

Oxford Conference for the Book Participants, 2013–2018

MEGAN ABBOTT is the Edgar®-winning author of the novels *Queenpin*, *The Song Is You*, *Die a Little*, *Bury Me Deep*, and *The End of Everything*. Her novel, *Dare Me*, was chosen by Entertainment Weekly and Amazon as one of the Best Books of 2012 and is soon to be a major motion picture. Her latest novel *The Fever* will be published in June 2014. Born in the Detroit area, she graduated from the University of Michigan and received her PhD in English and American literature from New York University. She is the 2013-2014 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. (2014)

VLADIMIR ALEXANDROV received a PhD in comparative literature from Princeton and taught at Harvard before moving to Yale, where he is now B. E. Bensinger Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on various Russian writers and topics. *The Black Russian* is his new biography of the remarkable and largely forgotten Frederick Bruce Thomas, who was born to former slaves in Mississippi in 1872 and who, against all odds, became a millionaire impresario in pre-revolutionary Moscow and was the first to import jazz to Constantinople. (2013)

NATASHA ALLEGRI, is a writer, storyboard artist, and comic book artist. She has created and produced her own animated short, *Bee and PuppyCat*, an online animated series, and works as a storyboard revisionist for Cartoon Network's *Adventure Time*. (2015)

MARY AMATO is an award-winning author and singer-songwriter. Her books have been translated into foreign languages, optioned for television, and produced onstage. Her many awards include the Buckeye Children's Book Award, the Maud Hart Lovelace Award, and the Arizona Young Readers' Award. She enjoys teaching workshops on creative writing and songwriting. (2013)

MARTIN AMIS is the author of fourteen novels, including *London Fields* and *The Zone of Interest*, the memoir *Experience*, two collections of stories, and six previous nonfiction books. He lives in Brooklyn. (2018)

ACE ATKINS is the *New York Times* Bestselling author of more than a dozen novels, including the forthcoming *The Broken Places* and *Robert B. Parker's Wonderland*, both out from G. P. Putnam's Sons in May 2013. A former journalist who cut his teeth as a crime reporter in the newsroom of *The Tampa Tribune*, he published his first novel *Crossroad Blues* at twenty-seven and became a full-time novelist at thirty. Last year, he was selected by the Robert B. Parker estate to continue the bestselling adventures of Boston's iconic private eye, Spenser. (2014)

HARRY BRANDT AYERS is chairman and publisher of *The Anniston Star*, twice named by *Time* "one of the best small newspapers in the United States." Ayers has written articles for the *New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Southern Living*, the

Chicago Tribune and the *Washington Post* and writes the syndicated column entitled “Out Here” carried by some thirty newspapers. He has received numerous awards including the Alabama Academy of Honor recognizing the accomplishment of 100 living Alabamians; a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University; a Gannet Fellowship at Columbia University and was awarded the Doctorate of Human Letters by the University of Alabama. (2014)

LASHONDA KATRICE BARNETT was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1974, and grew up in Park Forrest, Illinois. She is the author of the novel *Jam on the Vine*. She received the College Language Association’s Margaret Walker Award and the Barbara Deming Foundation’s Artist Grant for her short fiction and holds a PhD in American studies from the College of William and Mary (2015)

MARION BARNWELL is professor emerita of English at Delta State University. She is an editor, with Libby Hartfield, of *Fanny Cook: Mississippi’s Pioneering Conservationist*, written by Dorothy Shawn. (2018)

SCOTT BARRETTA is an instructor of sociology at the University of Mississippi and a writer-researcher for the Mississippi Blues Trail. He is the editor of *Conscience of the Folk Revival: The Writing of Israel “Izzy” Young*, a contributor to *The Bohemian South: Creating Countercultures, from Poe to Punk*, and former editor of the magazines *Living Blues* and *Jefferson*. (2018)

RICK BASS was born in Fort Worth, Texas, the son of a geologist, and he studied geology at Utah State University. He grew up in Houston and started writing short stories on his lunch breaks while working as a petroleum geologist in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1987 he moved with his wife, the artist Elizabeth Hughes Bass, to the remote Yaak Valley, where he worked to protect his adopted hom from roads and logging. Bass serves on the board of both the Yaak Valley Forest Council and Round Rive Conservation Studies. In 2011 Bass moved from the Yaak area of Montana t Missoula, Montana. He is the author of sixteen books of nonfiction, four novels, and five collections of short stories, including *The Watch*, *Where the Sea Used to Be*, *The Diezmo*, *The Lives of Rocks*, and his most recent book of short stories, *For a Little While*. (2016)

BETH BATTON has directed the Oaks House Museum in Jackson, Mississippi, since July, 2014. She worked for the Mississippi Museum of Art for eleven years, most recently as a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow for Mississippi Byways and as curator of the collection. Her work in community arts began in 1998 on staff at Mississippi Cultural Crossroads, an award-winning arts organization in Port Gibson, and she was the arts-based community development director at the Mississippi Arts Commission from 2001 to 2005. (2017)

ANN BEATTIE has been included in four O. Henry Award Collections, in John Updike’s *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, and in Jennifer Egan’s *The Best American Short Stories 2014*. In 2000 she received the PEN/Malamud Award for achievement in the short story. In 2005 she received the Rea Award for the Short Story. She was the Edgar Allan Poe Professor of Literature and Creative

Writing at the University of Virginia and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her latest book of fiction is a collection of short stories, *The Accomplished Guest*, and she recently edited *Peter Taylor: The Collected Stories* for the Library of America. She and her husband, Lincon Perry, live in Maine and Key West, Florida. (2018)

VEREEN BELL received his BA from Davidson College and his PhD from Duke University in 1959. He has taught at Vanderbilt for more than forty years, where he has received several teaching awards, including the Madison Saratt Prize for excellence in undergraduate teaching and the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. He teaches a range of graduate and undergraduate courses on the modern British novel, the modern American novel, modern poetry, contemporary British and American poetry, Yeats and Irish history, poetry and interpretation, and literary theory. His books include *Robert Lowell: Nihilist as Hero*, *The Achievement of Cormac McCarthy*, *On Modern Poetry: Essays Presented to Donald Davie*, and *Yeats and the Logic of Freedom*. (2015)

SHAWN CHANDLER BINGHAM is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of South Florida and assistant dean of the USF Honors College. He is the author of *Thoreau and the Sociological Imagination: The Wilds of Society*, editor of *The Art of Social Critique: Painting Mirrors of Social Life*, and coauthor, with Sara Green, of *Seriously Funny: Disability and the Paradoxical Power of Humor*. His most recent book is *The Bohemian South: Creating Countercultures, from Poe to Punk*, coedited with Lindsey A. Freeman. (2018)

JUDITH H. BONNER is Senior Curator/Curator of Art for the Historic New Orleans Collection. She has curated numerous exhibitions there and at the New Orleans Museum of Art. She writes extensively about art of the South, with a focus on Louisiana. Since 1989 she has published the annual bibliography on the art and architecture of the South in the *Southern Quarterly*, for which she serves on its editorial board. She has taught at Xavier University of Louisiana and the United States Air Force Academy. Bonner is co-author for the Art and Architecture volume of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. (2013)

LEE BOUDREAUX is vice president and editorial director of Lee Boudreaux Books. She joined Little, Brown in 2014 after nine years as editorial director of Ecco Press, a division of HarperCollins. Over the course of her career, Boudreaux has published a broad range of writers, including Daniel Bergner, Patrick DeWitt, Ben Fountain, Affinity Konar, Madeline Miller, Elizabeth Poliner, Ron Rash, Jennifer Senior, Curtis Sittenfeld, Adriana Trigiani, David Wroblewski, and Michael Farris Smith. Her books have become *New York Times* and national bestsellers, Oprah Book Club selections, and her authors have won or been nominated for the National Book Award, the National Book Critic's Circle Award, the Orange Prize, the Man Booker Prize, and numerous PEN awards. (2017)

BEN BRADLEE, JR. is the author of three previous books. He spent twenty-five years at the *Boston Globe* as a reporter and editor. As Deputy Managing Editor, he oversaw many critically acclaimed stories, including the *Globe's* 2002 Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (2014)

In 2010 chef **SEAN BROCK**, owner of the restaurants Husk, in Charleston, and Husk Nashville, won the James Beard Award for “Best Chef Southeast” and hosted season two of Anthony Bourdain’s *The Mind of a Chef* on PBS, for which he was nominated for an Emmy. Only serving food that is indigenous to the South, Husk is a celebration of Southern ingredients, with an emphasis on the ingredients and the people who grow them. Brock’s first cookbook, *Heritage*, was released in October 2014. (2015)

CAROLYN J. BROWN is a writer, editor and independent scholar. She attended Duke University and then the University of North Carolina-Greensboro for her master’s degree and PhD. *A Daring Life: A Biography of Eudora Welty* was her first book, which won the Mississippi Library Association’s Award for Nonfiction in 2013 and was selected by the Mississippi Library Commission to represent the state of Mississippi at the National Book Festival in Washington, D. C., in 2012. She published her second biography, *Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker*, in November 2014. Brown’s most recent work is *The Artist’s Sketch: A Biography of Painter Kate Freeman Clark*, published by the University Press of Mississippi. She lives in Jackson, Mississippi, with her husband and two sons. (2015, 2017)

F. DOUGLAS BROWN of Los Angeles, California, is the 2013 Cave Canem Poetry Prize recipient for *Zero to Three*. An educator for twenty years, he teaches English at Loyola High School, an all-boys Jesuit school. He is both a Cave Canem and Kuniman fellow. His poems have appeared in *Toegood Poetry*, the *Sugar House Review*, *Cura*, *Muzgłe*, *Transfer*, and *Santa Clara Review*. (2015)

JERICHO BROWN is the recipient of the Whiting Writers Award and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Arts. His first book, *Please*, won the American Book Award, and his second book *The New Testament*, was named one of the best poetry books of the year by *Library Journal*. His poems have appeared in the *Nation*, the *New Republic*, the *New Yorker*, and *The Best American Poetry*. Brown earned a PhD from the University of Houston, an MFA from the University of New Orleans, and a BA from Dillard University. He is an assistant professor in the creative writing program at Emory University in Atlanta. (2016)

SISTER LIZ BROWN grew up in central New York State and received BS and MS Degrees in Education from the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York. She has been in Okolona, Mississippi since 1985 and during that time has been one of the founders and Executive Director of Excel, Inc. Excel works extensively in the area of Education offering after school and summer learning programs as well as ABE-GED preparation for those who have not completed high school. Liz also oversees Excel sites in Calhoun City and Morton, MS that offer educational programs appropriate to each community. (2014)

NIC BROWN is the author of the novel *Doubles* and the collection of stories *Floodmarkers*, which was selected as an Editor’s Choice by the *New York Times*, *Garden & Gun*, and the *Harvard Review*,

among other publications. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and Columbia University, he is the 2012-2013 John & Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. (2013)

TAYLOR BROWN grew up on the Georgia coast. He has lived in Buenos Aires, San Francisco, and the mountains of western North Carolina. His fiction has appeared in more than twenty publications including the *Baltimore Review*, the *North Carolina Literary Review*, and *storySouth*. He is the recipient of the Montana Prize in Fiction and was a finalist in both the Machigonne Fiction Contest and the Doris Betts Fiction Prize. An Eagle Scout, he lives in Wilmington, North Carolina. (2016)

