of *If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem*, and Hemingway's to the "Old Man" section of the same novel in some of his later work.

Pitavy-Souques and Prenshaw will take up Faulkner's relationships with some of his Southern contemporaries. Pitavy-Souques, author of two volumes on Eudora Welty, as well as a book-length study of Canadian women writers, will discuss *Intruder in the Dust* and *The Ponder Heart* in the context of the civil rights movement and the way in which both texts enact a transgression against the reigning values of the time. Prenshaw, author and editor of volumes on Eudora Welty,

Elizabeth Spencer, other Southern women writers, and Southern cultural history, will describe the responses of Welty, Spencer, and Ellen Douglas to Faulkner's legacy, with particular attention to the issue of racism. Skaggs, author of two books on Willa Cather, a writer Faulkner much admired, will discuss Faulkner's use of Cather's 1922 novel, *One of Ours*, part of which is set in France during World War I.

Returning to the conference will be Deborah Clarke, of Pennsylvania State University, author of *Robbing the Mother: Women in Faulkner*, who will bring together Faulkner, Henry Ford, and the automobile culture; Michel Gresset, of the Institut d'Anglais, Université de Paris 7, author of *A Faulkner Chronology and Fascination: Faulkner's Fiction, 1919-1936*, who will address Faulkner's place in the French literary scene; and W. Kenneth Holditch, Research Professor Emeritus of the University of New Orleans, author and editor of numerous studies and editions of the works of Tennessee Williams, who will deal with Faulkner and New Orleans, focusing primarily on his connections with John Dos Passos and Williams.

Also returning will be Donald Kartiganer, author of *The Fragile Thread: The Meaning of Form in Faulkner's Novels* and coeditor with Ann J. Abadie of seven volumes of proceedings of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, who will discuss the role of "gesture" in Faulkner and Hemingway, and Thomas Rankin, director of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, who will consider Faulkner and the photographer Walker Evans and their respective "images" of the South.

In addition to the formal lectures, Reckon Crew, a group of four Nashville singer-songwriters, will present the song cycle *As I Lay Dying*, evocative musical settings of Faulkner's classic novel.

Composers David Olney, Tom House, Karren Pell, and Tommy Goldsmith use folk, country, blues, and gospel styles to accompany Faulkner's story of the Bundrens' sometimes blackly humorous struggle to take Addie Bundren to Jefferson for burial.

Other program events will include discussions by Faulkner friends and family; sessions on "Teaching Faulkner" directed by James Carothers, University of Kansas, Robert Hamblin, Southeast Missouri State University, Arlie Herron, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Charles Peek, University of Nebraska at Kearney; and guided tours of North Mississippi. Arlie Herron will present a slide show of photographs of North Mississippi, images, as he puts it, "of things and people that reminded me of Faulkner in Oxford, New Albany, the Hill Country, the Delta, and along the River."

The University's John Davis Williams Library will display Faulkner books, manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia; and the University Press of Mississippi will exhibit Faulkner books published by university presses throughout the United States. Films relating to the author's life and work will be available for

viewing during the week. Ms. Booth's Garden, an exhibition of photographs by Jack Kotz, will be on display in the Gammill Gallery at Barnard Observatory.

The conference will begin on Sunday, July 21, with a reception at the University Museums for Paradox in Paradise, an exhibition of mixed media artworks by Lea Barton. This will be followed by an afternoon program of readings from Faulkner and the announcement of the winners of the 13th Faux Faulkner Contest. The contest, coordinated by the author's niece, Dean Faulkner Wells, is sponsored by Hemispheres Magazine/United Airlines, Yoknapatawpha Press and its Faulkner Newsletter, and the University of Mississippi. Other events will include a Sunday buffet supper served at the home of Dr. and Mrs. M. B. Howorth Jr., "Faulkner on the Fringe" -- an "open-mike" evening at the Southside Gallery, guided day-long tours of North Mississippi on Tuesday, a picnic served at Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak, on Wednesday, and a closing party Friday afternoon at Square Books.

For more information about the conference, contact the Center for Non-Credit Education, P.O. Box 879, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677-1848; telephone (662) 915-7282; fax (662) 915-5138, e-mailnoncred@olemiss.edu. For on-line information, including an online registration form, consult the official conference [web site].

For information about participating in the conference through Elderhostel, call (877) 426-8056 and refer to the program number 24225, or contact Carolyn Vance Smith by telephone, (601) 446-1208, or e-mail, carolyn.smith@colin.edu.

Tennessee Williams' 'Slapstick Tragedy' performances scheduled for April 18-20

April 12, 2002

By Deidra Jackson, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. -- Tennessee Williams' devotees and others may laugh to keep from crying at the dismal but heartfelt themes that run through the American playwright's "Slapstick Tragedy," which plays April 18-20 at The University of Mississippi's Fulton Chapel.

In an unusual twist, the audience will be seated on the stage, so the auditorium becomes a "warehouse" for the actors.

Curtains open at 8 p.m. on the Oxford campus for each UM Department of Theatre Arts-sponsored performance. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors, \$5.50 for children under 18, and \$4.50 for UM students. They are available at the Central Ticket Office.

"I think audiences will be surprised by a Tennessee Williams they may not yet have encountered," said director Michele Cuomo, a UM assistant professor of theatre arts. "I hope they will be startled, amused, saddened and ultimately elated."

"Slapstick Tragedy" is a package of two one-act dramas, "The Gndiges Fraulein" and "The Mutilated."

In "The Gndiges Fraulein" (German for "gracious lady"), vicious scavenger birds repeatedly attack an ex-vaudeville singer as she attempts to gather fish for her supper. "The Mutilated" centers on a dilapidated New Orleans hotel and two seedy characters -- one morbidly sensitive about having a breast removed. They quarrel and make up in their miserable companionship, implying that all people suffer in one way or another.

"Though I was able to appreciate the style, I could not bring myself to smile," said drama critic and Group Theater co-founder Harold Clurman after the play's 1966 Broadway debut. "I was too conscious that its author was in pain."

By employing a creative use of place, the UM theatrical crew creates a sense of magical realism in the tragicomedy as characters walk and see through walls, Cuomo said. The crew also is "using projected images to acclimate audiences to a Tennessee Williams they might not be familiar with," Cuomo added.

Actors' gestures and voices help "recreate a style of the absurd," she added.

Williams reportedly wrote the mournful plays while he was deeply depressed and concerned about his career as a playwright and the role of the artist in society. His 1960s dramas, which critics term "absurdist," center on what he saw as the hopelessness, irrationality and meaninglessness of life. "I became fascinated with absurdist drama after working with graduate students on some (Samuel) Beckett pieces," said Cuomo, who last season directed her original adaptation of "The Little Clay Cart."

The cast features two UM faculty -- professor of English Dr. Ann Fisher-Wirth and associate professor of theatre arts Jennifer Mizenko. Student performers are senior Sarah Szymanski of Long Beach; graduate student Rebecca Bourgeois of Oxford; freshman Ritt Conner of Tulsa, Okla.; junior Michael Jones of Little Rock, Ark.; senior Priscilla Parchia of Litha Springs, Ga.; and junior Cylis Wilson of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Set designer is senior Russell Bockemuehl of Spring Hill, Fla., and freshman John Williamson of Montgomery, Ala., is projectionist. Designers are senior Arlene Watson of Baton Rouge, La., and sophomores Amy Strickland of Pheba, and Palmer Brown of Jackson. Lighting designer is graduate student Michael Knight of Amarillo, Texas, and sound designer is freshman Kellene Depew of Bellaire, Texas.

Call 662-915-7411 to reserve seating using VISA or MasterCard. Persons requiring special assistance because of a disability also should contact the sponsor.

Workshop offers 'Novel Ideas': How to start writing, get published

April 17, 2002

By Angela Moore, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. -- It's easy to be intimidated about writing in Oxford -- the land of William Faulkner, Larry Brown, Barry Hannah, John Grisham and countless others who put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and spin tales admired the world over.

It's easy to think you could never write.

It may seem too complicated.

To help you think differently, a new workshop, "Novel Ideas," is offered April 27 by the University of Mississippi's (UM) Center for Non-Credit Education. The daylong session is open to anyone who wants to write and publish a novel, whether you have completed manuscripts in hand or haven't even started Chapter One.

Margaret-Love Denman, director of the Creative Writing program at the University of New Hampshire, and Chicago writer Barbara Shoup, the author of several successful novels for young adults, share the

teaching responsibilities for the workshop, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Yerby Conference Center.

Registration deadline is April 19, and the workshop fee is \$150. For details, call 662-915-7283.

Denman and Shoup together have published the book *Novel Ideas: Contemporary Authors Share the Creative Process*. It is a collection of interviews with 23 well-known authors, including Richard Ford, Lee Smith, Michael Chabon, Tony Hillerman, Wally Lamb, Sena Jeter Naslund and Alice McDermott.

Lynne Geller, director of the UM Center for Non-Credit Education, said this workshop is the first of its kind offered through the Yerby Center. Session topics include "Thinking Like a Novelist," "Creating Characters" and "Publishing: The Work in the World."

Those requiring special assistance because of a disability also should contact the sponsor.

PBS miniseries to show life on the frontier

April 19, 2002

NEW YORK -- A new reality series that will show what life was like on the American frontier has connections to Mississippi writer Linda Peavy, who has co-authored a number of historical studies of life on the frontier.

After surviving a competitive selection process, a rigorous training program and a dangerous overland wagon trip, three contemporary American families faced 19th-century life in the Montana wilderness for *Frontier House*, a six-part "hands-on history" series slated to premiere Monday, April 29, 2002 at 9 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).

Chosen from over 5,000 applications, the Glenn family of Tennessee, the Clune family of California and the Brooks family of Massachusetts headed west in May and resided there until early October, living as 1880s homesteaders, with only the tools and technology of the period at their disposal. Throughout their historic adventure, the cameras of *Frontier House* rolled, revealing the families' trials, triumphs, simple pleasures, and daily rigors.

"From the early days of *The 1900 House*, we wanted to take on the stereotypes and myths of the American West," said executive producer Beth Hoppe. "Every step of the way the production team, the participants and the experts have enthusiastically embraced our concept, and *Frontier House* explores the reality of everyday life in 1883 at a level of detail that exceeded even my expectations. The story of our families' experience is at once dramatic, entertaining and educational."

The drama of this unique experience -- which included a June snowstorm, unanticipated weight loss among the families, encounters with bears, and a family sneaking modern cosmetics into their 1883 experience -- has also been captured on the series' companion Web site, now online at <http://www.pbs.org/> and <http://www.thirteen.org/>. The interactive site features audio and video excerpts from the homesteaders' adventures, production journal entries, interactive presentations, and historical essays -- all of which give viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the project.

The Web site will be continuously updated before and throughout the series' broadcast, allowing viewers to get to know the families, up close and personal, through reflections from their personal diaries. All will offer more insight about these modern homesteaders and the challenges of pioneer life.

Additionally, a companion book to the series, also entitled *Frontier House*, authored by series producer Simon Shaw with Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith, is being published by Atria Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, the publishing operation of Viacom Inc. Peavy and Smith served as chief historical consultants for the project.

"We're thrilled to offer such a realistic and multi-faceted look at the past. Through the Web site, the series and the book, viewers will be able to vicariously share in a remarkable experience, and literally be able to see history come to life," said Shaw.

Frontier House is a co-production of Thirteen/WNET New York and Wall To Wall in association with Channel 4 (U.K.). Thirteen's Beth Hoppe and Wall To Wall's Alex Graham are executive producers. Simon Shaw, series producer of *The 1900 House*, again serves in that capacity for this new series.

Funding for *Frontier House* is provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to enhance public understanding of the role of technology in society. Corporate support is made possible by Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods, Inc. and Georgia-Pacific. Funding is also provided by Public Television Viewers and PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

William Ferris, leading Southern culture expert, former NEH chair, joins University of North Carolina faculty

April 23, 2002

Editor's note: A slightly different version of this article appeared on March 7, 2002, on the University of North Carolina's College of Arts and Sciences web site.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. -- William R. Ferris, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a widely recognized leader in Southern studies, black music and folklore, is joining the faculty of the University of North Carolina.

