MOSAIC
The magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation

Alabama and the Civil War
Literature and Health Care
Journey Stories Wraps Up
Our kudzu philosophy: At AHF, we think we have a lot to learn from kudzu, or at least its concept. Like it or hate it, kudzu is truly a ubiquitous feature of Alabama as well as our Southern neighbors. No matter who you are, where you’re from or how deeply you’re rooted in the humanities, if you know Alabama, you know kudzu. Proely as it may be, the plant is common to everyone. Kudzu spreads and grows, links and connects. And much like the rich humanities in our state, kudzu can be found, well, everywhere.

New Road Scholars
The New Year brings new offerings. AHF has added some new speakers and presentations to our Road Scholars Speaker’s Bureau. If you’re interested in booking a speaker to visit with your civic group, please contact Thomas Bryant at tbryant@ahf.net.

Richard K. Doejer, AIA, Arch
doejer@alabama.edu, (205) 294-4829
Doejer, Taylor School of Architecture and Construction, Auburn University Tuskegee A Place In Time: Historic Homes And Their Builders
The talk will include a walk through the town’s architectural, social and economic history as well as the cultural landscapes into a visual archive of Macon County architecture. Uncovering and illustrating many little-known or seldom explored cooperative relationships. Expectation is to expand throughout the state on an increased appreciation of people and their architecture, primarily homes, of Tuskegee, Macon County and the Alabama Black Belt.

Helen Gibbs Daniel and Dr. Robert Hill Couch
daniel@al生产总者es.edu, (305) 877-7344
Helen Kellar: An Amazing Life
The talk presents the work of Helen Keller, An Amazing Life*. Pages, snippets of the 1955 Oscar award-winning film on the life of Keller, and Gibbs Daniel playing the role of Helen Keller as an adult. Adorned in a severely tailored suit topped with a variety of pearl hats, Gibbs Daniel offers a quips and quotes taken directly from Keller’s own words. The role play illustrates the five major topics covered in the presentation by Coach. Kellar is described as beautiful, humorous, as an early entrepreneur, and as an advocate and storyteller. Following the presentation questions are asked and a general discussion is held.

Julie Hedgepeth Williams, Ph.D.
jhedgepeth@bellsouth.net, (205) 939-3215
Past president of the American Journalists Association and professor of journalism at Samford University
Wings Of Opportunity: The Wright Brothers In Montgomery, Ala., 1910
Williams gives an interesting PowerPoint slideshow on the Wright Brothers’ flying school, held in Montgomery, Ala., in 1910. The show features many photographs of the school, drawn from her book, Wings of Opportunity, NewSouth Books, 2010. The speech focuses on the city of Montgomery’s attempt to raise its public image half a century after the Civil War. The effort was getting nowhere, until Wilt Wright unexpectedly appeared in town with a goal of starting the nation’s first flying school for civilians. Montgomery scrambled to take advantage of this windfall, as the focus of world attention was on aviation. It was almost a comedy of errors as Montgomery loped on the opportunity to ride the “backspin” into public consciousness, while the Wright brothers and their crew resisted the role of publicity for now. In the end, though, everyone was happy, and the first night fights in history were flown in Montgomery.

Daniel L. Haulman, Ph.D.
Chief, Organizational Heritage Branch, Air Force Historical Research Agency
ahlman@bellsouth.net, (334) 563-2206, (334) 843-4292

The Politics Of Voting Rights: Smith v. Allwright
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Civility, Sincerity And Ambiguity
We live in a pluralistic society. Persuasion is inevitable. The source of this discomfort is an abundance of fundamentally different evaluative perspectives. Each perspective, reflecting a unique history, culture and tradition, prioritizes values and guides our actions toward realizing those values in ways that diverge, often with dramatic effect, from the priorities and guidance of competing perspectives. Absence of common purpose manifests itself as absence of consensus. The virus most often mentioned as fostering harmony when present and permitting discord when absent is civility. But when society’s fragmentation means that excessive of political power favor some values at the expense of others, then the very fate of our country is at stake in the balancing, obstacy and integrity sound good, too. We need to consider civility a good thing, or is it the appearance of civility what matters? Why engage opposing points of view, rather than abandon them, when mere involvement means more remediation? Why favor civility over abstract integrity?...
With the presidential primary season well underway, it is easy to find myself thinking about our government, its proper role in our national and personal lives and how to finance the implementation of whatever that role might be. Personally (and let me emphasize the use of the term personally), I think those issues revolve around (or, logically, should revolve around) a central question of “just what are the core functions of government?”