JENNY BROWNE is the current poet laureate of Texas and author of three collections of poems, *At Once*, *The Second Reason*, and *Dear Stranger*, and two chapbooks, *Welcome to Freetown*, and *Texas, Being*. A former James Michener Fellow at the University of Texas, she worked for many years at a poet-in-the-schools through the Texas Commission on the Arts and is currently a professor of English at Trinity University where she teaches courses in creative writing, women and gender studies, and environmental literature. Her poems and essays have appeared in numerous publications, including *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Garden and Gun*, *Oxford American*, the *New York Times*, and *Tin House*. She lives in downtown San Antonio, Texas, with her husband, photographer Scott Martin, and their daughters, Lyda and Harriet. (2018)

JAIME CANTRELL serves as the LGBT Program Coordinator at the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement and is a faculty affiliate at the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies. She is the coeditor, with Amy Stone, of *Out of the Closet, into the Archive: Researching Sexual Histories*, a Lambda Literary award finalist for LGBT Anthology. Cantrell has published essays and reviews in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, the *Journal of Homosexuality*, *Study the South*, and *Feminist Formations*. She is presently at work on a book project titled "Southern Sapphisms: Sexuality and Sociality in Literary Productions, 1969-1997." (2018)

JULIE CANTRELL *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author was the editor-in-chief of the *Southern Literary Review* and received the 2012 Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Fellowship. She has been a freelance writer for a decade and has contributed to more than a dozen books. Julie and her family now live in Oxford, Mississippi, where they operate Valley House Farm. A speech-language pathologist and literacy advocate, Julie also teaches English as a second language. Her second novel, *When Mountains Move*, is set to follow her bestselling debut, *Into the Free*. (2013)

BRIAN CARPENTER is a freelance writer and coeditor of the anthology *Grit Lit: A Rough South Reader*. A Tennessee native, he graduated from Centre College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His articles on the South have appeared in various books and journals, including *Southern Cultures*, *The Southern Review*, and the anthology *Cornbread Nation: The Best of Southern Food Writing*. (2013)

BILL CHENG is the author of *Southern Cross the Dog*. He received a BA in creative writing from Baruch College and is a graduate of Hunter College's MFA program. (2014)

MAUDE SCHUYLER CLAY was born in Greenwood, Mississippi. After attending the University of Mississippi and the Memphis Academy of Arts, she assisted photographer William Eggleston. She received the Mississippi Arts and Letters award for photography in 1988, 1992, and 2000, and the Mississippi Art Commission's Individual Artist Grant in 1998. She published her monograph *Delta Land* in 1999. She was the Photography Editor of the literary magazine *The Oxford American* from 1998-2002. Her work is in museum collections, including: The Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and The National Museum for Women in the Arts. *Delta Dogs*, will be published in June 2014, with a foreword by Brad Watson and essay by Beth Ann Fennelly. (2014)

NICOLE COOLEY grew up in New Orleans and now lives outside of New York City. She is author of four books of poems, most recently *Breach* about Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf Coast, and *Milk Dress*. She has been awarded the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, and NEA Grant in Fiction and a fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society. She is now writing a nonfiction book, *My Dollhouse, Myself: Miniature Histories*, and a collection of poems based on small museums in the US. She directs the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College of the City University of New York, where she is a professor of English. (2013)

DANIEL CONNOLLY is a Memphis-based journalist and the author of *The Book of Isaiah: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants Seeks His Own America*. He uses rigorous reporting to tell true stories about immigration, economics, and globalization in the South. A fluent speaker of Spanish and German, he was born in Memphis, graduated from Kenyon College in Ohio, and completed a postgraduate Fulbright teaching fellowship in Germany. He moved to Alabama in 2002 to work at the former *Birmingham Post-Herald* newspaper, where he completed a major project on Mexican immigration. He moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, and covered immigration for the Associated Press before returning to Memphis in 2006 to join the staff of the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper, where he still works. (2018)

JOSEPH CRESPINO is Jimmy Carter Professor of Twentieth-Century American Political History and Southern History since Reconstruction at Emory University. He is author of *Strom Thurmond's American* and *In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counterrevolution*. HE is also coeditor, with Matthew Lassiter, of *The Myth of Southern Exceptionalism*. His published work has examined the intersections of region, race, and religion in American politics in the second half of the twentieth century. The argument that animates both of his books, as well as his coedited collection, is the notion that the struggles in the American South over race and modernization in the twentieth century should not be viewed in isolation, but rather as part of a broader series of transformations in national political life. In 2009 Crespino was awarded the Emory Center for Teaching and Curriculum's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. (2016)

ED CROOM, of Oxford, Mississippi, is president of Croomia Botanical Scientific and Regulatory Consulting, and he was previously a full-time faculty member at the University of Mississippi. His work has appeared in the books *Herbal and Magical Medicine*, *Taxol: Science and Application*, and *Encyclopedia of Dietary Supplements*, as well as in plant science and chemical journals. Photography from

his recent book, *The Land of Rowan Oak*, is currently on display in the Center's Gammill Gallery in Barnard Observatory. (2017)

TRAE CROWDER has earned national attention (or notoriety, depending on your viewpoint) for his "Liberal Redneck" series of viral videos. He has been performing his particular brand of southern-fried intellectual comedy in the Southeast and beyond for the past six years. He is also a writer and a member of NBC Universal's Talent Infusion Program after being invited to their prestigious Late Night Writer's Workshop in 2015. He recently published *The Liberal Redneck Manifesto* with Drew Morgan and Corey Forrester. (2017)

GEFFREY DAVIS grew up in Tacoma, Washington, and teaches creative writing at the University of Arkansas. He is the author of *Revising the Storm*, winner of the A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize. Other distinctions include the Wabash Prize for Poetry, the Leonard Steinberg Memorial/Academy of American Poets Prize, nominations for the Pushcart, and fellowships from the Cave Canem Foundation and Penn State's Institute for the Arts and Humanities. Davis's poetry has appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *Mississippi Review*, among other places. (2015)

DREW DAYWALT. Ever since his childhood in one of Ohio's most haunted houses, writer/director Drew Daywalt has been writing escapist fantasy and building worlds of his own. With a degree in Creative Writing and a concentration in Children's Literature from Emerson College in Boston, he set off to Hollywood where he spent years writing for Disney and Universal and where his animated series *The Wacky World of Tex Avery* garnered an Emmy nomination. With an eye toward picture book writing, his first book, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, debuted on the *New York Times* Best Seller's List in June 2013, and has since become a No. 1 Best Seller. (2014)

KEVIN DEAN is the Executive Director of Literacy Mid-South. He received his Bachelor's in Communications from the University of Memphis in 2002. In 2009, he completed his Master's Degree in Executive Leadership from Christian Brothers University and in 2011, was named one of Memphis' Top 40 Under 40 by *Memphis Business Journal*. He is the 2013 recipient of the Ruth J. Colvin and Frank C. Laubach Award for Excellence in Community-Based Adult Literacy from ProLiteracy. (2014)

JIM DEES is the author of *The Statue and the Fury*, which won the 2017 Independent Publishers Association's Bronze award for best nonfiction in the South. The book was also nominated for a Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Nonfiction Award. Since the fall of 2000, Dees has been the host of the *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a music and literature program heard weekly on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi. (2018)

SIMONE DELERME spent her childhood in a Puerto Rican-concentrated enclave in Harlem, New York, and later moved to a suburb of Wilmington, Delaware. She developed an interest in Latin American and Caribbean studies while studying abroad in Havana, Cuba, and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. In the fall of 2013, she joined the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. She specializes in the anthropology of the contemporary United States with interests in migration, critical race theory,

language ideologies, social class inequalities, and suburbanization. Her new ethnographic research project examines Latino migration to Memphis, Tennessee, and North Mississippi. (2018)

WILLIAM DUNLAP has distinguished himself as an artist, arts commentator, and educator since receiving his MFA from the University of Mississippi in 1969. His work can be found at museums across the nation and at United States embassies throughout the world. *Dunlap*, the book about his work, won the 2007 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Visual Arts Award. (2013, 2014)

JOHN T. EDGE directs the Southern Foodways Alliance, an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He has written or edited more than a dozen books, including his recent *The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South*. Edge is editor of the *Foodways* volume of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, and he is series editor of Southern Foodways Alliance Studies in Culture, People, and Place, published by the University of Georgia Press. A columnist for the *Oxford American* and a contributing writer for *Garden and Gun*, Edge is an editor in residence at the Rivendell Writers' Colony, and he serves on the faculty of the MFA in Narrative Nonfiction program at the Grady College of the University of Georgia. (2013, 2015, 2018)

AMY EINHORN, Vice President and Publisher of Amy Einhorn Books, has been in publishing for over twenty years. Some of the books and authors that she has published include Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*, Liane Moriarty's *The Husband's Secret*, Jenny Lawson's *Let's Pretend This Never Happened*, Eleanor Brown's *The Weird Sisters*, Sarah Blake's *The Postmistress*, David Gillham's *City of Women*, Amy Sedaris' *I Like You*, and Robert Hicks' *The Widow of the South*. (2014)

CHIYUMA ELLIOTT is assistant professor of African American studies at the University of California, Berkeley. A former Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and assistant professor of English and African American studies at the University of Mississippi, her poems have appeared in the *African American Review*, *Callaloo*, the *Notre Dame Review*, the *PN Review*, the *Langston Hughes Review*, *MARGIE*, and other journals. She has received fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, Cave Canem, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Vermont Studio Center. Elliott's first book of poems, *California Winter League*, was published in 2015 by Unicorn Press. (2015, 2016)

MARK ESSIG, a historian and writer, is the author of *Lesser Beasts: A Snout-to-Tail History of the Humble Pig*. He also wrote *Edison and the Electric Chair*, which was named one of the twenty best science books of 2003 by *Discover* magazine. He has written op-eds and book reviews for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and has worked at the *Los Angeles Times* community news division, the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, and the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. He holds a PhD in US History from Cornell University and a bachelor's degree in English and religious studies from the University of Virginia. He has taught history and American studies at Cornell and journalism at Warren Wilson College. A native of St. Louis, he lives in Asheville, North Carolina. (2016)

W. RALPH EUBANKS is the author of two books: *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past* and *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*. He has contributed articles to the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Preservation*, and

National Public Radio. He has been director of publishing at the Library of Congress since 1995. (2013)

JOHN A. FARRELL is the author of *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned*, which won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Biography, and *Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century*. A longtime journalist, has worked at the *Denver Post* and at the *Boston Globe*, where he served as White House correspondent and on the vaunted Spotlight team. (2018)

BETH ANN FENNELLY, poet laureate of Mississippi, teaches in the MFA Program at the University of Mississippi, where she was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2011. Fennelly has published three books of poetry: *Open House*, *Tender Hooks*, and *Unmentionables*. Her poetry has appeared in over fifty anthologies, including Best American Poetry 1996, 2005, and 2006. In 2013, Beth Ann and her husband, Tom Franklin, coauthored a novel, *The Tilted World*, set during the 1927 flood of the Mississippi River. Fennelly's newest book is *Heating & Cooling: 52 Micro-Memoirs*. A contributing editor to the *Oxford American*, she also writes freelance on travel, culture, and design for many magazines. She lives with her husband and their three children, Anna Claire, Thomas, and Nolan, in Oxford. (2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018)