He was named professor of history and associate director of the Center for the Study of the American South, effective July 1. He also will be an adjunct professor in the Curriculum in Folklore.

"The appointment of Bill Ferris signals a significant addition to a university that prides itself on scholarship in the humanities, the very soul of Carolina," said Chancellor James Moeser. "Bill will enhance an already distinguished record of achievement built over many years by faculty, students and staff in the important area of Southern studies.

"We want Chapel Hill to be the leading center in the nation for the study of the American South, not only in terms of its past, but its present and future. Bill's appointment bridges both the academic and the public service missions of the university."

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Ferris is an award-winning author, folklorist, filmmaker and scholar of Southern culture. Before leading NEH (1997 to 2001), he was the founding director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, where he was a faculty member for 18 years. Since January, he has been a Visiting Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

"Bill Ferris is one of the most outstanding public intellectuals in the United States today," said Risa Palm, dean of UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. "His knowledge of the roots of American culture -- especially

Southern and African-American culture -- extends deep and wide across the arts and humanities. He will be an extraordinary resource to the university and to the citizens of North Carolina and the region."

Ferris has written or edited 10 books and created 15 documentary films, most of which deal with black music and other folklore from the Mississippi Delta.

"It is a special honor to be associated with the department of history, the Center for the Study of the American South and the curriculum in folklore," Ferris said. "Since my undergraduate days at Davidson College in the early '60s, I have considered the University of North Carolina one of our nation's greatest universities. "As a teacher, scholar and administrator, I have focused on the American South for over 32 years, and my travels have often led me to Chapel Hill. I look forward with pleasure to working with students, faculty and administration at the university as part of their distinguished legacy of studying the American South."

Ferris has won many prestigious honors, including the Charles Frankel Prize in the Humanities from President Clinton, the American Library Association's Dartmouth Medal, the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award, and the W.C. Handy Blues Award. In 1991, Rolling Stone magazine named him among the Top Ten Professors in the United States.

He holds a bachelor's degree in English from Davidson College, master's and Ph.D. degrees in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in English from Northwestern University. He has also taught at Jackson State University in Mississippi and Yale University.

Medgar Evers papers given to state of Mississippi

April 25, 2002

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) -- Speeches and letters of slain civil right leader Medgar Evers were presented today to state historians in a ceremony at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson.

The presentation was made by Evers' widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams. Evers-Williams will also speak later this week to the Conference of Black Mayors meeting in Jackson.

Evers-Williams gave 55 boxes to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"It was very difficult for me to let the papers go," Evers-Williams told the audience of about 200 at the ceremony. "I could pick them up and see a little bit of Medgar."

She said she was donating the papers to Mississippi because she wants scholars -- professional and amateur -- to make the connection between the civil rights movement and the kind of race relations Mississippi has realized since then.

"This is where they belong," Evers-Williams said.

Former Gov. William Winter, a longtime member of the Archives and History Board of Trustees, opened the ceremony and told Evers-Williams: "Welcome home, Myrlie."

Winter said Medgar Evers "gave his life in his quest to free us all -- black and white folks alike -- from the bondage of racial segregation and discrimination. He was a true hero."

Evers, field secretary for the Mississippi NAACP, was shot from ambush at his home in Jackson in 1963.

Best-selling author, alumnus Greg Iles 'thrills' Oxford campus April 30

April 29, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- Best-selling thriller novelist and University of Mississippi (UM) alumnus Greg Iles returns to his alma mater Tuesday, April 30, to teach and talk about his literary career.

Iles plans to show a clip of the movie *Trapped* during his 7 p.m. free, public presentation in Old Chemistry auditorium. An adaptation of his book *24 Hours* (Signet Books, 2001), the movie is slated for September release by Columbia Pictures. He has written four other crime thrillers.

Iles' visit to the university is sponsored by the John and Renee Grisham Visiting Writers Series and the Department of English. A 1983 UM graduate, Iles also plans to visit with students in master creative writing classes. "Even as an undergraduate, he was an outstanding writer," said Dr. Michael Dean, associate dean of the UM College of Liberal Arts and an associate professor of English. "I am not at all surprised at the tremendous success Greg has enjoyed as a writer. I am pleased to say that he was one of my students."

Iles was born in Germany, where his father ran the U.S. Embassy Medical Clinic at the height of the Cold War. At work on his sixth novel, Iles lives in Natchez with his wife and two children.

Students can learn a lot from Iles, whom literary critics have praised widely, said Dr. David Galef, an associate professor of English who directs the master of fine arts program. "Iles is young and yet he's already made his mark as a writer, which is no easy task," Galef said. "I think it will be interesting for students to talk with him and see what he did to get there."

Trapped, which began filming last March, features actors Kevin Bacon, Charlize Theron, Courtney Love, Stuart Townsend and Dakota Fanning. The movie is about a Mississippi physician and his wife who are forced to deal personally with the kidnappers of their diabetic daughter.

Iles' latest novel, the critically acclaimed *Dead Sleep* (Putnam, 2001), is being developed into a movie by Warner Bros. Iles' other novels are *The Quiet Game* (Signet Books, 2000), *Mortal Fear* (Signet Books, 1998), *Black Cross* (Signet Books, 1995) and *Spandau Phoenix* (Signet Books, 1994).

For *Black Cross*, Iles was awarded the Mississippi Author's Award for Fiction and the Bertelsmann Award for New Fiction, after being nominated by renowned author John Grisham.

For several years, Iles worked as a guitarist and vocalist for the band Frankly Scarlet, and he writes and records original music with a few close friends. He regularly performs with the Rock Bottom Remainers, an all-author rock band, including members Dave Barry, Ridley Pearson, Steven King, Amy Tan, Scott Turow, Kathie Goldmark, James McBride, Mitch Albom, Roy Blount Jr., and Barbara Kingsolver.

For additional information, call 662-915-7439. Those requiring special assistance because of a disability also should contact the sponsor.

Mississippi State University library exhibit highlights art, writings of Laurie Parker

April 30, 2002

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- Original illustrations and published works of a Starkville artist and writer are featured through May at Mississippi State University's Mitchell Memorial Library.

Laurie Parker's popular children's books *Everywhere in Mississippi* and recent release *The Turtle Saver* (both Quail Ridge Press of Brandon) are among items on exhibit in the third-floor atrium.

Parker, a 1985 MSU graduate in elementary education, wrote the rhyming *Everywhere in Mississippi* as part of a series that includes *All Over Alabama*, *Texas Alphabet*, and *Louisiana Alphabet*.

Turtle Saver, Parker's first non-regional book, tells the story of the far-reaching effects of a simple act of human kindness. The accompanying illustrations -- collages she made with colors and materials found in old magazines -- include the English bulldog featured prominently in the storyline.

Nancy Verhoek-Miller, MSU professor of curriculum and instruction and exhibit coordinator, said children "of any age" can enjoy the display of Parker's highly expressive imagination. "Consider the exhibit as a mini-vacation; a trip to the library and an art gallery rolled into one," she added.

For more information on the Parker exhibit, telephone Verhoek-Miller at (662) 325-7502 or Mattie Sink at 325-3848.

May

William Faulkner's work, home attract C-SPAN for live May 5 broadcast

May 2, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- Rowan Oak, the Oxford home of Nobel Prize-winning writer William Faulkner, opens to television viewers May 5 via C-SPAN, the public service cable network.

Faulkner's life and work are the focus of a live 2-4 p.m. broadcast for C-SPAN's original series, *American Writers II: The Twentieth Century*, which explores the country's history through selected writers and examines what their work means to Americans today. The broadcast originates from inside the main house, which remains closed to the public because of renovations.

"It's doubtful that they could have a series on American writers and not include Faulkner. C-SPAN's visit is very significant and very right," said William D. Griffith, curator of Rowan Oak, which is owned by the University of Mississippi.

The public is invited to view the broadcast in the Triplett Alumni Center's Butler Auditorium on Grove Loop Road.

Viewer questions are expected to fuel discussion by Dr. Don Kartiganer, Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies at the University of Mississippi, and Thadious M. Davis, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. They also are expected to discuss Faulkner's life and his first major work, *The Sound and the Fury*.

Kartiganer has written widely on Faulkner and is director of the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. Among Davis' publications is *The Game of Property: Race, Gender, and Law in Faulkner's "Go Down, Moses."*

The show encores on C-SPAN May 10 at 7 p.m.

Oxford-area schools also have been visited by C-SPAN's 45-foot-long, bright-yellow bus, which is a mobile classroom and a working production studio.

Those who wish to attend the public airing in Butler Auditorium and require special assistance because of a disability should call the UM Department of English at 915-7439.

Time running out for Oxford American magazine

May 15, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) -- What many consider the contemporary creative voice of Southern literature could very well be forced into silence in a few weeks.

Oxford American, the National Magazine Award winner that's been financially challenged since its inception 10 years ago, is on the brink of folding if a new backer isn't found soon. Best-selling author John Grisham, the magazine's publisher, financier and patron saint since 1994, and editor Marc Smirnoff decided a year ago that it was time for the magazine to either break even or cease operations.

In a May 2 e-mail to some 150 contributing writers and friends, Smirnoff said last year's music issue was a modest financial success, and the follow-up fall issue made even more money, but the winter movie issue was a flop by advertising standards. In the e-mail, which spread quickly in literary circles, Smirnoff said the publication -- billed as "The Southern Magazine of Good Writing" -- had two weeks to find new ownership.

"As Jeeves told Wooster, where there's life there's hope, so we're still not giving up on finding investors or buyers who want to see the *OA* continue," Smirnoff wrote.

In an interview last week with The Associated Press, Smirnoff said he's had numerous responses from possible backers who want to sustain the magazine, which has featured the works of William F. Buckley Jr., Donna Tartt, Barry Hannah, Roy Blount Jr., Larry Brown and Willie Morris, among others.

"All of a sudden I went from feeling like things were pretty grim to feeling sort of oddly optimistic," he said. "I think something's going to happen."

Smirnoff said he's received word from Grisham that the author -- a former Oxford resident and Mississippi legislator -- may extend the two-week deadline. Over the years, Grisham has devoted not only money but his writing talents to keep *Oxford American* afloat. The magazine serialized his novel *A Painted House* in 2000.

Grisham, who's written such blockbusters as *The Client* and *The Firm* and his latest work, *The Summons*, could not be reached for comment.

Smirnoff said Grisham's requirements are simple. "John is willing to sell his majority interest if we can find a person, group or company that's willing to commit to the magazine," he said. "He's willing to listen to any proposal that's reasonable."

Smirnoff made the magazine's financial difficulties public in last summer's critically acclaimed music issue, which featured a CD with music from B.B. King, Billy Bob Thornton, Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris. In a letter to readers, he said the magazine would start publishing quarterly instead of bimonthly, but the subscription price of \$19.95 would remain the same. Smirnoff also warned that the number of subscribers needed to grow from 30,000 to 38,000 by year's end.

The number grew enough to proceed into 2002, he said. But even though the latest issue of the magazine is complete, it is stranded at the printer for lack of money.

Samir Husni, author of the annual *Guide to New Consumer Magazines* and a journalism professor at the University of Mississippi, said low circulation is largely to blame for *Oxford American's* woes. With 100,000 subscribers, the magazine would have a healthy revenue flow and the readership to attract national advertising, Husni said.

To get there, though, "the costs are unbelievable," he said. "They were never able to get over the hump that this is not a regional magazine" said Husni, who helped *Oxford American* create a marketing plan two years ago. "Yes, it's a national magazine of southern good writing, but it was always viewed by the national markets as regional, no matter what," he said.

The floundering economy and lower ad sales have made things increasingly difficult. This year has already seen the decline of *Talk* and *Homestyle*. Several other magazines also have shut down recently, including *Mademoiselle* and *The Industry Standard*.