I realize that this is a dangerous line of thought for me to ask from the precarious pulpit of the Alabama Humanities Foundation — an organization that benefits greatly from, in addition to our generous individual, corporate and institutional donors — the federal National Endowment for the Humanities. After all, if that particular question — “What are the core functions of government?” — is asked, does anyone really expect the answer to somehow include the paraphrased mission of AHF: “To create and foster opportunities . . . for scholars and the public to interact and explore human values and meanings through the humanities”? Frankly, I sort of doubt it.

But to simply stop the inquiry there would be incredibly shortsighted. Instead, I encourage you to broaden your frame of reference. Instead, think of the two documents that, in my simple view of things, stand as the twin pillars of that same government I’m contemplating. Think of the Declaration of Independence and of our Constitution. And, when you think of those documents, think of the wonderful concepts and marvelous turns of phrase embedded within them. For example, pause to take a fresh look at the Declaration of Independence’s second sentence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Or recall the preamble to our Constitution: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . .”

Similarly, think about the governmental framework created by the Constitution — a government, to quote a later statesman, “of the people, by the people, [and] for the people.” And remember the recognition and expression of human and legal rights embodied within the Constitution’s Bill of Rights, protecting the free exercise of religion, speech, the press, assembly and petition.

In light of such things, is it too far afield to argue that, when our founding fathers conceptualized, debated and articulated such concepts, they were cutting to the very core of the human values and meanings that we all treasure? In other words, weren’t our founding fathers using their pens to honor what we understand the humanities to be?

So, perhaps the study and advancement of the humanities are not a core function of government. Fair enough. But never forget that, at the same time, a profound appreciation of what the humanities’ means is at the very core of our chosen form of government. And isn’t that worth something?”
Exhibit at the Main 1,500 people, including general public and Bankhead House & Heritage Center, where Southern Railroad Foundation and Norfolk Power Company Foundation and Traveling Exhibition Service, the Alabama Museum on Main Street’s Successful Tour Strengthening Alabama’s Communities Through The Humanities

Journey Stories, 2011-2012

Museum on Main Street’s Successful Tour

The Marion leg of the Journey Stories tour will include Eufaula’s 1892 Freight Depot at the James Adam逸 - Thomas Bryant

For more information, visit www.ahf.net/journeystories.

The Marion leg of the Journey Stories tour was held in the Old Marion Train Depot.

AHF Executive Director Bob Stewart discusses books donated to Plainview School in Rainsville.

Project Turn The Page Books Delivered

Throughout November and December, the Alabama Humanities Foundation delivered more 2,000 books to six schools and three public libraries as part of Project Turn the Page. These schools and public libraries were damaged during the storms of April 27, 2011 and include:

• Ragland Public Library  • Clay County
• Hackleburg Elementary  • Marion County
• Phil Campbell School  • Franklin County
• Plainview School  • DeKalb County
• Pratt City Public Library  • Birmingham
• Alberta  • and University Place

Elberton Elementary Schools
White Hall Public Library  • Lowndes County

Students in Tuscaloosa are all smiles when they receive new books from AHF’s Project Turn The Page.

In Every Issue

The White Hall Library is housed in a trailer next to the town hall in this small Lowndes County community. White Hall is home to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Ethel Williams, a retired school librarian in Montgomery, staffs the library on a volunteer basis. “After seeing Ethel Williams and hearing her boundless energy for books and learning, I was impressed with the possibilities for the library-remains one of the vital community centers for adults and kids in the area,” Stewart said. “It was very gratifying to be able to contribute more than 200 books to its collection.”

In 2012, AHF will continue using both NEH and private funds to support communities and organizations in tornado-damaged areas. This may include additional book purchases, as well as humanities grants or programs for affected communities.