SUSAN FERBER is the executive editor for American and world history at Oxford University Press USA. Her list includes titles that have won the Pulitzer Prize and the Bancroft Prize, and five have become national bestsellers. In addition to teaching at the Columbia Publishing Course and giving regular talks on academic publishing, she has also written essays for a variety of publications, including the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Passport*, *Perspectives on History*, and the *Digital Digest*. Recently, Ferber edited and Oxford University Press published Joel Williamson's *Elvis Presley: A Southern Life*. (2015)

LEON FINK, a specialist in American labor, immigration history, and the Gilded Age/Progressive Era, serves as interim director of the PhD concentration in the History of Work, Race, and Gender in the Urban World at the University of Illinois-Chicago and edits the journal *Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas*. In 2003 he traced the transnational experience of recent Latino immigrants in *The Maya of Morganton: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South*. Other works include *Progressive Intellectuals and the Dilemmas of Democratic Commitment*, *In Search of the Working Class: Essays in American Labor History and Political Culture*, and *Workingman's Democracy: The Knights of Labor and American Politics*, among others. (2018)

SHERI FINK is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling book, *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* about choices made in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She is a correspondent at the *New York Times*, where her and her colleagues' stories on the West Africa Ebola crisis were recognized with the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting and a National Magazine Award for reporting. A former relief worker in disaster and conflict zones, Fink received her MD and PhD from Stanford University. Her first book, *Was Hospital: A True Story of Surgery and Survival*, is about medical professionals under siege during the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina. *Five Days at Memorial* was the winner of eight major awards, including the National Book Critics Award for nonfiction. (2016)

ANN FISHER-WIRTH's fourth book of poems, *Dream Cabinet*, was published in 2012. Her other books of poems are *Carta Marina*, *Blue Window*, and *Five Terraces*. She is coeditor of *Ecopoetry: A Contemporary American Anthology*, published early in 2013. Her poems appear widely and have received numerous awards, including a *Malabar Review* Long Poem Prize, the Rita Dove Poetry Award, the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters poetry award, two Mississippi Arts Commission fellowships, and thirteen Pushcart nominations including a special mention. She teaches poetry workshops, and a wide range of courses in environmental literature at the University of Mississippi, where she also directs the minor in Environmental Studies. (2013, 2017)

ASHLEY FLY studied Spanish and Linguistics as an undergraduate and studied Spanish and Teaching English as a Second Language as a graduate student. She received her BA in 2008 and MA in 2011, both from the University of Mississippi. Currently she is an Instructor of ESL in the Intensive English Program, where she teaches several skill areas including Reading, Writing, Academic Vocabulary and Presentation Skills, and Literature in English. (2013)

COREY FORRESTER has been writing and performing stand-up comedy since the age of sixteen...before he could legally work in a comedy club. His North Georgia roots have given him an affinity for southern wit and storytelling. He may often wear a PBR hat, but don't assume there is anything blue collar about him. Corey has thoughts on everything from race to religion, politics and gender. He recently published *The Liberal Redneck Manifesto* with Trae Crowder and Drew Morgan. (2017)

REBECCA MORGAN FRANK is the author of *Little Murders Everywhere*, a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and *The Spokes of Venus*, forthcoming from Carnegie Mellon University Press. She is the recipient of the Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay di Castagnola Award, as well as fellowships from the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Her poems have appeared such places as *Ploughshares*, *Harvard Review*, *New England Review*, *Georgia Review*, *Guernica*, and *Best New Poets*. She is an assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Writers and cofounder and editor of the online literary magazine *Memorious*. (2016)

TOM FRANKLIN is the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Crooked Letter*, *Crooked Letter*, which was nominated for nine awards and won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the prestigious Crime Writers' Association's Gold Dagger Award. His previous works include the Edgar-nominated short story collection *Poachers*, as well as the novels *Hell at the Breech* and *Smonk*. Winner of a 2001 Guggenheim Fellowship, he teaches in the University of Mississippi's MFA program and lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his wife, the poet Beth Ann Fennelly, and their children. His new novel, *The Tilted World* written with Beth Ann Fennelly, will be published in October 2013. (2013)

LINDSEY A. FREEMAN is a sociologist who teaches, writes, and thinks about cities, memory, art, and sometimes James Agee. She is an assistant professor in the sociology and anthropology

department at Simon Fraser University and is the author of *Longing for the Bomb: Oak Ridge and Atomic Nostalgia* and coeditor with Rachel Daniell and Benjamin Nienass, of *Silence, Screen and Spectacle: Rethinking Memory in the Age of Information*. Her work has also appeared in *Space and Culture*, *Memory Studies*, and the *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*. Her most recent book is *The Bohemian South: Creating Countercultures, from Poe to Punk*, coedited with Shawn Chandler Bingham. (2018)

JOHN CARLOS GALEANO is a poet, translator, and essayist born in the Amazon region of Colombia. He has published several books of poetry, and has translated North American poets into Spanish. His poetry, inspired by Amazonian cosmologies and the modern world, has been anthologized and published in international journals such as *Casa de las Américas* (Cuba), *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *Ploughshares*. He lives in Tallahassee, Florida, where he teaches Latin American poetry and Amazonian Cultures at Florida State University. (2013)

MICHAEL GARRIGA Born and raised on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, Garriga comes from a long line of noted Creole outlaws and tall-tale tellers. His whole family's big and anchored in and around Biloxi. He has held jobs as a sound man at Proud Larry's, a shrimp picker, and a bartender, but for the last ten years he's been teaching writing, and is currently an assistant professor at Baldwin Wallace University. He holds degrees in English from the University of Mississippi (BA), where he worked with Barry Hannah; the University of Louisville (MA); and Florida State University (PhD). He's been married to Megan Garland Garriga for ten years, and they as smiling ex-pats with their two boys – Jaume and Pax – in Berea, Ohio. (2014)

FORREST GANDER is a writer and translator with degrees in geology and English literature. His most recent book, a collaboration with John Kinsella, is *Redstart: An Ecological Poetics*. His book *Core Samples from the World* was a 2012 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. His recent translations include *Watchword* by Pura López Colomé, and with Kyoko Yoshida, *Spectacle & Pigsty* by Kiwao Nomura, winner of the Best Translated Book Award in 2012. Gander is a recipient of grants from the Library of Congress, the Guggenheim, Howard, Whiting and United States Artists Foundations. (2013)

LUKE GEDDES's fiction has been published in *Mid-American Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Conjunctions*, and other journals. His short story collection *I am a Magical Teenage Princess*, which *Publishers Weekly* praised as "a rewarding and unusual collection," was published in 2012. He is a PhD candidate at the University of Cincinnati. (2014)

TED GELTNER is a writer, editor and journalism educator who specializes in biography, sports writing, and the history of sports journalism. His book *Blood, Bone, and Marrow: A Biography of Harry Crews* is the first full-length biography of the legendary novelist and journalist Harry Crews. Geltner has written extensively about sports journalism history, authoring articles and giving presentations on subjects such as the history of *Sports Illustrated* magazine and literary journalism in sports. He is an associate professor at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia, where he teaches courses in reporting, literary journalism, magazine journalism, and photojournalism. His work has been published in the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, among others. (2017)

GEORGE GIBSON is executive director at Grove Atlantic publishers in New York City. He has edited and/or published a number of acclaimed works of nonfiction over the years, including Dava Sobel's *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, Mark Kurlansky's *Salt*, and Carol Anderson's *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*. (2017)

ROBERT GIPE lives in Harlan, Kentucky, and is the director of the Appalachian program at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College in Cumberland. His fiction has appeared in *Appalachian Heritage*, *Still*, *Motif*, and *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel*. He is a producer of *Higher Ground*, a series of community musical dramas based on oral histories and grounded in discussion of local issues. *Trampoline* is his first book. (2016)

CHRIS GRABENSTEIN is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Island of Dr. Libris* and *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, as well as the coauthor (with James Patterson) of the bestselling series *I Funny*, *House of Robots*, and *Treasure Hunters*. Grabenstein writes fast-paced and fun page-turners for children and adults. He is also a playwright and screenwriter, not to mention a former advertising executive and improvisational comedian. He and his four brothers used to put on skits and puppet shows in the basement of their home in Buffalo, New York. Their mom and dad were the only paying customers. Admission was a nickel. (2017)

MARYEMMA GRAHAM is a professor of English and African American studies at the University of Kansas where she has taught since 1998, including one year as the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor. In 1983 she founded the Project on the History of Black Writing, which has been in the forefront of inclusion efforts in higher education for twenty-nine years. It is the only archive of its kind dedicated to literary recovery, professional development, public outreach, and digital access. Graham is the author or editor of ten books, including *The Cambridge History of African American Literature* (with Jerry W. Ward, Jr.), *On Being Female, Black and Free: Essays by Margaret Walker, 1932-1992*, "How I Wrote Jubilee" and *Other Essays on Life and Literature by Margaret Walker*, and *Fields Watered with Blood: Critical Essays on Margaret Walker*. (2015)

AMY GREENE is the author of the national best seller *Bloodroot*. She was born and raised in the foothills of East Tennessee's Smoky Mountains, where she lives with her husband and two children. Her new novel, *Long Man*, will be published by Knopf in February. (2014)

MATTHEW GRIFFIN is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He was born and raised in North Carolina and currently lives with his partner in Louisiana, where he is a visiting professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. *Hide* is his first novel. (2016)

ROB GRIFFITH's latest book is *The Moon from Every Window*, and his previous book, *A Matinee in Plato's Cave*, was the winner of the 2009 Best Book of Indiana Award. His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The North American Review*, *The Oxford American*, and many others. He is the editor of the journal *Measure* and teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Evansville. (2013)

J. RICHARD GRUBER, Director Emeritus of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, is active as an independent curator, art historian, and writer. He served as Director of the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Director of the Wichita Art Museum, and Deputy Director of the Morris Museum of Art. Coeditor and co-author of *A Certain Slant of Light: The Bicentennial History of Art in Louisiana* and co-author of books on Mississippi artists William Hollingsworth and George Wardlaw, he also has written on other artists including William Dunlap, Elliott Daingerfield, Robert Rauschenberg, Benny Andrews, William Christenberry and Thomas Hart Benton. (2013)

PETER GURALNICK has been called “a national resource” by critic Nat Hentoff for work that has argued passionately and persuasively for the vitality of this country’s intertwined black and white musical traditions. His books include the prize-winning two-volume biography of Elvis Presley, *Last Train to Memphis* and *Careless Love*. He is a recent inductee in the Blues Hall of Fame. Guralnick’s other books include *Sweet Soul Music*, *Lost Highway*, *Feel Like Going Home*, *Searching for Robert Johnson*, and *Nighthawk Blues*. He is currently working on a biography of Sam Phillips. (2015)

ADAM GUSSOW is an American scholar, memoirist, and blues harmonica player and is the author of *Mister Satan’s Apprentice*, the story of an unlikely musical partnership, the blues, and race in America. He is currently an associate professor of English and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. (2014)

ROBERT W. HAMBLIN is professor of English and director of the Center for Faulkner Studies at Southeast Missouri State University, where he has taught since 1965. A native of northeast Mississippi, where he studied Faulkner with John Pilkington. Hamblin is the author or editor of twenty-seven books, the most recent ones being *This House, This Town*; *Crossroads: Poems of a Mississippi Childhood*; *Dust and Light: Poems, After Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*; *Faulkner and Chopin*; and *Faulkner and Morrison*. (2013)