Neither Husni nor Smirnoff would discuss specifics about *Oxford American's* finances.

Smirnoff said he's thankful for Grisham's patience and money, not bitter over his decision to pull out. "All I know is that he's put more money into this magazine than he ever thought he would. And he has repeatedly saved us," Smirnoff said in a March interview from his office in a small house near Oxford Square, best known as one of the haunts of William Faulkner.

"This magazine would have died eight or 10 painful deaths if it hadn't been for his generosity and faith."

Yazoo City 'remembers' hometown writer Willie Morris in holiday weekend festival

May 17, 2002

YAZOO CITY, Miss. -- Yazoo City will honor one of their own when they hold the "Remembering Willie" festival over Memorial Day weekend to commemorate the life and literature of Willie Morris.

Most of the celebration will take place at Triangle Cultural Center, Willie Morris' original grammar school, in Yazoo City.

Other writers who will be paying tribute to Morris include Barry Hannah, Clifton Taulbert, Charles Reagan Wilson, Ted Ownby, and Masaru Inoue.

The event will begin on Friday, May 24, with a reception, an art show, and a one-man show, *Willie Remembers*, featuring actor Jack Stevens and producer JoAnne Prichard Morris.

Saturday morning, the guest speakers and southern writers will speak on this year's theme, "The Importance of Place." Writers will also be available to sign books. The day concludes at Glenwood

Cemetery near Willie Morris' gravesite with brief remarks, a performance by gospel singers, and the playing of "Taps" (which happens to be the title of Morris' last, posthumously published novel).

Sunday will again feature book signings along with tours of the area.

For more details about the celebration, visit the "Remembering Willie" [web site.]

June

Shay Youngblood, award-winning poet, playwright, novelist is new University of Mississippi Grisham writer-in-residence

June 3, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- Shay Youngblood finds magic in the written word. As a toddler and avid reader, she even dreamed of living in a library.

As the 2002-03 John and Renée Grisham Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi, Youngblood shares her literary fascination when she assumes the teaching post in August.

An award-winning poet, playwright and fiction writer, she is the newest recruit for the 10-year-old program, which embraces emerging Southern writers. Relocating to the University of Mississippi to teach creative writing is "like coming home," Youngblood said, after a stint as a visiting professor for New York University's graduate creative writing program.

She is set to teach fiction in the fall and a multi-genre workshop next spring.

"Being from Georgia and having spent many summers in southern Alabama, the music, the food, the poetry in a turn of a Southern phrase, the thick smell of pine trees and a heavy rain coming are all familiar to me," she said. "I appreciate being part of new writers' growth by offering my experiences as a writer and teacher."

Joseph Urgo, chair of the UM Department of English, said he and his colleagues are looking forward to Youngblood's arrival. "Shay was a hit at the Oxford Conference for the Book, delivering a riveting reading from her book *Black Girl in Paris*," he said.

The Oxford community "has a rich literary history and I expect to be inspired to create new work," said Youngblood, whose short story "Born With Religion" won a Pushcart Prize. "When I heard about the blues archives at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, I thought I might also attempt to work on a project that would combine my love of music and theater."

Youngblood's other work includes *Soul Kiss* and *The Big Mama Stories*. Her play *Talking Bones* received the Kennedy Center's Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award in 1993, and *Shakin' The Mess Outta Misery* received best playwright, producer, director and supporting actor awards from the Hollywood NAACP Theater Awards in 1991.

"The Grisham fellows are accomplished writers, and I'm honored to be part of such a distinguished group," said Youngblood, who has degrees from Brown University and Clark-Atlanta University. "The generosity of the Grisham residency will allow me to not only develop new work and encourage new writers, but it also gives me the opportunity to be in a community with colleagues whose work I admire."

The annual appointment, which includes housing and a stipend, is funded by the novelist and his wife, who were Oxford residents for several years. Recipients are required to teach writing workshops and participate in department activities.

John Marszaleck, Mississippi State historian, named 'best speaker' by national organization

June 10, 2002

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- An award-winning Mississippi State historian recognized for his diverse publications now is receiving honors for his speaking skills.

John F. Marszalek, author of 11 books and more than 150 articles, recently was voted the highest-rated speaker for the Lincoln Forum, a national Gettysburg, Pa., gathering of scholars interested in Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War. Forum chairman Frank J. Williams, chief justice of the Rhode Island supreme court, said Marszalek joins a distinguished group recognized by the six-year-old professional body.

"Previous audience favorites have included historians Craig Symonds, Jeff Shaara, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Jack Davis," he said. "All combine scholarship, creativity, enthusiasm, and energy to engage and excite their audiences."

Based on evaluations by this year's forum participants, Marszalek rated 9.33 on a 10-point scale. Symonds, a historian at the U.S. Naval Academy, was second at 9.24. Marszalek's presentation focused on the subject of a forthcoming book about the life of Union Army commander and chief of staff Gen. Henry Halleck.

A Lincoln Forum charter member, Marszalek recently was appointed to a 15-member national advisory committee for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration in 2009.

One of the top William L. Giles Distinguished Professors since 1994, Marszalek concludes a 29-year MSU faculty career with retirement on June 30. During his career in Starkville, he has written *Assault at West Point: The Court Martial of Johnson Whitaker*, which became a Showtime cable movie. Two of his other books -- *The Petticoat Affair* and *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order* -- were main selections of the History Book Club. In addition, *Petticoat Affair* won the Southeastern Library Association's Non-Fiction Award and *Sherman* was a featured alternate selection of the Book of the Month Club.

Tom Franklin, Grisham writer-in-residence at Ole Miss, ends year with new novel

June 17, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. -- You could say novelist Tom Franklin raised "Hell" during his year as Grisham Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi.

His forthcoming novel is *Hell at the Breech*, a fictionalized history of brutal events that took place 12 miles from his Alabama home. Franklin leaves the prestigious UM post savoring the opportunity to work in American novelist William Faulkner's backyard.

"I could wander downstairs from my marvelous office and be on Faulkner's land in five minutes," said Franklin, who came to Oxford after a stint as a visiting writer-in-residence at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. "Walking the place has helped me tremendously; it's much better than Illinois to a guy writing about a Southern landscape."

Franklin soon assumes a similar position at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. Upon leaving UM, he joins an impressive group of other former Grisham writers, including T.R. Pearson, Mary Hood, Darcey Steinke, Steve Yarbrough and Claude Willkinson.

"I enjoyed the students here (at UM). They're very smart, and the best of them are the best I've seen anywhere," said Franklin, who last year was one of 183 Guggenheim fellows in the U.S. and Canada.

Having to say farewell to extremely talented people is the only downside to the Grisham program, said Joseph Urgo, chair of the UM Department of English. "Tom Franklin has been a tremendous asset to us this year; in a short time he attracted a strong and loyal following among our students," Urgo said. "We'll look forward to following his post-Grisham career."

During the year, Franklin taught undergraduate and graduate students in a two-semester fiction writing class. "You write for the joy of it; publication is a bonus," he told a group of aspiring writers at the 2001 Oxford Conference for the Book, sponsored in part by UM. He praised the Grisham program for its tangible provisions: writing time and financial support.

"The intangibles, also of tremendous benefit, include living in this very literary town just a block from Faulkner's estate and knowing that writers I admire have shown such confidence in my future that they wanted me to spend a year writing," he said.

A native of Dickinson, Ala., Franklin remains connected indirectly to the University of Mississippi, with his wife, Beth Ann Fennelly, joining the UM English faculty this fall as a visiting professor in poetry and literary studies. Open House, her first book of poems, won the 2001 Kenyon Review Prize in Poetry for a First Book, one of the nation's most prestigious awards for new authors.

Shay Youngblood, an award-winning Georgia-born novelist, poet and playwright, the author of *Black Girl in Paris* and *Soul Kiss*, is UM's Grisham Writer-in-Residence for 2002-03.

The annual appointment, which includes housing and a stipend, was funded in 1993 by best-selling author John Grisham and his wife, Renee. It requires writers to teach writing workshops and participate in department activities.

Journalists' need for math skills prompts prof's new book

June 18, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. — Journalists are known to joke that they would be engineers or scientists if they could simply do the math.

Just for them, University of Mississippi assistant professor Kathleen Wickham has written the book *Math Tools for Journalists*.

"Math is something we learned in middle school. We can't assume that we remember all the steps," said Wickham, a New Jersey native with daily newspaper experience.

Today's reporters and editors deal every day with mathematics — from local government budgets to basic statistics and practical arithmetic. Wickham said the handy, 160-page guide was written in part to address her own math-skills weaknesses, which she rediscovered as a doctoral student taking a statistics course. "I just got tired of being stupid," she said.

Each chapter uses a news story to illustrate a specific, real need to use math. "My goal is for this book to be used in journalism classrooms to improve the math literacy for future journalists, and in newsrooms to improve math skills in the professional ranks," said Wickham, who joined the UM faculty three years ago, after a decade of teaching at the University of Memphis.

With a master's degree in journalism and a doctorate in instructional technology, she teaches media writing, ethics and graduate research methods. Her first book focused on online journalism.

Peter Mattiace, a Colorado journalist, is one of the first to purchase the new book. "You don't have to be a rocket scientist to be a journalist, but it often helps," he said. "Good reporters, and good and bad numbers sometimes just don't mix. So, whether you have to figure a tax increase in Nowhere Township, a dip in the unemployment rate or how Enron lost all that money — all that fast — you need Professor Wickham's book before you start. It's as simple as 1, 2, ah, 3."

Her first educational order came from the journalism program at Northwestern University. Wickham anticipates interest from other university journalism programs, because new national accrediting standards call for improved student math skills.

She'll also be part of national panels on math in classrooms and newsrooms during conferences by the Society of Professional Journalists and the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

She said she dedicated the book to her two sons. The younger one even helped cook meals. "His college tuition is coming from this," she said.

For more information about Wickham's book, contact Marion Street Press at 708-445-8330 or www.marionstreetpress.com.

Mississippi writer Berry Morgan, 83, dies in West Virginia

June 22, 2002

SUMMIT POINT, W.V. — Berry Morgan, 83, of Aylmere Farm, Summit Point, W.Va, died Wednesday, June 19, 2002, at Shenandoah Nursing Home near her farm.

Mrs. Morgan was born May 20, 1919, in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi.

She was a fiction writer for *The New Yorker* magazine from 1966 to 1988. She received two Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship awards for her novel *Pursuit* in 1966 and a collection of short stories, *The Mystic Adventures of Roxie Stoner*, in 1974.

She taught creative writing at Northeast Louisiana University, Catholic University of America, George Washington University, and the American University.

She was active in the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi in the 1960s. She was involved in organic farming and was a member of the Catholic faith.

She was formerly married to Aylmer Lee Morgan III.

Surviving are four children, Dr. Scott Ingles Morgan of Middleway, Betty Lee Morgan of Houston, Aylmer Lee Morgan IV of Virginia Beach, and Frances Berry Morgan of Summit Point; and numerous grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 21, at the Avanti Restaurant in Charles Town, W.Va., with Father Edwin Dill officiating. Burial will be in Middleway Masonic Cemetery, Middleway, W.Va.

July

Mississippi State University online resource highlights state's black authors

July 1, 2002

STARKVILLE, Miss. — What do novelist Margaret Walker Alexander, civil rights leader Medgar Evers and actress Beah Richards have in common? For one, all three are included in a unique Internet-available collection of Mississippi authors maintained at Mississippi State University.

The university's Mitchell Memorial Library is home to an evolving online file of African-American authors compiled to assist students and scholars in researching black writers with Mississippi ties, said Gail Peyton, interim reference services coordinator.

The file can be accessed by choosing the "Of Special Interest" option at [website].

Peyton said the list currently contains 91 novelists, playwrights, poets, and journalists who either had an influence on the state of Mississippi or who themselves were influenced by the Magnolia State. Each selection includes a biography and list of the author's publications.