In selecting books for the libraries, AHF followed an approach that is used to assist the Bayou la Biche Library after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In both instances, AHF selected humanities-related texts — mostly history and other nonfiction titles related to Alabama topics — to strengthen the libraries’ holdings. The University of Alabama Press provided holdings. The University of Alabama Press provided

Students in Tuscaloosa are all smiles when they receive new books from AHF’s Project Turn The Page.
Students at the SES 2011 institute at Auburn University show how diverse the program is — not only in subject matters, but also in participants.

SUPER 2012: Learning Opportunities For Teachers

AHF has taken a leading role in the professional development of Alabama teachers with SUPER — School & University Partners for Educational Renewal — since 1991. This summer, AHF will offer three institutes for teachers across the state free of charge.

The Creek Indians in Alabama, 1813-1838

July 22-27, Auburn Montgomery and Alabama Department of Archives and History

Lead scholar: Kevin Vancil, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, University of Alabama

The 19th-century Creek Indians were a powerful multi-ethnic, multilingual society that controlled much of present-day Alabama. Through land cessions treaties and a costly war (1813-1814), the Creek domain by 1825 had shrunk to about five million acres in east Alabama. The purpose of this institute is to examine the forces that contributed to the disintegration of the Creek Nation in the east and the removal of the Creeks to present day Oklahoma. Participants will get a better understanding of the complexities of Creek society and how the divisions within the Creek Nation ultimately led to their forced removal westward. The institute begins with the First Creek War, caused by the expanding American frontier, the growing gap between rich and poor and a reactionary religious movement, among other things. When Jackson delimited the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend in 1814, he demanded a scalable tract of Creek land as a penalty.

Exploring Argentina: History, Literature and Popular Culture

Spanish Immersion

July 8-13, Birmingham, Birmingham-Southern College

Lead scholar: Barbara Domcekova, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, Birmingham-Southern College

Argentina has recently lost two of the country’s cultural icons — the writer and artist Roberto Fontanarrosa and the singer Mercedes Sosa. This institute will provide teachers of Spanish language with an opportunity to explore the works of these artists within the context of Argentine culture. Roberto Fontanarrosa, the best-selling short story writer, novelist and comic strip author, died in 2007. This institute will include components such as short stories, samples of the comic strip Frodo; Pireya, as well as his contributions to the group of comedians Los Luthiers, Mercedes Sosa, on the other hand, as a folk musician, represents music of Argentina beyond the tango, the music we tend to associate with Argentina. Her death in 2009 saddened her fans far beyond the borders of Argentina. For language teachers, exploring the rich musical heritage of Argentina will be a good introduction to the resources on Argentina’s popular culture and beyond. Among all language skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking. Additionally, a couple of sessions will be dedicated to what has been known as the stumbling block for most Spanish students on the road to proficiency — the grammatical function of narration in the past and the proper use of the present and the imperfect. Finally, participants will receive a handout introduction to the resources on Argentina’s popular culture and beyond.

For information on how to apply for the 2012 SUPER institutes (deadline May 1, 2012), please visit www.ahf.net/programs/superpages, or contact Tom Bryant, director of programs and SUPER manager, at (205) 558-3991 or tbryant@ahf.net.

Each institute has space for 16 students and there is no cost to attend. However, interested sophomore, junior and senior high-school students need to submit an application by April 27, 2012, in order to be accepted into one of the two institutes. If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying, please visit our website at www.shb.net/programs/SUPER, or contact Tom Bryant, director of programs and SUPER manager, at (205) 558-3991 or tbryant@shb.net for more information. — Michael Chambers

Join Us For SUPER Emerging Scholars 2012

Summer 2012

Auburn University • Troy University

June 17-22, Troy University

Lead scholar: Noel Harold Kaylor Jr., Ph.D., professor of English, Troy University

This six-day residential institute will allow participants to investigate Argentina’s cultural icons — the writer and artist Roberto Fontanarrosa and the singer Mercedes Sosa. This institute will provide teachers of Spanish language with an opportunity to explore the works of these artists within the context of Argentine culture.

Auburn University • Tuscaloosa • June 3-9

This summer’s SES program in Tuscaloosa will revolve around the theme of identity. Students will use works from the Paul Robeson Collection and American Art at the University of Alabama to explore notions of the self as they relate to visual representation and, more generally, the discipline of art history. Because the works amassed by Mr. Paul H. Jones — into one of the largest collections of American art in the United States — question the role of the individual in society, articulate diverse notions of community and, importantly, compel viewers to actively question their own senses of self, they are a perfect starting point for investigation by high school students, who, at this pivotal age, are asking themselves, consciously or not, questions like Who am I? What are my hopes and dreams for my life? How can I achieve them?