FRANÇOISE N. HAMLIN is the Hans Rothfels Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies at Brown University. Born and raised in London, England, an exchange year in Clarksdale, Mississippi changed her path from a projected career in law to a scholar, activist and teacher. She is the author of *Crossroads at Clarksdale: The Black Freedom Struggle in the Mississippi Delta after World War II*, which won the 2012 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize and the 2013 Lillian Smith Book Award. Hamlin’s new research focuses on young people, trauma and activism. (2014)

DERRICK HARRIELL was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has worked as assistant poetry editor for *Third World Press* and the *Cream City Review* and has taught community writing workshops for individuals of all ages, including senior citizens. A two-time Pushcart Nominee, Harriell’s poems have appeared in various literary journals and anthologies. He published his first collection of poems, *Cotton*, in 2010. His second collection of poems, *Ropes*, won the Mississippi Institute of Arts of Letters Poetry Award in 2014. (2014, 2016)

LIBBY HARTFIELD is director emerita of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. She is an editor, with Marion Barnwell, of *Fannye Cooke: Mississippi's Pioneering Conservationist*, written by Dorothy Shawn. (2018)

PETER HELLER is the bestselling author of *The Painter* and *The Dog Stars*. He holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in both fiction and poetry. An award-winning adventure writer and longtime contributor to NPR, Heller is a contributing editor at *Outside* magazine, *Men's Journal*, and *National Geographic Adventure*. His new novel, *Celine*, is a masterful novel of suspense – the story of Celine, an elegant, aristocratic private eye who specializes in reuniting families, trying to make amends for a loss in her own past. (2017)

CAROLYN HEMBREE was born in Bristol, Tennessee. Her debut poetry collection, *Skinny*, was published by Kore Press in 2012. In 2016, Trio House Books published her second collection, *Rigging a Chevy into a Time Machine and Other Ways to Escape a Plague*, selected by Neil Shepard for the 2015 Trio Award and by Stephani Strickland for the 2015 Rochell Ratner Memorial Award. Her work has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Gulf Coast*, the *Journal*, *Poetry Daily*, and other publications. She has received grants and fellowships from PEN, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and the Southern Arts Federation. An assistant professor at the University of New Orleans, Carolyn teaches writing and serves as poetry editor of *Bayou Magazine*. (2017)

LANCE HERRINGTON has taught English as a second language courses at the University of Mississippi since 2007. He also serves as the Coordinator of Instructional Support Services in the Intensive English Program at UM. He earned a BA in Art History from the University of Texas, and an MA in Art History from the University of Mississippi, before returning to UM to work and study, earning a second MA in TESL. He has taught English as a foreign language in Osaka, Japan, and Quito, Ecuador. (2013)

JANE HILL recently retired as professor and chair of English at Marshall University. She is the author of two books, *Gail Godwin* and *Cobb County: At the Heart of Change*, as well as the editor of four anthologies of contemporary literature. She has published critical essays on Ann Beattie, David Bottoms, James Dickey, Gail Godwin, Mary Lee Settle, and other contemporary authors. Occasionally, she has written for television and movies as well. She now lives in Westminster, South Carolina, with her husband, Bob, and their dogs, Byron, Lena, and Spangle (named for characters in Faulkner's *Light in August* and Beattie's *Falling in Place*), where she is working on a book about Beattie's work and a creative nonfiction project about her years in the academy. (2018)

In the fall of 1988 **JODY HILL** became friends with Chucky Mullins when they were both freshmen on the University of Mississippi football team. He is the pastor of Ripley Presbyterian Church in Ripley, Mississippi, and the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *38: The Chucky Mullins Effect*. Hill lives in Corinth, Mississippi, with his wife, Monya, and two sons, Noah and Luke. (2015)

SKIP HORACK is a former Jones Lecturer at Stanford, where he was also a Wallace Stegner Fellow. His short story collection *The Southern Cross* won the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference 2008 Bakeless Fiction Prize and was published by Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt in August 2009. His novel *The Eden Hunter* was published by Counterpoint in August 2010 and was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. His second novel, *The Other Joseph*, was published by Ecco in March 2015. A native of Louisiana, he is currently an assistant professor at Florida State University. (2013, 2015)

RICHARD HOWORTH is founder of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, and past president of the American Booksellers Association. He served as mayor of Oxford from 2001 to 2009 and was honored with the 2008 Authors Guild Award for Distinguished Service to the Literary Community. (2013)

EDDIE HUANG is the chef and proprietor of Baohaus restaurant in New York City. He's the host of his own series with Vice called "Fresh Off the Boat" that made its debut in October of 2012. He's appeared on Vice's *Munchies* series, hosted a special called *Cheap Eats* on the Cooking Channel, appeared on Anthony Bourdain's *24-Hour Layover* and appeared as a re-occurring commentator on the Cooking Channel's *Unique Eats* series. He's written for Eater.com, *The New York Observer*, *Grantland*, and his own popular blog, "Fresh Off the Boat." He resides in New York City. (2013)

Electro-Fi recording artist **FRUTELAND JACKSON** is a History Maker (www.thishistorymakers.com). He is an author, storyteller, and oral historian, who grew up in Chicago. He is a three-time Blues Music Award Nominee and a recipient of the Blues Foundation's "Keeping the Blues Alive" award. Fruteland performs Americana, acoustic blues, folk traditional, and singer-songwriter styles around the world. Fruteland Jackson created the award winning *All About the Blues Series – Blues in the School Programs*. Fruteland plays acoustic guitar with a focus on pre-war and post-war blues ranging from Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy to Elizabeth Cotton, plus his personal interpretations. He studies mandolin, lap steel and the banjo, and has published an instructional book on Delta Blues for Beginners. (2014)

KRISTOPHER JANSA is a lecturer at Manhattanville College and SUNY Purchase, and writes a monthly column for *Electric Literature's* blog, "The Outlet." His short stories and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals and he was selected as a finalist for *BOMB Magazine's* 2011 Fiction Contest. Kristopher lives with his wife in Brooklyn, New York. (2013)

DEBORAH JOHNSON's first novel, *The Air Between Us*, received the Mississippi Library Association Award for fiction. She grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, where she attended a Catholic girls' school. She then attended Lone Mountain College, which now forms part of the University of San Francisco. She lived for nearly two decades in Rome, Italy, where she worked as a translator and an editor, as well as at Vatican Radio. After returning to the United States, she became executive director of a small charitable foundation in the South. She now lives and writes in Columbus, Mississippi. (2014)

JULIA CLAIBORNE JOHNSON worked at *Mademoiselle* and *Glamour* magazines before marrying and moving to Los Angeles, where she lives with her comedy writer husband and their two children. *Be Frank with Me* is her first novel. (2016)

TIM JOHNSTON is the author of the novel *Descent*, the collection of stories *Irish Girl*, and the young adult novel *Never So Green*. Published in 2009, the stories in *Irish Girl* won an O. Henry Prize, the New Letters Award for Writers, and the Gival Press Short Story Award, while the collection itself won the 2009 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction. Johnston's stories have also appeared in *New England Review*, *New Letters*, the *Iowa Review*, the *Missouri Review*, *DoubleTake*, *Best Life Magazine*, and *Narrative Magazine*, among others. He currently teaches in the creative writing program at the University of Memphis. (2015)

GREG JOHNSON has served as associate professor and curator of the Blues Archive in the Department of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi since 2002. He received his Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2002, where he also received a Bachelor of Music in history and literature in 2000. He is the co-author of the recently published *100 Books Every Blues Fan Should Own*. (2014)

RODNEY JONES is the author of eleven books of poems. His many honors include the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Harper Lee Award, and the Kingsley Tufts Award, and he has been a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award, the Griffin International Poetry Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize. *Village Prodigies*, his new book, has been described as both a novel and a book of poems. Jones teaches in the low-residency MFA creative writing program at Warren Wilson College and lives in New Orleans and Southern Illinois.

RICHARD KATROVAS spent his early years in cars and motels living on the highways of America while his father, a petty thief and conman, eluded state and federal authorities. His father was eventually caught, but upon being released on probation from federal prison reverted to his criminal ways and was caught and reincarcerated. During his father's prison terms, Katrovav and his mother and siblings lived on welfare in public housing projects. Katrovav was adopted by relatives in his early teens and lived with them for three years in Sasebo, Japan. He graduated from high school in Coronado, California, and attended San Diego State University. He was then a Hoyns Fellow at the University of Virginia, attended the MFA program at the University of Arkansas, and finished his graduate work in the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Katrovav is the author of seven books of poetry, a book of short stories, two memoirs, and a novel. Katrovav and his family live in Kalamazoo, Michigan, New Orleans, and Prague. He is a professor of English at Western Michigan University. (2016)

A line cook turned journalist, **JONATHAN KAUFFMAN** is an International Association of Culinary Professionals and James Beard Award-winning staff writer at the *San Francisco Chronicle*. HE served as the restaurant critic at the *East Bay Express*, *Seattle Weekly*, and *SF Weekly* for more than a decade, and has contributed regularly to *San Francisco* magazine, *Lucky Peach*, and *Wine & Spirits*. His

articles have also been anthologized in several editions of *Best Food Writing*. A native of Indiana, he now lives in San Francisco. *Hippie Food* is his first book. (2018)

LAURIE KELLER grew up in Muskegon, Michigan. She earned a degree in illustration from the Kendall College of Art and Design. Following graduation, she worked for Hallmark Cards as a greeting card artist and an illustrator for Nickelodeon. She has written and illustrated six books for Henry Holt: *The Scrambled States of America*, a geography book; *Open Wide: Tooth School Inside*, a dental book about tooth care; *Arnie the Doughnut*, about an anthropomorphic doughnut; *Grandpa Gazillion's Number Yard*, a number book; *Do Unto Otters*, a book about manners; and *The Scrambled States of America Talent Show*, the follow-up to her 1998 debut. (2016)

DENISE KIERNAN has been working as a writer for nearly twenty years. She has been published in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Village Voice*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Reader's Digest*, *Discover* and many more publications. She has authored several popular history titles including *Signing Their Lives Away*, *Signing Their Rights Away and Stuff Every American Should Know*. Her most recent book, *The Girls of Atomic City*, is a *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and NPR Bestseller. She was recently named to the board of the Atomic Heritage Foundation. (2014)

SEO KIM was born in Seoul, Korea, and then immigrated to Toronto, Canada, just a few months later. Kim began drawing on napkins at her parents' restaurant at two years old and hasn't stopped since. A graduate of the acclaimed animation program at Sheridan College, Kim has focused primarily on comics and illustration. In 2012 she started uploading daily slice-of-life comics on Tumblr, often starring the artist and her adorable cat, Jimmy, which have gone on to earn a large following. Kim currently lives in Los Angeles and works as a storyboard artist for the massively successful Cartoon Network show, *Adventure Time*. *Cat Person*, her first book, was published in 2014. (2015)

OWEN KING is a graduate of Vassar College and holds an MFA from the Columbia University School of the Arts. He is the author of *We're All in This Together: A Novella and Stories* and *Double Feature*. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *Fairy Tale Review*, *Guernica*, *One Story*, *Paste Magazine*, and *Prairie Schooner* among other publications. Owen has taught creative writing at Columbia University and Fordham University. He lives in New York. (2013)