"It's an exciting project," she said. "The site is both a motivational tool for African-American students who want to know more about their history and themselves, and a valuable resource for all Mississippians."

Peyton said she conceived the idea of gathering biographical and bibliographical information five years ago when several students came to the library in search of a comprehensive list during MSU's Black History Month observance.

With the assistance of a \$2,000 grant from the university's Office of Research, the list was compiled by Peyton, her colleague and special collections reference librarian Lynn Mueller and student Brad McGee.

The resource remains "a work in progress," Peyton said. At present, she has a list of about 30 authors — including journalist Ida B. Wells and television personality Oprah Winfrey — yet to be added to the collection.

"The Web is a fantastic resource," she said, explaining that the names of emerging authors often can be found on Web sites or through electronic mail.

One source even arrived on her library doorstep by foot. Peyton said the student — who was, in fact, a published poet — sought her out and asked to be included.

For more information about "Mississippi's African-American Authors," contact Peyton at (662) 325-7671 or gpeyton@library.msstate.edu.

Rowan Oak to open — temporarily — for Faulkner Conference, then remain closed until Spring 2003

July 15, 2002

By Lucy Schultze

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the July 9, 2002, edition of The Oxford Eagle.

OXFORD, Miss. — William Faulkner's home will open its doors for one evening this month before they're shut tight for nine months of renovation and repair.

As part of the 29th Annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, attendees will gather at Rowan Oak for a picnic dinner on July 24. Six weeks later, work will begin on the first phase of a \$1.2 million restoration project designed to preserve the author's home and 31-acre grounds.

The house has already been closed to crowds since December while the new climate control system to equalize temperature and humidity inside the house was being designed. During that time, visitors have been able to tour the home only by making special arrangements with University Museums.

"The house needed a break," said Rowan Oak curator William Griffith. "I feel bad for the visitors who didn't get the word it was closed. But in order to plan for the preservation of the house, we had to close it."

Griffith said that no special exceptions to tour the home can be made once work inside the home begins after Sept. 3. Phase One, which will also include the installation of new plumbing and electric wiring, should be finished by May 2003, he said.

When it is complete, work can begin on Phase Two, which includes repairing the plaster walls, repainting rooms in original colors, wallpapering with original designs, and purchasing replicas of furniture and rugs.

Currently in the bidding process, the \$363,000 second phase has been funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior's "Save America's Treasures" grant program, with matching funds from the Mississippi Legislature.

The University of Mississippi has also secured a \$479,000 grant from U.S. Housing and Urban Development to complete Phase Three, which will restore the landscaping of Rowan Oak's grounds and gardens.

The first phase was funded through a \$500,000 appropriation from the Mississippi Legislature in 1998. Original plans called for the first phase to be finished last month — in time to allow summer visitors a chance to tour the home — but the design portion of the project took longer than expected.

Griffith said he hopes not to have to close the home during Phase Two of the project. The grounds will remain open throughout the restoration process, he said.

Rowan Oak was built by a pioneer settler in the 1840s and purchased by Faulkner in 1930. He lived there until his death in 1962, and the University of Mississippi purchased the home and grounds from the author's daughter 10 years later.

Tickets for Faulkner Conference folk opera 'As I Lay Dying' on sale to public

July 18, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. — Tickets for a folk-opera adaptation of William Faulkner's novel *As I Lay Dying* are on sale at the University of Mississippi's Central Ticket Office in the Student Union.

Performed by The Reckon Crew — a quartet of singer-songwriters from Nashville — the July 24 event is part of this year's Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference on the University of Mississippi campus. The 8 p.m. performance is in the School of Education auditorium on University Avenue.

Tickets for the production are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students, seniors and children. To reserve tickets using VISA and MasterCard, call the Central Ticket Office at (662) 915-7411.

The Reckon Crew members are Tommy Goldsmith, Tom House, David Olney and Karren Pell.

The July 21-26 conference "Faulkner and His Contemporaries" addresses how the Nobel laureate's work is a reflection of, and a commentary on, the major intellectual movements of the day. It also explores the literary and intellectual relationships Faulkner shared with other writers. A host of literary scholars and critics from the United States and France lead lectures and discussions at the 29th annual conference, which opens with registration at 10 a.m. in the Yerby Conference Center.

Lectures are in Johnson Commons.

For more information on the conference or for assistance due to a disability, contact the Center for Non-Credit Education at 662-915-7282 or go to [website]. Other information on Lafayette/Yoknapatawpha County is available through the Oxford Tourism Council at 800-758-9177.

Kate Freeman Clark's surprise art exhibition opens Sunday, runs through September

July 18, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. — Kate Freeman Clark left her family's antebellum mansion in Holly Springs to become an accomplished painter in New York City, then traded it all for the life of a small-town spinster back home in Mississippi.

When the 81-year-old Clark died in 1957, her neighbors were amazed by the news that she had bequeathed hundreds of paintings to the city of Holly Springs, said Bea Green, curator of the Kate Freeman Clark Art Gallery there.

Selections from Clark's work are featured at the University of Mississippi Museums through Sept. 15, shown in conjunction with the 29th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference July 21-26. Gallery hours are 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

"A contemporary of William Faulkner, Kate Freeman Clark is an artist rediscovered," said Deborah Freeland, UM Museums project coordinator. "She has a very interesting history, and there is a lot of interest in her work and the mystery that surrounds her."

Most of the oil-on-canvas paintings were created from 1894 to 1914. They reflect Clark's style of "alternating, surprisingly, between dark traditional portraiture and the bright plein air concept of painting spontaneously on location," Freeland said.

Clark's quest began when her widowed mother moved them to Memphis so that Kate could take art lessons. In 1894, she began studying with the noted William Merritt Chase at the Art Student League in New York. Chase eventually opened his own school, and Clark was among the many students who followed him.

Thirty-five years before her death, Clark suffered a series of personal losses, which caused her to close the door on being an artist. She returned to Holly Springs and left behind in a New York warehouse many of her belongings and all of her paintings. Apparently she never again picked up her brushes and assumed the socially-expected role of an unmarried woman.

Upon Clark's death, "a few friends faintly remembered that she had studied art in the North years before, but no one realized how accomplished an artist she had become," Green said.

For more information about Clark's exhibit at the University of Mississippi Museums or to inquire about assistance due to a disability, contact Deborah Freeland at (662) 915-7028 or dfreelan@olemiss.edu.

29th Annual Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference, 'Faulkner and His Contemporaries,' starts Sunday, lasts through Friday, July 26
July 18, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. — The 29th Annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference starts Sunday at the University of Mississippi, and if you're not yet registered, it's not too late to be a part.

The annual conference devoted to Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner this year will feature the topic "Faulkner and His Contemporaries" through six days of lectures and discussions by literary scholars and critics.

In addition to formal lectures, there will be a performance of the folk opera *As I Lay Dying* by the Nashville singer-songwriter group Reckon Crew, discussions by Faulkner friends and family, and sessions on "Teaching Faulkner" directed by James Carothers (University of Kansas), Robert W. Hamblin (Southeast Missouri State University), Arlie E. Herron (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga), and Charles Peek (University of Nebraska at Kearney).

The University's John Davis Williams Library will display Faulkner books, manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia; and the University Press of Mississippi will exhibit Faulkner books published by university presses throughout the United States. Films relating to the author's life and work will be available for viewing during the week. *Ms. Booth's Garden*, an exhibition of photographs by Jack Kotz, will be on display in the Gammill Gallery at Barnard Observatory.

The conference will begin on Sunday, July 21, with a reception at the University Museums for *Paradox in Paradise*, an exhibition of mixed media artworks by Lea Barton. This will be followed by an afternoon program of readings from Faulkner and the announcement of the winners of the thirteenth Faux

Faulkner Contest. The contest, coordinated by the author’s niece, Dean Faulkner Wells, is sponsored by *Hemispheres Magazine*/United Airlines, Yoknapatawpha Press, and the University of Mississippi.

Other events will include a Sunday buffet supper served at the home of Dr. and Mrs. M. B. Howorth Jr., “Faulkner on the Fringe”(an “open-mike” evening at Southside Gallery), guided day-long tours of North Mississippi on Tuesday, a picnic served at Faulkner’s home, Rowan Oak, on Wednesday, and a closing party Friday afternoon at Square Books.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Mississippi’s Department of English and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and is coordinated by the university’s Institute for Continuing Studies.

The registration fee for the conference is \$175 for students, \$200 for Friends of the Center, and \$250 for others. The fee includes admission to all program events, a buffet supper on opening day, a reception on Tuesday, a picnic at Rowan Oak, conference session refreshments, and a closing reception. The fee does not cover lodging, the optional tours of Faulkner Country, and meals, except for those aforementioned. More information about the conference, including a printable registration form, is available at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture [web site].

If you would like to attend but have not pre-registered, you can still register in person beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday at the Yerby Conference Center on the University of Mississippi campus. Once the opening program begins at 2:30, you may register in the Johnson Commons foyer anytime during the week that the conference is being held.

Even if you don’t wish to attend the entire conference, a number of individual events are free and open to the public, including all scholarly lectures and panel discussions in Johnson Commons, the “Faulkner on the Fringe” open-mike night, and gallery exhibitions at University Museums, the J. D. Williams Library, and Barnard Observatory.

In addition, tickets to the performance of *As I Lay Dying* are available for purchase.

Following is a complete schedule of events for this year’s conference. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held in Johnson Commons on the University of Mississippi campus.

Sunday, July 21	
10:00 a.m.	Registration, Yerby Conference Center
1:00 p.m.	Receptions for exhibitions: <i>Kate Freeman Clark: A Southern Treasure</i> , paintings by Kate Freeman Clark, University Museums <i>Ms. Booth’s Garden</i> , photographs by Jack Kotz, Barnard Observatory
2:30 p.m.	Opening Session: Welcome from Oxford Mayor Richard Howorth and Department of English chair Joseph Urgo Rowan Oak Society, Campbell McCool Presentation of Eudora Welty Awards in Creative Writing by Charles Reagan Wilson Faux Faulkner Contest Announcement of Winner by Selby Bateman and Lisa Fann of <i>Hemispheres Magazine</i> /United Airlines

	“Days of Yoknapatawpha,” by V.P. Ferguson, a reading by George Kehoe Dramatic Readings from Faulkner’s Fiction, <i>Voices of Yoknapatawpha</i> , selected and arranged by George Kehoe and Betty Harrington
5:30 p.m.	Buffet Supper, Howorth Home/Old Taylor Road (requires registration)
8:00 p.m.	Lecture: “Traveling with Faulkner,” by Houston Baker
Monday, July 22	
9:00 a.m.	Lecture: “‘Getting Good at Doing Nothing’: Faulkner, Hemingway, and the Fiction of Gesture,” by Donald M. Kartiganer
10:30 a.m.	Lecture: “Invisible Men: Faulkner, His Contemporaries, and the Politics of Loving and Hating the South,” by Grace Elizabeth Hale
1:30 p.m.	Lecture: “Fixing the Southern Vernacular: The Contemporaneous Art of William Faulkner and Walker Evans,” by Thomas S. Rankin
3:00 p.m.	Panel: “Turn to the Right: Sentimental Foil for <i>The Sound and the Fury?</i> ,” by Eoin F. Cannon “Parrotlike Underworld Epithet: The Hard-Boiled Language of <i>Sanctuary</i> ,” by Peter J. Ingrao “ <i>Light in August</i> and Faulkner’s Sweet Man,” by Steven Weisenburger
8:00 p.m.	Lecture: “Surveying the Postage-Stamp Territory: Eudora Welty, Elizabeth Spencer, and Ellen Douglas,” by Peggy Whitman Prenshaw
10:00 p.m.	“Faulkner on the Fringe,” Open Mike at Southside Gallery, hosted by Colby Kullman and Milly Moorhead
Tuesday, July 23	
9:00 a.m.	Guided tours of north Mississippi. (requires registration)
5:00 p.m.	Noyes/Smith/Kullman Party, 604 Tyler Place
8:00 p.m.	Lecture: “Cather’s War and Faulkner’s Peace: A Comparison of Two Novels and More,” by Merrill Skaggs
Wednesday, July 24	
8:30 a.m.	Teaching Faulkner I, “Faulkner and His Contemporaries, Influences, and Parallels: <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> ,” led by James B. Carothers and Robert W. Hamblin. (Johnson Commons) Teaching Faulkner II, “Faulkner, Writing, and Other Writers: Getting to and from ‘That Evening Sun,’” led by Arlie Herron and Charles A. Peek. (Bondurant Auditorium)
10:30 a.m.	Lecture: “Faulkner, Ford and Automobility,” by Deborah Clarke
1:30 p.m.	Discussion: Deborah Clarke, Donald M. Kartiganer, Thomas S. Rankin, Peggy Whitman Prenshaw, and Merrill Skaggs
3:00 p.m.	Panel: “Faulkner in Oxford,” by M. C. Falkner (moderator), Will Lewis Jr. and Elizabeth Nichols Shiver
4:40 p.m.	Walk through Bailey’s Woods (Meet in the parking lot of University Museums)
5:30 p.m.	Picnic at Rowan Oak (registration required)
8:00 p.m.	Performance: <i>As I Lay Dying</i> , a Folk Opera, by Reckon Crew, Education Auditorium. (Ticket required)
Thursday, July 25	
9:00 a.m.	Lecture: “Blacks and Other Very Dark Colors: Faulkner and Welty,” by Danielle Pitavy-Souques