University of Alabama • Tuscaloosa • June 3-9

This institute will allow participants to investigate the social, political, cultural and historical foundations of modern Vietnam and the affects of the Vietnam experience upon the United States. Vietnam is of great interest in the state of Alabama because of its growing importance for educational, economic and cultural interactions with U.S. institutions, corporations and individuals. Since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam in the early 1970s, and subsequent visits to Vietnam by U.S. presidents, a rapidly growing cultural mutual respect and cooperation is emerging. In the present period of unprecedented global communication and economic interdependence, not only do students need to have a familiarity with large nations like China and India, but also dynamic, smaller nations like Vietnam. Teachers and their students will be well served by an increased and broadened knowledge of America’s extensive historical ties to the country, the steadily growing Vietnamese-immigrant population since the U.S.-Vietnam War, the docile Vietnamese-American community in Alabama and resulting cultural ties.

Each student at the SES 2011 institute at Auburn University shows how diverse the program is — not only in subject matters, but also in participants.

In Every Issue

The Creek Indians in Alabama, 1813-1838

July 22-27, Auburn Montgomery and Alabama Department of Archives and History

Lead scholar: Chris B. Howman, Ph.D., associate professor of history, University of West Alabama; and Kathryn Braund, Ph.D., professor of history, Auburn University

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In Every Issue
The documentary film, La Lucha, will be the portrait of startled Boggs, whose unorthodox circumstances for social change at home in Depression-era Alabama led her into a whirlwind of sociopolitical change abroad. A dramatic story unknown to American audiences, Boggs traveled to Costa Rica in the 1940s during a break from Birmingham-Southern College and met and eventually married José “Don Pepe” Figuera, a man destined to transform the country. Boggs later returned to settle in Montgomery and, now at 93, continues her lifelong efforts toward social improvement.

Alabama Book Festival: Fiction and Children’s Book Tent
Troy University • $2,500 outright • April 21, 2012 (Montgomery, Old Alabama Town)

Troy University’s 2012 festival will feature 20 novelists and/or short-story writers combining both single-author readings and panel discussions, as well as eight children’s/young adult authors. This year’s prospective authors include Bobbie Ann Mason, Fannie Flagg, Siane Jeter Nassard, Marshal Champion, Tom Franklin and Susan Gregg Gilmore. Each session will again feature a moderating scholar who will introduce authors and lead at least a concluding Q&A.

Alabama Book Festival: Nonfiction Venue
Landmarks Foundation/Old Alabama Town • $3,000 outright • Tentative dates: March 8, April 5, and May 10, 2012 (Lowndesboro, Nachtrieb CRM Church)

Lowndesboro Alabama is steeped in history from the early formative days of the state of Alabama through the days of the War of 1812/Creek Wars. The Holy Ground Battlefield site is less than 10 miles from Lowndesboro and soon the 200th anniversary of that event will be observed. This project will include three lectures that will give the audience a better understanding of how the Creek Indians and the settlers lived. Told and gifted.

La Lucha: The Struggle
Spark Media • $50,000 matching • December 1, 2011 – November 1, 2012 (production in various locations in Alabama)

The documentary film, La Lucha, will be the portrait of startled Boggs, whose unorthodox circumstances for social change at home in Depression-era Alabama led her into a whirlwind of sociopolitical change abroad. A dramatic story unknown to American audiences, Boggs traveled to Costa Rica in the 1940s during a break from Birmingham-Southern College and met and eventually married José “Don Pepe” Figuera, a man destined to transform the country. Boggs later returned to settle in Montgomery and, now at 93, continues her lifelong efforts toward social improvement.

Birmingham: Immigrant and Migration in a Deep South State
Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities • $7,500 outright • January 20–12, 2012 (Auburn, Center for the Arts and Humanities)

This conference is one of the state’s statewide Becoming Alabama efforts to explore the anniversaries of several major historical events, including the Creek War, the Civil War and Emancipation and the Civil Rights era. It is the second in a series that approaches Becoming Alabama from a thematic perspective, the first considered the history of the press. The 2012 conference will look at historical Symposiums on the state’s impact on culture, politics and identity, and follow with an examination of the issues surrounding the current Hispanic/Latino influx.