PHIL KLAY was born in White Plains, New York. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 2005 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group from January 2007 to February 2008. Klay left the Corps in July 2009 and received his MFA from Hunter College, where he studied with Colum McCann and Peter Carey and worked as Richard Ford's research assistant. His first published story, "Redeployment," led to the sale of his collection *Redeployment*, which won the 2014 National Book Award. Klay's writing has also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Daily News*, *Tin House*, and in *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2012*. (2015)

MICHAEL KNIGHT is the author of two novels, two collections of short stories and a collection of novellas. His fiction has appeared in magazines and journals like the *New Yorker*, *Oxford American*, *Paris Review*, and *The Southern Review* and has been anthologized in *Best American Mystery Stories* and *New Stories from the South: The Year's Best* 1999, 2003, 2004 and 2009. He lives in Knoxville with his wife and two daughters and teaches creative writing at the University of Tennessee. (2013)

HARI KUNZRU is the author of five novels, *The Impressionist*, *Transmission*, *Gods without Men*, *My Revolutions*, and, most recently, *White Tears*. His work has been translated into twenty-one languages, and his short stories and journalism have appeared in many publications, including the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, and the *New Yorker*. He is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the New York Public Library, and the American Academy in Berlin. He lives in Brooklyn. (2017)

JOHN LANGSTON has worked at the University Press of Mississippi for thirty years. His titles have included book designer, production manager, art director, and assistant director. His designs for Mississippi writers and artists have been crucial to the development of the Press's regional publishing program. (2014)

J. DREW LANHAM was born and raised in rural South Carolina. He is an associate professor and certified wildlife biologist in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Clemson University. While he is widely published in his scholarly field, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* will be his first book for a general audience. He lives in Seneca, South Carolina. (2017)

EDWARD J. LARSON holds the Hugh and Hazel Darling Chair in Law and is University Professor of History at Pepperdine University. Originally from Ohio, with a PhD in the history of science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and a law degree from Harvard, Larson has lectured on all seven continents and taught at Stanford Law School, University of Melbourne, Leiden University, and the University of Georgia, where he chaired the History Department. Prior to becoming a professor, Larson practiced law in Seattle and served as counsel for the US House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in History and numerous other awards for writing and teaching, Larson is the author of nine books and over one hundred published articles. His books, which have been translated into more than twenty languages, include the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion*. Larson's latest book, *The Return of George Washington*, was on the *New York Times* bestseller list in 2015. (2016)

PRESTON LAUTERBACH's first book, *The Chitlin' Circuit: And the Road to Rock 'n' Roll*, was named a best book of the year by the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, and NPR. Currently a Curd Visiting Scholar in the Arts at Rhodes College in Memphis, Lauterbach lives near Charlottesville in Nelson County, Virginia. His next book, *Beale Street Dynasty*, was published in March of 2015. (2015)

ARIEL LAWHON is cofounder of the popular online book club She Reads, a novelist, a blogger, and lifelong reader. She is the author of *The Wife, the Maid, and the Mistress* and, most recently, *Flight of Dreams*. She lives in the rolling hills outside Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and four young sons (aka The Wild Rumpus) and a black lab who is, thankfully, a girl. (2016)

KIESE LAYMON, who was born and raised in Mississippi, is the 2015-2016 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi and a professor of English and Africana studies at Vassar College. Author of *Long Division* and *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America*, Laymon deals with American racism, feminism, family, hip-hop, and southern black life in his work. *Long Division* was named one of the Best of 2013 by a number of publications, including the *Believer*, *Salon*, the *Chicago Tribune*, among others. It was also short-listed for the Saroyan International Writing Award. Three essays in *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America* have been included in the Best American series, earned the Best of Net award, and names as one of the *Atlantic's* Best Essays of 2013. (2014, 2016)

LAURA LIPPMAN is the author of the new novel *After I'm Gone*. She began her career as a journalist and was a reporter for twenty years, including twelve at *The Baltimore Sun*. She began writing novels while working fulltime, publishing seven Tess Monaghan books before leaving daily journalism in 2001. Her Tess books, eleven in all, have won virtually every major mystery prize. Her novel *Every Secret Thing*, option by Academy Award-winning actor Frances McDormand, is now in post-production. She lives with her husband David Simon, and their daughter. They split their time between Baltimore and New Orleans. (2014)

LISA LUCAS is the executive director of the National Book Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation, she served as the publisher of *Guernica*, a nonprofit online magazine focusing on writing that explores the intersection of art and politics with an international and diverse focus. Prior to that she served as director of education at the Tribeca Film Institute, on the development team at Steppenwolf Theater Company, and as a consultant for the Sundance Institute, the San Francisco Film Society, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and ReelWorks Teen Filmmaking. Lucas also serves on the literary council of the Brooklyn Book Festival. (2017)

ROBERT LUCKETT received his PhD from the University of Georgia with a focus on civil rights movement history. A native Mississippian, he returned home to accept the positions of assistant professor of history and director of the Margaret Walker Center for the Study of African American Experience at Jackson State University. His book, *Joe T. Patterson and the Dilemma of the White South: Evolving Resistance to Black Advancement* is due out with the University Press of Mississippi in 2015. (2015)

DEBORAH LUSTER is best known for her long-term documentary series, *One Big Self: Prisoners of Louisiana*, with poet C. D. Wright, a photographic archive of portraits of prisoners from three Louisiana prisons, including the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola; and *Tooth for an Eye: A Chorography of Violence in Orleans Parish*, a photographic archive of cityscapes documenting locations in

New Orleans where homicides have been committed. Twin Palms Publishing has issued monographs of both collections. (2014)

BETH MACY is the author of *Truevine*, the true story of two African American brothers who were kidnapped and displayed as circus freaks for more than thirteen years, and of their mother, who risked her life to free them. The book was a *New York Times* bestseller and a *New York Times* notable book of 2016. Her work has appeared in national magazines and newspapers and the *Roanoke Times*, where her reporting won more than a dozen national awards, including a Nieman Fellowship for journalism at Harvard. She lives in Roanoke, Virginia. (2017)

ANDREW MARANISS, the former associate director of media relations at the Vanderbilt Athletic Department and the first-ever media-relations manager for the Tampa Bay Rays, is now a partner at McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations. His book, *Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South*, was published in 2014. (2015)

DAVID MARANISS, is an associate editor at the *Washington Post*. In addition to *Barack Obama: The Story*, Maraniss is the author of five critically acclaimed and bestselling books, *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi*; *First in His Class: A Biography of Bill Clinton*; *They Marched into Sunlight: War and Peace, Vietnam and America, October 1967*; *Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero*; *Rome 1960: The Summer Olympics That Stirred the World*. He has won several notable awards for achievements in journalism, including the Pulitzer Prize. (2015)

BOBBIE ANN MASON is an American novelist and short story writer, who in her earlier works drew on her Kentucky upbringing. Mason is the recipient of several awards, grants, fellowships, most notably the PEN/Hemingway Award for her collection *Shiloh and Other Stories* in 1982, followed shortly by the Arts and Letters Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1984. Her most recent novel, *The Girl in the Blue Beret*, won the Kentucky Book Award. Her other works include a biography of Elvis Presley and the novel *In Country*. This January, Mason was named to the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame. (2016)

BARBARA MATUSOW, a veteran writer and former television producer, was a senior staff writer at *Washingtonian Magazine* for fifteen years where she remains a contributing editor. The author of *The Evening Stars: The Making of the Network News Anchor*, a bestseller published by Houghton Mifflin, she is a three-time winner of the William Allen White Gold medal for magazine criticism and numerous other journalism awards. She was married to celebrated journalist Jack Nelson and edited his posthumous memoir, *Scoop: The Evolution of a Southern Reporter*, published in 2013 by the University Press of Mississippi. (2013)

JILL MCCORKLE is the author of nine previous books – four collections of stories and five novels – five of which have been selected as *New York Times* Notable Books. The recipient of the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature, and the North

Carolina Prize for Literature, she teaches writing at North Carolina State University and lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina. (2013)

KATHRYN MCKEE is McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. She is coeditor, with Deborah Barker, of *American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary*, and her articles have appeared in various journals, including *American Literature*, *Legacy*, *Southern Literary Journal*, and *Mississippi Quarterly*. She has a PhD in American Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. McKee's areas of scholarly research include 19th-century American literature, the literature and culture of the 19th-century US South, writing by women, global South studies, film studies, and humor studies. She serves as the Graduate Program Coordinator for Southern Studies. (2013)

MARGARET MCMULLAN is the author of seven award-winning novels. In 2015 she and Phillip Lopate curated *Every Father's Daughter*, an anthology of essays about fathers by great women writers such as Alice Munro, Ann Hood, and Jane Smiley. Her novels include *Aftermath Lounge*, *In My Mother's House*, *Cashay*, and *When I Crossed No-Bob*. Her work has appeared in the *Huffington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, the *Greensboro Review*, *Other Voices*, and many other newspapers and journals. McMullan was the Melvin Peterson Endowed Chair in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Evansville, where she taught for twenty-five years. She writes full time now and serves as a faculty mentor at the Stony Brook Southampton Low-res MFA Program. (2016)

ELLEN MEACHAM is a Tennessee native, longtime resident of Mississippi, and a career journalist and journalism instructor at her alma mater, the University of Mississippi, where she teaches news reporting and editing. She is the author of *Delta Epiphany: Robert F. Kennedy in Mississippi* and has been a working journalist for more than twenty years. Uniquely positioned to write *Delta Epiphany*, Meacham's experience as a newspaper reporter has provided her with extensive contacts within the state's political and journalistic circles. In addition, her master's degree in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi undergirds her understanding of the culture and the people of the Mississippi Delta. She lives outside Oxford, in Taylor, with her family. (2018)

SARA CAMP MILAM is the Southern Foodways Alliance's managing editor. She has a BA in Spanish from Princeton University and an MA in folklore from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She previously worked as an associate editor at the *Oxford American* magazine. (2016, 2017)

JONATHAN MILES, an erstwhile Oxford resident, is the author of the novels *Anatomy of a Miracle*, *Dear American Airlines*, and *Want Not*, the latter both *New York Times* Notable Books. He is a former columnist for the *New York Times*, has served as contributing editor to magazines ranging from *Details* to *Field and Stream*, and his journalism has been frequently anthologized in *Best American Sports Writing* and *Best American Crime Writing*. He is also the author of a book on fish and game cookery, *The Wild Chef*, and competed in the Dakar Rally, an off-road race through Africa. (2018)

SUSAN MINOT is an award-winning novelist and short story writer, whose books include *Monkeys, Folly, Lust & Other Stories*, and *Evening*. She lives with her daughter in both New York City and an island off the coast of Maine. (2014)

DENNIS J. MITCHELL, from Lauderdale, Mississippi, is head of the division of arts and science and professor of history at Mississippi State University at Meridian. He is the author of *A New History of Mississippi; A Rich Past, a Vibrant Future: The History and Renovation of the Marks Rothenberg and Grand Opera House Buildings; Mississippi Liberal: A Biography of Frank E. Smith*; and *Mississippi: Portrait of an American State*, among others. (2016)