10:30 a.m.	Lecture: "William Faulkner and Other 'Famous Creoles': Writers and New Orleans," by W. Kenneth Holditch
1:30 p.m.	Panel: "Faulkner's Modernism from the Inside Out," by Sean K. Kelly "Consciously Adapted to French Taste: What the Existentialists Learned from Faulkner," by Holly Hutton "This Time, Maybe This Time: Asynchronous Faulknerian Narratives, Confederate Epitaphs and the American Iconoclastic Tradition," by Timothy S. Sedore
8:00 p.m.	Lecture: "The Hemingway-Faulkner Log," by George Monteiro
Friday, July 26	
8:30 a.m.	Teaching Faulkner, led by James B. Carothers, Robert W. Hamblin, Arlie Herron, and Charles A. Peek (Johnson Commons)
10:30 a.m.	Lecture: "William Faulkner and Guimarães Rosa: A Brazilian Connection," by M. Thomas Inge
1:30 p.m.	Discussion: W. Kenneth Holditch, M. Thomas Inge, George Monteiro, and Danielle Pitavy-Souques
3:00 p.m.	"Faulkner and North Mississippi," slide show presentation by Arlie Herron
5:00 p.m.	Closing Party, Off Square Books (registration required)

***Oxford American* magazine looking at move to Arkansas to stay alive**

July 23, 2002

By Emery Carrington

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the July 22, 2002, edition of The Daily Mississippian.

OXFORD, Miss. — Hope for revival of a local magazine that has experienced months of uncertainty is still alive, even if it means moving more than 200 miles away from its home.

The Oxford American faces a possible move to Little Rock under new management. Editor Marc Smirnoff said he hopes for a revival of the "Southern Magazine of Good Writing."

In ads posted on mediabistro.com, *The Oxford American* seeks a new associate editor, publisher/business manager and art director in Little Rock. Smirnoff said no deal has been finalized and papers have not been signed, but he left for Little Rock on Saturday, July 20, hoping the change will be final by the end of this week.

"We are hopeful that we are on the verge of getting new ownership," Smirnoff said. "We hope that's where it will be. I want to emphasize that it's not a done deal. Everyone very much wants this to happen and I like everything I've heard about it."

Even with the move, Smirnoff said he expects *The Oxford American* people have come to know over the past 10 years will remain true to its readership.

"If I thought anyone wanted me to ruin what I thought was good, I wouldn't do it," Smirnoff said. "I think this new group believes that the problem with *The OA* isn't the content — not to say we won't make mistakes or flaws — but the weakest part is the lack of a first-rate business infrastructure."

Smirnoff maintains that John Grisham, high-profile author and *The Oxford American* publisher, will still be indirectly involved. He said he does not pass any of the blame of the financial downfalls to Grisham.

“John has always been involved very distantly,” Smirnoff said. “He has had overwhelming faith in this project that amazes even me.”

Smirnoff said Grisham did not hesitate to support the magazine financially in the beginning, but it took much convincing on his part to name Grisham as the figurehead publisher because he wanted his support to remain anonymous.

Although Smirnoff plans to take Grisham’s title of publisher away, he said he is sure the author will be happy with the decision and remain involved.

With all the changes and with the Little Rock group as the only option for the magazine’s future at this point, Smirnoff said he has no reason to believe that the deal will not proceed as planned and the new owners make him feel very comfortable.

“They had questions in ways that showed me they were being thoughtful and liked the magazine as is,” Smirnoff said. “One new owner said they wanted to challenge me in new ways and that’s exactly what I need. There have been times in my career where I haven’t been challenged, and I relish the idea of hooking up with people who want to be bold.”

One of Smirnoff’s plans of being bold involves expanding the readership of the publication.

“I know that there are more good readers who are out there who would enjoy the magazine,” Smirnoff said. “The worst thing as editor is putting out a publication that you are proud of and it doesn’t get the readership it deserves.”

As for the current readers, Smirnoff said he believes they will remain constant patrons of the magazine.

“We’ve got great readers,” Smirnoff said. “That seems to be in their nature. My goal as editor is to connect with the audience. They’ve supported the magazine in the past with their comments and concerns and I think they’ll be glad that the magazine isn’t dying.”

Call for Papers: Delta Blues Symposium IX: Defining the Delta

July 28, 2002

The Department of English and Philosophy at Arkansas State University–Jonesboro campus is sponsoring its ninth Delta Blues Symposium on 27-29 March 2003. In addition to presentations on the blues and related forms of expressive culture associated with the seven-state Mississippi River Delta region, the program will focus on ways in which the “Delta” is perceived — local, regional, national, and international perspectives; insider and outside points of view; perceptions from various academic disciplines (including not only humanities and social sciences, but biological and physical sciences as well).

The Delta Blues Symposia have provided opportunities for scholars, artists, performers, and the general public with an interest in the blues and the Mississippi River Delta to come together to share insights,

discuss issues, and celebrate a regional culture. Among featured presenters at Delta Blues Symposium IX will be bluesman Big Jack Johnson and writer Beverly Lowry.

Proposals for participation should consist of 250-word summaries for papers and organized panels or a sample of work for creative presentations. The deadline for proposals is 6 January 2003. Address materials to

Delta Blues Symposium IX
PO Box 1890
Department of English and Philosophy
Arkansas State University
State University, AR 72467
Phone: 870-972-3043
Fax: 870-972-3045
E-mail: delta@astate.edu
[Website].

New Grisham film finally sees a camera

July 29, 2002

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the June 19, 2002, edition of The Guardian newspaper, (film.guardian.co.uk)

The Runaway Jury, the long-delayed adaptation of John Grisham's novel, is finally moving into production.

The film, which concerns a ground-breaking lawsuit against a gun manufacturer, will star Gene Hackman and Dustin Hoffman as the lawyers for defence and prosecution, respectively. John Cusack will play the jury foreman, and Rachel Weisz has just signed up to play his girlfriend, who plays a major part in the unfolding story. Gary Fleder (*Don't Say a Word*) will direct.

This line-up is the last of several for a project that was first mooted in 1996 and has been through several troublesome stages. The first teamsheet had Joel Schumacher directing Edward Norton, Gwyneth Paltrow and Sean Connery. But after a row between Connery and Schumacher, that incarnation of the project was scrapped.

After getting — and losing — directors Alfonso Cuarón and Philip Kaufman, last year saw Mike Newell set to direct with Will Smith starring. John Grisham vetoed that plan, but it seems that the current cast and director meet with his approval. Barring any hiccups, shooting is set to begin on September 16. —
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August

Call for Papers: "Disclosing the Secret in Eudora Welty's Fiction and Photography"

Aug. 6, 2002

The Eudora Welty Society is calling for papers to be delivered at its panel "Disclosing the Secret in Eudora Welty's Fiction and Photography" at the American Literature Association Conference in Boston May 22-25, 2003.

"The future story writer in the child I was must have taken unconscious note and stored it away then; one secret is liable to be revealed in the place of another that is harder to tell, and the substitute secret when nakedly exposed is often the more appalling."—Eudora Welty, "Listening," *One Writer's Beginnings*

The topic refers to several ideas of the secret:

- to Welty's patterns of revealing and exposing while holding back and obscuring
- to her interest in revelation of the unspoken and to the images repeatedly associated with the revelation
- to her discussions of and uses of mystery
- to specific secrets in specific fictions and/or the photography.

Send proposals of 500 words to pollack@bucknell.edu by November 11, 2002. Expressions of interest are welcome ASAP.

Call for Papers: "Sideshow Wonders: Carnivals, Parades, Pageants, and Fairs in Eudora Welty's Works"
Aug. 6, 2002

The Eudora Welty Society is issuing a call for papers for its session at the Convention of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia, November 14-16, 2003, on the topic "Sideshow Wonders: Carnivals, Parades, Pageants, and Fairs in Eudora Welty's Works."

For centuries, carnivals, parades, pageants, and fairs have provided unusual meeting places for people from all aspects of society. Such extravaganzas provoke questions about race, class structures, sex, and even violence. Eudora Welty was clearly fascinated with these transitory events. She writes about parades in *One Writer's Beginnings*, carnival "freaks" in "Keela, the Outcast Indian Maiden" and "Petrified Man," beauty pageants in "Hello and Goodbye," a tent show in "Lily Daw and the Three Ladies," and Mardi Gras in *The Optimist's Daughter*. She also took numerous photographs of the fairs that traveled periodically to Jackson, Mississippi.

Submissions should explore how Welty's backdrop of the fair, carnival, pageant, or parade influences our reading of her fiction, viewing of her photography, or both. Feel free to discuss the concept of the carnivalesque or to consider comparisons with other authors such as Carson McCullers and other photographers such as Diane Arbus.

Send proposals of approximately 500 words to M. Katherine Grimes, Ferrum College, P. O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088, email kgrimes@ferrum.edu, by March 1, 2003.

Call for Papers: "Faulkner and the Ecology of the South"
Aug. 7, 2002

**The 30th Annual Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference: "Faulkner and the Ecology of the South",
The University of Mississippi, July 20-25, 2003**

The concept of ecology has come to have a dual focus, referring to the systems of relations that exist both in the natural world and the constructed world. These systems, one pertaining to the relationships between natural organisms and their physical environments, the other with human groups and their social, as well as physical, environments, are increasingly regarded as interdependent. As Lawrence Buell has recently put it, one of the major tasks of ecocriticism "is to put 'green' and 'brown' landscapes, the landscapes of exurbia and industrialization, in conversations with each other."

One of the aims of the 2003 conference is to explore that "conversation" as it exists in Faulkner's fiction. Throughout his career Faulkner was attentive to the communities of Jefferson and human groupings — ranging from the communities of Jefferson and Frenchman's Bend and the distinct African American and Native American groups within and without these communities, to the complex family structures of Sartoris, Compson, Bundren, and McCaslin — and to the specific settings of those groups within their natural and constructed environments. The play of setting and individual and group dynamics is constant, at times harmonious, at other times a source of conflict, as the human vacillates between struggle against the various forms of environment and a desire to act in accord with them.

Here are some of the questions that might be addressed: How does Faulkner's fiction develop and change in its depiction of the ecological situation? Do ecological issues become moral and ethical issues in the fiction? Is there any kind of consistent Yoknapatawpha ecology? How does the fiction treat the phenomena of weather, "natural" disaster, the relations between town and county, animal and human? To what extent does Faulkner's fiction reflect the larger Southern ecological situation within which much of that fiction takes place?