Bringing the World to Alabama
Alabama World Affairs Council • $2,450 outright • February 7 and March 6, 2012 (Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts)

The purpose of this program is to promote the widest possible public awareness of the human, moral, historical and philosophical bases of American foreign policy and international interests. The forum takes the form of an early evening lecture/discussion series to educate community leaders on the issues associated with U.S. national interests abroad in the context of economic and cultural globalization. The Alabama World Affairs Council (AWAC) will put on six programs of a public discussion series with nationally and internationally known experts/scholars/ diplomats who have not only observed but have also helped shape contemporary history.

Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place
Alabama Folklife Association • $8,000 outright • June 1–July 16 (Russellville, Tennessee Valley Art Association) • August 1- September 15 (Fort Payne, Little River Council on the Arts) • October 1–November 15 (Auburn, Center for the Arts and Humanities) • December 1, 2012-January 15, 2013 (Dothan, Landmarks Park) • February 1- March 15, 2013 (Moobile, University of South Alabama, location TBA) • April 1-May 15, 2013 (Thomasville, Kathryn Tucker Wrohman Museum)

This traveling exhibit will feature the traditional arts of five regions in the state of Alabama with contextual information. The exhibit will visit six locations around the state, remaining at each location for approximately six weeks. Based on the feedback of participants in the Alabama Exhibit Alabama Common Schools Institutes of 2004, 2006 and 2008, and the research completed to produce products for presenting Alabama at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, this exhibit will demonstrate Alabama’s social pathways as cultural expressions of the local context.

Visiting Author Series
Shelby County Arts Council • $4,500 outright • February, March, April 2012 (Shelby County Schools and libraries, TBA)

The Shelby County Arts Council, in cooperation with the Harrison Regional Library System, will provide a series of programs to appreciate an art of the humanities in Shelby County. These programs feature author Robert Harris. In order to reach as large an audience as possible, the programs range from readings and open discussions designed to encourage learning and allow a accessible to a contemporary writer with experience in a variety of genres: poetry, playwriting, novel and screenwriting.

The Impact of Greek Immigration on Birmingham’s Cuisine and Culture
Vulcan Park Museum • $5,000 outright • April 18, June 9 (Birmingham, Vulcan Park and Museum) • TBA spring 2012 (Birmingham Museum of Art, Greek Orthodox Church)

This program focuses on the ways the Greeks have contributed to American foodways and transformed regional cuisine. The exhibition also weaves in background information on patterns of immigration and settlement, religious and cultural practices and significant contributions in other areas of endeavor.

Costa Rican and Cuban Tastes in the American South
The University of Montevallo • $749.50

acknowledgement status

This festival is a celebration of Alabama foodways that will take place on April 13, 2012. The festival will feature poetry and prose readings by award-winning writers from the state and region.

My Ancestors and A Conversation With Rachel Hawkins
Troy University-Dothan • $1,150 outright

Troy University will present two programs on its Troy and Dothan campuses. The first program, “My Ancestors,” will consist of a documentary screening and discussion of the ‘f16 Freedom Riders:´s in the East burning the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama. The second program, “A Conversation with Rachel Hawkins,” will be a workshop and discussion program. Rachel Hawkins, a New York Times best-selling novelist will discuss the creative process involved in writing.

The Power and the Glory: The Beauty and the Influence of the King James Bible
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library • $1,650 outright

This series celebrates and explores 400 years of the King James Bible. Scholars will discuss its importance from multiple perspectives related to the humanities, including history, literature, pop culture and language. The series will take place in April 2012 and consist of five free public events.

For more information on minor or major grants, contact Tom Bryant, director of programs and SUPER manager, at (205) 588-3991 or bryant@ahf.net.

Southern Voices
Hoober Public Library • $1,000 outright

This is the 20th anniversary of the Southern Voices literary conference. This conference will be a celebration of writing, music and art. This year’s conference will feature national and local authors.