SHARON MONTEITH is professor of American studies at the University of Nottingham and founding codirector of the Centre for Research in Race and Rights. She has published widely on southern cultural history, literature, film, and media, including serving as co-volume editor, with Allison Graham of the *Media* volume of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. She was a Rockefeller Humanities Fellow at the University of Memphis, where she researched issues of race and gender in the Mississippi Delta. Her most recent book is *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the American South*, and her forthcoming book is *SNCC's Stories: Narrative Culture and the African American Freedom Struggle in the 1960s South*. She was recently awarded a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship to write *The Civil Rights Movement: A Literary History*. (2017)

LORRIE MOORE is the author of *Birds in America, Like Life*, and *Self-Help* and the novels *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?*, *Anagrams*, and *A Gate at the Stairs*. (2014)

DREW MORGAN hails from East Tennessee and draws on his experience as a small-town son of a preacher man and former public defender who has lived in South Africa, Australia, Miami, Boston, and (currently) New York City. He recently published *The Liberal Redneck Manifesto* with Trae Crowder and Corey Forrester. He is a good dancer. (2017)

MINION "K. C." MORRISON is currently professor and head of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Mississippi State University. He is also senior associate professor of African American studies at MSU. Morrison's research and publications have appeared in the fields of comparative and American politics. His publications include several books, including *Aaron Henry of Mississippi: Inside Agitator*, *African Americans and Political Participation*, *Black Political Mobilization, Leadership and Power*, and *Housing and Urban Poor in Africa*, edited with Peter Gutkind. His work has also appeared in numerous journals, including *Political Science Review*, and *Journal of Modern African Studies*. (2016)

AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL is the author of three books of poetry, *Miracle Fruit*, *At the Drive-in Volcano*, and *Lucky Fish*. Her newest poetry collection, *Oceanic*, is forthcoming from Copper Canyon and her nature essay collection, *World of Wonder*, is due out from Milkweed, both in 2018. She is poetry editor of *Orion* and is the John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence in the

University of Mississippi's MFA program. Her poems have appeared in the Best American Poetry series, *American Poetry Review*, *New England Review*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, and *Tin House*. (2017)

M. J. O'BRIEN is an independent writer who lives and works in Northern Virginia. His interest in the civil rights era was sparked as a Catholic seminarian during the late 1960s and further deepened as he studied the non-violent philosophies of Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dorothy Day. He graduated with a BA in Philosophy from St. Mary's Seminary in Catonsville, Maryland, and earned a second Bachelor's Degree in Communications from American University in Washington, D. C. With his wife, Allyson McGill, O'Brien adopted three African American children and through that experience developed a keen interest in race relations. (2013)

JONATHAN ODELL is the author of the novels, *The Healing*, and *The View from Delphi*. His short stories and essays have appeared in *Stories from the Blue Moon Café*, *Men Life That*, *Letters of the Twentieth Century*, *Speakeasy Literary Magazine*, and the *Savannah Journal*. HE has also written for *Commonweal Magazine* and has had his work featured in the *Utne Reader*. HE is currently at work on a book of personal essays entitled *Growing Up as A Gay, Fundamentalist, Southern Baptist in Mississippi, or God, What Were You Thinking?* (2014)

CHRIS OFFUTT is an award-winning author and screenwriter. He worked on the HBO show *True Blood* and the Showtime series *Weeds*. His books include *Kentucky Straight*, *The Same River Twice*, *The Good Brother*, *Out of the Woods*, and *My Father, the Pornographer*. His work appeared in *The Best American Essays*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and many other anthologies. His next novel, *Country Dark*, will be published in April. He lives near Oxford, Mississippi. (2013, 2018)

THOMAS OLIPHANT was born in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from Harvard University in 1967, and he joined the *Boston Globe* in 1968. During his career with the newspaper, he served as its Washington correspondent and reported on ten presidential campaigns. He was one of three editors who managed the *Globe's* coverage of school desegregation in Boston, work that won a 1975 Pulitzer Prize. He has also received a writing award from the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Oliphant has been a frequent guest on television new programs, including *Nightline*, *The NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer on PBS, *Face the Nation*, and *CBS This Morning*. Oliphant is the author of four books, the latest, coauthored with Curtis Wilke, is *The Road to Camelot: Inside JFK's Five-Year Campaign*. (2018)

NANCY OPALKO earned her BA in English from the University of South Carolina-Coastal Carolina, her MA in English from the University of Mississippi and her MLIS in Library Science from the University of Alabama. She has been the Children's Librarian at the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library for sixteen years. She loves working with children of all ages and connecting them with books, and her love of books extends into her work as president of the Lafayette County Literacy Council. (2014)

KENT OSBORNE is an Emmy-nominated writer and storyboard artist for animated television shows, including *SpongeBob Squarepants*, *Phineas and Ferb*, *The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack*, and *The Amazing World of Gumball*. He currently serves as head of story for Cartoon Network's *Adventure Time*. He has also written six issues of the popular *Adventure Time* comic book *Banana Guard Academy* and writes and draws the comic and webseries *Cat Agent*, which can be seen on YouTube. (2015)

TED OWNBY is director of the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He has a joint appointment in Southern Studies and history and is the author of *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1998*, and *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920*, editor of *Black and White: Cultural Interaction in the Antebellum South*, and coeditor with Elizabeth Engelhardt and John T. Edge of *The Larder: Food Studies Methods from the American South*. Most recently, Ownby contributed the foreword to Joel Williamson's *Elvis Presley: A Southern Life*. (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)

CATARINA PASSIDOMO is assistant professor of anthropology and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi, and works closely with the Southern Foodways Alliance. Her research interests include southern foodways, critical race studies, social justice, food systems, social movements, and the connections between food and culture, identity, space and power. Passidomo holds a PhD in human geography from the University of Georgia, an MA in ecological anthropology from the University of Georgia, and a BA in sociology and anthropology from Washington and Lee University. (2016)

ALISON PELEGRIN is the author of several poetry collections, including *Hurricane Party*, *Big Muddy River of Stars*, and *Waterlines*. The recipient of fellowships from the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Pelegrin's poems have appeared in *Poetry*, the *Southern Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Copper Nickel*, and *Barn Owl Review*. She earned her MFA at the University of Arkansas, where for two years she was the director of the Arkansas Writers in the Schools Program. Pelegrin teaches English at Southeastern Louisiana University and lives in Covington, Louisiana, with her family. (2017)

JACK PENDARVIS has written three books of fiction (*The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure*, *Your Body is Changing*, and *Awesome*) as well as numerous articles, columns, short stories and essays. He is the staff writer for the television show *Adventure Time*. (2014, 2015)

ESTIL CURTIS PENNINGTON has been a student of painting in the South for the past thirty years. He is the author of several catalogs and monographs including *William Eastland West: Kentucky Painter* and *Romantic Spirits: 19th-century Art from the Johnson Collection*. Most recently he served as coeditor of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Art & Architecture*. (2013)

KATIE PETERSON earned a BA at Stanford University and a PhD at Harvard University, where her dissertation, "Supposed Person: Emily Dickinson and the Selflessness of Poetry," won the Howard Mumford Jones Prize. She is the author of the poetry collections *This One Tree*, which was

awarded the New Issues Poetry Prize by judge William Olson, *Permission*, and *The Accounts*, which won the Rilke Prize. Peterson has been a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the Bread Load Writers' Conference, and the Summer Literary Seminars, and received a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. She has taught at Bennington College and Deep Springs College, where she was the Robert B. Aird Chair of Humanities. Peterson is on the English faculty at the University of California-Davis. (2016)

JAMIE QUATRO's debut story collection, *I Want to Show You More*, is an Indie Next Pick for March 2013. Her stories are anthologized in the *PEN/O Henry Prize Stories* and in *Forty Stories: New Writing from Harper Perennial*. Her work has also appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *Tin House*, *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, *AGNI*, *McSweeney's*, *Guernica*, and elsewhere. A finalist for the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction and the winner of the 2011 *American Short Fiction* story contest, she is the recipient of fellowships from Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony, and was the Borchardt Scholar at the 2011 Sewanee Writers' Conference. Quatro holds graduate degrees from the College of William and Mary and the Bennington College Writing Seminars, and is currently a Contributing Editor at the *Oxford American*. She lives with her family in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. (2013)

ALICE RANDALL is the author of *The Wind Done Gone*, *Pushkin and the Queen of Spades*, *Rebel Yell*, and *Ada's Rules*. Writer in residence at Vanderbilt University, Randall teaches Country Lyric in American Culture; Soul Food in text and as text; and Bedtime in the Briarpatch, an intensive look at African American children's literature. A Harvard graduate and the only black woman to write a number-one country song, Randall has emerged as an innovative food activist committed to reforms that support healthier bodies and healthier communities. (2013)

TOM RANKIN is Professor of the Practice of Art and Documentary Studies at Duke University where he directs the MFA in Experimental and Documentary Arts. For the past fifteen years he was director of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke. He is a graduate of Tufts University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Georgia State University. His books include *Sacred Space: Photographs from the Mississippi Delta*, which received the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Photography; *Deaf Maggie Lee Sayre: Photographs of a River Life*; *Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain*; and *Local Heroes Changing America: Indivisible*. His most recent book is *One Place: Paul Kwilecki and Four Decades of Photographs from Decatur County, Georgia*. (2014)

BARBAR RAS is the author of three poetry collections: *Bite Every Sorrow*, which won the Walt Whitman Award and was also awarded the Kate Tufts Discovery Award; *One Hidden Stuff*; and *The Last Skin*, winner of the Award for Poetry from the Texas Institute of Letters. Ras has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, among others. Her poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Tin House*, *Granta*, *American Scholar*, *Massachusetts Review*, and *Orion*. (2015)

RON RASH is the author of *The Cove* and of the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Finalist and *New York Times* bestseller *Serena*, in addition to three other prizewinning novels, *One Foot in Eden*, *Saints at the River*, and *The World Made Straight*; four collections of poems; and four collections of stories, including

Burning Bright, which won the 2010 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, and *Chemistry and Other Stories*, which was a finalist for the 2007 PEN/Faulkner Award. Twice the recipient of the O. Henry Prize, he teaches at Western Carolina University. (2013)

JOHN RENEHAN served in the Army's Third Infantry Division as a field artillery officer in Iraq. He previously worked as an attorney in New York City. He lives with his family in Virginia. *The Valley* is his first novel. (2015)

JEWELL PARKER RHODES is the author of *Ninth Ward*, a Coretta Scott King Honor Book, a *Today Show* AL's Book Club Pick, and a *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year. *Sugar*, her second middle-grade novel, will be published in May. Her adult novels are *Voodoo Dreams*, *Magic City*, *Douglass' Women*, *Season*, *Moon*, and *Hurricane*. Her honors include the American Book Award, the Black Caucus of the American Library Award for Literary Excellence, the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for Outstanding Writing, and an NEA. She is the Founding Director of the ASU's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. (2013)

ZANDRIA F. ROBINSON's work covers African American experiences at the intersection of identity, inequality, and culture in the post-civil rights South. She earned her BA and MA at the University of Memphis, and a PhD in sociology from Northwestern University. She is author of *This Ain't Chicago: Race, Class, and Regional Identity in the Post-Soul South*, and coeditor, with Sandra L. Barnes and Earl Wright II, of *Re-Positioning Race: Research in a Post-Racial Obama Age*. Her work has appeared in *Issues in Race and Society*, *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, the *Annual Review of Sociology*, with Marcus Anthony Hunter, and *Rolling Stone*. (2018)