We are inviting 50-minute plenary addresses and 15-minute papers for this conference. Plenary papers consist of approximately 6,000 words and will be published by the University Press of Mississippi. Short papers consist of approximately 2,500 words and will be delivered at panel sessions.

For plenary papers the 14th edition of the University of Chicago *Manual of Style* should be used as a guide in preparing manuscripts. Three copies of manuscripts must be submitted by January 15, 2003. Notification of selection will be made by March 1, 2003. Authors whose papers are selected for presentation at the conference and for publication will receive (1) a waiver of the conference registration fee, (2) lodging at the University Alumni House from Saturday, July 19, through Friday, July 25, and (3) reimbursement of travel expenses, up to \$500 (\$.345 a mile by automobile or tourist class airfare).

For short papers, three copies of two-page abstracts must be submitted by January 15, 2003. Notification will be made by March 1, 2003. Authors whose papers are selected for panel presentation will receive a waiver of the \$200 conference registration fee. In addition to commercial lodging, inexpensive dormitory rooms are available.

All manuscripts and inquiries should be addressed to Donald Kartiganer, Department of English, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. Telephone: 662-915-5793, e-mail: dkartiga@olemiss.edu. Manuscripts should only be sent by conventional mail, not e-mail or fax.

Call for Papers: "Faulkner and Ideology"

Aug. 17, 2002

The Faulkner Journal

Volume 21.1 and 22.1

(Fall 2005/Spring 2006)

The *FJ* is looking for papers exploring any issue incorporated within this broad topic. General concerns would include but would not be limited to: history and ideology, aesthetics and ideology, relationships between art and politics, criticism and ideology, race and ideology, especially the construction of whiteness. If ideology refers to the persuasive power of languages and value systems, and if the struggle for identity and a viable social space occurs through ideologies, this topic should open a rich terrain for Faulkner scholarship. Send all queries and submissions to:

Kevin Railey
Department of English
Buffalo State College
1300 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222-1095
(716) 878-5417
raileykj@buffalostate.edu

Call for Papers: "Hemingway, Faulkner and the Great American Writer: The Sound and Fury of Competition"

Aug. 17, 2002

The Hemingway Society is calling for papers to be delivered at its panel "Hemingway, Faulkner and the Great American Writer: The Sound and Fury of Competition" at the American Literature Association Conference in Boston May 22-25, 2003.

William Faulkner once infamously called Ernest Hemingway a dog, and Hemingway privately referred to Faulkner as "Old Corndrinking Mellifluous." Each spent a career attempting to establish himself as the premier American writer of his generation, and often did so in mind of the other, who acted variously as a catalyst, foil and example for such efforts. In short, each seemed to inspire a volatile mix of admiration, envy and loathing in the other.

This session is devoted to a discussion of the complicated relationship between Faulkner and Hemingway as contemporaries, and their subsequent cultural and critical trajectories as American writers. The session welcomes a variety of approaches and premises for comparing the two figures, focused primarily on the complex relationship between personal and literary reputation.

Papers should offer a reasonable balance of biographical and textual analysis. Suggested subjects: the correspondence between the two men and their intermediaries; their critical estimations of each other and the degree to which these estimations reveal more about the estimator than the estimated; their inadvertent collaboration on *To Have and Have Not*; the different visions they offered on similar themes, such as hunting and war, and possible lines of influence; the relationship between personal celebrity and artistic achievement; the divergent critical responses to their work, before and after the

Nobel Prizes; the degree to which our present sense of “American writer” was forged by the lives, careers and fiction of each.

Abstracts of 250 words and CV’s should be sent to the address below, no later than December 1, 2002.

Randy Boyagoda
Department of English
Boston University
236 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 358-2549
boyagoda@bu.edu

Award-winning poets read in Visiting Writers Series launch Sept. 5 at Ole Miss

Aug. 20, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. — Writers Nick Carbo and Denise Duhamel launch the University of Mississippi campus poetry series Sept. 5.

The husband-and-wife poets address students, faculty and guests at a 7 p.m. reading in Bondurant Hall auditorium. Their visit is sponsored by the John and Renee Grisham Visiting Writers Series and the UM Department of English.

At 4 p.m., Square Books in downtown Oxford hosts a book signing for them.

Carbo is editor of the groundbreaking collection of Filipino and Filipino-American poetry *Returning A Borrowed Tongue: An Anthology of Contemporary Filipino and Filipino-American Poetry*. He has been hailed as one of the finest writers of his generation of Filipino Americans. Among his awards are fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Duhamel, author of numerous poetry books, most recently wrote *Queen for a Day: Selected and New Poems*. Her other titles include *The Star-Spangled Banner*, winner of the Crab Orchard Award in Poetry, and *Kinky*, a book of poems devoted to Barbie dolls. Her work is in numerous anthologies.

“They will provide an electric and diverse opening to the English department’s speaker series,” said poet Beth Ann Fennelly, a UM visiting assistant professor of creative writing.

Born in the Philippines, Carbo received a master of fine arts in creative writing from Sarah Lawrence College in New York and has been resident poet at Bucknell University and writer-in-residence at American University in Washington, D.C. He also is the author of two poetry books, *Secret Asian Man* and *El Grupo McDonald’s*.

A native of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Duhamel also is winner of the New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship and the *Poets & Writers’* magazine’s Writers Exchange Award. She earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Emerson College in Boston, Mass., and a master of fine arts degree from Sarah Lawrence College.

Carbo and Duhamel are creative writing faculty members at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., and Florida International University in Miami, respectively.

For more information or assistance due to a disability, contact the Department of English at 662-915-7439.

New English/Southern Studies professor brings blues scholarship into the classroom

Aug. 29, 2002

By Deidra Jackson, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. — New York native Adam Gussow has no Southern accent, but he may know more about Mississippi than many of her sons and daughters.

The new assistant professor of English and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi also can play the blues out of a harmonica, as his students heard recently.

Gussow, 44, taught American, African-American and Southern literature, as well as black music, cultural studies and Beat poet Jack Kerouac during a stint as visiting assistant professor of English at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. His intense immersion into blues tradition — whose origins are firmly planted in Mississippi — is impressive.

“The blues tradition is, needless to say, thoroughly grounded in Southern lives, Southern folkways, Southern expressive culture,” Gussow said of his principal research interest. “This is just the right place to be right now.”

For 12 years the private blues harmonica instructor performed with Mt. Olive native and blues musician Sterling “Mr. Satan” Magee. As co-founder of gifted Harlem juke joint blues duo Satan & Adam, he recorded three CDs and appeared on U2’s *Rattle and Hum* album and concert film. The twosome also played at numerous music festivals and clubs in North America and Europe.

“For some reason, the public has this misconception that English professors are stodgy or elitist. How unfortunate,” said Joseph Urgo, chair of the UM Department of English. “We’re thrilled to have him here to teach literature and topical courses based in his research on black and white cultural crossings in American literature and music. Now, in his second career, he’s assistant professor in one of the coolest departments on campus — English.”

Mississippi and blues songs are steeped in Gussow’s doctoral dissertation *Seems Like Murder Here: Southern Violence and Blues Texts, 1890-1996*. In his treatise, he discusses ways in which violence shapes the blues tradition. He also shows how blues texts often were cathartic responses to the eruption of spectacle lynchings in the South during the 1890s. His revised dissertation will be published by the University of Chicago Press this fall.

“Professor Gussow brings unique training and talents to the position in English and Southern Studies,” said Charles Reagan Wilson, director of the UM Center for the Study of Southern Culture. “He studies African-American literature and knows how central it has been to any understanding of the richness of Southern culture. As a blues performer and student of the music, he promises to augment the center’s national lead in studying the blues.”

In addition to its deep south locale, the center's innovative research activities attracted him to UM, Gussow said. Through the center's efforts, UM's J.D. Williams Library has acquired such holdings as the O'Neal Living Blues Collection and the B.B. King Record Archive. He also anticipates working closely with *Living Blues*, the bimonthly magazine of the African-American blues tradition published by the center.

Gussow said he also hopes to promote and participate in discussions about racial reconciliation. "I want to pick up where I left off, studying the origins of the blues and racial antagonism," Gussow said. "I'm now interested in studying the reverse."

He received bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Princeton University and a master's from Columbia University. His autobiographical first book, *Mister Satan's Apprentice: A Blues Memoir*, received the 2000 Keeping the Blues Alive Award in Literature from the Blues Foundation in Memphis. He also received the 2002 Darwin T. Turner Award for the article "'Make My Getaway': The Blues Lives of Black Minstrels in W. C. Handy's Father of Blues," which recently was published in the *African American Review*.

His writings about Jack Kerouac, Paule Marshall, John Cheever, Alice Walker, Herman Melville and Edward Said have appeared in *Georgia Review*, *The Literary Review*, *The Village Voice* and other publications.

September

Latest issue of annual literary journal hits the stands

Sep. 3, 2002

By Deidra Jackson, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. — An essay by renowned author and longtime University of Mississippi writer-in-residence Barry Hannah opens the latest issue of *The Yalobusha Review*, UM's annual literary journal.

Twenty poems, 16 images, four short stories and three creative nonfiction works by other notable writers and artists, as well UM faculty and students, are featured in the publication's seventh volume. Editor Joy Wilson, a Department of English graduate student from Palmdale, Calif., praised the submissions that she and her small staff culled.

"I think each page of the journal is something spectacular," Wilson said. "It's something you'll want to have on your coffee table. *The Yalobusha Review* has something for everyone, whether they're literary-minded or not."

Contributors this year include past Grisham writers-in-residence novelist Tom Franklin; writer, poet, and artist Claude Wilkinson; and National Book Award finalist Dan Chaon.

"At the risk of sounding like an advertiser, this year's issue is bigger and better — a larger format for graphics and photos, as well as a neat array of fiction, poetry, and this year, creative nonfiction," said David Galef, the journal's faculty adviser and program administrator for UM's English graduate program.

Founded in 1995, *The Yalobusha Review* is a collaborative effort between the UM departments of English and Art. Annually, the journal accepts poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, photography and

black-and-white artwork from established and new writers and artists Aug. 15 through Feb. 15. Single issues are \$10 and multiple-year subscriptions are \$8.

For submission guidelines or to obtain a copy, e-mail the editor at yalobush@sunset.olemiss.edu.

Barry Hannah one of first 3 to receive University of Mississippi Distinguished Faculty Fellowships
Sep. 6, 2002

OXFORD, Miss. — Critically acclaimed Mississippi writer Barry Hannah was honored again this week as one of the first three faculty members ever to receive the three-year Liberal Arts Distinguished Faculty Fellowships at the University of Mississippi.

Hannah is writer in residence in the university's Department of English. The other two recipients are professors David Graves in chemistry and biochemistry and Alan Gross in psychology. Each receives \$10,000 per year for the three years he holds the fellowship.

"These faculty members represent the best of the College of Liberal Arts, in teaching, in research and creative accomplishment, and in serving the community," said Glenn Hopkins, liberal arts dean.

The fellowships are intended to reward and support faculty members who have developed distinguished records and who hold the rank of full professor or have held the title of writer- or artist-in-residence for at least 10 years. The annual stipends may be used by the recipients in any way they choose.

Hannah received the Robert Penn Warren Lifetime Achievement Award in fiction three years ago. He has enjoyed a national reputation since 1972, and his creative writing class is one of the most popular on campus.

"In the 20 years he has served as writer-in-residence, he has helped many students establish their own careers in fiction," Hopkins said. "We are most fortunate to have Barry Hannah on this campus."

Graves has a strong research record, publishing frequently in prestigious journals, Hopkins said. During Graves' 18 years on the faculty, he has attracted more than \$2 million in research funding.

"He recently was a driving force behind the creation of a bachelor of arts in biochemistry," a program that has attracted more than 90 students to major in it, Hopkins said.

Gross is a prolific researcher with more than 150 journal articles and book chapters.

"His teaching is exemplary, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, and he has recently taken on the important position of director of clinical training in the Department of Psychology," the dean said.