Arch-Reviews
Friends of the Alabama Archives • $1,000 outright

This grant will fund humanities projects for a well-established, monthly public discussion series at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Many of the topics complement the Becoming Alabama initiative. A few speakers that will be featured are: Glenn Eskew, Harvey Jackson and Ben Savannah.

Monticello Literary Festival
University of Montevallo • $749.50

acknowledgement status

The festival is a celebration of Alabama history arts that will take place on April 13, 2012. The festival will feature poetry and prose readings by award-winning writers from the state and region.

Selma and Dallas County Public Library
Reading Discussion Program
Selma-Dallas County Public Library • $1,000 outright

This grant funds a reading discussion program for the Selma-Dallas community. The sessions are led by Nancy Anderson and will be held monthly.

Steps to Becoming Alabama
Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery, Inc. • $1,500 acknowledgement status

A symposium at the Alabama Department of Archives and History designed to engage this public through the scholarly perspectives of various experts ranging from the Civil War to World War II, the Great Depression and other significant events that shaped Alabama.

The Unlikely Survival of the Art of Bill Taylor (1854-1949)
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts • $2,000 outright, $2,000 in matching

The museum will host a one-day symposium devoted to the history and meaning of Taylor’s drawings within the cultural context of the United States and the South in the 1930s and will include presentations from various humanities scholars, such as Mary Anne Nessy, Lowery Sims and Harvey Jackson. This symposium will coincide with an exhibition of Taylor’s works.

Wiregrass Blues Fest
Troy University • $1,200 outright

Troy will conduct two workshops targeting one targeting the general public and the other elementary school groups. The funds will be used to bring in scholar Dabbie Bond to discuss legendary blues guitarist from Dothan, Eddie Kirkland. Troy will also use this support to create display panels that chronicle Kirkland’s life.

Alabama Rossomad School Traveling Exhibit
Alabama Historical Commission • $2,000 outright

This historical commission plans to modify and customise several panels at an existing exhibit to emphasise Alabama’s role as the origin of the Rosenwald School program. The exhibit will be finalized in time for the national conference on Rosenwald Schools scheduled in Tuskegee, Alabama, June 14-16, 2012. After the conference, the exhibit will travel to small and rural communities throughout Alabama that were once served by Rosenwald Schools.
Elaine Hughes and Wells Fargo Honored at 2011 Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon

The annual Alabama Humanities Awards luncheon has informally assumed the role as the fall kickoff for the cultural calendar across Alabama. On Monday, Sept. 26, more than 450 people attended the luncheon at the Wynfrey Hotel, which featured keynote speaker General Charles Krulak, president of Birmingham-Southern College. Krulak was introduced by Samford University President Dr. Andrew Westmoreland. The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the 2011 Alabama Humanities Award to Elaine Hughes. Wells Fargo was honored as the Charitable Organization in the Humanities Award.

For the past 35 years, Elaine Hughes has been a professor of American literature at the University of Montevallo, with a specialty in contemporary literature. She has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in Southern literature and in Alabama literature. She has delivered more than 200 lectures to varied audiences — from high-school honors students to retirees in UAB’s New Horizons — in many locations. In 1998-1999, she received the Carnegie Foundation CASE Professor of the Year Award for Alabama and was the 2007 Recipient of the Eugene Current-Conca Distinguished Scholar Award. Dr. Hughes has been involved with the Alabama Humanities Foundation since 1978 and chaired the board of directors from 2004-2006. She holds the honor of professor emerita from the University of Montevallo.

Last year Wells Fargo contributed more than $3.9 million to 500 organizations across Alabama. Wells Fargo employees volunteered more than 12,000 hours throughout the state.

Also recognized at the luncheon were six Janice Riley Memorial Scholarship winners. The $1,000 awards are presented to elementary school teachers to enhance their teaching tools in the classroom. The 2011 winners were: Rebecca J. Davis, Calhoun Christian Academy, Centreville; Debbie Redden and Tammy Quillian, Montgomery Catholic Preparatory, St. Bede Campus; Mallory Richardson, Edgewood Elementary School; and Stephanie Nicole Singleton, Harlan Elementary School, Florence. — Paul Lawson

Coming in 2012: Literature and Health Care

AHF launches its pilot Literature and Health Care program at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration Medical Center Feb. 16. This reading and discussion program is based on the Maine Humanities Council’s national award-winning, hospital-based, scholar-led humanities program for health care professionals, Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®, which benefits both medical personnel and their patients.