CHARLES ROSS is a native of Columbus, Ohio, and is currently the chair of the African American studies program and associate professor of history and African American studies at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *Outside the Lines: African Americans and the Intergration of the National Football League* and the editor of *Race and Sport: The Struggle for Equality On and Off the Field*. He has appeared on ESPN's *Outside the Lines* and on ESPN radio. (2015)

ADAM RUBIN is the *New York Times* bestselling author of half a dozen children's stories, including *Dragons Love Tacos*, *Secret Pizza Party*, *Big Bad Bubble*, and the Darn Squirrels Trilogy. He lives in New York City, went to school at Washington University in St. Louis, and spent his "formative" years in Chicago. Adam's interests include puzzles, camping, magic tricks, improv comedy, 3D printing, fine dining, and cartoons. (2015)

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

LEILA W. SALISBURY is the director of the University Press of Mississippi (UPM). Prior to her appointment, she was marketing director of the University Press of Kentucky. At UPM, she is responsible for the overall direction and management of the scholarly publishing operation, its editorial focus, fundraising, and new technology initiatives and investments. She also acquires the regional and film/popular culture studies lists and serves as primary liaison between the Press and UPM's eight state consortium campuses. She is active in the Association of American University Presses and writes a regular column for the library publication *Against the Grain*. (2013)

BEN SANDMEL is a New Orleans-based journalist, folklorist, drummer, and producer. He is the author of *Ernie K-Doe: The R&B Emperor of New Orleans*, and a book about zydeco. Sandmel writes for national magazines, pens liner notes on a wide gamut of music, and contributes to academic anthologies. He is currently completing an MA in Musicology at Tulane University and writing experiential-based fiction about the Mississippi River. A working musician, Sandmel has produced and played drums on albums including the Grammy-nominated *Deep Water* by the Cajun/western swing band The Hackberry Ramblers. (2013)

JAY SATTERFIELD, special collections librarian at Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, is author of *"The World's Best Books": Taste, Culture, and the Modern Library*. His essays have appeared in numerous journals and edited collections, including the forthcoming *Faulkner and Print Culture* and *The Oxford Companion to the Book*. Satterfield's curating work includes nine major exhibitions at Dartmouth College, the University of Chicago, and the University of Iowa. Two of these exhibitions were accompanied by published collection guides under his editorship. (2017)

STEVE SCAFIDI is the author of four poetry collections: *Sparks from a Nine-Pound Hammer*, *For Love of Common Words*, *The Cabinetmaker's Widow* and *To the Bramble and the Briar*. He works as a cabinetmaker and lives in Summit Point, West Virginia. (2014)

AURELIE SHEEHAN is the author of four books of fiction, most recently *Jewelry Box: A Collection of Histories*. Her work has appeared in journals, including *Conjunctions*, *Epoch*, *Fence*, *New England Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Southern Review*. She teaches fiction at the University of Arizona at Tucson. (2014)

DAVID S. SHIELDS is the Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina and chairman of the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation. He is the author of several works on food studies, including *Southern Provisions: On the Creation and Resuscitation of Regional Cuisine*, a table-to-farm history on the formation of Lowcountry cuisine on the larger formation of southern cooking during the "age of experiment" from 1820 to 1880. Shields is also the editor and chief author of *The Golden Seed: Writings on the History and Culture of Carolina Gold Rice*. (2015)

DAVID SHIRLEY is a journalist whose work has appeared in *Oxford American*, the *Brooklyn Rail*, *Chicago Review*, *Spin*, *Rolling Stone*, and *USA Today*. He is the coauthor, with Nancy Webster, of *A*

History of Brooklyn Bridge Part: How a Community Reclaimed and Transformed New York City's Waterfront. (2017)

CATHY SHROPSHIRE is retired from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Parks and served for ten years as director of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. She is now the theatrical incarnation of Fannye Cook. While Cathy was working in the Game Division at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, she learned about Cook's work and her enormous contributions to conservation in Mississippi. Shropshire's portrayal is intended to both entertain and educate. (2018)

LAKISHA MICHELLE SIMMONS is assistant professor of global gender studies at the University of Buffalo, SUNY. She earned her BA in history and women's studies from the University of Virginia and her PhD in history and women's studies from the University of Michigan. Her work has appeared in *Gender & History* and *American Quarterly*. (2016)

DAVID SIMON is a Baltimore-based journalist, author, and television producer. A former crime reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*, he is the creator of the celebrated HBO series *The Wire*, which depicts the social fissures in an American City. His other credits include the NBC drama *Homicide*, and HBO's *The Corner* and *Generation Kill*. His most recent project, *Treme*, is a drama about post-Katrina New Orleans, and his books include *Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets*, and *The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. (2015)

DAVID SKOLKIN is a partner in the design firm Skolkin + Chickey in Santa Fe, New Mexico which specializes in the design and production of hi-quality art books. He is also Founder and Production Director for Radius Books. An award-winning book designer, he works with many publishers and museums around the country. His awards include AIGA 50 Books/50 Covers, International Center of Photography Infinity Award, American Association for Museums Design competitions, Pubwest Design Awards, and LMP Award for individual achievement in Design & Production. (2014)

OBERT SKYE is the author and illustrator of three books in *The Creature from My Closet* series – *Wonkenstein*, *Pottereookie*, and *Pinocula*. He has also written the bestselling children's fantasy adventure series *Leven Thumps and Pillage*. (2014)

HOLLY GOLDBERG SLOAN was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and spent her childhood living in Holland, Istanbul, Turkey, Washington, D.C., Berkeley, California, and Eugene, Oregon. After graduating from Wellesley College and spending some time as an advertising copywriter, she began writing and directing family feature films, including *Angels in the Outfield* and *Made in America*. *Counting by 7s*, her first novel with Penguin, was a *New York Times* bestseller. The mother of two sons, Holly lives with her husband in Santa Monica, California. (2016)

MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH is the author of *Desperation Road*, *Rivers*, *The Hands of Strangers*, and his new novel *The Fighter*. *Rivers* was named in numerous Best Books of the Year lists and garnered the 2014 Mississippi Library Association's Author Award for Fiction. His short fiction has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and his essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Catfish Alley*, *Writer's Bone*, and elsewhere. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his wife and daughters. (2017, 2018)

ROBERT ST. JOHN has spent more than three decades in the restaurant business. Twenty-five of those years have been as the owner of the Purple Parrot Café, Crescent City Grill, Mahogany Bar, Branch and Tabella in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. St. John, a restaurateur, chef, columnist, and author, writes a weekly syndicated food column for newspapers and has written nine books. His latest book, *An Italian Palate*, his third collaboration with watercolor artist, Wyatt Waters is in its second printing. In 2009, St. John founded Extra Table, a non-profit organization that delivers healthy foods to soup kitchens and mission pantries. (2014)

LAURA-GRAY STREET is the author of *Pigment* and *Fume* and coeditor of *The Ecopoetry Anthology*. Her work has appeared in many journals and online; won editors' prizes from *The Greensboro Review*, *Isotope*, and *Terrain.org*; and received fellowships from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the Artist House at St. Mary's College of Maryland. She teaches at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. (2013)

ANGELA STUESSE is assistant professor of anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is broadly interested in social inequality, and she studies and teaches about globalization, structural racism, migration, labor, human rights, social movements, and activist research. Her book, *Scratching Out a Living: Latinos, Race, and Work in the Deep South*, explores how Latinos' labor migration has transformed the South and impacted efforts to organize for workplace justice. It is based on six years of collaboration with a poultry workers' center in Mississippi, as well as interviews with poultry industry executives, workers and their supporters, and community members of diverse backgrounds. (2018)

YOUNG SUH received his BFA in photography from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, in 1998, and then received his MFA in Studio Art from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he taught large-format photography and digital printing. His photographic work often deals with the complicated nature of human involvement in managing natural resources and the shifting concepts of nature in contemporary society. Over the last ten years he has completed two major projects, *Instant Traveler* and *Wildfires*. He is currently working on his new project, *Let Burn*, a photo and video series on controlled fires. Suh's work is included in several public and corporate collections, and he has had solo exhibitions in the US and in Korea. His work has also appeared in numerous group exhibitions throughout the country, including the Chelsea Art Museum (New York), the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the Center for Contemporary Art in Sacramento. (2016)

ALEX TAYLOR lives in Rosine, Kentucky. Her fiction has appeared in *The Louisville Courier-Journal*, *Black Warrior Review*, *American Short Fiction*, *The Oxford American* and elsewhere. His collection *The Name of the Nearest River* was published by Sarabande Books in 2010. (2013)

TESS TAYLOR has received writing fellowships from Amherst College, the American Antiquarian Society, the Headlands Center for the Arts, and the MacDowell Colony. Her chapbook, *The Misremembered World*, was selected by Eavan Boland and published by the Poetry Society of America. Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Boston Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Literary Imagination*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and the *New Yorker*. She lives in El Cerrito, California, where she reviews poetry for NPR's All Things Considered and other venues. Her book of poems, *The Forage House*, is published by Red Hen Press. (2014)

JAMES G. THOMAS, JR. is an associate director for the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and the director of the Oxford Conference for the Book. He is editor of *Conversations with Barry Hannah*, an editor of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, coeditor of *Faulkner and the Black Literatures of the Americas* and *Faulkner and History* (both with Jay Watson), and an associate editor of the forthcoming *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. Thomas is also co-curator with Annette Trefzer, of *Lasting Impressions: Restoring Kate Freeman Clark*, an exhibition that pays tribute to the prodigious and prolific artist from Holly Springs, Mississippi. (2017)

GEORGE F. THOMPSON joined the John Hopkins University Press in 1984 as an acquisitions editor. After founding and directing the Center for American Places, he founded his own imprint, George F. Thompson Publishing, based in Staunton, Virginia. Books that he has published have won more than 100 of the top book awards, including multiple "best-book" honors in thirty-one professional fields of study. He is also the editor and author of five books, including *Landscape in America*, which was designated a Notable Book in 1995 by *Harper's* magazine, and *Ecological Design and Planning*. Born in Colorado, raised in Connecticut, and educated at the universities of Pennsylvania, Alabama, and Wisconsin-Madison, George has lived in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia since 1983 with his wife, Cynthia, and daughter, Haley. (2014)

TOM THURMAN has produced and directed numerous independent documentaries on film, music, and literary figures. His subjects have included Nick Nolte, Warren Oates, Ben Johnson, Harry Crews, Jerry Wexler, Tod Browning, John Ford, Hunter S. Thompson, and Same Peckinpah. His film *Harry Crews: Guilty as Charged* is an intimate portrait of the controversial, Georgia-born author featuring candid and exclusive interviews with Crews and his friends and consorts. As a producer/writer for Kentucky Educational Television in Lexington, Thurman directs documentaries for the series Kentucky Muse, a showcase for artists with Kentucky roots. He lives in Lexington with his wife and two children. (2017)

TONI TIPTON-MARTIN's love affair with African American cooks and their recipes began more than thirty years ago when she was a food and nutrition writer for the *Los Angeles Times*. Her book *The Jemima Code* presents more than 150 black cookbooks that range from a rare 1827 house servant's manual to modern classics by authors such as Edna Lewis and Vertamae Grosvenor. These

cookbooks offer firsthand evidence that African Americans cooked creative masterpieces from meager provisions, educated young chefs, operated food businesses, and nourished the African American community through the long struggle for human rights. *The Jemima Code* transforms America's most maligned kitchen servant into an inspirational and powerful model of culinary wisdom and cultural authority. (2017)