Last spring, each department in the college was asked to nominate a candidate for a fellowship. A committee appointed by Hopkins reviewed nominations and made recommendations. Recipients were announced at spring commencement ceremonies.

The Distinguished Faculty Fellowships are funded through the University Foundation, with support provided by alumni and friends and the Hardin Foundation.

Myrlie Evers-Williams to help dedicate memorial site Oct. 1

Activist joins day's events to open yearlong observance of integration's 40th anniversary

Sep. 12, 2002

By Patsy R. Brumfield, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. — Civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams comes to the University of Mississippi Oct. 1 to help dedicate the site for a campus memorial and to open a yearlong observance of 40 years of integration.

Evers-Williams, widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, said she hopes the events will help students better understand the history of the movement and why it is significant in their lives.

"I say to students, take advantage of every opportunity to learn and grow. You then have a responsibility to give back to your country," said the Vicksburg native.

Medgar Evers was gunned down outside his home in Jackson by Byron De La Beckwith in 1963.

Almost a year earlier, on Sept. 30, 1962, violence erupted on UM's Oxford campus as federal officials accompanied James Meredith, a black man also from Jackson, who was being admitted as a student at the previously all-white university. Two men died, and dozens of citizens and military personnel were wounded in rioting at the scene.

"Among the significant events in the history of our state is the decision to make higher education accessible to all Mississippians. As the oldest public university in Mississippi, it has been our good fortune to lead the way in a number of important areas," said UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. "Although the events of 1962 are painful and regrettable, we have built on that experience and have incorporated into the culture of Ole Miss the basic value of respect for the dignity of every individual. It is appropriate that this important date in history be highlighted by our community."

At 3 p.m., the law school honors Williams and her slain husband's legacy with a presentation and reception. Dedication of the memorial site follows a 5:30 p.m. community dinner and music program on the grounds in the Circle and a ceremonial walk through the historic Lyceum Building.

Other activities launching UM's observance "Open Doors: Building on 40 Years of Opportunity in Higher Education" include speakers, exhibitions and establishment of an oral history and memorabilia archive. A Student Media Center exhibit in the Union will show today's students the look of 1962's campus and students. Open Doors culminates in September 2003 with an international conference on race.

Plans call for the memorial artwork to be erected next spring. Donations of more than \$100,000 from friends, faculty and students were raised for the project during the past six years. Two recent gifts are a grant from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and \$35,000 raised by UM fraternity and sorority members.

A model of the memorial is on display in the Student Union. The artwork has been commissioned to noted installation artist Terry Adkins of New York, who won a national competition for the project.

The university and the City of Oxford host a variety of other activities Oct. 1. During a luncheon on the Square downtown, Oxford officials will honor state and other military personnel who came to help quell the civil disorder.

University activities begin at 9 a.m. with a long-term oral history project to capture personal experiences of people who were on the campus during the integration or who were affected by the events. Last month, the university issued public calls for participation in the oral history and for the submission of private materials relating to the integration era.

Numerous persons associated with the historic event are expected on campus to speak in classes or public forums throughout the day. Open Doors also features exhibitions, a walking tour with markers at key campus sites and multicultural activities.

Other upcoming programs complement the observance. The 27th annual Porter L. Fortune Jr. History Symposium is hosted Sept. 25-27 to examine "Race & Sport: The Struggle for Equality On & Off the Field." The Nov. 12 Silver Em Day, hosted by the UM Journalism Department, brings to campus past recipients of the university's highest journalism award for public discussions about reporting on the Civil Rights Movement.

For information about UM's Open Doors activities, contact the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at 662-915-5993 or visit university [Web sites]. Oxford's events are detailed at [website] .

Integration anniversary draws many to University of Mississippi campus

Sep. 27, 2002

By Patsy R. Brumfield, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. — Dozens of former students and prominent figures gather at the University of Mississippi next week to observe its integration's 40th anniversary, dubbed "Open Doors."

Myrlie Evers-Williams delivers a Tuesday evening address on UM's Oxford campus where a memorial to the integration of higher education will be dedicated in spring 2003.

U.S. Senior District Judge Constance Baker Motley of New York, former U.S. Rep. James Symington, author William Doyle and famed photojournalist Charles Moore come to campus Monday to talk with students and to participate in forums about the events on campus 40 years ago when James Meredith of Jackson became the university's first black student. Motley was Meredith's attorney and successfully pressed his case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Among those former students who return to campus are: Dick Wilson of Jackson, 1962 president of the Associated Student Body; Gray Jackson and Sibyl McRae Child of Jackson, other ASB officers; Louis Guy of Jackson and Robin Reed Hendrickson of Oxford, who were Colonel Rebel and Miss Ole Miss that year; and Dr. Cleveland Donald, the university's second black graduate, now a history professor in Connecticut.

Sidna Brower Mitchell of New Jersey was editor of the campus newspaper, *The Mississippian*. In 1962 the campus senate censured her for editorials deploring the campus violence, but on her visit next week she will be presented a resolution passed by the 2002 senate repealing that censure.

Other highlights of the observance include a panel Monday at 2 p.m. in the UM Law Center with Senior U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. (Miss.) and retired journalist Curtis Wilkie of Oxford, both students here in 1962, and Judge Motley. Events Tuesday include a 10:30 a.m. presentation to the university by the U.S. Marshals Service; a midday ceremony and luncheon by the City of Oxford for military personnel who helped quell the civil unrest; and a 3 p.m. event at the law school to honor civil rights activist Evers-Williams and her slain husband, Medgar Evers.

Tuesday evening's events close with a community dinner on the grounds followed by Evers-Williams' address between the historic Lyceum building and J.D. Williams Library.

Open Doors activities continue through September 2003, when the university hosts an international conference on race.

For more information about activities, call the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at 662-915-5993 or go to the [Web site].

For information about accessibility for disabled persons, call 662-915-5993.

October

Fans of literary Mississippi now have a guide to graves, homes, and haunts

Oct. 8, 2002

JACKSON, Miss. — William Faulkner's Oxford, Eudora Welty's Jackson, Walker Percy and Shelby Foote's Greenville, Beth Henley's Hazlehurst—adventure awaits the literary traveler in each of these Mississippi environs. But where does one find the gravesites and birthplaces, the inspirations and haunts of great Mississippi writers?

A new book, *Touring Literary Mississippi* published by the University Press of Mississippi (\$46.00, hardback, ISBN 1-57806-367-1; \$20.00, paperback, ISBN 1-57806-368-X), leads tourists to the right spots.

By taking the literary traveler on seven preplanned tours—through the Delta, along Highway 61, to the heart of Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha Country, to sites near Interstate 55 and the Natchez Trace, to the piney woods of East and South Mississippi, and along the sun-struck Gulf Coast—this book captures the phenomenal abundance and diversity of Mississippi literature.

More than a guidebook, the book also gives explicit directions to writers' homes and other literary sites. It includes capsule biographies and well over a hundred photographs of writers, their residences, and their literary environments.

"This book is intended to be a helpful guide for travelers who want to see homes and other sites," the authors write in their preface. "With well over a hundred pictures, it is also designed for the armchair tourist."

The sheer number of writers discovered, recovered, and claimed by Mississippi will astonish travelers both from within and from without the state. Authors include not only such major figures in the

pantheon of American literature as Faulkner, Welty, Tennessee Williams, and Richard Wright but also reclaim the less well-known.

As the locations bring to life the connection of ordinary rituals with the stuff of fiction, poetry, and memoir, these hands-on tours make evident the special cross-pollination of writer and community in Mississippi.

Patti Carr Black is the author of *Art in Mississippi, 1720- 1980* and *The Southern Writers Quiz Book* (both published by the University Press of Mississippi). Marion Barnwell, a fiction writer and an assistant professor of English at Delta State University, compiled and edited *A Place Called Mississippi* (published by the University Press of Mississippi).

Clarksdale to host Tennessee Williams Festival

Oct. 11, 2002

CLARKSDALE, Miss. — Clarksdale, Mississippi, one of two Mississippi towns in which playwright Tennessee Williams lived as a child, will once again host a festival in his honor. The Tenth Annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival is scheduled for October 17-19, with most events taking place at the Clarksdale Station, next door to the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale.

Festivities include screenings of films about Williams and based on his plays, live performances and readings of his plays, and scholarly lectures and discussions of Williams' works.

Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17, with fees starting at \$10.00 to cover admission to presentations, porch plays, workshops, and drama competition. Some events, such as a reception at Belle Clark Mansion and a dinner at Uncle Henry's, cost extra and require reservations by Oct. 15.

For more information, contact the Clarksdale Chamber of Commerce at (662) 627-7337, or visit their [web site] for a complete schedule of events and links to additional information.

Call for Papers: John Kennedy Toole

Oct. 12, 2002

Due to two eleventh-hour withdrawals, the editors of a forthcoming volume of essays focusing on the works of John Kennedy Toole seeks 1-2 additional, high-quality papers to round out a collection of essays. Any topics will be considered, but those focusing on *The Neon Bible* or new approaches to *The Confederacy of Dunces* are especially welcome. A major Southern university press has expressed significant interest in the project.

Please submit abstracts of between 500-1,000 words as soon as possible. Please contact the following email address right away to express interest or to request further information:
john_kennedy_toole@hotmail.com.

Final acceptance of papers will be conditional on receipt of a publishable essay. Deadlines for final essays will be somewhat negotiable.

Dr. Suzanne Disheroon-Green
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Historian Stephen E. Ambrose dies at 66

Oct. 13, 2002

By Brett Martell

NEW ORLEANS — (AP) Stephen E. Ambrose, whose best-selling books made America's aging World War II veterans hometown heroes again, died early Sunday after a battle with cancer. He was 66.

Ambrose, a longtime smoker, was diagnosed with lung cancer in April. Family members were with him when he died about 4 a.m. at a Bay St. Louis, Miss., hospital, relatives said.

"Steve was the great populist historian of America. He didn't write for intellectuals, he wrote for everyday people," said Douglas Brinkley, a former student of Ambrose's who followed him as director of the University of New Orleans' Eisenhower Center.

Ambrose spent the last six months of his life in a flurry of writing, Brinkley said. His last book, *To America: Personal Reflections of an Historian*, which he called his love song to his country, is set for release Nov. 19.

For much of his career, Ambrose was a little known history professor. He burst onto the best-sellers list less than a decade ago with his 1994 book *D-Day June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II*.

Based in large part on interviews with veterans about their combat experiences, the book recounted the chaotic, bloody beach invasions of Normandy from the American soldier's perspective.

"He was saying, 'There's all this obsession with high command, but the real story is these citizen soldiers who still live in every town and hamlet in the United States,'" Brinkley said.

With unadorned but lively prose, Ambrose continued to captivate readers as he churned out history books at an industrial pace, publishing more than 30, including a half-dozen more best sellers such as *Citizen Soldiers* and *The Wild Blue*.

He "combined high standards of scholarship with the capacity to make history come alive for a lay audience," Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Arthur Schlesinger said.

While best known for his World War II books and as the founder of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Ambrose wrote about numerous aspects of American history. Other books addressed former Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon, the Transcontinental Railroad and the Lewis and Clark expeditions of the American West.

"His great gift was that he refused to allow people to think history was boring," said Brinkley, who also collaborated on several books with Ambrose. "He was always grabbing people by their lapels and saying, 'Listen to this. Isn't this fascinating?'"

Ambrose, who called himself a hero worshipper, said in a recent interview that his focus on World War II developed from working on his Eisenhower biography and his memory of GI's returning home from World War II when he was 10 years old.

"I thought the returning veterans were giants who had saved the world from barbarism. I still think so," he said.

For the most part, war veterans were eager to help Ambrose and entrusted artifacts they saved from World War II to the National D-Day Museum. The old soldiers seemed to relate well to the author, a plain-speaking man who got to the point and wasn't afraid to mix in a few curse words for emphasis.