The three-month program, facilitated by Alan Brown, Ph.D., professor of English at the University of West Alabama, will encourage participants to connect the worlds of health care and life experiences, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their professional roles and their relationships with colleagues and care recipients through short stories, poetry, fiction and personal narratives in a small-group setting where they can share their reflections and experiences with colleagues. Humanities-based programs for health care workers have proven to have a significant effect on the way participants understand their work and their relationships with patients and with each other.

Health care professionals can no longer rely on what they know from their own lives to understand their patients, who may be of different religious, socio-economic or cultural backgrounds. Literature, however, offers vicarious experiences of worlds outside that of the reader, supplying full-bodied accounts of illness, death and human relationships in all places and among all peoples. This is why the field of medical humanities is growing nationally.

AHF’s program will focus on a particular health care demographic: Veterans Administration hospitals, initially the Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration. As Alan Brown notes, “While stress is a fact of life for doctors and nurses in all hospitals, medical personnel in VA hospitals face even more challenges. VA facilities are often underfunded and understaffed. They are also seeing a marked increase in patients, resulting from aging baby-boomers, and the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terror. Also, the patient population is increasingly diverse, in terms of ethnicity, age, education level and religious background. The physical strain of trying to meet the needs of these patients is compounded by an extremely large number of patients with post-traumatic stress disorder, and the fact that so many veterans never seem to get well, especially those suffering from chronic pain and substance abuse. Frustration and despair are facts of life for injured veterans and those caring for them.”

The ultimate beneficiaries of the Literature and Health Care program will hopefully be the patients themselves, as participants should grow to have a much better understanding of and empathy for the behavior of their patients.

This program is made possible by generous support from The Hill Crest Foundation and The Reese Phifer Jr. Foundation. For more information, contact Thomas Bryant, director of programs and SUPER manager, at (205) 558-3991 or tbryant@ahf.net.

— Thomas Bryant —

In Every Issue

Welcome To The New Young Professional Board Members

Last year, AHF launched its new junior board. The board held its first meeting Dec. 6, 2011. The board will support the organization in three key areas: fundraising, promotions and programming. The junior board is comprised of a dynamic group of young individuals from various professional organizations and industries. The new members include: Conrhonda E. Baker, Rodrick Barge, James L. Carter III, Katie Crawford, Brandon Davis, Jennifer Dome, Lindsay Elliott, Theodore R. Foster III, Gretchen Frizell, Danielle D. Hines, Ebony Jordan, Marie T. King, Anna McFall, Brandon Stuckey and Nadria Tucker.

— Thomas Bryant —

In Every Issue
One of You: Dr. David Campbell

I was appointed by the chairman of the Board of Directors to serve as chairman of the board of directors of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The chairman of the board of directors is the person responsible for overseeing the board's activities and ensuring that the board meets its obligations.

Dr. Campbell is a professor of psychology at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He is also the director of the Institute for the Study of the Mind and Technology, which conducts research on the effects of technology on society and human behavior.

Dr. Campbell is a recipient of the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Service Award, and he is a fellow of the American Psychological Society. He is also a member of the American Psychological Association's Board of Science and Public Policy, and he serves on the editorial boards of several psychology journals.

Dr. Campbell has published extensively in the areas of social psychology, technology, and human behavior. His research has examined topics such as the effects of technology on social interactions, the role of technology in education, and the effects of social media on mental health.

In addition to his research, Dr. Campbell is active in the community, serving on the boards of several local organizations and serving as a consultant for businesses and non-profits. He is also a frequent speaker at conferences and events on the topic of technology and society.
The Alabama Humanities Foundation said goodbye this January to its leader, Bob Stewart. AHF executive director for the past 25 years, was raised in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and earned a bachelor’s degree at Amherst College in Massachusetts, a master’s degree at Boston University and an MBA from Emory University in Georgia. Before becoming the executive director of the foundation, Stewart was the deputy director of the Huntsville Museum of Art from 1985-87. He and his wife Lida, married 31 years, have two children — Jonathan, 21, a junior at the University of Alabama, and Lisa, 19, a sophomore at Loyola University Chicago. As he looks forward to time to write and travel during his retirement, he says it will be the friendships and collaborative relationships across the state, and with other humanities councils in the country, that he misses most.