ANNETTE TREFZER teaches American literature and literary theory and is co-owner of Bozarts Gallery in Water Valley, Mississippi. She is the author of *Disturbing Indians: The Archaeology of Southern Fiction* and the coeditor with Ann Abadie of several volumes of critical essays on William Faulkner. Trefzer is also co-curator with James G. Thomas, Jr., of *Lasting Impressions: Restoring Kate Freeman Clark*, an exhibition that pays tribute to the prodigious and prolific artist from Holly Springs, Mississippi. (2017)

ELIZABETH TRIPLETT earned a degree from the Mississippi University for Women and is the co-founder and director of the Itawamba Learning Center. (2014)

JENNIFER TSENG is the author of two award-winning poetry books *The Man with My Face* and *Red Flower, White Flower*, which feature Chinese translations by Mengying Han and Aaron Crippen. Her debut novel, *Mayumi and the Sea of Happiness*, was a finalist for the New England Book Award and the PEN Robert. W. Bingham Award for Debut Fiction. She currently teaches for the Fine Arts Work Center's summer program; FAWC's online writing program, 24PearlSt; and the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. Her latest chapbook, *The Passion of Woo and Isolde*, won the Rose Metal Press Short Story Chapbook Contest. (2018)

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

CHRIS VAN DUSEN was born in Portland, Maine, on St. Patrick's Day, 1960. One of five boys, Van Dusen spent most of his spare time drawing pictures. He kept drawing through elementary, middle, and high school, and in 1982 he graduated with a BFA from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. After working as an art director for a magazine and then for a greeting card company, he turned to freelance illustration in 1988. He soon realized the work he enjoyed most were the illustrations he proposed for kids. In the early 1990s he came up with an idea for a children's book. The story became his first book, *Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee*, which was published in 2000. Since then, he has written and illustrated seven books, including *If I Built a Car*, and illustrated ten more for other authors. (2017)

DAVID VANN's previous books – *A Mile Down*, *Legend of a Suicide*, *Caribou Island*, *Last Day on Earth*, *Dirt*, and *Goat Mountain* – have been published in twenty languages and have won enormous critical acclaim. A former Guggenheim fellow, Wallace Stegner fellow, John L'Heureux fellow, and National Endowment for the Arts fellow, he has taught at Stanford, Cornell, Florida State University, University of Southern Florida, holds degrees from Stanford and Cornell, and is currently a professor at the University of Warwick in England and an honorary professor at the University of Franche-Comté in France. *Aquarium* is his latest novel. (2015)

KYLE VEAZEY is the sports enterprise reporter at the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis. He reports features, investigative stories, sports business news and projects across a variety of subject areas, such as the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, the University of Memphis, the Big East Conference, Southeastern Conference sports, and Memphis's professional golf and tennis tournaments. He published *Champions for Change: How the Mississippi State Bulldogs and Their Bold Coach Defied Segregation* in 2012. (2015)

CHELSEA WAGENAAR is the author of *Mercy Spurs the Bone*, the 2013 winner of the Phillip Levine Prize. She is a doctoral fellow in English literature with a concentration in creative writing at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Wagenaar received her BA from the University of Virginia. Her poems have recently appeared or been accepted in the *Southeast Review*, *Plume*, and the *Journal*, and *Mid-American Review*. She lives in Denton, Texas, with her husband, fellow poet Mark Wagenaar. (2015)

In the past few years, **MARK WAGENAAR** has won the New Letters Poetry Prize, the Mary C. Mohr Prize, the James Wright Poetry Prize, the Poetry International Prize, and the Yellowwood Poetry Award. This past summer he served as the University of Mississippi's 2014 Summer Poet in Residence. His debut manuscript, "Voodoo Inverso," was the 2012 winner of the University of Wisconsin Press' Felix Pollak Prize. Recent acceptances or publications include the *New Yorker*, *Field*, and the *Laurel Review*. He and his wife Chelsea Wagenaar are doctoral fellows at the University of North Texas in Denton. (2015)

JERRY WARD was a founding member of the Jackson (Mississippi) Writers Workshop, and in 1990 he published *Redefining American Literary History*. In 1992 he published *Black Southern Voices*, which worked to widen the notions of black southern writing. In 1993 Ward wrote the introduction to Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, and in 1997 he released the seminal *Trouble the Water: 250 Years of African American Poetry*. Ward spent thirty-two years (1970-2002) as the Lawrence Durgin Professor of Literature at Tougaloo College, and in 2003 he became distinguished professor of English and African American world studies at Dillard University in New Orleans. (2015)

WYATT WATERS is a watercolor artist who received the lifetime achievement at the 2010 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. (2014)

BRAD WATSON is the author of *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, *The Heaven of Mercury*, and *Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives*. He's held fellowships through the National Endowment for the Arts, the Lannan Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation. His books have received awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Great Lakes Colleges Association, the Southern Book Critics Circle, and the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. *Mercury* was a finalist for the St. Francis College Literary Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award in Fiction. (2013)

ELAINE WEISS's feature writing for magazines has been recognized with prizes from the Society of Professional Journalists, and her byline has appeared in the *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, as well as for report and documentaries for National Public Radio and Voice of America. Her first book, *Fruits of Victory: The Woman's Land Army in the Great War*, was excerpted in *Smithsonian* magazine online and featured on C-Span and on public radio stations nationwide. Weiss has worked as a Washington correspondent, congressional aide and speechwriter, magazine editor, and university journalism instructor. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland, with her husband, Julian Krolik. They have two grown children. When not working at her desk, she can be found paddling her kayak on the Chesapeake Bay. And she votes in every election. Her new book is *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, which is about the fight in Tennessee to ratify the 19th Amendment. (2018)

DAVID WHARTON is the Center for the Study of Southern Culture's director for documentary studies and an assistant professor of Southern Studies. His first book, *The Soul of a Small Texas Town: Photographs, Memories, and History from McDade*, was published in 2000, and he published his second book of photographs, *Small Town South*, in 2013. Wharton's most recent book is *The Power of Belief: Spiritual Landscapes from the Rural South*, published in 2016. In 2013, he was honored as a Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters award winner for photography. (2014, 2016, 2017)

MARCUS WICKER is the recipient of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, a Pushcart Prize, *The Missouri Review's* Miller Audio Prize, as well as fellowships from Cave Canem and the Fine Arts Work Center. His first collection *Maybe the Saddest Thing*, a National Poetry Series winner, was a finalist for an NAACP Image Award. Wicker's poems have appeared in the *Nation*, *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *Oxford American*, and *Boston Review*. *Silencer* is his second book. Wicker teaches in the MFA program at the University of Memphis, and he is the poetry editor of *Southern Indiana Review*. He is a member of the Affrilachian Poets. (2018)

SHIRLEY WIEGAND retired as professor emerita from Marquette Wisconsin, in 2011. She began her legal career as an attorney in Lexington, Kentucky, then became a professor of law at the University of Oklahoma in 1988, where she earned tenure. Thereafter, she served as professor and associate dean at Marquette University Law School and visiting professor at American University and Florida A&M University Law School. She is the author of numerous legal articles and three books, including *The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism*, which she coauthored with Wayne Wiegand. (2018)

WAYNE A. WIEGAND, often referred to as the “Dean of American Library Historians,” is F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies Emeritus at Florida State University. He is the author of numerous books on public libraries, including *The Desegregating of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism*, which he coauthored with Shirley Wiegand. He was founder and a codirector of the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, a joint program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin Historical Society, established in 1992. (2018)

JESSICA WILKERSON is an assistant professor of history and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. Her research interests include southern and Appalachian history, US women’s and gender history, labor and working-class history, and oral history. She earned her MA from Sarah Lawrence College and her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is currently contemplating her first book, *To Live Here You Have to Fight: Antipoverty, Labor, and Feminist Activism in the Appalachian South*. The book traces the alliances forged and the grassroots movements led by women in the Appalachian South in the 1960s and 1970s. (2018)

CURTIS WILKIE graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1963. He was a national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe* for twenty-six years. Wilkie is the author of *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey through Events That Shaped the Modern South* and co-author of *Arkansas Mischief: Birth of a National Scandal*. His most recent book is *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America’s Most Powerful Trial Lawyer*. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Oxford where he teaches journalism and is a fellow at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at the University of Mississippi. (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)

CAKI WILKINSON is the author of the poetry collections *Circles Where the Head Should BE*, which won the Vassas Miller Prize, and *The Wynonna Stone Poems*, which won the Lexi Pudnitsky/Editor’s Choice Award. She lives in Memphis, Tennessee, where she is an assistant professor in the English Department at Rhodes College. (2016)

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

ED WILLIAMS is author of *Liberating Dixie: An Editor’s Life, from Ole Miss to Obama*, a collection of works from his fifty years as a newspaperman. An University of Mississippi graduate, he edited the *Daily Mississippian* then was a reporter for the *Clarksdale Press-Register* and (Greenville) *Delta Democrat-Times*. After a year as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, he joined *The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer* and for twenty-five years was editor of its editorial pages. His commentaries were part of two *Observer* projects that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. In 2012 he was inducted into the N.C. Journalism Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Marylyn, live in Charlotte. (2014)

MICHAEL V. WILLIAMS earned a BA in history and sociology, an MA in history, and a PhD in history from the University of Mississippi. He was also among the university's first Phi Beta Kappa initiating class. His research and teaching interests include political resistance movements, civil rights struggle, black intellectuals and radicalism, and various aspects of African history. He is an assistant professor of history and African American studies at Mississippi State University and is the author of *Medgar Evers: Mississippi Martyr* as well as other articles and essays. (2013)

JOEL WILLIAMSON, Lineberger Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the author of a number of landmark works on southern culture, including *William Faulkner and Southern History* and *The Crucible of Race: Black-White Relations in the American South since Emancipation*, which won the Francis Parkman Prize, the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, and the Ralph Emerson Award. Both books were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent book is *Elvis Presley: A Southern Life*. (2015)

ROBERT M. WINKLER has been teaching ESL for the past seven years. In 2004, he obtained his TESOL Certification from Transworld School in San Francisco, California. Subsequently he lived in Guatemala, where he learned Spanish and taught English at Universidad Mesoamericana, as well as at a K-5 elementary school. Since moving to Mississippi in 2006, he has taught at Tupelo High School and South Pontotoc Scholl, where he taught ELL students in all grades K-12. Currently he teaches ESL in the Oxford Public School District. Besides his work in language instruction, Winkler holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from Lehigh University. (2013)

SNOWDEN WRIGHT is the author of the novel *Play Pretty Blues*. He has written for *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *Salon*, and the *New York Daily News*. Recipient of the Summer Literary Seminar's 2012 Graywolf Prize for best novel excerpt, Wright can be found online at snowdenwright.com. (2014)

KEVIN YOUNG is the author of seven previous books of poetry, including *Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels*, winner of a 2012 American Book Award, and *Jelly Roll*, a finalist for the National Book Award. He is also the editor of eight collections, most recently *The Hungry Ear: Poems of Food & Drink*. Young's book *The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness*, won the Graywolf Nonfiction Prize and the PEN Open Book Award. He is the Atticus Haygood Professor of Creative Writing and English, curator of Literary Collections, and curator of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library at Emory University. (2014)