When Ambrose discovered he had lung cancer, he said the likely terminal diagnosis was in some respects liberating because "you can do whatever the hell you want. Who's going to criticize you? And if they do, what the hell do you care?"

By the time he became ill, Ambrose's snowballing success had grown into a dynamic family industry that ranged from top-dollar lectures to movie consulting and even historical tours run by one of his sons.

Ambrose's film work included consulting roles in Steven Spielberg's World War II blockbuster *Saving Private Ryan* and on the World War II documentary *Price for Peace*, also directed by Spielberg.

In addition, Spielberg, co-directing with *Private Ryan* star Tom Hanks, turned Ambrose's best-selling book *Band of Brothers* into a cable miniseries.

Ambrose was born Jan. 10, 1936, a doctor's son from Whitewater, Wisconsin. He was for much of his career a ponytail-wearing liberal who once quit a teaching job at Kansas State University in protest over a campus visit from Richard Nixon during the bombings of Laos and Cambodia.

As a young professor, Ambrose counted himself among the growing number of new left professors who taught what was wrong with America, criticizing the treatment of native Americans, U.S. motives for the Mexican-American war and neglect of the environment. But he wasn't always a left-wing academic. He played football for the University of Wisconsin and related his affection for the sport to his fascination with battlefield strategy.

Ambrose spoke out against America's involvement in the Vietnam war, yet he focused his research on presidents and the military at a time when such topics were increasingly regarded by his colleagues as old fashioned and conservative.

Some in academia didn't take Ambrose seriously, which is why, his supporters say, jealousy ran rampant when Ambrose's name became a fixture on best-sellers lists. Some colleagues say that was what led to accusations in early 2002 that Ambrose plagiarized several passages in a handful of books. The passages lacked quotation marks, but were footnoted.

Ambrose apologized for careless editing but otherwise stood by his work.

"I always thought plagiarism meant using other people's words and ideas, pretending they were your own and profiting from it. I do not do that, have never done that and never will," he wrote in a newspaper editorial.

Ambrose seemed to be settling back into a rhythm in the Spring of 2002 when he was diagnosed with cancer. The diagnosis prompted him to drop a World War II project about the Pacific and launch into the autobiographical book due out next month which began with the working title *A Love Song to America*. The book in many ways embodied Ambrose's transformation from left-wing demonstrator to super-patriot.

"I want to tell all the things that are right about America," Ambrose said in a May interview with The Associated Press.

Ambrose, who spent most of his teaching career at the University of New Orleans, founded the D-Day Museum to exhibit artifacts entrusted to him by veterans he had interviewed. It initially was meant for the New Orleans campus but turned into a \$30 million exhibit in a converted warehouse.

In an interview earlier this month with *The Times-Picayune*, Ambrose said he was inspired to continue writing by Ulysses S. Grant, who wrote his memoirs through the pain of throat cancer.

"Dying is so damn complicated," he said.

Ambrose is survived by his wife, Moira, and children Andy, Barry and Hugh, Grace and Stephanie.

Call for Papers: Proposed edited collection on Barry Hannah

Oct. 21, 2002

Editor's note: This call for papers was originally posted on the Society for the Study of Southern Literature's email discussion group, or "listserv."

From Dr. Martyn Bone:

I am currently soliciting proposals for essay-length contributions to an edited collection on Barry Hannah's fiction. This collection would build on (and encompass) the essays included in Ruth D. Weston's Hannah special issue of *Mississippi Quarterly* (Fall 2001). A major Southern university press has expressed interest in publishing the project, and already a number of scholars have agreed to submit new essays for consideration.

At this stage I am interested in all proposals, of any critical approach and involving any Hannah work, short or long. However, please note that the aforementioned university press has expressed a preference for essays that range relatively widely; i.e., that do not consider only one of Hannah's stories/novels. Given that this would be the first essay collection on Hannah's work, and given the variety of that work, I am reluctant to impose a single overarching theme on either the collection or, indeed, Hannah's oeuvre. However, publishing realities, for one, dictate that the collection will likely be organised around one, two or three overarching themes. As such, I am particularly interested in essays that encompass one or more of the following themes:

- Hannah and postmodernism (as a literary style or aesthetic, esp. Hannah in comparative context with other postmodern writers)
- Hannah and postmodernity (the representation, mediation and/or criticism of the cultures, economies, societies, etc., of postmodernity)
- Hannah as Southern, postsouthern or anti-Southern writer (esp. in comparative context with other Southern, American or international writers)
- Masculinity (the Southern male (anti-) hero, gender relations, anxieties over masculinity in the contemporary South/postmodern world)
- Race and/or class (including Hannah in relation, or contrast, to “grit” or poor white Southern writers such as Harry Crews, Dorothy Allison, or Larry Brown)

Please submit proposals (between 300-500 words) to one of the email or postal addresses below as soon as possible, and no later than 15 December 2002. I plan to submit formal proposals to at least two university presses in late December 2002 or early January 2003.

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Playwright Beth Henley’s mother stabbed to death

Oct. 25, 2002

JACKSON, Miss. — (AP) A convicted felon on probation has been charged with capital murder for the stabbing death yesterday of Mississippi stage actress Lydy Becker Caldwell, mother of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Beth Henley.

Willie Earl Wilson, 33, was arrested 10 minutes after the 74-year-old Caldwell died, said police spokesman Robert Graham.

“Wilson gained entry to Caldwell’s home through a side door that was unlocked,” Graham said. “He beat and stabbed her, stole money out of her house and drove away in her silver 2000 Buick LeSabre.”

Police found Caldwell in an upstairs bedroom after receiving an anonymous call reporting trouble at the home, Graham said.

Funeral services are 2 p.m. Saturday (Oct. 26) at St. James Episcopal Church in Jackson with burial in Lakewood Memorial Park.

A spokesman for Beth Henley, a Jackson native whose works include *Crimes of the Heart* and *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, said Thursday the playwright was informed of her mother’s death in a telephone call to her California home.

Wilson was arrested after an officer spotted a vehicle fitting the description of Caldwell’s car, Graham said.

“He stopped the driver and took him into custody,” Graham said.

Wilson has a long criminal history.

November

After ten-year wait, new Donna Tartt novel finally hits bookstores

Nov. 1, 2002

The wait is over.

In 1992, first-time novelist Donna Tartt took the publishing world by storm when her novel *The Secret History* became a surprise best-seller. The novel, set in a New England college town rocked by a shocking murder, instantly established Tartt as one of those rarities in the publishing world: a writer who achieves both popular and critical success on the first try.

Then ... nothing. Fans who eagerly awaited her next novel had to settle for occasional fiction or nonfiction pieces published in periodicals such as *Harper's* or listen to her radio appearance on NPR on the topic of Gothic literature. Fan web sites speculated, when would we see the next Donna Tartt novel?

That wait is finally over, as Knopf Publishers have just released *The Little Friend*, Tartt's second novel.

At first glance, it seems quite different from her earlier work. Instead of pastoral New England, *The Little Friend* is set in a small Mississippi. Rather than characters deeply versed in classical Roman and Greek, here the characters include virtual prototypes of the southern redneck akin to William Faulkner's Snopes family.

Still, both novels feature a gruesome murder, and it is the exploration of that dark side of humanity that Tartt chooses to highlight in both novels.

“I'm interested less in the act of murder itself than in what drives people to it, and the echoes and repercussions of the act,” Tartt says in an interview published on the Knopf web site.

Critics for the most part have responded favorably to the new novel. Reviewer A. O. Scott in the *New York Times Book Review* notes resemblance between Harriett, the twelve-year-old protagonist of the novel who sets out to avenge the murder of her brother twelve years earlier, and other classic heroines of southern literature, including Caddy in Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*, Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Frankie in *The Member of the Wedding*, characters to whom she is linked “by deeper affinities of temperament—by a fierce, adolescent sense of right and wrong and by the dangerous habit of sticking her nose where it doesn't belong.”

To publicize the novel, Tartt will be traveling around the country to make appearances, including stops in New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Tennessee, Colorado, California, Washington, and of course, Mississippi. Her full tour schedule is available on the Knopf [web site].

Ole Miss English professor heads to Italy in prestigious Rockefeller program

Nov. 4, 2002

By Deidra Jackson, University of Mississippi News Services

OXFORD, Miss. — Alfred Lopez, an assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi, has been invited by the Rockefeller Foundation to attend a prestigious summer residency in Bellagio, Italy.

Lopez, who joined the UM faculty this fall, is at work on a book about the history of ideological conflict between the Castro regime on the island of Cuba and the Cuban Americans in Miami, Fla. During his May to June 2003 residency at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center in northern Italy, Lopez said he plans rigorous research.

“There’s a lot of reading to be done before I can write a full draft of the book, so I’ll be using my time at Bellagio to read, read, read,” said Lopez, a New York native who grew up in Miami’s Little Havana community. His research includes work by Jose Marti, a 19th century Cuban nationalist writer and patriot, and divergent bodies of criticism and biography that have been written since his death in 1895.

“I’ve always wanted to write a book that would present a more balanced, nuanced picture of what everyone—participants included—sees as a very polarized, ‘with-us-or-against-us’ environment in both Miami and Havana.”

Lopez is one of 15 Rockefeller summer residents of various fields and countries who expect a publication, exhibition, performance or other product to result from their visit.

“This is a significant honor for him and for the Department of English, and as we hired Dr. Lopez, it’s a nice confirmation of our good judgment,” said Joseph Urgo, chair of the UM Department of English.

The author of *Posts and Pasts: A Theory of Postcolonialism*, Lopez has written an excerpt of his current book project, which will be published in the spring 2003 issue of *Cuban Studies*, a top journal in its field. He said his topic is personal, referring to his longtime interest in Marti and Cuban issues.

“As a Cuban-American, these questions cut very, very close to me, since I grew up in the heart of the Cuban exile community in Miami,” Lopez said. “I’ve always suspected that there were other ways of thinking about Cuban-ness and what it means to identify as a Cuban than what we were told as children in history and literature classes.”

This semester, Lopez is teaching a world literature survey and major authors in world literature, and he is planning courses in psychoanalysis and literature, postcolonial studies and the Cuban migration story.

Widely published in journals and essays, Lopez has two other projects soon to be published—a translation of Cuban writer Daina Chaviano’s “El hombre, la hembra, y el hambre” (“Man, Woman, Hunger”) and a collection of essays, *Postcolonial Whiteness: A Critical Reader*.

Before his UM appointment, Lopez was an assistant professor of English at Florida International University in Miami. He received doctoral and master’s degrees in English from the University of Iowa and master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Ohio State University and Florida International University, respectively.

The Rockefeller Center is a global foundation that works to enrich and sustain the lives and livelihoods of poor and excluded people throughout the world, through themes including creativity and culture. Applicants are accepted not just for individual excellence or for the potential of their proposed projects,

but also for their geographical diversity and their capacity to contribute to the intellectual mix at the Bellagio Center.

December

Man accused of stealing Faulkner letters

Dec. 4, 2002

JACKSONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — A former lawyer previously convicted of stealing rare documents has turned himself in to face charges of taking six William Faulkner letters from a university.

Robert Hardin Smith, 43, of Jacksonville, is accused of taking the Nobel laureate author's letters from Southeast Missouri State University's rare book room and selling them to a Texas manuscript dealer.

He turned himself in Monday and was charged with theft of property. He is expected to be sent to Cape Girardeau, Mo., where the theft occurred.

Smith had earlier been convicted of the 1996 theft of historic letters from the University of Kansas library, including three signed by Civil War-era raid leader William Quantrill. He also was convicted of stealing manuscripts from the University of Arkansas, and served nearly two years in prison for that crime before being paroled in 1999.

Southeast Missouri State University police said a man who signed in at the book room as "R. Smith" viewed the Faulkner letters Sept. 30. Officials learned the letters were missing Nov. 11, after a Faulkner collector discovered they were being sold on the Internet.

Prosecutors said Smith sold the letters to a manuscript dealer who later told police that the man said he had inherited them from his grandmother's estate.

All six letters have been recovered, school officials said.