Here, Stewart recalls some of his favorite projects, moments and endeavors while at the helm of AHF.

Toni Morrison lecture. To mark AHF’s 25th anniversary in 1999, Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison spoke at UAB’s Alys Stephens Center. More than 800 patrons heard her read from and speak about one of her early editorial projects—a family newspaper about their roots in south Alabama. Morrison makes very few public presentations, so AHF was extremely fortunate to secure her for this special occasion.

In View of Home exhibition and reading-discussion program. Funded by an NEH Exemplary Award in 1989, the project featured a major exhibition of historic and contemporary Alabama photography, curated by Frances Robb of Huntsville. It traveled to art museums in Huntsville, Montgomery and Mobile, as well as the Anniston Museum of Natural History. The project also included a reading-discussion program on the landscape in southern literature, which was held in eight small public libraries. There were two major outcomes of the project: (1) Robb went on to become the leading scholar of Alabama photography; (2) The project received the 1990 Schwartz Prize from the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Fairhope Institute. The Fairhope Institute, conceived and developed by Larry Allums (who taught English at Spring Hill College and the University of Mobile), was based on a model created by the acclaimed Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. The institute engaged secondary teachers in rigorous explorations of novels, plays, short stories, essays and poetry from the classical period to the modern era. Allums only offered the institute for a few years, until he left to become director of the Dallas Institute in 1997, a position he still holds. “Super” institutes have reflected the Fairhope model, even if they did not draw directly from its texts.

Glimpses of Community exhibition. The exhibition grew out of the presentation by Alabama photographer, sculptor and storyteller William Christenberry at the 1994 AHF luncheon. Disposable cameras were distributed to all 500 attendees at the luncheon. They were encouraged to use the cameras to photograph the “assets and liabilities” of their communities across the state. Nearly 100 cameras were returned to AHF, from which an exhibition of 63 images was created. The exhibition circulated around the state for a few years and discussion programs about the issues the images raised were held.

From Fields of Promise” film. AHF supports innumerable documentary films, including ones produced by both in-state filmmakers and organizations, as well as national or regional ones. “From Fields of Promise,” produced by Bruce Kyuer and John Djalil of Auburn Television, 1993, drew national attention to the tiny African-American community of Gee’s Bend in Wilcox County. Gee’s Bend later became known for its legendary quilters. The film blended well-researched history of the community from its days as a slave plantation, its survival through the Depression and the New Deal, and its role in the Civil Rights Movement. It added an important contemporary element by focusing on the strong family bonds that still exist between the residents today and those who left the community for jobs and education.
n Jan. 11, 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union and became the fourth of 11 states that eventually comprised the Confederate States of America. Although a significant minority objected to disunion, most Alabamians welcomed the quest for political independence from a country they believed had fallen into the suppos-edly tyrannical hands of a northern-only Republican party that espoused anti-slavery as its main plank. Within a matter of months, however, the excitement of secession gave way to the horrors of the Civil War, a conflict that Abraham Lincoln characterized as a “remorseless revolutionary struggle.” Over the next four years,Johnny Reb and Billy Yank killed 30,000 making the ultimate sacrifice. On the home front, Alabamians confronted the challenges of war with a combination of valor and anger. The valor was most evident on the battlefield, where approximately 96,000 Alabamians served in the Confederate army (another 2,602 white Alabamians and about 5,000 freedmen from the state joined the Union army). These men fought in all of the major campaign east of the Mississippi River with some 30,000 making the ultimate sacrifice. On the home front, Alabamians made similarly Herculean efforts to prevail. Alabamians who had deserted, not so much out of defeatism, but in order to care for suffering families. In 1861, the Union navy established a blockade along the Gulf Coast that culminated in a naval campaign, but the Yankee invader steadily crept into the Heart of Dixie. In 1864, the state was virtually bankrupt and on the verge of anarchy in many counties.

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Mosaic is the magazine of the Alabama Humanities Foundation and is printed in August and February. The publication's purpose is to educate on humanities topics, provide resources and information about humanities events, and instill pride and excitement in all Alabamians concerning the rich humanities in our state. Mosaic is free of charge and is available for online reading at ahf.net.

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